

VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT! PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES



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National Indigenous Peoples' Day June 21st

June marks Canada's National Indigenous History Month, with June 21st being National Indigenous Peoples' Day. This is a time to honour the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people in so-called Canada, to listen to their stories, learn more about their culture, and to express our gratitude for their stewardship of these lands that we live on. We give thanks to our members who are doing the hard work and heart work that can sometimes cause discomfort, but always leads to a better understanding of our systems and why we need to change them.

There are many ways to mark this month, both in our schools and our homes. [The Vancouver Public Library](#) has curated a list of resources, recommended reading, audiobooks, and videos – for both adults and kids.

If you've never been to a pow wow, consider going to the first annual [Father's Day Pow Wow](#), happening at Britannia Soccer Field On June 16,17, and 18th. Listen to [Indigenous-themed podcasts](#) or explore [Indigenous music](#).

In terms of celebrating on June 21st, make sure to check in with your colleagues to see how your school will be honouring this day. There may be a school-wide event or classes going out into the community to celebrate. There is free admission at the [Bill Reid Gallery](#), check out the [Reconciliation pole at the UBC](#), and the annual gathering at [Grandview Park](#), to name a few. [Check out this page](#) for more events in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

Does your school do daily announcements? If so, do they include land acknowledgements?

Including a land acknowledgement in your school's announcements can serve as an important reminder of the essential and ongoing nature of decolonization and represents another way of integrating decolonization work into our everyday classroom routines. At a VEAES school-level meeting, Staff Reps can lead the effort of drafting a motion, asking that land acknowledgements be added to daily announcements, which could then be brought to a School Advisory Committee meeting.

The following is a sample that is already being used at some VSB schools:

At ____, we are learning and unlearning on the unceded, ancestral, and traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil Watuth nations. With this acknowledgment comes the commitment to engage in conscious acts of reconciliation.

<https://guides.library.ubc.ca/distance-research-xwi7xwa/landacknowledgements>

Post and Fill

The interviews for the first round of postings should have happened. We have been hearing from members about late offers of interviews when they've been offered a position at another site. We know this is a stressful time for members who are trying to find a new position, with many moving pieces and not much transparency. This has been an ongoing issue for years that VEAES has tried to negotiate improvements during bargaining. Remember, you can always ask where you are in seniority compared to the other candidates that are being interviewed. If the admin does not provide you with that answer, please call the VEAES office.

It is important to note that if you post into something this round, the Collective Agreement states that an employee "*...shall not be eligible to participate in this process until the subsequent school year without the agreement of the Associate Superintendent- Human Resources or designate.*" The Employer will therefore not allow you to be shortlisted and interviewed for another position until Spring Transfer 2024, unless, in certain circumstances, they make an exception.

The 2nd round of postings come out on Tuesday, June 20th and close on Monday, June 26th. Interviews should start on June 27th.

TTOC Availability Forms

There have some issues with the communication of the 2023-2024 TTOC Availability Form. This form must be returned either by email to absences@vsb.bc.ca or by blue bag to Employee Services-SFE **no later than July 31, 2023**.

We strongly encourage members to send it via email, as the Employer still does not provide a confirmation to TTOCs that they have received their form. Sending it by email gives you a proof of receipt, in the event that your availability is not updated by the Board come September. Please check, before the first day of school, that you can access SFE to ensure that your availability has been updated.

TTOC Employment Insurance (E.I.) Workshop

VEAES is offering our annual E.I. workshop for TTOCs on Thursday, June 22, from 4-6pm. It will be a virtual workshop, so you can join from anywhere. TTOCs should have received an email invitation for the workshop with the Zoom link. Please email lori@veaes.ca if you did not get an invitation, so that you can be put on the TTOC mailing list.



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Dates to Remember

Professional Issues Committee Meeting

June 19th, 2023 @ 3:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85113165878>

Meeting ID: 851 1316 5878

Passcode: 149715

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Executive Committee Meeting

June 20th, 2023 @ 4:00 pm

VEAES Office

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VEAES

The Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.