

# VEAES WEEKLY

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



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## **FSA**

Despite our best efforts, the Ministry of Education and Childcare and the District are continuing to require the FSA for grade 4 and 7 students. We have made it well publicly known that this test does not inform instruction, assessment, or evaluation, and has continued to be monetized by unscrupulous corporations in ranking schools. VEAES has expressed our concern about the Superintendent's letter last year contradicting teachers' messaging and we hope that this will not be the case this year.

Teachers can find updated FSA information for parents and translated opt-out forms on the VEAES website [here](#). ***Please do not print or copy these at your school site this year.*** VEAES will print the materials here at the office and provide them at the Staff Rep Assembly next week with envelopes. Please let your Staff Rep know how many you need so they can pick them up for your school. The FSA is scheduled to begin on October 8 this year.

Remember that teachers continue to be the most trusted source of information for parents and guardians about their child's education. You may speak directly to parents about your concerns with the FSA, but there are protocols that limit such communication with students. Your efforts at school sites and your relationship with parents have made the FSA opt-out campaign successful in our district, with over half of our students not writing these standardized tests. We look forward to another successful campaign this year!

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## **September 18: International Day of Action to Search the Landfills for Remains of MMIWG2S+**

September 18 is the International Day of Action to Search the Landfills. This day honours missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit and gender diverse people whose remains are either already found or believed to be in the Brady Road and Prairie Green Landfills in Winnipeg, Manitoba and other landfills across Canada. For more details and information go to:

<https://amnesty.ca/blog/take-action-on-september-18-international-day-of-action-to-searchthelandfills/>

If you would like to join the rally in Vancouver, please wear red.

International Day of Action Gathering at Crab Park.

September 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm

SEARCH THE LANDFILLS

## Staff Rep Assembly

We are excited for our first Staff Rep Assembly of the school year is on Tuesday, Sept 19th at 4pm at Tupper Secondary's cafeteria! If you have not elected your site-based Staff Reps yet, please send someone from your site to attend the meeting. All members are welcome at this meeting and we really encourage new members to attend and learn more about the structures of the union. If you're new, check in with your Staff Rep about attending.

As usual, the beginning of the school year brings about a lot of issues and we encourage members to bring these forward as school concerns so we can problem-solve collectively at the meeting. If you have a school concern, please email it to [karine@veaes.ca](mailto:karine@veaes.ca) so that it can be put on the agenda. As always, school concerns can come from the floor.

**Fun fact:** VEAES structures include a Staff Rep Assembly Agenda Committee where members can work together to set the agenda for our monthly meetings! This is a great, low barrier way to get more involved with the union and to increase member ownership of our SRA meetings. Please complete the [CV form here](#) to sign up!

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## SLO

The VSB signed a re-engagement Memorandum of Agreement on August 31st with the Vancouver Police Department to reintroduce School Liaison Officers into schools for this school year. The current plan is only for secondary schools, and the plans for elementary application do not have a specific timeline or plan.

VEAES continues to oppose the role of police in schools, and do not feel that the change in uniform, size of firearm, or increased access to information about our most vulnerable students resolves the issue. The number of calls from both secondary and elementary schools to the VPD have decreased significantly since the SLO program ended in 2021.

We urge members to continue to think critically about how the continual reduction in services has created and continues to fail students and teachers. The provision of police does not replace school-based counsellors, resource teachers, community supports, and student support workers. It's also important that we continue to recognize that the challenges many of us are facing with violence in their classroom is indicative of a lack of educational and behavioural support for students.



## **Reporting Order**

The new reporting order takes effect this year, and the Ministry has created some resources to support implementation. You can find those resources here. That link includes videos, webinars, policy guidelines and information sheets in both English and French.

There is an [Educator Summary Guide](#) that provides information for teachers that highlights similarities and differences between previous and current reporting requirements and tables that outline the expectations. It also clarifies the meaning and provides examples of some of the new language.

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## **Bargaining 2025**

Even though our provincial bargaining table won't get into swing until 2025, the setting of bargaining objectives takes place early next year. We will be reaching out to members to start talking about our working conditions and what improvements need to be prioritized in the coming round of bargaining. You will likely have seen the [new BCTF ad](#) being shared now, and the [teacher testimonials](#) released earlier this summer.

Here is a loose timeline of the lead up to 2025

Early 2024 – surveys and member input into bargaining objectives for provincial and local bargaining

May 2024 – BCTF Bargaining Conference which sets provincial objectives

Fall 2024 – local Bargaining Team prepares and initiates local bargaining

Spring 2025 – BCTF Bargaining Team released and beginning negotiations with BCPSEA

July 1, 2025 – current agreement expires

In recent years, we have seen small improvements to salary, but very few improvements to working conditions of Vancouver teachers. We know that workload is one of the key factors that make our work sustainable and fulfilling. We have all seen first hand the challenge of the erosion of learning supports as our language doesn't keep up with our changing student populations or the increasing complexity of our work. Please start talking with your colleagues and friends now.

## **TTOC Conversion from a Temporary to a Continuing Contract**

A reminder to our colleagues who are accepting temporary contracts that your time under contract will lead to conversion to a continuing contract.

Article C.20.2. f. Conversion of Temporary to Continuing Contracts *An employee whose certification and qualifications meet the Board's stated requirements shall be granted a continuing contract under the following conditions:*

*i. The employee has more than one (1) aggregate year of service under temporary contract.*

*ii. The employee has received a maximum of two (2) full-time temporary assignments in the course of one (1) school year.*

If you do not want to convert to a continuing contract, it is important to track your aggregate days of service prior to accepting a temporary contract. Tracking your aggregate days is not easy and we are working on developing a document with the Employer to clarify the process. In the meantime, if you are concerned about conversion, you can request your aggregate days by emailing: [employeeservices@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:employeeservices@vsb.bc.ca).

If you do end up converting, know that it is at the FTE of the temporary contract that you are in upon conversion. If it is a part time FTE, you have the ability to relinquish your continuing contract through the process outlined in the [LOU on pg 200 of the Collective Agreement](#). If you convert at a 1.0 FTE, you have no ability to relinquish that contract through the LOU process.

## **Executive Vacancies**

Are you the Pro-D chair at your school? Are you passionate about making systemic improvements to the well-being of teachers and students? If so, consider putting your name forward to be the Professional Issues Committee (PIC) Chair or Working and Learning Conditions and Bargaining (WLCB) Committee Chairs. Both positions are key roles in making decisions at the executive committee (EC) and beyond, that have direct impacts on teachers' and students' lives. The commitment for either role is to attend 2 EC meetings per month as well as monthly Staff Rep Assembly and/or General Meeting. In addition, chairs are expected to engage members in discussions specifically around professional issues and working conditions. To learn more, please contact [karine@veaes.ca](mailto:karine@veaes.ca) (PIC role), and [vanessa@veaes.ca](mailto:vanessa@veaes.ca) (WLCB role).



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## Dates to Remember

### **Staff Rep Assembly**

September 19, 2023

4:00 pm

Tupper Secondary, Cafeteria

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### **Executive Committee Meeting**

September 26, 2023

4:00 pm @ the VEAES Office

#410 - 2238 Yukon Street

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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.