

VEAES WEEKLY

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



Table of CONTENTS

Message from the VEAES IHTO's - Page 2

Climate Education Awareness Lessons for K-3 - Page 3

Managing our Wellness - Page 3

Pro-D News - Page 3

Attendance at Pro-D Events - Page 4

Virtual Provincial Teacher Inquiry Program - Page 4

Violence in Schools and Health and Safety Reporting - Page 4

Pension Plan Seminars - Page 5

BCTF Positions Accepting Applications - Page 5

Colleagues,

We understand that the comments in last week's VEAES weekly landed uncomfortably for some members, and wish to clarify that VEAES speaks strongly against harm to any civilians, and that our statement, while commenting on more recent events, should have included our corresponding empathy for lives lost in Israel as well.

We apologize for the impact the statement had on some members, and will continue to move towards a more comprehensive statement in the context of our role as a labour union, acknowledging that events leading up to, and the current violence, are unacceptable and must be stopped.

As with many global events, unions, including VEAES, have taken positions and made statements, even in cases where there is more than one perspective. We heard this week from members with diverse views on the matter – please remember that there are many ways for members to participate in the decision-making processes of the union.

We understand that the events in Palestine and Israel have had a significant impact on our membership, our families, and our communities. Our Executive Committee this week considered the matter and has put a process in place to move forward in our understanding. We will continue to communicate support, resources, opportunities for solidarity, and learning.

VEAES has an active Social Justice and Solidarity committee, and we meet monthly with members at our Staff Rep Assemblies and General Meetings, which are open to all members, as well as in partnership with the BCTF.



Climate Education Awareness Lessons for K-3

The BCTF is seeking 10 members with primary-level teaching experience and a background in developing learning resource materials to work with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy and the Climate Action Secretariat to develop and implement K-3 climate education lesson plans. For more information and to apply, visit the [online posting](#). The deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on November 17, 2023.

Managing our Wellness

Many of the aspects of our work that bring us joy or satisfaction have been more challenging of late. Whether it's violence in our classrooms, failures to fill, shortage of SSSWs, new provincial mandates, growing workload, family obligations or global crises, teachers carry a lot of responsibility.

It can be helpful to think of ourselves as part of a larger community of teachers who are dealing with similar issues and struggles across the district, province, and world. It's important to have supports in place for times when we feel particularly vulnerable or overwhelmed.

The following supports are available to members without cost, and are confidential supports aimed particularly at acknowledging teachers' work life challenges.

[BCTF Health and Wellness](#)

[VSB EFAP](#)

[Starling Minds](#)

Pro-D News

Policy Update

At the October General Meeting, membership voted to pass an EC recommendation to change a VEAES policy that pertains to Pro-D. Members are now able to apply for Temporary Supplemental Funds for Pro-D activities that take place over the summer months. School-based Pro-D funds remain solely for the purpose of hosting activities that occur during instructional months. The new Policy 24.A.35 now reads:

THAT school Professional Development Funds not be used to fund summer professional development, and

- *a. VEAES continue to assert that Pro-D days take place between the book ends of the school year*
- *b. That VEAES pressure the board to reinstate release time for Collaborative Inquiry projects.*

Attendance at Pro-D Events

Members are reminded to be respectful of colleagues who plan Pro-D events for the benefit of our professional communities. Much effort, time and often times money are invested in the planning and delivery of such events. They may not directly incur expenses to individual members, but the funds ultimately are collectively-owned by membership. Whether or not there is registration fee to the school-wide or district-wide event, please be respectful and communicate to the event organizers if you have signed up but can no longer attend, with ample time of notice if possible.

Virtual Provincial Teacher Inquiry Program

The BCTF is fully funding a virtual provincial Teacher Inquiry Program for 8–12 members from different locals who wish to participate in a collaborative inquiry project during the 2023–24 school year. The goal is for teachers from different locals to work collaboratively and explore pedagogical questions and/or self-directed professional development. The project will be facilitated by BCTF Teacher Inquiry Program facilitators through Zoom. For more information on the Teacher Inquiry Program and to submit an application form, [click here](#). Submissions are due by 5:00 p.m., November 1, 2023.

Violence in Schools and Health and Safety Reporting

ISSUES SESSION

All members are invited to attend a virtual meeting to discuss violence in schools and to talk about the district's new online reporting tool, OurHealth.

Changes in how we report health and safety violations including threats, intimidation, emotional distress, harassment, racism, queer/transphobia, as well as injuries and near misses is changing at the VSB, in part as a result of member advocacy.

We invite members to attend the meeting Monday, October 30 at 4pm to talk about what matters to you, to share your experiences, and to help inform ongoing advocacy on ensuring schools are safe places to work and learn.

Led by Health and Safety Chair Danielle Durant and IHTOs, we hope you will bring your voice to inform the work of the union.

Topic: Violent Incidents, H&S Reporting Issues Session

Time: Oct 30, 2023 04:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86088328497>

Meeting ID: 860 8832 8497

Dial by your location

• +1 778 907 2071 Canada

Pension Plan Seminars

Pension plan seminars will be held every Wednesday, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in November, starting November 1, 2023.

Members may access the live seminars via Zoom using the link below:

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87344950598?pwd=YWVqNkVvN25mRDBJTTA4aUJSZ1h3QT09>

If members are not able to attend the live seminars, the pre-recorded full webinars and mini-seminars will be available on the [BCTF YouTube channel](#).

Contact Sarbrinder Lalli, CEBS at 604-871-1949 if you have any questions related to the Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security Benefits.



BCTF Positions Accepting Applications

The BCTF is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Internal Mediation Service](#)
- [Committee for Action on Social Justice – Antiracism Action Group](#)
- [AGM Resolutions Committee Members](#)
- [AGM Chairpersons](#)
- [AGM Ombudspersons](#)
- [Judicial Council](#).

For more information on each of these positions, visit the [Postings and Opportunities](#) webpage.





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Dates to Remember

Violent Incidents, H&S Reporting Issues Session

Oct 30, 2023 04:00 PM

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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.