

VEAES WEEKLY

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



Table of CONTENTS

National Indigenous Veterans Day - Page 2

Indigenous Soldiers - Page 2 & 3

Adult Education Work Opportunities - Page 4

Teacher-in-Charge - Page 4

Remedy - Page 4

2023 Reporting - Page 5

Unions Stand Up and Win Big - Page 6

Understanding your Benefits and Pension Income in Retirement - Page 7

National Indigenous Veterans Day

Indigenous Veterans Day is observed in Canada on November 8, in recognition of Indigenous contributions to military service, particularly in the First World War, Second World War and the Korean War.

Indigenous Soldiers

On the battlefields, Indigenous soldiers stood side-by-side their Canadian comrades, many serving with distinction. However, the Indigenous soldiers who came home often discovered their wartime contributions were quickly forgotten.

Equals on the battlefield, they couldn't vote in Canada. In many cases, Indigenous veterans were unable to receive veterans' benefits. For decades, they were forgotten soldiers.

While the federal government issued an apology in 2003 and compensated many, there are still many Indigenous veterans who have not received these entitlements or have fallen through the cracks.

Many Indigenous veterans were banned from Royal Canadian Legion halls where veterans gathered to socialize, and where they were also able to get advice on post-war benefits. Instead, Indigenous veterans were directed to agents, who didn't always have their best interests in mind. Some had to give up their rights as status in order to serve.

[Veterans Affairs Canada](#) maintains a website with further information on the long and proud tradition of Indigenous military service to Canada which has not always been honoured and recognized.

Learn more:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/sergeant-tommy-prince-stamp-canada-post-1.6619461?fbclid=IwAR3kffVN4MQZE-8-CGeIAX84zL1qjFGHfAHPxFKwyn0GFava4QYAQgQ5J4>

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/historical-sheets/indigenous-veterans?fbclid=IwAR3zwwgFKovbMy0-S179BYnqtb2OOZDjoWV9giy-44wiB5-ZAFURnJ3GfXfk>

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Indigenous Soldiers

Learn more:

https://www.nfb.ca/film/forgotten_warriors/?fbclid=IwAR00_IWdmt48Nw581g1edXB6ZC-P3MXYPhpr3RmV6jG-Y5nctPDqnFsud3o

ONE DAY TRADITIONAL

POW-WOW

NOVEMBER 4TH, 2023 – CHIEF JOE MATHIAS CENTRE

ACCEPTING VENDOR APPLICATIONS – PLEASE EMAIL:
SHANNONHENDERSON@SQUAMISHNATIONYOUTHPOWWOW.COM

TO HONOUR THE VETERANS PAST AND PRESENT
COMMITTEE SPECIAL TO HONOR
THE LATE TENALH-T (GLORIA NAHANE, HONEY GIRL)

MC: FRANCIS JAMES



HOST DRUM: SMOKEY VALLEY

ALL CATEGORIES.
1 DAY PAY OUTS FOR DRUMMERS THAT ATTEND.
COMMITTEE WILL BE PROVIDING A FREE DINNER VOUCHER
FOR DANCERS AND DRUMMERS IN ATTENDANCE.

GRAND ENTRY 11:00 AM
SUPPER BREAK 5:00 PM
2ND GRANT ENTRY 6:30 PM
RETIRE FLAGS & HONOUR GUARD 9:00 PM

Adult Education Work Opportunities

Fellow teachers, if you are looking for a little additional work, the Adult Education division has some opportunities for evening instruction in our Second Quarter, which runs November 14 to January 26.

There are some openings in our P4 block – 7:00-9:30pm, Monday through Thursday – for people who could teach English Foundations or even English 10 & 11. We are a supportive staff that will help you get going & can help you throughout the term.

Full disclosure: Because of our separate Collective Agreement, you will not receive seniority credit in K-12 for any work in Adult Ed, but you will be paid on our hourly scale based on your K-12 seniority. Plus, you will gain seniority in our system should you wish to continue on beyond this first experience.

The postings are available for application on [Make-A-Future](#). If this sounds like something for you, apply now!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Adult Ed President Rob McGowan – rob@veaes.ca

Teacher-in-Charge

We brought up the topic of Teacher-In-Charge with senior management this week. We emphasized the increased workload that is being delegated to this role, concerns around student supervision while the Teacher-In-Charge is pulled away from class, and the need for coverage for admin while they are away – especially if it is an expected absence (ie: vacation days).

If this is an issue at your site, please discuss it at your next VEAES meeting and bring some recommendations through Staff Committee. Read through the language in the Collective Agreement, [Article E.35: Teacher-in-Charge](#), page 115 to help inform your recommendations.

While we understand that every site is unique, there needs to be some consistency and clarity on the scope of this role. We will provide more updates when we get a response from the Board on this matter.

Remedy

We are currently meeting with the Board regarding the unused and new Remedy practices... we will advise when we are able to confirm this year's processes.

2023 Reporting

We know that report card time is stressful and this adjustment to 3 written reports is adding to the already untenable workload of teachers. We raised the issue of confusion around report card templates and the lack of clarity coming from admin and also on the website. They assured us that teachers are still to use the same CSL tool as last year, there has been no change to the reporting template, and that they will work on clarifying the message with school-based administrators. If this issue persists at your site, work with your Staff Rep, who can contact the VEAES office.

Please see the supporting documentation below from the ministry to help support other aspects of the reporting order such as student self-assessment and core competencies.

Over the summer, the Ministry of Education and Child Care have finalized their resources to help support the implementation of the new [K-12 Reporting Policy](#). These resources can all be found under the 'reporting' tab on the Ministry's Curriculum website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/reporting/information-for-educators-and-school-leaders>

Their final resource, the [K-12 Student Reporting Policy – Educator Summary Guide](#), was released this week. This document was requested by the Federation to provide a concise summary of the expectations in the reporting policy and will hopefully help members to understand the Ministry's expectations around reporting which sometime differ from those of school districts and administration.

Other resources include:

- a 40 minute [video presentation](#) featuring Ministry staff
- a [webinar series](#) produced by Ministry staff and educators, including BCTF members
- the [K-12 Student Reporting Policy: Communicating Student Learning Guidelines](#)
- Educator Informational Sheets: [Unpacking the Proficiency Scale](#) and [Criteria and Considerations for Written Reports](#)
- [K-12 Student Reporting Information for Parents and Caregivers](#)

The K-12 Reporting Policy is supported by the following updated Ministerial Orders:

- [Learning Update Order](#) (which replaces the previous Student Reporting Order)
- [Provincial Letter Grades Order](#) (updated July 1)
- [Permanent Student Record Order](#) (updated July 1)

Unions Stand Up and Win Big

TSSU and UAW Table Tentative Agreements After Striking

Simon Fraser University's Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) have reached a tentative agreement, [potentially ending a strike that began September 28th](#). In this round of negotiations, TSSU pushed for three key demands:

1. Cost-of-living crisis and the impacts of inflation
2. Ending wage theft and employer demands of uncompensated work
3. Access to pensions for sessional and program instructors

The strike, which lasted 15 work days delivered TSSU workers "General Wage Increases (GWI) of over 11% retroactive to May 2023, and approximately 4% retroactive to May 2022, as well as an additional GWI of up to 1.81% for the upcoming year". For those keeping count, [that's a 16.81% wage increase!](#) Congratulations to TSSU who stood strong and negotiated all of these gains without any concessions to their previous Collective Agreement!

In positive news south of the border, after a six-week strike, the [United Auto Workers \(UAW\) has also reached a tentative agreement](#). Key to their demands were addressing stagnant pay, assembly plant closures, two-tier pay system, workers being stuck in permanent "temporary" positions with no job security and the staffing of new electric vehicle battery plants with non-unionized workers with inadequate wages and workplace safety.

Employing novel job action tactics including surprise work stoppages, the UAW began the "Stand Up Strike", an homage to the historic 1936 "Sit Down Strike", which paved the way for massive gains for unionized workers.

In the tentative agreement reached this week, UAW won incredible wage increases for their workers; 33% for most workers, 67% for temporary workers and an unbelievable 165% wage increase, achieved over the life of the new tentative agreement, for the lowest paid group of workers in their union.

Furthermore, the UAW has connected workplace issues with the green transition by absorbing electric vehicle battery plant workers into their larger union umbrella, a move which will result in substantial wage lifts for these workers as well.



“Understanding your Benefits and Pension Income in Retirement” **CPP, OAS and Group Benefits: An Essential Workshop from BCRTA**

The important decisions that will determine your retirement lifestyle should not be made at the last minute as you fill out your forms. This seminar will prepare you to confidently make choices that are right for you.

The agenda includes: Teachers’ Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and voluntary group benefits. As you will no longer have access to your health benefits from the employer, we include information about choosing your group benefits (dental, extended health and travel), and show some of the differences between the plans to equip you to select the plan that best suits your needs.

All teachers age 50+ should plan to attend one of BCRTA’s Pre-Retirement online (Zoom) workshops. The workshops are free. You get great planning materials along with answers to questions you have about your retirement. Please pre-register at <https://bcрта.ca/workshop>.

November 16, 2023	7 p.m.
November 23, 2023	7 p.m.
January 18, 2024	7 p.m.
February 29, 2024	7 p.m.
April 3, 2024	7 p.m.
April 16, 2024	7 p.m.
May 9, 2024	7 p.m.
May 29, 2024	7 p.m.

All teachers are welcome! Sign up takes two minutes and will give you access to all the workshop materials and future updates



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Dates to Remember

Executive Committee Meeting
November 7, 2023 @ 4 pm
VEAES Office
410-2238 Yukon Street



VEAES

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