

VEAES WEEKLY

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



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Violent Incidents and Our Health

Thank you to all members who attended our Violent Incident Issue session in October, to learn more about using the VSB's "Our Health" portal to report Violent incidents, Accidents, Hazards, and other Health and Safety issues.

Here are some examples of things you can use the portal to report:

Accidents or injuries that result in loss of work or do not result in loss of work

Rodent droppings, mold, air quality concerns,

Violent incidents by students or adults including threats, intimidation, racism or other discrimination

Remember that if you need to access Worksafe due to an injury at work, call Teleclaim (1-888-WORKERS), fill out an injury form (which can be obtained by First Aid Attendant or your doctor), AND see your doctor.

Opportunities in Adult Education

Opportunity for Adult Ed work * time sensitive, closing Friday at noon!*

VEAES members who are seeking work outside of regular school hours – please take note of the postings attached here from [Make a Future](#). Adult Education is a part of our public school system, and serves adult learners and some school-aged students using the K-12 curriculum.

These are two courses that are currently vacant, and desperately need applicants! They are temporary positions that begin on Tuesday, November 14th. Adult Educators are members of VEAES but work under a different collective agreement. They are paid hourly on the same scale as K-12 members, and are pay includes pensionable contributions and services, as well as benefits and 12.5% in lieu of prep time.

Foundations English is a program that mainly instructs English language learners, often newcomers to Canada, and is focused on reading, writing, speaking and listening, at an early level. ELL teachers and teachers of English Language Arts would be comfortable teaching this class



Joint Statement VEAES and VSB on Reporting

There have been many questions as to the impact of the new provincial reporting order on our local reporting processes. **The following is a joint statement from VSB and VEAES to clarify questions that have been raised regarding elementary CSL in the VSB.**

The new Ministerial reporting order requires a return to three written reports per year, with a continued requirement for two informal reports. Informal reporting within the VSB will take place as conferences or portfolios with an option of a conference. The primary focus of the new reporting order is greater student self-assessment, timely and responsive feedback to parents and caregivers on student progress using language that is accessible to all parents and caregivers, and a focus on proficiency. You can read more about the changes in the ministry documents for educators:

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/reporting/k-12-reporting-educator-summary-guide.pdf>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/unpacking-the-proficiency-scale-support-for-educators.pdf>

The requirement for elementary CSL reporting continues to focus on the core competencies and teachers are expected to use strengths-based feedback when writing the Written Learning Updates and Summary of Learning. On each written report, teachers will be required to indicate where core competency self-assessment has taken place and where parents and caregivers can access the information. Teachers can find resources and sample written reporting exemplars as well as contact information for the CAM team on the sharepoint [here](#).

The CSL tool is mostly consistent with last year and can be found [here](#). There have been minor changes to align with the new Ministry reporting order and VSB elementary reporting guidelines. As an example, the CSL tool allows for teachers to indicate proficiency levels based on the provincial 4-point scale (emerging, developing, proficient, extending). For each written report, teachers will be reporting on subjects being taught with all subjects being reported for the year-end Summary of Learning. Further information and details regarding elementary CSL can be found on the VSB Elementary Reporting Guidelines for Teachers.

VEAES process on making public statements

The VEAES Executive Committee carried the following motion at this week's meeting as a mechanism to determine the process for making a public statement on current public events. After thoughtful discussion, this was adopted to ensure transparency and process when the union is asked by members, or feels the need to respond to public matters with a statement.

A) Statement and Principles

That VEAES adopt the following set of principles when making statements about current events:

- a)** That it is sometimes important and valuable for VEAES to make public statements on current events as a representative organization as well as to provide leadership in the broader educational community.
- b)** That a thorough analysis of current and historical events has been made prior to the statement being created, and an evaluation of relevant bias, perspective, and narratives.
- c)** That VEAES use an anti-oppression, intersectional, anti-racist lens in determining when a statement is required, and the focus of the statement.
- d)** Use of the BCTF Social Justice and Aboriginal lenses.
- e)** Bring the matter to Executive Committee, and, if possible, a Staff Rep Assembly and/or General Meeting, should there be concerns about the content of the statement. This should not preclude the creation and publishing of statements that are consistent with existing VEAES or BCTF Policy, the Human Rights Code, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- f)** Recognition that any position of VEAES will not necessarily reflect the opinions of all members, and as with our current policy, nor can it be expected to.

The following is now VEAES policy and we will provide an update at the Staff Rep Assembly on November 14, 2023.

Truth and Reconciliation

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

The November 14 Staff Rep Assembly will be discussing the above Call to Action – please join us and be part of our witnessing ceremony and discuss important matters relevant to teachers!

Extended Health Benefits Plan Vote

The following improvements have been negotiated to apply the additional funding to the provincial benefits plan in 2023 and 2024. We will be working with VSTA to bring the plan participation to a membership vote before the end of January, 2024. Please watch this space for comparisons of the two plan and information about how to express your opinion on the matter.

Effective July 1, 2023	
Dual dental	Restriction removed in SD 36 and SD 57
HPV vaccine	Covered
Vision care limit	Increased to \$600
Naturopath limit	Increased to \$1,000
Effective July 1, 2024	
Shingles vaccines	Covered
Vision care limit	Increased to \$650
Counselling services limit	Increased to \$1,500

BCTF Health and Wellness Program

The BCTF Health and Wellness Program is designed to assist members in regaining a state of wellness, health, and productivity to sustain or return to a teaching assignment. It is funded by the BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan, which in turn is 100% funded by members' dues.

The Health and Wellness Program puts teachers in contact with professional rehabilitation consultants located in communities throughout the province. In consultation with your health care provider, these consultants will coordinate services that help to improve the teacher's health and functional abilities.

For more information about the program, please refer to this [web page](#). You can apply by calling 1-800-663-9163 or fill out the [online form for self-referral](#) .

CUPE 15 at Nov 14 Staff Rep Assembly

Are you frustrated by SSSWs' failures to fill at your site? Confused about the message from administrators about the role of teachers and SSSWs? Do you want to be part of a dialogue with CUPE 15 leadership about the working conditions of both of our memberships, as well as the severe impact on the learning conditions of students?

Join us at the next SRA with special guests -- CUPE 15 leadership -- in attendance. This is an opportunity for our members to share our perspectives and experiences with them, with the hope to strategize further on how the two unions can collaborate in our fight for a better public education system.

Reminder: ALL members are welcome to attend and speak at any and all SRAs, always. They can speak at the mic, but only staff reps can vote.

Please note that we did NOT have consent from CUPE 15 leadership to invite CUPE 15 rank-and-file members to attend the Nov 14 SRA. As such, please refrain from inviting them for now. We hope to be able to extend the invitation to them at a future meeting.



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BCTF New Teachers' Zoom Gathering

Join new teacher colleagues from across the province on November 16, 2023, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for discussions, connection, and learning opportunities at the New Teachers' Zoom Gathering. This gathering is open to all BCTF members with five years or fewer of teaching experience, and teacher candidates are also invited to attend. It will be an open discussion focused on building understanding and improving practices for inclusive classroom environments, along with breakout rooms on hot topics in English and French (une salle de discussion). To sign up and receive the Zoom link, click [here](#).

Dates to Remember

Staff Rep Assembly

November 14, 2023

@ 4 pm

Tupper Secondary, Cafeteria

Executive Committee Meeting

November 21, 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.