



VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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President's Message

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

Welcome back to another exciting school year!

As we begin this new journey, we want to sincerely thank you for the tremendous effort you put in every day to ensure each one of our sites remain a safe, fair, and belonging place to learn/unlearn and grow. Last year came with its share of challenges, but through your consistent support, adaptability, and care, we were able to create countless positive moments for the students and each other. Your work truly makes a difference. As we look ahead, we're excited for another year of growth, shared success, and--most importantly--pulling together in the same direction to support the students and one another.

This past year brought no shortage of challenges--navigating the complexities of a new reporting tool (SpacesEDU), engaging in thoughtful literacy screener reviews, and considering the broader implications of a district-wide assessment. We faced difficult moments with program cuts and surpluses, a shifted Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) timeline, changes to the Spring Transfer Process, and the long-delayed but finally signed unused remedy agreement. Through it all, you approached your work with courage in uncertainty, wisdom in decision-making, respect for one another's perspectives, and strength in the face of change. Your continued focus on what matters most--our students--has been a powerful reflection of these values, and a reminder of the strength we carry when we move forward together.

VEAES has always been a foundation of support and a powerful voice for positive change. As a union, our strength lies in our collective voice and our shared commitment to advocating for a public education system that is fair, equitable, and inclusive for all. Your experiences, insights, and advocacy help shape the direction of our work, and together we continue to push for meaningful change--rooted in justice and guided by what is best for students and educators alike. As we look ahead, we must continue to pull together, united in our efforts to build an environment where respect, honesty, humility, courage and love are not just ideals, but lived values in our classrooms, our schools, and our broader community. When we stand together, we not only defend our profession--we help transform it.

We would like to raise our hands in honour and respect to the VTF local bargaining team for their dedication, perseverance, and thoughtful leadership at the negotiating table. Thank you to Marjorie Dumont, C'tan (VEAES LP), Greg Canning (VEAES VP), Elsa Medina (VEAES WLC/B Chair), Liam Patterson-Morris (VEAES member), Francoise Raunet (VEAES member), Carmen Schaedeli (VSTA LP), Gregory Henderson (VSTA WLC/B Chair), Rod Ofreneo (VSTA member), Nicole Duy (VSTA member), and Jess Taylor (VSTA member). Through months of difficult and often complex discussions with the employer, they remained focused on securing meaningful improvements for all members. Their hard work brought us to the successful conclusion of local bargaining in February 2025. We also want to thank the membership for your engagement and support throughout the process, and for ratifying the Local Matters Agreement on April 25, 2025. Thanks to your collective voice, the new language came into effect on July 1, 2025--another important step forward in strengthening our working conditions and the learning environments we support every day.

We want to remind all members to stay informed about ongoing provincial bargaining, which began in March 2025. It's essential that we all stay engaged and up-to-date. Please take time to check the bargaining updates regularly on the BCTF website portal. You can also stay connected through the VEAES Weekly, general meetings, staff rep assemblies, and VEAES EC meetings. Your awareness and involvement are critical as negotiations progress. We will need your continued support and solidarity, and we must all be prepared to be strike ready, should that become necessary. Together, our strength lies in our unity and our collective action.

Just as the VEAES logo represents the important tool of the Musqueam people, the spindle whorl, it reminds us that every thread, no matter how small, is essential to the strength of the whole. We too, are stronger together.

I want to express my deep gratitude for your continued presence, dedication, and the meaningful work you do every day with students, families, and the wider community. Your efforts create lasting impacts, and it's an honour to stand alongside you in this work. As we face the uncertainty of provincial bargaining, we must continue to stay informed, support one another, and be strike ready if the situation calls for it. In this spirit, we can draw on the teachings of the Bear, who reminds us of the importance of taking care of one another and, just as importantly, having the courage to stand up for what is right. I'm truly thankful for the opportunity to serve as your local president for another year, and I appreciate the trust and confidence you've placed in me. I look forward to continuing to lead with transparency, integrity, and a shared commitment to advocating for the needs of our members and the future of public education.



néćəmat tə šx^wq^weləwən ct
(We are of one heart and mind)
-- Musqueam language; həńqəmińəń

“ —
To me, leadership means never losing sight that the issues at hand are so much bigger than oneself. It's about clarity, focus, and looking inward to lead with strength. One should never project their own limitations onto others.”

— Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Inuk Leader from Kuujjuaq, Nunavik (northern Quebec)

In solidarity,

Marjorie Dumont, C'tan
President

BCTF Bargaining Observers

By Xander Graham

The BCTF has invited locals to nominate certain elements of membership to act as observers for an upcoming provincial bargaining session, and VEAES encourages interested parties to consider taking part in this important element of the bargaining process. Specifically, the BCTF is looking to consider members who are **NOT** BCTF Executive Committee members, local presidents, local bargaining chairs, local representatives, or BCTF Advisory Committee members, as these members all have the opportunity to apply directly. Consideration will be given to equity-deserving members and early-career teachers.

Up to four spaces per day will be open to observers on each of the following dates: **September 8, September 9, September 15, September 18, October 14, October 15, October 29, and October 30, 2025**. Observers may observe in-person or virtually.

Travel, leaves of absence (LOAs), and per diems will be provided where applicable.

Interest in attending bargaining as an observer has been very high and spaces are limited so not all members who are nominated will be able to attend. CV applications can be found [here](#) on the VEAES website, and the BCTF has requested applicants to include:

- contributions to your local,
- any applicable self-identification,
- any specific date(s) the member is not available from the eight potential dates listed above,
- whether the member plans to attend in-person or virtually.

VEAES asks that interested parties return their CV applications prior to Tuesday, September 9th, so that they may be appointed by the VEAES Executive Committee in advance of the BCTF's September 12 submission deadline. Members selected will be notified as soon as possible thereafter and provided further information and instruction. Thank you, and we look forward to receiving applications from those interested in contributing to the provincial bargaining process!

VSBCalendar Committee Representative

By Xander Graham

VEAES encourages interested members to apply to act as VEAES representative on the VSBCalendar Committee. Typically meeting on the first Tuesday of every month, the Calendar Committee brings together stakeholders to discuss and recommend adaptations and decisions regarding the VSBCalendar and the associated dates therein. It is an important opportunity to consider and advocate for equity and representation of calendar dates and how those chosen dates interact with membership and the district as a whole. Interested members are encouraged to submit a CV application, found [here](#) on the VEAES website, so that they might be appointed by an upcoming meeting of the VEAES Executive Committee. We thank members for their consideration, and look forward to applications by those interested in taking part in this committee!

Labour Day

By Xander Graham

This past Monday, September 1st marked Labour Day, one of the two most prominent, annual, Labour-oriented calendar dates alongside May Day. For many teachers, Labour Day is both a point of transition as we move from the summer break back into classrooms, as well as a moment to reflect upon the efforts of labour activists throughout our history. Many will trace the history of Labour Day to the Nine Hour Movement of the 1870s, but it was not until July of 1894 that the House of Commons passed an amended holiday law denoting Labour Day, with that following 3rd of September 1894 featuring much celebration by labour councils and congresses.



As we move through provincial bargaining, Labour Day reminds us of the advocacy and effort that unions, both in BC and across Canada, have contributed to both society and the country. The very first teacher strike in Canada took place in Victoria in 1919, forcing the government to introduce an early form of salary arbitration. The 1939-40 Langley Affair, primarily lead by women, ignored ridicule, threats of firing, and the fear of forced transfers to fight for arbitration rulings to be fairly followed: a win for teachers across BC. In the mid-1980s, workers at Burnaby schools successfully lobbied the board of education to ban the use of goods from Apartheid-South Africa, proving that there is an undeniable link between labour and social activism. When we, as teachers, workers, and labour activists, are united, there is no oppression, no regime, and no classist ruling that we cannot overcome, for the betterment of our students, our classrooms, and our communities.

Welcome back to school, to work, and to your invaluable contributions to labour. As the lyric goes, when we work together for our common goals of equity, support, and fair rights, “...there can be no power greater anywhere beneath the sun,” and that certainly holds true here in Vancouver.

Happy Labour Day!

VEAES TTOC Committee Chair Opening

By Xander Graham

As we start a new school year and the VEAES Office begins preparation for Executive Committee meetings, we would like to announce a vacancy and callout for TTOC Committee Chair. The TTOC Committee meets to advocate and discuss issues relating to the work of TTOC’s across the district, and is an invaluable support to those members in Teacher Teaching on Call positions. In addition, the TTOC Committee Chair sits on the VEAES Executive Committee, and thus affords the committee chair the opportunity to advocate for members and contribute to VEAES Governance. Interested members are encouraged to submit CV applications, which can be found [here](#) on the VEAES website.

Thank you, and we look forward to TTOC Committee Chair applications!

BCGEU On Strike!

By Xander Graham

VEAES members are please advised to note that BCGEU picket lines are up at 900 Howe St in Vancouver through Friday, September 5th, 2025. BCGEU represents approximately 95,000 workers in public sector work, health care, community social services, education, highways maintenance, casinos, credit unions, municipalities, regional districts and many other workplaces. BCGEU is currently fighting for livable wages, a fair classification system for admin, better benefits, and for flexible schedules that fit the lives of workers. As we continue to take part in provincial bargaining ourselves, we encourage VEAES members to turn out and show solidarity with our BCGEU siblings. During the last round of contract negotiations, BCGEU job action made huge strides that contributed immensely to our last contract gains, and solidarity means showing up to demonstrate that we support their efforts in a real and tangible fashion. Solidarity with workers, solidarity with BCGEU!



Photos by Marjorie Dumont and Xander Graham

BCTF Provincial Bargaining Updates

During the provincial bargaining process, the BCTF bargaining team will periodically release updates regarding proposals and negotiations with the employer. The last update came at the end of June, and we expect to hear more in the near future. In order to access these updates, please sign in to the BCTF Bargaining Update portal [here](#) with your BCTF login credentials.

TRC Calls to Action

By Françoise Raunet

The work to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation with Indigenous people cannot be done in just one day; it is ongoing and needs to be done by all of us, in all of our communities, continually in order to make meaningful change. This is why, for the past few years, VEAES has been highlighting one of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action at every General Meeting & Staff Rep Assembly. VEAES is also committed to understanding the protocols and teachings of the *skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish), *selílwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh), and *xʷməθkʷəy̓əm* (Musqueam) nations through a traditional witness ceremony calling on members present to witness the information and bring it back to their communities. The devastating impacts of colonialism and the Doctrine of Discovery, including the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in government care and the chronic underfunding of education and other services for Indigenous youth, are just some of the problems brought to light by the TRC Calls to Action. Hopefully, each month's highlight sparks discussion, reflection, and action for you and your colleagues. This important work of reconciliation relies on members who step forward to be witnesses or to present and reflect on each one of the Calls to Action. If you would like to get involved, please reach out to Xander Graham at xander@veaes.ca.

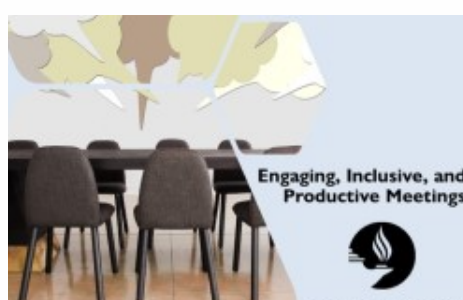
Upcoming SURT

By VEAES Office

Staff Reps, please be sure to check your VEAES-associated email for our upcoming SURT registration. This year's Fall SURT will be held on **October 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm** for four staff representatives from each school site. Instead of assigning days for each school, we are providing the choice of day for Staff Reps, with the caveat that each day is limited to 50 members on a first come, first served basis. Please register by 4:00pm, September 25th or earlier to secure your spot. Due to the limits placed on us by the VSB, please do not ask us to add you to a day that is already full. As always, if you are unable to attend, you may find someone else from your school to attend the SURT. (Your Social Justice & Solidarity rep would be a good candidate.) Morning snacks and lunch will be provided.

The SURT will take place at the **Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre, 711 West Broadway**. As there is limited pay parking in their building and we are all making efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, please consider transit or carpooling. See [TransLink](#) for trip planning. If you must drive, we can reimburse parking up to \$15 with a receipt.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting your colleagues. We look forward to seeing you!



From Honduras to Canada: Workers' Rights and Global Solidarity

Thursday, October 2, 2025 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Location: Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Avenue, Vancouver

RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

SPECIAL GUESTS FROM AMAZON FUFILLMENT CENTRE AND FUERZA MIGRANTE

If the world is globalized, so is the resistance! Come learn how unions in Canada are building a better world and how grassroots strategies are winning real gains for workers.



CODEMUH
COLECTIVA DE MUJERES
HONDUREÑAS
VOICES OF JUSTICE:
LISTEN FROM THE
BEST ON HOW TO
ORGANIZE!



Urge
La aprobación de la
"Ley Salud en el Trabajo"
¡Empleo Sí, pero con Dignidad!

codev

CODEVELOPMENT CANADA PRESENTS
FROM HONDURAS TO CANADA – WORKERS’
RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY.

2 OCTOBER 2025 – 7PM

 RUSSIAN HALL, 600 CAMPBELL AVENUE. VANCOUVER


codev.org

FREE PUBLIC EVENT
REGISTER NOW!



National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



September 30

A message from the Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society

IMPORTANT DATE

September 9

Executive Committee Meeting
@ 4:00 pm/VEAES Office



2025-26



VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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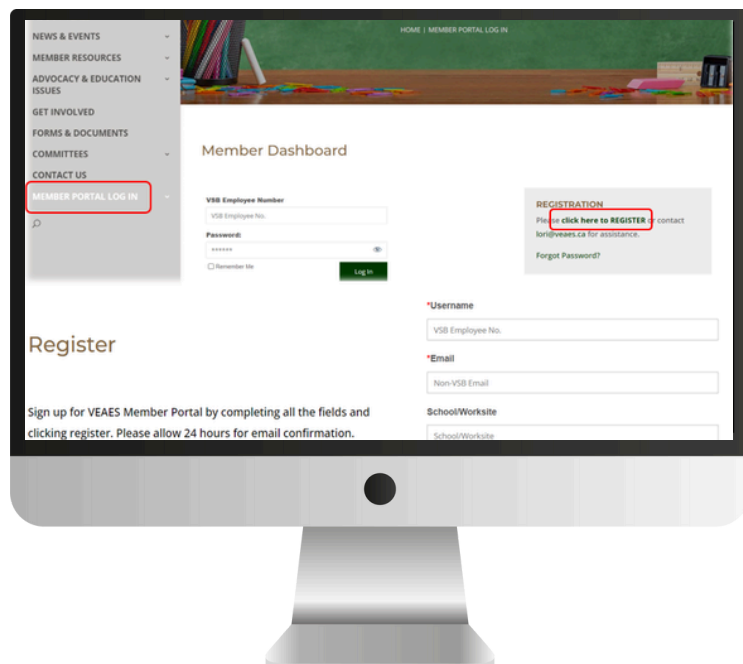
Greg Canning
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to Member Portal Log In. When you click on it, there will be a prompt for you to register. After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the username, as it allows us to verify members. So, you will have to have your VSB employee number ready in order to register for the portal.

Once you are registered and verified, you can access the portal menu, which is located on the left sidebar, under Member Portal. We encourage all members to sign up. If you have any issues with your registration, please email support@veaes.ca.

Click image below to register.



VEAES

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

Thank you all/ é-iθamə cən