



VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

**PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES**

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BCRTA Pre-Retirement Workshop



Our popular online workshops are now scheduled for the fall/winter and Spring of 2025/26.

The online sign up form is available on our events page of the BCRTA website. www.bcrta.ca

[Workshop Dates and Sign-up Form](#)

SURT Wrap-Up

by Xander Graham

Yesterday, November 16th, saw the fourth of our Staff Union Representative Training sessions that have taken place over the last two weeks. VEAES members came together to learn, collaborate, and endeavour to make their school union teams as efficacious as possible. VEAES wishes to thank all of the participants, facilitators, and liaisons who contributed their time, energy, and passion to make these sessions as fruitful as possible. We know that members are busy people, and we hold our hands up to all those willing to take part in events and structures that support our colleagues, our schools, and our communities. Whether it is Pro-D, Staff Committee, Health & Safety, or Staff Representative, all who step up to provide for their school union teams are greatly appreciated. We see your effort, we hear your voice, and we appreciate all that you do!

Working and Learning Conditions & Bargaining Committee Meeting: October 23

By: Vanessa Lefebvre

Members are invited to the upcoming WLCB meeting this coming Thursday, October 23rd. The meeting will be held in-person from 4-6pm at the VEAES Office (410 - 2238 Yukon Street). The committee will be discussing provincial bargaining; looking at the tabled proposals, as well as the bargaining updates from the BCTF to take the temperature of where we are at, and consider our local's priorities. This work cannot be done without the input of members who are living these working conditions.

As well, we must be ready for job action when we are in a bargaining year. As it has been over 10 years since we've engaged in job action & much has changed in our organization, we have work to do to ensure that our local is ready to support this process. The BCTF is releasing their Strike-Preparedness plan this week, which we will use to develop our local plan.

We are looking forward to connecting with members who are passionate about the need to improve our working conditions as we carry out this important work for our organization. Come out and take part in making recommendations to the Executive Committee to support working conditions and bargaining in our district. All members are welcome - you do not have to be a committee member to attend the meeting. Any questions, please contact Vanessa@veaes.ca.

Provincial Bargaining Update

By: BCTF

The BCTF has posted their latest bargaining update. While not expansive, we encourage members to read the update and stay informed about how both sides are progressing in their negotiations. The update be found by signing in with your BCTF credentials [here](#).

Friends of The Congo

By: Social Justice & Solidarity Committee

At the October 7th meeting of the Social Justice & Solidarity meeting, committee members passed a motion to promote awareness of the Friends of The Congo initiative. The Friends of the Congo (FOTC) is an organization that was established in 2004 to work in partnership with Congolese to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire. The DRC has long been a site of violent exploitation by Western powers and multinational corporations that profit from critical minerals like cobalt and coltan, essential to technology that we use such as smartphones and laptops. Members can learn more about the situation in The Congo, the colonial history of the region, and ways to get involved at the Friends of The Congo website, [here](#).

Understanding Leaves

By: Xander Graham

One of the most frequent topics of support that comes up at the VEAES office is that of leaves. Leaves can be a stressful undertaking to engage with, and the sometimes-opaque nature of the process can add to the stressful nature of the interaction.

This is a friendly reminder that VEAES has produced a helpful reference document available to assist members in navigating leaves under the Employment Standards Act and our Collective Agreement. Released last May, this resource clarifies your rights and responsibilities regarding paid and unpaid leaves and outlines the application processes for each type of leave. You can find the document on our website [here](#), where it details the available leaves, eligibility criteria, duration, application procedures, and their impact on salary.

We encourage you to review this guide to help determine the best leave for your needs and understand the processes for accessing leaves through the VSB. If you have applied for one of these leaves and have been denied, and/or are experiencing emergency or extenuating circumstances, please contact the VEAES office for advice regarding other options. As always, we are very happy to discuss your questions about leaves via calls to the office, but we encourage you to add this document to your worker toolkit as an extra support.

Expressions of Interest Now Open for the Second ARAOO Conference

By: BCTF

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open for the Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression Office's (ARAOO) Conference "Equity in Motion: Practicing Liberation in our Movements." This event is for Aboriginal, Indigenous, Black, and racialized members, and will be held on January 22–24, 2026, at the Coast Coal Harbour Vancouver Hotel on Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territory. Building on a legacy of activism and advocacy by generations of educators, the event will bring together 80 Indigenous, Black, and racialized BCTF members from across the province to explore what racialized leadership can look like in roles of service or leadership, to resource ourselves and our bodies, and to practice ways of being that can help us live into liberation as a daily practice.

Attendees will be selected through an EOI process.

[Learn more and submit your interest](#) by **Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.**

Virtual Pension Seminar

By: VEAES Office

The BCTF will be hosting a virtual BCTF Pension Seminar on Tuesday, November 4, from 4:00–5:15 p.m. Pacific Time via Zoom. This seminar is intended to help members learn about how their pension plan works, factors to consider when planning for retirement, and their pension options.

The seminar will cover topics such as:

- how pension is calculated
- eligibility for unreduced pension
- pension options
- the retirement application process
- post-retirement considerations

If you are planning to attend, please register at the link below:

<https://www.bctf.ca/topics/services-information/events-and-meetings/pension-seminar-registration>

After registering, you will receive an automatic confirmation email with the Zoom link and details. If you have any additional questions, please contact jmawhinney@bctf.ca.

2026 BCTF Women's Institute

By: BCTF

The BCTF are excited to announce that the **2026 BCTF Women's Institute** will take place on **February 19–21, 2026**, at the Coast Coal Harbour Hotel in Vancouver. This event is open to members with equity-deserving gender identities, including cis and trans women, and non-binary and gender non-conforming people who are comfortable in a space that centres the experiences of women.

In addition, delegates must meet the following criteria:

- has not attended a Women's Institute in the past five years
- is available and committed to attending in February 2026.

The Objectives for the Women's Institute are as follows:

1. to create an opportunity for members to share their experiences, build community, and learn new leadership skills and strategies together
2. to support and inspire women's leadership in the workplace, union, and broader community
3. to deepen an understanding of women's issues, decolonization, feminist analyses, intersectionality, and effective collective organizing
4. to celebrate the contributions of women in the union, profession, and community.

Preference will be given to members of equity-seeking groups, and teachers in their first five years of teaching. Please keep your eyes open for application information coming in the near future, as VEAES will be able to send one delegate to this 2026 event. Members will also be able to apply directly to the BCTF in a later round.



Ways for Teachers to Access PSA Memberships

There are many ways for teachers to access a PSA membership:

1. Purchase a PSA membership directly from the BCTF.
2. Participate in a PSA conference.
3. Participate in an induction ceremony or welcome event at their Local.
4. Participate in a BCTF workshop or SURT for TTOCs or new teachers.
5. Upload a resource to TeachBC.

Purchase a PSA membership directly from the BCTF.

The easiest way to handle this is to have the member purchase their PSA membership directly from the [BCTF Shopify store](#), and then reimburse the member for the purchase if your Pro-D language supports this.

Some locals prefer to avoid having the member pay up front and have previously submitted paper forms along with a cheque for payment of the fees. The Federation is phasing out paper forms, but the Shopify page does not allow for a Local to make direct purchases on someone else's behalf. If a local wishes to purchase PSA memberships directly for their members, please contact psa-coordinator@bctf.ca for the appropriate forms and instructions.

Participate in a PSA conference.

Many PSAs either provide a PSA membership as part of conference attendance or provide the option of purchasing one during the registration process. Most PSAs hold their conference on the October PSA day, but they may hold additional conferences later in the year or hold their main conference at an alternate time. Links to PSA websites and conference registration sites can be found at www.PSAday.ca.

Participate in a Local induction ceremony or welcome event.

The BCTF provides a free PSA membership to each new inductee who attends a Local induction ceremony or welcome event. Previously, these were done via paper form. The process has been streamlined, however. Now, Locals collect the first name, last name, and email address of the inductee, and the Local president has access to an [upload process](#) that will then automatically email each member on the list with a code. The member uses the code at the BCTF Shopify store to sign up for a free PSA membership. Inquiries regarding the process can be made to psa-coordinator@bctf.ca.

Participate in a BCTF workshop or SURT for TTOCs or new teachers.

Local organizers for BCTF Workshops or SURTs that are asked to provide an excel sheet containing the first and last names of attending members and an email address. Members will be emailed a code for the BCTF Shopify store that can be used to sign up for a free PSA membership.



RESISTANCE & HOPE

ART, ACTIVISM & ALLYSHIP



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PSA CONFERENCE

Keynote Speaker
Charlie Angus

Friday, October 24 2025
Langley School of Fine Arts

Cultural Hands-On Workshops
Classroom Resources
Allyship
Decolonization
Métis History
and more...

Registration \$149

Conference Fee & PSA Annual Membership included



Registration Opens
Friday September 5th 2025

<https://www.aeaconference.ca/>



IMPORTANT DATES

Executive Committee Meeting at the VEAES Office on **October 21 at 4:00 pm**

2025-26



VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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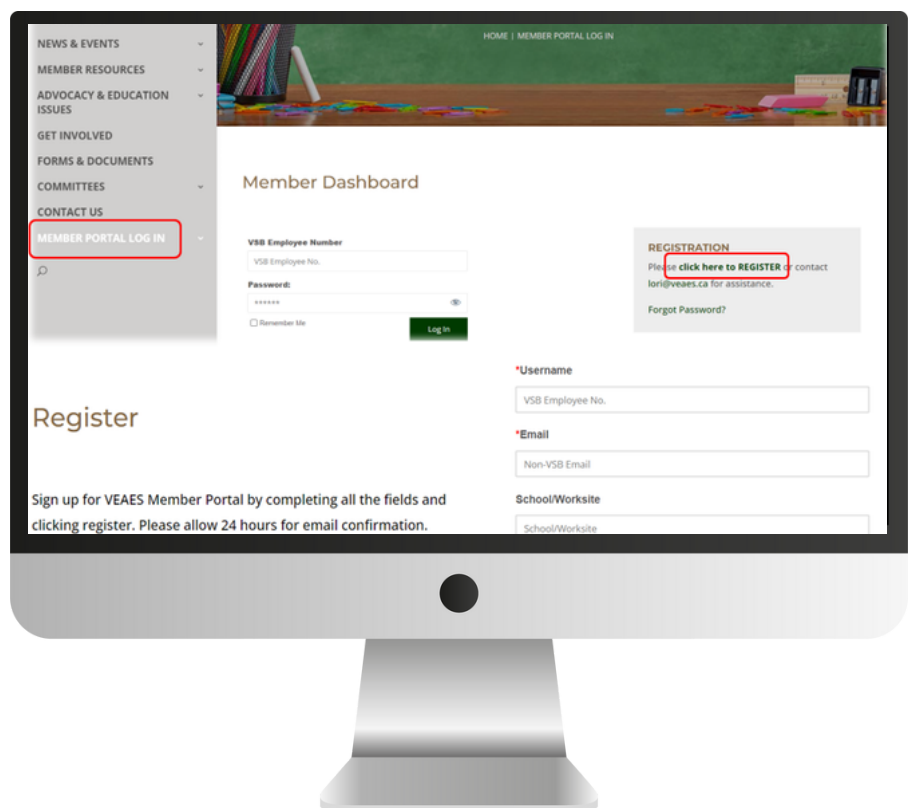
Greg Canning
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to Member Portal Log In. When you click on it, there will be a prompt for you to register. After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers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