

VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

**PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES**

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Labour Power Rising: Join COPE for Book Launch Event

by Xander Graham

Join organizers from COPE and Seattle-based organizer and author Jonathan Rosenblum for a presentation and discussion about the lessons of Kshama Sawant's years as a Seattle City Councilmember and the political strategy and grassroots mobilizations behind her successes in taking on the establishment including the world's wealthiest person.

In a municipal government dominated by pro-business Democrats, Sawant and the popular street movements she led against major corporations headquartered in the region—including Amazon, Boeing, Microsoft, and Starbucks—won battles that would transform the city's trajectory for years to come.

We're Coming for You and Your Rotten System tells this extraordinary story from the inside. As COPE gears up to fight for affordable housing, expanded public transit, and fully-funded public services in next year's municipal elections, we'll discuss how the lessons out of Seattle can inform our fight here.

Registration is open for The Well Teacher Groups

by BCTF

The Well Teacher Groups focus on supporting educators in developing tools and skills related to vitality and resiliency. This holistic approach to wellness equips teachers to make lifestyle changes that positively affect their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. All groups are confidential and facilitated by trained health consultants. Groups are composed of 10 to 15 participants and meet virtually once a week for six weeks. The following dates and times are being offered this fall (all times PT):

Group 1

Tuesdays, October 14–November 25,
4:30–6:30 p.m.

Note: no session on November 11

Group 2

Wednesdays, October 15–November 19,
4:30–6:30 p.m.

Group 3

Wednesdays, October 15–November 19,
4:30–6:30 p.m.

Group 4

Mondays, October 20–November 24,
4:30–6:30 p.m.

To register, click on the session above that you would like to join or visit the [Well Teacher Groups information and registration page](#).

October 2025 PSA Day

by Xander Graham

Looking for a Pro-D that caters to your needs as a teacher? There are 31 PSAs that offer professional development, support, and advocacy in a variety of specialist areas. The October PSA day is a longstanding, Province-wide professional development day. It is also the day that the majority of PSAs have their conferences. Per 30.A.12 in the BCTF Members' Guide, the PSA day is the third Friday in October, except in years in which Thanksgiving Monday falls in the same week, at which point it switches to the fourth Friday to avoid a three-day school week for students. The PSA Days for the next few years are:

- October 24, 2025 – this year,
- October 23, 2026
- October 22, 2027
- October 20, 2028

If you have any questions about PSAs or PSA Chapters, inquiries directed to the shared PSA coordination inbox at psa-coordinator@bctf.ca or directly to Jenny Slack, Assistant Director, Professional Specialist Association (PSA) and Adult Education Liaison, Professional and Social Issues Division at jslack@bctf.ca

Unionize Your Lessons?

by Xander Graham

It is sometimes the case that we consider unionism to be something that wraps around and supports classrooms, but what about it existing inside them? In the most recent issue of the BCTF's Teacher Magazine, Burnaby teacher Brand Mullholland has presented a lesson plan focusing on economic justice and unions. With curricular links to Social Studies at the intermediate level, Brandon's lesson looks at concepts like collective bargaining, a living wage, and the process of a strike. Give the lesson plan a look [here](#), and before you know it you could find your class enacting a wildcat strike before recess! The rest of the Economic Justice themed-pieces in this can be found [here](#).

Call for workshop proposals for New Teachers' Conferences

by BCTF

The BCTF will be hosting two New Teachers' Conferences in 2026: one in Vancouver on February 7 and one in Kelowna on May 9. The conferences are designed specifically for teachers and teachers teaching on call in their first five years of teaching, as well as teacher candidates. This year's conference theme of "Unexpected Generosity" centers relationality towards teaching and living well together.

The BCTF is currently accepting workshop proposals for the conferences. Workshops are 75 minutes long and can cover a variety of topics, including (but not limited to) literacy, social justice, technology, Aboriginal education, work-life balance, assessment, and inclusive education. [Workshop proposals can be submitted here by October 27.](#)

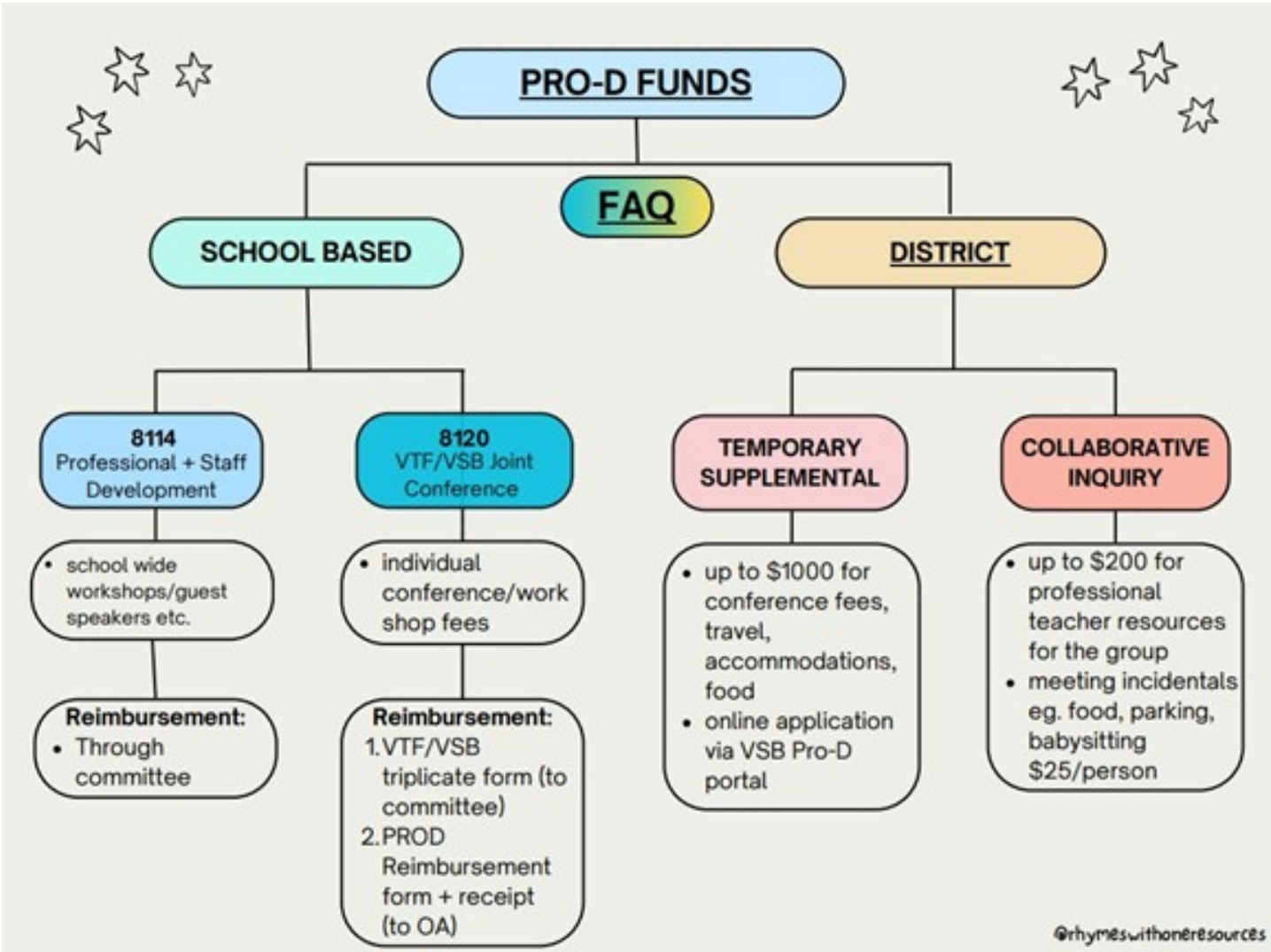
Professional Development Updates

by Xander Graham

Once a month, the Joint District Pro-D Committee meets to engage with Professional Development issues and applications from across the district. The committee also uses this meeting to review and approve submissions to the Temporary Supplemental and Collaborative Inquiry funds. VEAES (currently represented by Professional Issues Committee chair Geneviève Larose-Farmer and an IHTO), alongside VSTA, Administrators, and the VSB, has consistent representation on the committee, and VEAES uses this position to advocate for equitable, autonomous, and teacher-driven Professional Development. For your calendars, the following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Joint District Pro-D Committee meetings.

- October 6
- November 10
- December 8
- January 12
- February 9
- March 9
- April 13
- May 11
- June 8
- June 22

Sometimes a visual aid can be useful when trying to consider the different funds and avenues for members to access professional development funding. The following infographic was spectacularly created last year by a member, Thanh Ngo, to help visualize these different avenues of opportunity and access.



Additional SURT Registrations

by VEAES Office

Staff Reps, please check your VEAES-associated email inbox for SURT registration information! Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding regarding the Fall SURT registration cap in our initial communication. Given the high demand and the importance of members receiving training, we are opening registration again so those who were not able to register may do so.

This year's Fall SURT will be held on October 8th, 9th, 15th, and 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. Please register by 10:00 am, Monday, October 6th, to secure your spot.** 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.

First 2025-26 Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting

by SJ & S Committee

The Social Justice & Solidarity committee would like to remind members and interested parties that the first committee meeting of this school year will take place after school on **Tuesday, October 7**, at the VEAES office. Looking forward to seeing you there!

VEAES Reps to VSB Committees

There are still a number of VSB Committees that need VEAES members to sit on them. If you are looking for a way to bring the concerns of our members directly to our employer, being a VEAES Rep to a VSB Committee is a great way to get involved. If appointed as a rep by the VEAES EC, members will receive training, attend committee meetings in order to ask questions and clarify VEAES's position for the meeting minutes, then report back to the VEAES Executive Committee by filling in a brief form, as well as presenting in person if they would like. Examples of committees that are still in need of VEAES reps are:

- VSB Calendar Committee (will be setting the next 3-year calendar, including dates for holidays, pro-D, etc.)
- VSB Reporting Working Group (looking at district reporting guidelines, including software like SpacesEDU)
- VSB TTOC Working Group

If you are interested in putting your name forward for nomination by the VEAES EC, please use [this form](#) to submit your CV.

World Teachers' Day

October 5, 2025

A counsellor in every school and an education assistant in every primary classroom: Invest in our students



BCTF

**BCTF**

Provincial PSA Day

Friday, October 24, 2025

www.psaday.ca

Professional Development
organized and delivered
by teachers, for teachers.

There's something
for everyone!



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

Friday, October 24 2025
Langley School of Fine Arts

Keynote Speaker
Charlie Angus

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 9 at 4:00 pm**

School Union Rep Training at the Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre on **October 8-9**

2025-26



VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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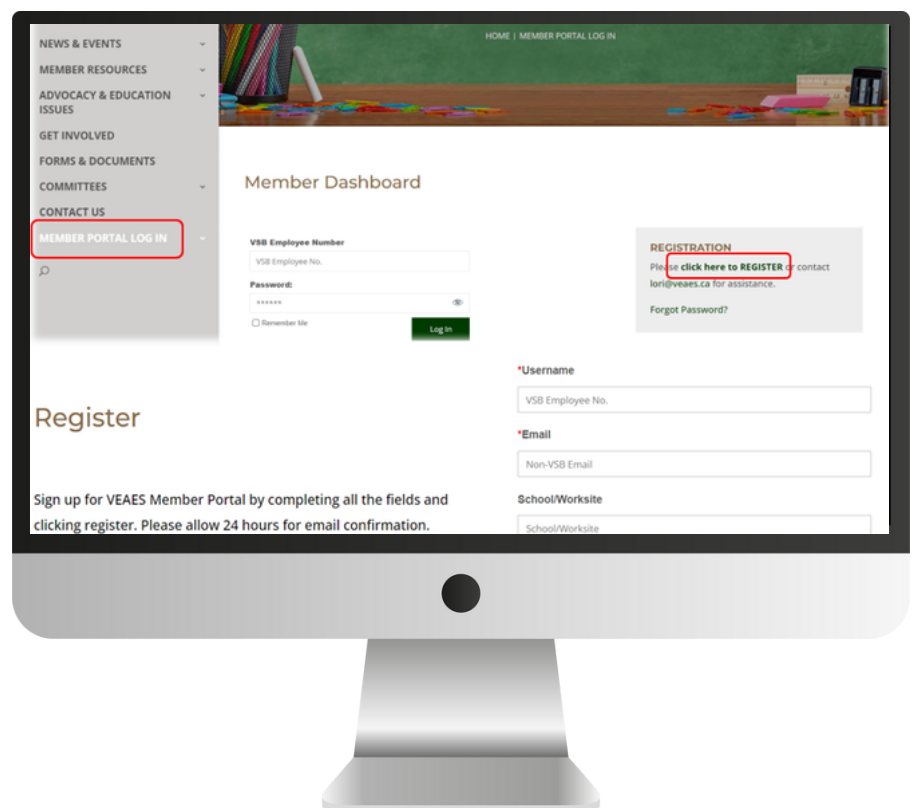
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to Member Portal Log In. When you click on it, there will be a prompt for you to register. After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the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