

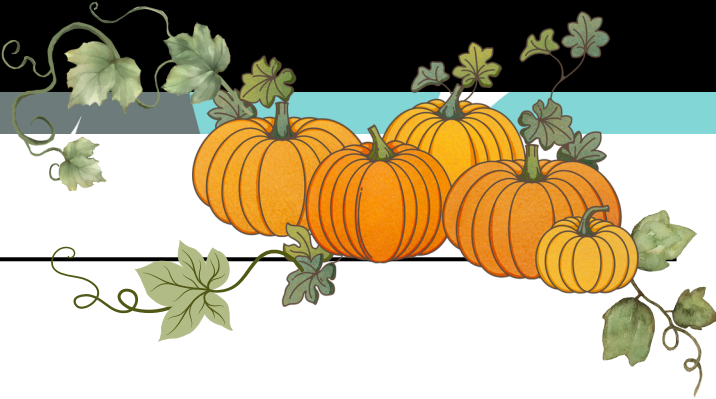


VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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SURT 2025

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

This magical mascot may be stuffed, but after SURT 2025, their brain is bursting with union wisdom (and probably snacks). Big thanks (once again) to everyone who showed up, showed out, and showed this pup a howling good time!



Reminder!

If you were not provided a TTOC for the recent SURT or your monthly union leave, VEAES still pays for the TTOC and the funds will be in your school Flex fund. Use your Staff Committee to make recommendations on using those funds to bring in an additional TTOC to replace the lost service that was likely created by the failure to fill – having a second TL or Resource Teacher in the school for the day will help!

Photos by Jacey Gibb, Cook Elementary

Virtual BCTF Pension Seminar

BCTF Excerpt

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.

Communications Committee Oct 28

By Karine Ng, Communications Chair

Members are invited to the first Communications Committee meeting of the school year. You need not have much teaching or union experience to join us at this informal gathering, where we will learn about the role of this committee, its importance especially in a bargaining year, and how members can exercise their power in advising VEAES on communication strategies. If you have never been involved in union activities, this is a great meeting to come to as we will also learn about the structures of VEAES and the BCTF.

The meeting will be held in the VEAES office next Tuesday Oct 28, 4-5:30pm. Light snacks will be provided. Interested members are invited to **RSVP by Friday, October 24 at 3:30 pm.**

Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #84

by Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

84. We call upon the federal government to restore and increase funding to the CBC/Radio-Canada, to enable Canada's national public broadcaster to support reconciliation, and be properly reflective of the diverse cultures, languages, and perspectives of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to:

- i. Increasing Aboriginal programming, including Aboriginal-language speakers.**
 - ii. Increasing equitable access for Aboriginal peoples to jobs, leadership positions, and professional development opportunities within the organization.**
 - iii. Continuing to provide dedicated news coverage and online public information resources on issues of concern to Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians, including the history and legacy of residential schools and the reconciliation process.**
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We would like to take a moment to recognize and honour an important step forward in our collective journey toward truth and reconciliation.

At our General Meeting held on Tuesday, October 14, Deb Tin Tun opened with a meaningful and powerful presentation on Call to Action #84 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This Call-to-Action urges media and cultural institutions to support reconciliation by highlighting Indigenous voices, stories, and perspectives.

As part of this presentation, four members were asked to be witnesses. These witnesses accepted the responsibility to carry forward the knowledge shared during the presentation, and to share what they learned with their families, friends, and school communities. In the spirit of shared responsibility, all members of the general meeting in attendance are also encouraged to do the same – to speak about what was learned, reflect on its significance, and continue the important work of education and awareness within their own circles.

We raise our hands in honour and respect to all who participated in the Witness Ceremony – your presence and commitment are deeply appreciated and recognized.

This work is part of a journey we have been walking together for over two years. Throughout this time, we have engaged with the Calls to Action in meaningful ways, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has presented a Call to Action. Your leadership, time, and teachings have contributed to the learning and growth of our entire community.

Let us continue to walk this path together, grounded in truth, guided by respect, and committed to reconciliation.

A statement of concern from the teachers of British Columbia

Excerpt from BCTF Historical background on the BCTF's existing positions, policies, and actions regarding the Foundation Skills Assessment (p. 7-8)

The public school teachers of British Columbia call upon government and school boards to make a dramatic shift in our public school system.

The government's current "accountability" system for public schools relies on narrowly focussed standardized tests as the main vehicle for determining the effectiveness of our schools. Teachers believe we should be more concerned about meeting the diverse needs of all the students in our public schools and the success of our schools is all about how well we do that.

Why are we concerned?

Standardized tests (such as FSA and provincial exams):

- Do not address the individual needs of students. They tell us little if anything about what individual children are actually learning.
- Can, and do, actually harm many students. They emphasize what students cannot do rather than what they can. Too often they discourage children rather than motivate them and in the end limit their options for learning.
- Do not help teachers teach. Instead, they force teachers to teach to the narrow scope of learning to be tested at the expense of a much richer learning experience. Important learning such as creative and critical thinking cannot be standardized and measured and therefore doesn't "count."
- Lead to standardized teaching and that means too many of the individual needs of students are not addressed.
- Result in a way of evaluating the school system that is simplistic and unfair. Research is clear, scores on standardized test have more to do with social and economic factors than what happens in school.

There is a better way!

The teachers of BC believe:

- Every child counts and all can learn. Our joy in teaching and our students' love of learning comes from meeting the needs of every student.
- We are all accountable for maximizing students' opportunities to learn. Teachers must teach well and governments must provide the conditions such as appropriate class sizes, class compositions, and learning resources that allow each student to learn.
- Teachers must be allowed to make professional judgments about how students are taught and assessed.

We call on government to work with teachers, school districts, and parents to build a public school system that provides all students, including vulnerable learners, the best possible opportunities to create, to think, to learn, and to grow. (2015 Ex, p. 48)

Diwali

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan, and Greg Canning

Happy Diwali!

Wishing you joy, prosperity, and light during this festive season. We were reminded- and inspired-to write this message by a thoughtful member of our office team, whose spirit and enthusiasm for the celebrations truly stood out. We hope the festivities on October 20 and 21 were as vibrant, heartwarming, and beautiful as the stunning photos shared in this [link](#), and capture the essence of Diwali in every sparkling moment.



Photo from natgeokids.com

VEAES TTOC Committee Still Seeks Chairperson

By Françoise Raunet

If you are a TTOC who would like to bring issues facing teachers teaching on-call to the attention of the VEAES Executive Committee and members, please consider joining the TTOC committee! This committee, among other things, organizes events for TTOCs, helps draft bargaining objectives and policy motions, and helps to support and provide information for all VSB elementary teachers-on-call. Whether you are interested in becoming the committee chairperson, or whether you want to join as a regular member, you can find application forms on the VEAES website [here](#). You can also get in touch with Françoise, francoise@veaes.ca, who is the TTOC Committee's IHTO contact.

VEAES Bursary

By Greg Canning

Do you have a child that graduated from a public secondary school or through adult education programmes? Is your child now attending a post secondary institution? If so, this opportunity is for you and your child. VEAES offers a \$1000 bursary to a member that has a child attending a post secondary institution. It's a tradition that started in 1991 and has been a wonderful support for the lucky winners. If you meet the criteria the application process is quite simple. All we need to know is the name of the public secondary school your child attended and proof of registration at a post secondary institution. You can find the application form with additional information [here](#). Applications can be blue bagged to the VEAES office or completed electronically and sent to our office manager Hitomi Maruyama-Prasad at hitomi@veaes.ca. The deadline for applications November 30 with the draw being held at the December 9 General Meeting on. Best of luck!

Provincial Bargaining Update

By VEAES Office

Shortly after the last issue of the VEAES Weekly went to press, the BCTF released another bargaining update. The updates continue to be short on details, but emphasise the extent to which the employer is taking the BCTF's proposals more seriously. As always, we continue to encourage members to stay up to date on the bargaining process. VEAES will continue to advocate for the bargaining team to be firm in their demands for a deal that recognizes the work of educators and the value of our schools. The update can be read by signing in with your BCTF credentials [here](#).

Using Teams to Help Manage Your Site-Based Professional Development Committee

By Geneviève Larose-Farmer

Group Chat

It might be useful to create a group chat that includes all your Pro-D committee members (including your administrator). This is a good place to post meeting agendas, budget reports, summary of member survey results, and the Pro-D plan for the year. Some committees may want to include online voting in their committee decision-making structure. I like to share items in our group chat for the committee members to review and give feedback before presenting to Staff Committee.

Channel

The joint nature of Pro-D means that resources come from different sources. A site-based pro-d channel can be a good place to gather these resources for your members. Recommended tabs for such a channel include: Pro-D Handbook, Pro-D App, VTF Reimbursement Form, Pro-D Sharepoint, BCTF expenses guide, Self-Directed Form.

You can post site-based Pro-D updates and reminders for your VEAES members. Remember to also bring up any decision items to your Staff Committee for a vote.

BC Job Action Updates: B.C. public sector workers strengthen united front as PEA joins BCGEU strike

By Xander Graham

In a major show of solidarity across British Columbia's public sector, the Professional Employees Association (PEA) has joined the ongoing BC General Employees' Union (BCGEU) strike, expanding job action to thousands more government worksites. As of October 16, all of the PEA's government-licensed professionals, including engineers, foresters, geoscientists, and psychologists, have walked off the job after months of stalled negotiations with the province. The move marks a significant escalation in the seven-week-old strike, which now represents more than 25,000 public-service workers united in demanding fair wages, stronger job security, and respect for their expertise.

Union leaders say the provincial government's wage offers have failed to keep pace with inflation and that chronic underfunding and contracting-out have undermined vital public services. The PEA argues that professionals who ensure B.C.'s infrastructure, forests, and communities remain safe and sustainable are being asked to do more with less, while private consultants profit from work that once stayed in-house. The BCGEU echoes those frustrations, saying its members have borne the brunt of years of austerity and deserve a contract that reflects the real value of their labour.

Despite the disruptions to licensing, infrastructure, and administrative services, public support for the workers remains strong, with rallies and solidarity statements emerging from across the province's union movement. Mediation talks between the BCGEU and the provincial government are underway, but both unions say their picket lines will remain firm until a fair, inflation-beating deal is reached: one that restores respect for the people who keep B.C. running. VEAES encourages members to continue to show encouragement and support at the ongoing picket lines. Solidarity with BCGEU, solidarity with PEA!

**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 DATE

Pro-D (Fixed Date)
on **October 24**



2025-26



VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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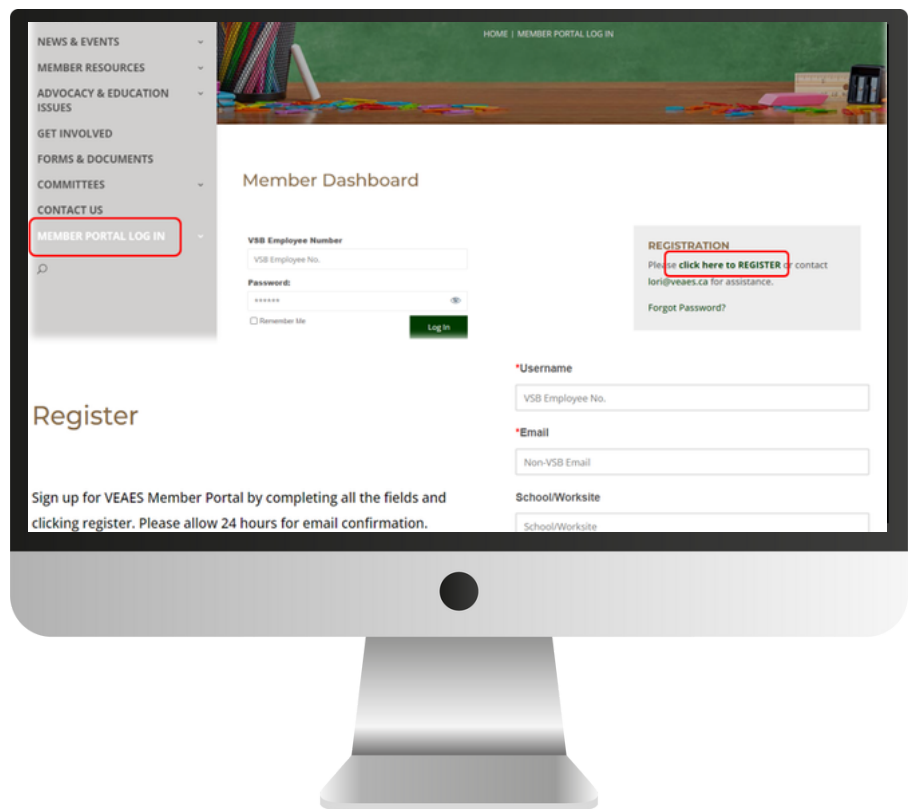
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to Member Portal Log In. When you click on it, there will be a prompt for you to register. After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the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