

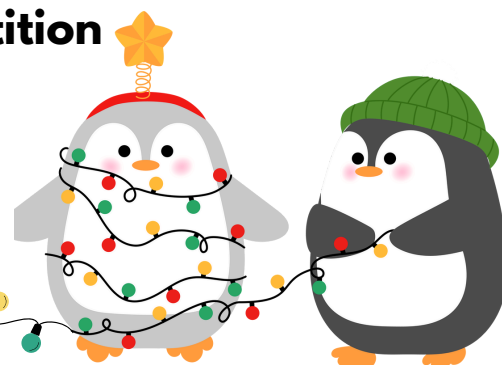
# VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH  
TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS  
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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# Ad Hoc Committees Seeking Member Input

By Françoise Raunet

In order to take action on motions that were recently passed by the VEAES Staff Rep Assembly and/or the Executive Committee, we are seeking members who would be interested in participating in the following ad hoc committees:

## Resource Teacher Ad Hoc Committee

This committee will inform us how District procedures and guidelines regarding IEPs, designations, School-Based Team, and other student supports are impacting VEAES members and their students. The members of the committee will also look at the impacts of ministry-mandated testing and reporting requirements, as well as gather information on assessments being requested by administrators and potential impacts on teachers' professional autonomy. WHO? Any VEAES members employed as full- or part-time resource teachers.

## Grade 7 Articulation Ad Hoc Committee

This committee will bring together Gr. 7 teachers and Resource Teachers to gather information about the impacts of the Grade 7 articulation process--as students transition from elementary to secondary school--on teachers' workload and more. The committee will also look at programs and other opportunities for support that are (or aren't) available to students once they move into high school. WHO? Any VEAES members currently teaching Grade 7 and resource teachers who are involved in the Grade 7 articulation program at their schools.

Meetings will be held after school at the VEAES office, and food and refreshments will be provided. If you are interested in joining one of these committees and sharing your views, please email [francoise@veaes.ca](mailto:francoise@veaes.ca).

## **Call for Nominations: Connie Jervis Early Career Teaching Award**

By BCTF

Some of you may be familiar with the [legacy of Connie Jervis](#) and what has been called the "Langley Affair," but for those who may not be aware, in 1939–40, Connie Jervis and her leadership of a small group of approximately 40 Langley teachers played an important role in securing labour rights that would require school boards to participate in binding arbitration to settle salary disputes.

As a 24-year-old teacher early in her career, Connie Jervis stood up to threats, firings, forced transfers, and public ridicule, insisting on teachers' right to be paid their legally arbitrated salaries. Despite fierce opposition and acts of intimidation, Connie Jervis and her colleagues remained united, strong, and unwilling to back down to the school board.

The BCTF has established an award, the Connie Jervis Early Career Teaching Award, to be granted to a BCTF member in the first 10 years of their career who has made an outstanding

contribution to the pursuit of the BCTF goals for public education and BCTF members.

In establishing an award in honour of Connie Jervis, the Federation recognizes the historical legacy and leadership of this young teacher, but also highlights the important contributions of current members in the early stages of their career. Like Connie Jervis, these members are integral to the collective and continued strength of the Federation, and this award recognizes and acknowledges their accomplishments.

You can read more about the legacy of Connie Jervis on [page 4 of the March 2012](#) edition of Teacher magazine.

Connie Jervis Early Career Teaching Award criteria is as follows:

That:

- 1.the Connie Jervis Early Career Teaching Award be granted to a member who has made an outstanding contribution to public education and is currently in their first 10 years of teaching.
- 2.members, Local Presidents, Local Representatives, and the provincial specialist association presidents be informed annually of the criteria and process for nomination for the Connie Jervis Early Career Teaching Award.
- 3.a call for nominations, with a brief biography of Connie Jervis, be sent to members by November 15 each year and the deadline for nominations be January 31.
- 4.nominations consist of a summary of the basis for the nomination as per the criteria, not to exceed two pages in length and be accompanied by no more than three supporting letters.
- 5.the major criteria for receipt of the award remain “an outstanding contribution to public education.” Exemplary service to colleagues through activism in the BCTF is a major avenue for making such an outstanding contribution.
- 6.no member of the Executive Committee, holding office at the time of selection, be eligible to be nominated for the award.
- 7.the award be determined on an annual basis by decision of the Executive Committee at the February Executive Committee meeting.
- 8.the award be presented at the Annual General Meeting and that the recipient have their name listed in the Members’ Guide and receive a framed certificate.

Please contact Executive Director Amber Mitchell ([amitchell@bctf.ca](mailto:amitchell@bctf.ca)) for any questions involving the criteria.

**Deadline: January 31, 2026**

Complete the [nomination form](#) and send it by email to the attention of [Amber Mitchell](#),  
Executive Director [amitchell@bctf.ca](mailto:amitchell@bctf.ca)

**You will receive a reply confirmation email that your nomination has been received.**

# L'École Polytechnique Vigil

By Madalene Wong on behalf of the Social Justice & Solidarity Committee

On December 6, 1989, 14 women were murdered in a brutal act of misogynistic violence. In recognition of this tragedy, Parliament designated December 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Each year, VEAES members gather at the L'École Polytechnique memorial in Thornton Park to honour the victims and reflect on this senseless act of violence.

This year, we were joined by a group of retired teachers, including former VESTA members and participants of the Status of Women committee, who came together to share stories, experiences, and reflections as we commemorated the women whose lives were taken. We look forward to continuing this meaningful tradition with them in the years to come.

On this day, we remember:

Geneviève Bergeron (21 years old), civil engineering student

Hélène Colgan (23 years old), mechanical engineering student

Nathalie Croteau (23 years old), mechanical engineering student

Barbara Daigneault (22 years old), mechanical engineering student

Anne-Marie Edward (21 years old), chemical engineering student

Maud Haviernick (29 years old), materials engineering student

Maryse Laganière (25 years old), budget clerk in L'École Polytechnique's finance department

Maryse Leclair (23 years old), materials engineering student

Anne-Marie Lemay (22 years old), mechanical engineering student

Sonia Pelletier (28 years old), mechanical engineering student

Michèle Richard (21 years old), materials engineering student

Annie St-Arneault (23 years old), mechanical engineering student

Annie Turcotte (20 years old), materials engineering student

Barbara Klucznik-Widajewicz (31 years old), nursing student







## BCTF AGM Upcoming: Call for Delegates!

By Kevin McPherson

The BCTF Annual General Meeting delegate deadline is approaching, with the annual event being held **March 14-17, 2026**, at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. The BCTF AGM is an excellent opportunity to engage with our federation's policies and direction and to understand how the BCTF functions. At the AGM, teachers gather from across the province, resolutions are debated, and the executive committee (president, vice presidents, and members-at-large) is voted in.

Elections for our delegation will take place at the **January 13 General Meeting**, held at Tupper Secondary School. All related expenses, including hotel accommodation, childcare, and meals, will be covered. If you have questions about attending, please contact any of your IHTOs: [marjorie@veaes.ca](mailto:marjorie@veaes.ca), [francoise@veaes.ca](mailto:francoise@veaes.ca), [greg@veaes.ca](mailto:greg@veaes.ca), or [xander@veaes.ca](mailto:xander@veaes.ca). Interested candidates can fill out this [nomination form](#).



# **BCTF** New Teachers' Conference (NTC): Unexpected Generosity

Excerpt from BCTF

The conferences will take place on February 7, 2026, in Vancouver and on May 9, 2026, in Kelowna. This conference is designed for teachers in their first five years of teaching, student teachers, teachers teaching on call, and those who are coming back to teaching after moving or being away from the classroom.

The registration opened on Monday, December 1, 2025:

Click [here](#) to register for the NTC in Vancouver at the Coast Coal Harbour Vancouver Hotel on Saturday, February 7, 2026.

Click [here](#) to register for the NTC in Kelowna at the Coast Capri Hotel Kelowna on Saturday, May 9, 2026.

Participants can register for just one conference or both. **Early bird registration closes on December 19, 2025.**

## **Social Justice Rep SURT**

By Social Justice & Solidarity Committee

We are excited to extend an invitation to school-based Social Justice reps for a SJ rep SURT training taking place from 12:45 PM - 3:15 PM on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at the VEAES office.

Our goal is to build community and capacity amongst the SJ reps throughout the district. We will be discussing the roles of SJ reps in schools, communications, and objectives, as well as provide an opportunity to help shape our next steps. We're looking forward to fostering connection and having some fun, and we will provide lunch.

There is a maximum number of spots for participants. We are currently inviting those who have not previously attended the SJ Rep SURT. Please email [madalene@veaes.ca](mailto:madalene@veaes.ca) to RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Celebrating International Immigrants Day: A Call for Solidarity and Inclusivity in Education**

By Xander Graham

As we approach International Immigrants Day on December 18th, it's an opportunity for us to reflect on the immense contributions of immigrant peoples to our communities, workplaces, and schools, and to reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity and equity in education. For educators in Vancouver, a city that prides itself on its cultural diversity, this day serves as a reminder of the essential role we play in creating welcoming spaces for students and families from all sorts of backgrounds.

Vancouver is home to one of the most diverse populations in Canada, with over 40% of its residents born outside of the country. This vibrant community mosaic enriches our schools and neighbourhoods, making it all the more important that we, as educators, understand the unique experiences and challenges that immigrant students and their families may face.

VEAES recognizes that our classrooms are microcosms of the world, where students bring a rich array of cultural backgrounds, languages, and lived experiences. However, immigrant students often navigate multiple barriers ranging from language difficulties and cultural differences to systemic challenges like housing instability and economic inequality. It is our responsibility to ensure that these students not only feel accepted, but are empowered to thrive in an environment where their identities are valued and celebrated.

As educators, we have the responsibility to help shape the narrative around immigration. It is crucial that we build classrooms where immigrant students feel safe and supported. With this in mind, International Immigrants Day is a reminder to be vocal in our advocacy. We can take small but significant steps to support our immigrant students, such as:

- Integrating diverse perspectives: Include literature, history, and stories from various immigrant communities in your curriculum to help students see themselves reflected in what they're learning.
- Fostering community connections: Encourage family engagement and establish support networks for immigrant families, who may not always have the same access to resources or community networks as others.
- Standing up against discrimination: Be vocal in combating xenophobia and racism in our schools and communities. In times of uncertainty and fear, it is crucial that we create a culture of understanding and solidarity.

For many immigrant children, schools are not just places of learning, but are also critical hubs for socialization, adjustment and foundational grounding. With support from educators, students can better navigate the challenges of adjusting to a new culture while still holding on to the values and traditions that they see as foundational to who they are.

In Vancouver, we are bolstered by a strong network of immigrant-serving organizations, community groups, and cultural hubs. Teachers can build partnerships with these groups to provide additional resources and opportunities for immigrant families. Teachers know their students best, and this collaboration ensures that immigrant students and their families do not feel isolated; that their voices are heard both in the classroom and beyond.

As we prepare to mark International Immigrants Day this December, let's take a moment to honor the immigrant students and families who contribute so much to our schools and communities. Let's continue to advocate for policies that promote real inclusivity (as an outcome and not a district buzzword) and equal access to education, and let's be steadfast in our commitment to informing a system where all students, no matter their background, can see themselves as valued and capable.

Our collective efforts have the potential to create an educational environment that is not just about content, but is also about fostering empathy, understanding, and global citizenship. Let's celebrate the strength and resilience of immigrant communities, and remind ourselves that in welcoming others, we enrich our community as a whole.

**Happy International Immigrants Day from VEAES. Together, we strive for a future where all students, regardless of background or identity, can succeed.**

# Chess Social and Friendly Competition

By Greg Canning



Have you ever considered teaching your students how to play chess? Do you run a chess club at your school? Would you like to meet others that love the game and learn from them? If this is you, please consider coming to the VEAES office to meet, socialize, have some refreshments and compete in a chess tournament with fellow teachers. This could be a way to expand your chess network and become familiar with the work the Union does on your behalf. Chess was always part of my teaching at the school and the children loved it. Many former students would come back to my school and ask if I was still involved with the chess community. It can be a way to connect with children that feels more like fun than work. We are thinking of having the chess club meet on Thursdays at 4 pm at the VEAES office through the month of January. If you're looking to make some teaching friends or to learn a little more about the game please send Greg Canning an email at [greg@veaes.ca](mailto:greg@veaes.ca).

## Classroom Resources

By Greg Canning

Are you new to the profession and looking for resources? Have you recently changed grade levels or wanting to add something new to your teaching practise. If you answered yes then TeachBC is the site for you. TeachBC is an open site where BCTF members and community partners can contribute and share resources. Teachers can help teachers by sharing materials and learning from each other. Best of all it's free. I did a quick search under climate change and found over 31 different resources related to the topic. With a simple click of a button, I was able to refine the search to grades K to 3 and came up with 12 resources specific to those grades. If you are passionate about a subject area and have resources you'd like to share with others that's possible too. BCTF members that share resources on TeachBC will get a complimentary membership to a Provincial Specialist Association. If you haven't checked out the site, I encourage you to do so. With holidays coming up you might actually have a little time to review some of the titles. Happy learning and happy teaching.

Classroom Resources



# RED SHIRT DAY



REMEMBER  
TO WEAR RED  
ON TUESDAYS!



# #REDFORBCED





# IMPORTANT DATE

**2025-26**  
veaes.ca

**Executive Committee  
Meeting** on **December 16** at  
**4:00 pm** at the **VEAES  
Office.**

**\*The TTOC Winter Social  
will take place in the new  
year.**

## VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

**Marjorie Dumont**  
**President**  
[marjorie@veaes.ca](mailto:marjorie@veaes.ca)

**Xander Graham**  
**Vice President**  
[xander@veaes.ca](mailto:xander@veaes.ca)

**Vanessa Lefebvre**  
**Vice President**  
[vanessa@veaes.ca](mailto:vanessa@veaes.ca)

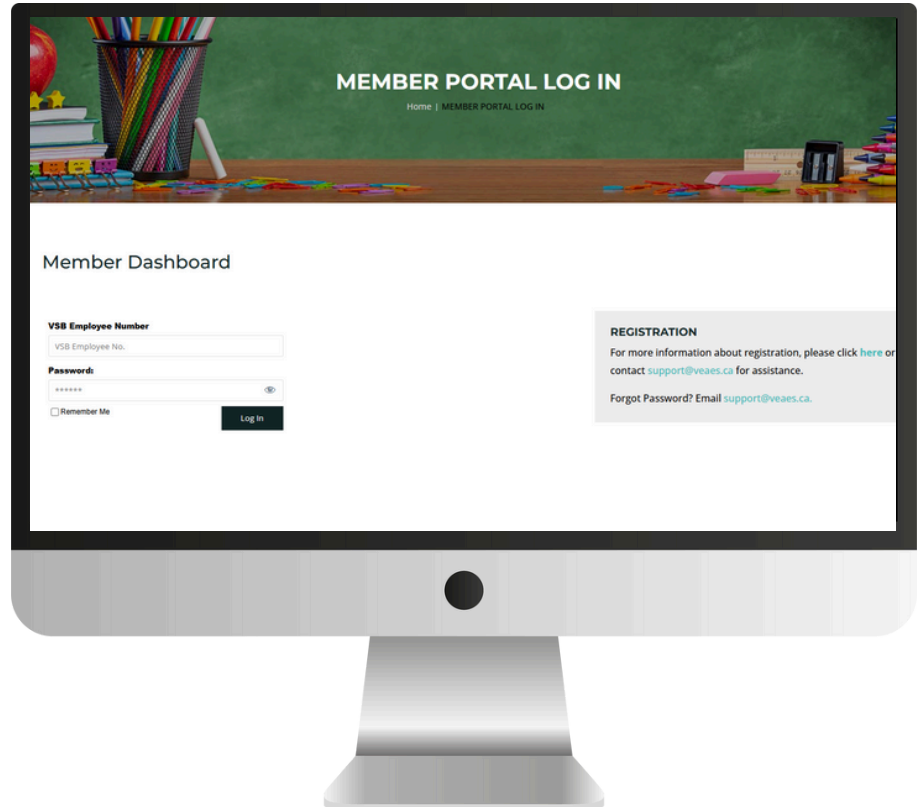
**Françoise Raunet**  
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**Greg Canning**  
**Vice President**  
[greg@veaes.ca](mailto:greg@veaes.ca)

**Rob McGowan**  
**Adult Ed President**  
[rob@veaes.ca](mailto:rob@veaes.ca)

To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to "Member Portal Log In". 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 login to the portal.

To receive your temporary password, please email [support@veaes.ca](mailto:support@veaes.ca). Support staff will send you your temporary password and you can reset it under "My Account" then "Profile Details."



### 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