



VEAES WEEKLY

**TOPICS WORTH
TALKING ABOUT**

**PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES**

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Registration is open for the New Teachers' Conferences

By BCTF NEWS

The New Teachers' Conference is designed for teachers in their first five years of teaching, teachers teaching on call, student teachers, and those who are coming back to teaching after being away from the classroom. Registration is now open and early bird pricing is available, along with an opportunity to be entered into a draw for prizes if you register by December 19, 2025. The Vancouver conference will take place on February 7, 2026, and the Kelowna conference on May 9, 2026. You can register for just one conference or both. Space is limited. Information about workshops, pricing, and registration can be found on the [Vancouver](#) and [Kelowna](#) conference websites.

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, francoise@veaes.ca, greg@veaes.ca, or xander@veaes.ca. Interested candidates can fill out this [nomination form](#).

Education Leaves Reminder

By Xander Graham

If you are planning to take an education leave for one full school year, your application must be submitted by December 15 of the preceding year. For education leaves less than one school year but more than 10 days, applications must be received at least three months prior to the start of the leave. If the leave requested totals 10 days or fewer, the application must be submitted at least four weeks before the leave begins. Members can familiarize themselves with the VEAES Understanding Leaves document, accessible [here](#).

Rally to Strike Back!

by Françoise Raunet

On Saturday, Dec. 20 at 11 a.m., union members, workers, and community allies will be gathering at Victory Square downtown to mark the one-year anniversary of federal back-to-work legislation imposed on striking postal workers. The rally will call attention to ongoing threats to Canada Post and other public services across the country. Join CUPW 846 and the East Van Workers Assembly as they come together to defend good jobs, quality public services, and workers' rights. When the global economy is weighted so heavily in favour of those in the top 1%—the owners, bosses, and shareholders—the need to unite workers and the labour movement is greater than ever. Stand up for our rights, benefits, and workplace protections, and attend the Rally to Strike Back!

Deadlines for Porting Seniority, Teaching Experience, and Sick Leave

By VEAES IHTOs

Reminder to members who have recently signed a continuing contract, that you should have received forms to fill out to ensure your seniority, teaching experience, and sick leave is ported. You have 120 days from accepting a continuing contract to port those days. There are forms that you need to submit to your previous district. In terms of seniority, you can port up to 20 years. In terms of sick leave, you can port up to 60 days. In terms of teaching experience, the VSB's practice does not count your TTOC experience when porting from another district, which can impact your placement on the salary grid in comparison to your previous district. Please email EmployeeServices@vsb.bc.ca to check that your forms have been processed well in advance of your 120-day limit.

Our BCTF Bargaining Team Needs Us!

By Françoise Raunet

Last week I attended the BCTF Federation Leadership Institute. Along with teachers and union leaders from across the province, I met with bargaining team members and got an update on how things are going at the negotiating table. The long and short of it? Teachers in every district of BC are facing unprecedented challenges in their classrooms. The BCTF has been trying to negotiate improvements to our working conditions, but BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers' Association) is still asking us to do more with less. Now the bargaining team members are asking for everyone's help. We need to make sure the government knows that teachers are watching the negotiations closely, and if they don't meaningfully commit resources to address teachers' dire workload issues now, then we won't be able to agree on a contract.

The BCTF is asking locals to organize weekly "Red for BC Ed" campaigns, where the entire school staff wears red on the same day to show their solidarity and support. VEAES is recommending that elementary teachers in Vancouver wear red every Tuesday. Take pictures and share them on social media using the hashtag #RedforBCed; send your pictures to the VEAES office, and we will share them with the BCTF bargaining team and in the VEAES Weekly. The bargaining team members told us they have been putting the photos up on the walls in their office, and they really help to lift their spirits and motivate them, so let's keep it up! They are a passionate, dedicated, and organized group of teachers, but when it comes down to it, they are only seven people. If we really want the NDP government to honour the campaign promises they made to public education, we have to remind them that there are over 50,000 public school teachers who vote. By wearing red on Tuesdays, we can show the government and the community that teachers care passionately about their students and will do everything they can in support of public education. So, what will you be wearing next Tuesday? #RedforBCed!

If you would like a VEAES IHTO or EC member to visit your school with a bargaining update, reach out to francoise@veaes.ca to schedule something.

Wear Red



for BCED

It Takes a Teacher Website

by Françoise Raunet

As part of their campaign to put pressure on the government to bring more resources to the bargaining table and fully fund public education, the BCTF has created the It Takes a Teacher (<https://act.bctf.ca/ittakesateacher/>) website. This is an easy way for anyone—parents, grandparents, and any concerned members of the public—to get involved and help advocate for more funding and improvements to classroom conditions. It's unacceptable that after eight years of promises, there are still not enough resources and supports for students in our underfunded classrooms. By clicking the "Take Action Now" link on the website, people can easily send an email to Premier David Eby and Finance Minister Brenda Bailey. They can use the draft text as is, or they can change it and write their own messages. As you wear your "Red for BC Ed" in the community and find yourself talking to people who want to support teachers and schools, let them know about the It Takes a Teacher website. We want to make sure the government gets the message loud and clear: More time. More support. More resources. For our kids.

This Weekend: l'École Polytechnique Memorial

by Elaine Ong

Each year, the VEAES Social Justice and Solidarity Committee hosts a memorial gathering on December 6 at [Thornton Park](#) (1166 Main Street, next to the Pacific Central Station) to remember the 14 women who were murdered at l'École Polytechnique in Montreal in 1989 in a senseless act of misogynistic violence.

Dec. 6 is on Saturday this year, and we will be meeting at 11 a.m. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to elaine@veaes.ca, or just show up on Saturday at 11 a.m. The memorial will be about 30–45 minutes. We are also hoping that you can join us for coffee after the memorial. Please dress for the weather.



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.



CUPW 846 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
and EAST VAN WORKERS ASSEMBLY present

RALLY ^{TO} STRIKE BACK!

MARKING ONE YEAR OF STRUGGLE SINCE
CANADA POST COLLUDED WITH THE FEDS
TO CRUSH THE NATIONAL CUPW STRIKE!

cupw sttp



**When the working class is under attack...
Stand up, STRIKE BACK!**

**11 AM - SATURDAY DECEMBER 20
VICTORY SQUARE - 200 W. HASTINGS**

(3 minutes from Waterfront Station)



IMPORTANT DATE

General Meeting/Elect AGM Delegates
on **December 9** at **Tupper Secondary**
at **4:00 pm**

2025-26
veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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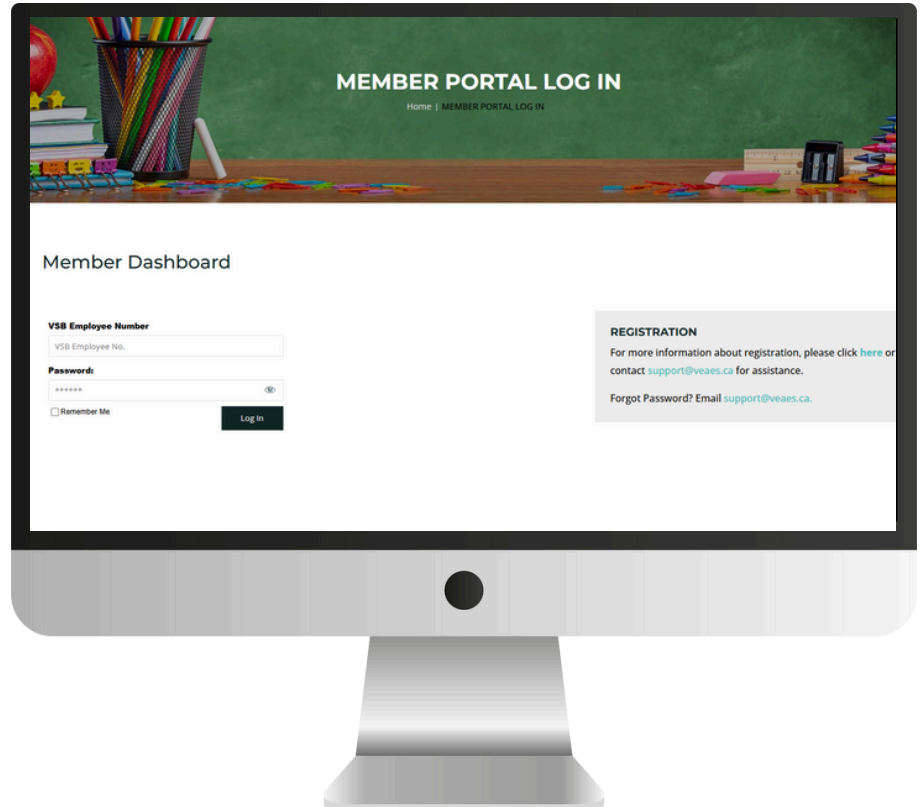
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Rob McGowan
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to "Member Portal Log In". After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the 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. 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