



# VEAES WEEKLY

## TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS  
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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# Standing Together for Working and Learning Conditions

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

We raise our hands in honour and respect for the work you do—for VEAES, your school communities, your schools, and most of all, for your students.

As we are reminded through First Nations, Inuit and Metis teachings, children are sacred and must be treated as such. They must be kept at the center of all that we do. This teaching guides our work and reinforces why the conditions in which we teach are inseparable from the conditions in which students learn.

As you have already heard, the BCTF bargaining team has reached an impasse, and next steps are now being considered. Please stay connected by attending our General Meetings, Staff Rep Assemblies, checking provincial bargaining updates through the BCTF portal, reading the VEAES Weekly, attending VEAES meetings at your school, and joining in when members of the VEAES EC will be conducting school visits at every site—including yours—in the next few weeks.

The BCTF Bargaining Team has heard you: your workload is getting worse and you cannot wait until the 2029/2030 school year for a contract with meaningful improvements. Teachers want to see progress on providing the supports for every student, aides in every primary classroom, and counsellors in every school that were promised during the election. It's not too late. The NDP government still has time to come to the table with additional funding to address key priorities, including working conditions.

Now is the time to hold strong. Pulling Together, we can apply meaningful pressure on the government. Your voice matters—share your story with family and friends (while being mindful of privacy and student confidentiality) and help others understand the realities in our schools.

**Please sign on to the letter campaign** if you have not already by going to the BCTF portal or use the QR code to send a letter directly to the Premier and the finance minister to deliver better classroom conditions. Wear red to show your solidarity and commitment to one another and to the students we serve.

When we stand united and act in solidarity, our collective voice becomes stronger. Improving our working conditions is not just about supporting teachers—it is about strengthening student learning conditions. When teachers are supported, students thrive. By staying connected, visible, and united, we can advocate for the schools and learning environments our students deserve.



# Attention Music Teachers and Djembe Players

By Greg Canning



Have you ever found yourself drawn to the rhythm and beats of the West African djembe? I know I have and it led to a West African drum and dance programme at my school. VEAES is looking to see if there is interest amongst the membership to create a group of drummers that could meet during the month of February. It's a chance to meet teachers and learn from each other and from accomplished Djembe instructor Kevin Noble. There are a few logistics to work out but we would like an indication if there is interest. Djembes will be provided but teachers are welcomed to bring their own if they have one. If you are looking for a little pro d and a chance to perform with others, please reach out to Greg Canning at [greg@veaes.ca](mailto:greg@veaes.ca).

## Important BCTF Bargaining Update

By Kevin McPherson

The BCTF announced on Tuesday that the BCTF provincial bargaining team (who bargains on behalf of all BC public school unions) reached an impasse with the BC Public School Employers' Association (who bargains on behalf of the government). The BCTF provided an hour-long town hall on Tuesday evening to discuss why this impasse occurred and what our union's next steps are. If you missed that town hall, you can watch it on the BCTF's website. Click [HERE](#) to go to the webpage and then scroll to the bottom to find the video. You can also click 'Town Hall Video Updates' on the menu.

## #RedforBCED Merch Now Available!

From the BCTF

Due to the incredible demand for merch, the BCTF has opened a temporary [online store on TeePublic](#). Here you can easily order red Kids Matter Teachers Care [T-shirts](#), [buttons](#), and [stickers](#) with the click of a button. Please note that the BCTF does not have control over the gendered

terminology used for sizing, and they are planning to develop their own storefront to better align with their values in the future. For the time being, however, this is a place where you can go to pick up what you need to show your support for more public education funding in BC.



*\*Discount on TeePublic merch ends tonight at midnight!*

## Registration is open for The Well Teacher Groups

From the 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 winter (all times PT):

- **Group 1**—Tuesdays, January 27–March 3, 2:30–4:30 p.m.
- **Group 2**—Tuesdays, January 27–March 3, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- **Group 3**—Wednesdays, January 28–March 4, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- **Group 4**—Wednesdays, January 28–March 4, 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- **Group 5**—Thursdays, February 5–March 12, 4:00–6:00 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](#).

## Teacher magazine student writing contest

From the BCTF

The latest edition of [Teacher magazine](#) is now available. This edition includes lesson plans to support participation in the upcoming [student writing contest](#). The student writing contest has four grade categories: K–3, 4–6, 7–9, and 10–12. The theme is people, places, and practices that feel like home. Winners will have their writing published in the May/June edition of Teacher magazine, receive a bookstore gift card, and a certificate of accomplishment. Typed documents, photos, or scanned copies of handwritten student work will be accepted.

[Learn more about the contest.](#)

You can also check out the other great stories included in the [Jan/Feb edition](#) about resources, teaching pedagogy, and personal experiences in the classroom.

## British Columbia Teachers' Council vacancies

From the BCTF

There are currently two vacancies on the British Columbia Teachers' Council (BCTC), effective April 2026 for a three-year term. Nominations by the BCTF must be made in accordance with the BC Teachers' Council regulations, which require that the BCTF be invited to nominate at least three eligible candidates. Further information can be found in the [Teachers Act](#). For more information and to apply, visit the [online posting](#).

The deadline to apply is **January 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.**

# Registration is open for the New Teachers' Conferences

From the 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.

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.

## Upcoming Retirement Information Sessions

By Kevin McPherson

If you are planning on retiring soon (this year) or soonish (within the next couple years), consider attending one of these online sessions:

Sessions by the BC Retired Teachers' Association. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

- January 19 - 7:00 p.m.
- February 19 - 7:00 p.m.
- April 1 - 7:00 p.m.
- April 23 - 7:00 p.m.
- May 5 - 7:00 p.m.
- May 28 - 7:00 p.m.

Sessions by the Teacher's Pension Plan. Click [HERE](#) for registration information.

- January 27 - 4:00 p.m.
- February 12 - 4:00 p.m.
- February 25 - 4:00 p.m.

## Salary Change Deadline

By Sarah Adams

Have you recently completed the requirements for a salary category reclassification? To be considered, you must both submit a TQS request and apply to the Board. Even if your TQS request is still being processed, it is important to submit your Board application before the January 31 deadline in order for it to be retroactive to January 1.

For full details, refer to Article B.25.4 (page 55) of your Collective Agreement.



## Take action!

**Write Premier Eby and Finance Minister Bailey to urge them to deliver on their government's promises to make public education better for students, parents, and teachers.**

Click [here](#) and join the letter writing campaign.

**#RedforBCed**



VEAES extends sincere thanks to the Greater Victoria Teachers' Federation.

### Why are all teachers wearing red?



We are wearing Red for Ed because teachers' working conditions are students' learning conditions.

**#RedforBCed**

**BC Teachers are currently negotiating a new contract with the provincial government.**

### What we want to win

- ▶ better pay for new teachers to attract more people into teaching
- ▶ smaller class sizes and more resources so all students get the support they need
- ▶ at least 1 full-time teacher-counsellor in every school.

### How are negotiations going?

The two sides remain far apart. Many of our concerns remain unaddressed, and the government wants us to give up items that we've won in previous rounds of bargaining, like removing many teachers' eligibility for health coverage.

### Will teachers strike?

We want to avoid a strike by getting a strong agreement at the bargaining table that serves teachers and students. If teachers and parents put pressure on the government now, it reduces the risk of a strike down the road.

**VEAES extends sincere thanks to the Greater Victoria Teachers' Federation for permission to copy their leaflet.**

Click [here](#) to view.

### How does this impact students?

More funding for public education would mean smaller class sizes, greater access to counsellors and learning support and less teacher turn over – **all things that improve students learning and wellbeing!**

### How can we work with teachers to support this?

Write or call your MLA, saying that you support more funding for public education and a fair deal for teachers. You can also share this leaflet with other parents that you know.

**You can use the QR code to take action!**



**#RedforBCed**

# IMPORTANT DATE

**2025-26**  
veaes.ca

**Executive Committee Meeting** on  
**January 20** at **VEAES Office** at **4:00 pm**

## VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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

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

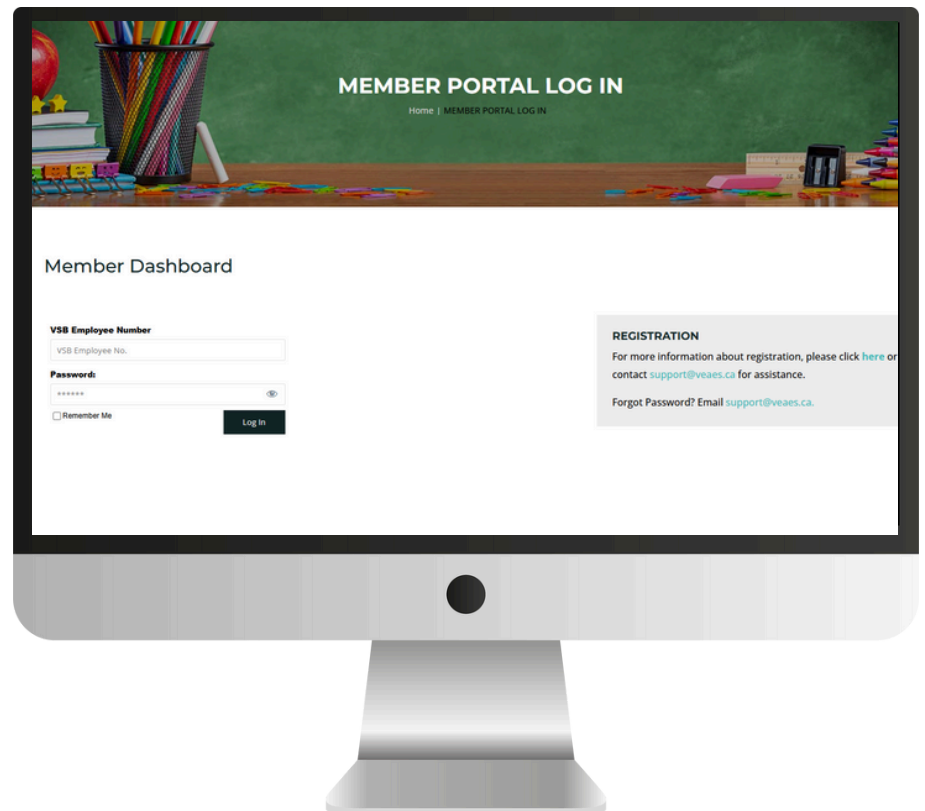
**Françoise Raunet**  
**Vice President**  
[francoise@veaes.ca](mailto:francoise@veaes.ca)

**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