



VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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Bargaining Updates

By Kevin McPherson

You should have received an email from Carole Gordon, President of the BCTF, on Wednesday with an update on provincial bargaining. Since our bargaining situation can change week to week, make sure your membership information is accurate and up to date. An email from VEAES will be coming to your inbox that will offer a quick and easy way for you to review and update your contact information with the BCTF.

Rally: All Out for Public Ed!

By Kevin McPherson

Next Thursday, January 29th will be a day of action for teachers across the province. The rally will be an important visual display for the community to show that we have not reached a deal yet and that we are committed to improving working conditions for our students. These actions support our bargaining team as it keeps public pressure on the government.

VEAES members will meet at Olympic Village SkyTrain Station at 4 p.m. From there, we will move onto the Cambie Street Bridge to wave signs and our hands at passing cars. The rally will go until 5 p.m.

Parking information: Parking in the area may be limited, so taking transit might be a good option.

Tell your colleagues. It is important to come out in large numbers for our own solidarity, but also to make a greater impact for people seeing us.

Plan for the weather. It might be cold, and it might be raining. Or both.

Wear Red for Ed. Any red clothing will do.

Attend the Annual Women's Memorial March (MMIWGT2S+), Saturday, February 14th, 2026

The Women's Memorial March (MMIWGT2S+) is held every year on February 14th, in cities across Canada and the United States. The first march started here in Vancouver in 1992, following the murder of Indigenous



Image from dewc.ca

woman Cheryl Ann Joe. The first Women's Memorial March began as a small memorial for Joe, but has become an annual march to honour all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit Plus peoples.

Mark your calendars for this important act of solidarity and decolonization. The march begins at 11AM at the corner of Main & Hastings. If you would like to make a donation to support the march, please visit the [Downtown Eastside Women's Centre](#) page.

Student Learning Surveys

By IHTOs

The Student Learning Surveys (formerly known as Satisfaction Surveys) are a census-style tool developed and administered by the Ministry of Education. They are made available to students in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12, as well as to parents and staff. This year's surveys opened on January 5 and will remain active until May 1.

While the survey questions have evolved over time, it is important to recognize that the Ministry's practice of surveying individuals in isolation on educational issues can lead to misrepresentation of our collective experience. This approach can result in biased or incomplete data that lacks important context and is affected by multiple confounding factors.

Through our ongoing work with members, Staff Representatives, and the implementation of the Collective Agreement, the BCTF and VEAES are able to develop a more unified, accurate, and representative understanding of teachers' experiences and are able to communicate these perspectives where necessary. Staff Rep Assemblies, in particular, provide valuable opportunities to hear and share frontline teacher experiences.

In 2003, the BCTF adopted the position that teachers would no longer participate in the Student Learning Surveys (Policy 9.A.22, November 2003 Representative Assembly). As a result, BCTF members do not complete the staff components of the survey, nor do they administer the survey to students. The survey is not curricular, is not part of our instructional responsibilities, and adds to teacher workload.

Locally, your VEAES Executive Committee passed this motion at the EC Meeting on April 22, 2025: That VEAES communicate to members and the Board that teachers should not be administering the Student Learning Survey and that, if directed, they should ask for the direction in writing and the union file a grievance on any such cases.

In most schools, administrators now pull students to complete the survey. While we do not support this survey, there are other high-quality surveys and data collection initiatives that we do support. These efforts provide meaningful insights into student well-being, offer important context, and more accurately reflect the lived experiences of young people both within and beyond the education system, including the following:

[McCreary Report BC Adolescent Health \(every 5 years\)](#)
[Middle Years Development Instrument - Overview](#)

Reminder to send in phone trees

By Sarah Adams

If you are a School Staff Rep, you may have received a reminder email requesting your updated School Phone Tree. It is important that this information is kept current so members can be contacted in a timely manner when needed.

Please remember that phone numbers and email addresses should be personal (non-VSB). We appreciate your efforts to send the updated Phone Tree to us by email or via blue bag.

Winter Weather

By Sarah Adams

Although we have had a mild start to our winter, it is important to be prepared for potential of colder weather.

The Board has advised that all schools in the Vancouver School District will remain open whenever possible. If weather conditions require a school closure, the Superintendent/CEO will make that decision by 6:30 a.m. Information will be communicated through the media, the VSB website, and individual school websites. The employer has also created a Microsoft Teams channel for inclement weather updates.

Some Health and Safety information:

Ice and Snow Clearing

In the event of snowfall in Vancouver, priority will be given to clearing:

- Main entrances
- Wheelchair ramps
- Sidewalks
- Parking lots

Not all entrances will be cleared, and delays may occur. Each site has its own snow and ice removal plan. Please check with your administrator to confirm which pathways will be cleared at your site.

If your site has a parking lot, it may be closed by building engineers until snow removal is complete, as clearing is difficult when cars are present.

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 workout 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.



Seniority Lists

By Sarah Adams

Seniority can be used as a mechanism to organize schools and is how some staffing decisions should be made. Seniority is used in three main ways: for filling of vacant positions at a school, surplussing (if staffing at an individual school is being reduced), and layoffs (when staffing is being reduced across the whole school district). In our Collective Agreement, Seniority Lists should be updated and provided to schools by November 30. Your administrator has a copy, and you can ask to access it.

February is Black History Month

By Sarah Adams

Black History Month in Canada is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the histories, contributions, and achievements of Black Canadians, past and present. Throughout February (and year-round), we encourage you to learn, listen and honour the voices and experiences that have helped shape Canada's history and continue to shape its future.

Here are some resources to help foster discussions around Black history:

BC Black History Awareness Society

Black Strathcona

Places That Matter: Hogan's Alley

Black History Educational Package - Canada's History

Black Canadians in uniform | Veterans Affairs Canada

Diversity in Early Black Communities - Learning Portal

Book reviews and recommendations for Black History Month and beyond

Teach Citizenship Education Through Animated Films - NFB Blog

More resources to come next week. Do you have any that you love? We encourage you to share resources by emailing team@veaes.ca



Image from Black History Month 2025 poster, canada.ca

2025-26

 veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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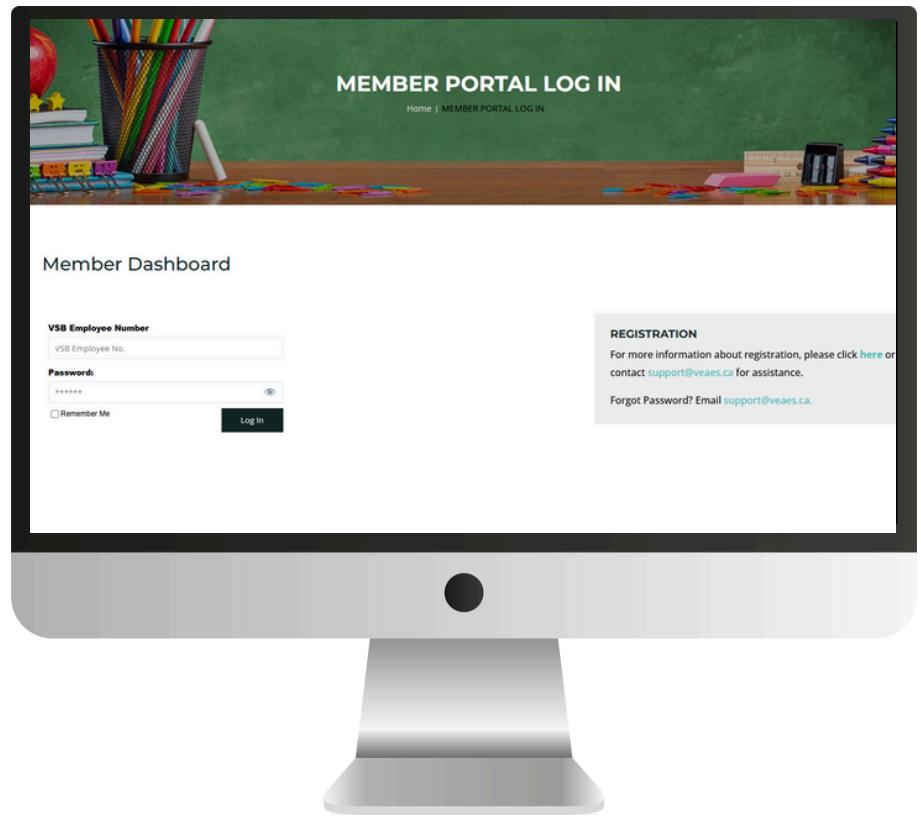
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to “Member Portal Log In”. After much consideration, we have chosen to use members’ VSB employee numbers as the username, as it allows us to verify members. So, you will have to 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/ c̓iθamə cən