



VEAES WEEKLY

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

What's inside

2 Pulling Together

3 School Union Rep Training

Black History Month

Power Outages

VEAES Visits

4 SpacesEDU

Leaving Day Plans and Professional Autonomy

Pulling Together

By Marjorie Dumont C'tan

Out on the open ocean, our canoe (public education) moves forward only when we all pull together. The water may be rough, the winds unpredictable, but we are here as one heart, one mind ~ néćəmat tə šxʷqʷeləwən ct (Musqueam language, hə́nqəmíhəm). Each of our classroom stories matters. They are not side notes – they are the truth of our lived experience. For real improvement to our collective agreement, the employer must listen to our stories, hear our requests, and act with integrity and care.

We stand like the momma bear protecting her cubs-fierce, loving, and unwavering. We protect our rights, and we protect the learning conditions of our students. Their classrooms, their supports, their futures matter. We carry the sacred teachings of love, respect, humility, courage, truth, honesty, and wisdom into everything we do. These teachings must live in our schools, guide our work with students, and shape how we treat one another.

Stay connected to each other. Stay connected to the updates provided on the BCTF website. Our strength is in our unity and our shared direction – let's continue to pull together. Let the Red for Public Education campaign spread across Vancouver and ripple beyond, so the community understands our struggles-because they are the same struggles our students face every day. When we fight for better working conditions, we are fighting for better learning environments.

Our message is clear: students deserve the best possible public education. To our employer, we say-let's treat each other with respect, listen deeply, and lead the way and create a path others may follow. Public education matters to us, and we know it matters to you too.

To all VEAES members who can attend, we'll see you at the rally today at 4:00 pm. Wear red! Stand proud! Let it be known that we care for the sacred children and that together, we will protect their future.



Teachers from Fleming Elementary wearing #RedForBCED

School Union Rep Training

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan and Françoise Raunet

Thank you to all Staff Reps who have registered for the School Union Rep Training taking place on February 4, and 5, 2026. This training provides an opportunity to take part in meaningful conversations about provincial bargaining, your responsibilities as a Staff Rep, and to raise workplace issues and concerns from your school. It's also a valuable opportunity to strengthen skills and build collective capacity. We're excited to come together to learn, collaborate, and exchange ideas. Please be aware that because of the February SURT, the regular half-day release time for staff Reps will not be available this month.



Black History Month

By Sarah Adams

February is Black History Month in Canada. Last week, we shared some resources that educators can use in their classrooms. These are just a starting point to recognize and celebrate the histories, contributions, and achievements of Black Canadians, past and present.

Here are some additional resources shared by members this week:

[Focused Education - I Am because We Are](#)

[Teach Citizenship Education Through Animated Films - NFB Blog](#)

[Guides and Resources for Educators, Parents – BC Black History Awareness Society](#)

Do you have any that you love? We encourage you to share resources by emailing team@veaes.ca and we will include them in next week's VEAES Weekly.

Power Outages

By Greg Canning

There have been power outages at some schools. If you have concerns or questions, please contact the VEAES office. Additional information is available on the VSB Hub under Health & Safety → Emergency Management, including a document titled Power Outage Guidance.

VEAES strongly advocates for members on their site-based Joint Health and Safety Committee to add power outages to the agenda at the beginning of the school year so that their site can have site-specific plans in place in the case of a power outage. Administrators can then communicate these procedures, so staff are prepared for power-free instruction.

Please take care as you travel to and from your sites. Bundle up, stay calm, and be prepared.

VEAES Visits

We have started visiting schools this week, to share bargaining updates with members. This is a time to give you current information and answer questions you might have around bargaining and a potential strike vote. Expect an email from VEAES in the next couple of weeks as we work on setting up a visit.

SpacesEDU

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

This year, an additional 23 schools have been added to the pilot of the Boards' new reporting tool, bringing the total number of participating schools to 35. We are still waiting confirmation of the number of schools added since the beginning of January 2026. We have yet to get the number of schools added to the list since the beginning of January 2026. The district Learning & Instruction leads supporting teachers with the implementation of SpacesEDU in the pilot schools are Karen Lirenman & Markus Beutel. Please speak to your administrator if interested in their support.

Teachers who are not at a pilot school and who did not use SpacesEDU for reporting last year will still be using the CSL Tool to write their report cards for the remainder of 2025/2026. SpacesEDU is set to be fully implemented district wide for the 2026-2027 school year.

Leaving Day Plans and Professional Autonomy

By Kevin McPherson

Should a TTOC covering a class leave a day plan for the next day? Should a classroom teacher leave a day plan for tomorrow even if they don't plan on being away? Should a resource or prep teacher leave a day plan after covering a failure-to-fill? This can be tricky to answer definitively.

VEAES cannot give specific direction on this because this falls under professional autonomy. There is no set policy in our collective agreement. There is no adopted VEAES policy. There is nothing specific in the school act. However, there can be guidance.

A day plan is beneficial to whomever takes over the class the next day. If you are a TTOC (or a teacher covering a failure-to-fill), there might be a different TTOC in tomorrow who might appreciate some direction. If a classroom teacher has been away for several days, they might find a plan helpful when they return.

Day plans can be brief. They do not need to include detailed lessons. The incoming teacher, whether it is the returning classroom teacher or a new TTOC, can choose to follow it or not. If nothing else, it is a professional courtesy, but they can be time consuming to start from scratch.

One of the most useful tools to help TTOCs craft a day plan is having a classroom schedule available. Even better is having the prep, resource, ELL, and library schedules on hand as well. Without schedules, TTOCs can interview students to ask what the usual class routine is, but their understanding can be imperfect.

A separate issue is long-term absences being covered by many different TTOCs. If you have found that the long-term planning for that class has fallen on other teachers and not your admin, please contact the VEAES office.

IMPORTANT DATES

2025-26

veaes.ca

BCTF RA on January 30-31 at the River Rock Theatre in Richmond

Last day to submit TQS Salary Change to the board on January 31

VEAES EC Meeting on February 3 (Hybrid) over Zoom and at the VEAES office at 4:00 pm

Marjorie Dumont President

marjorie@veaes.ca

Xander Graham Vice President

xander@veaes.ca

Vanessa Lefebvre Vice President

vanessa@veaes.ca

Françoise Raunet Vice President

francoise@veaes.ca

Greg Canning Vice President

greg@veaes.ca

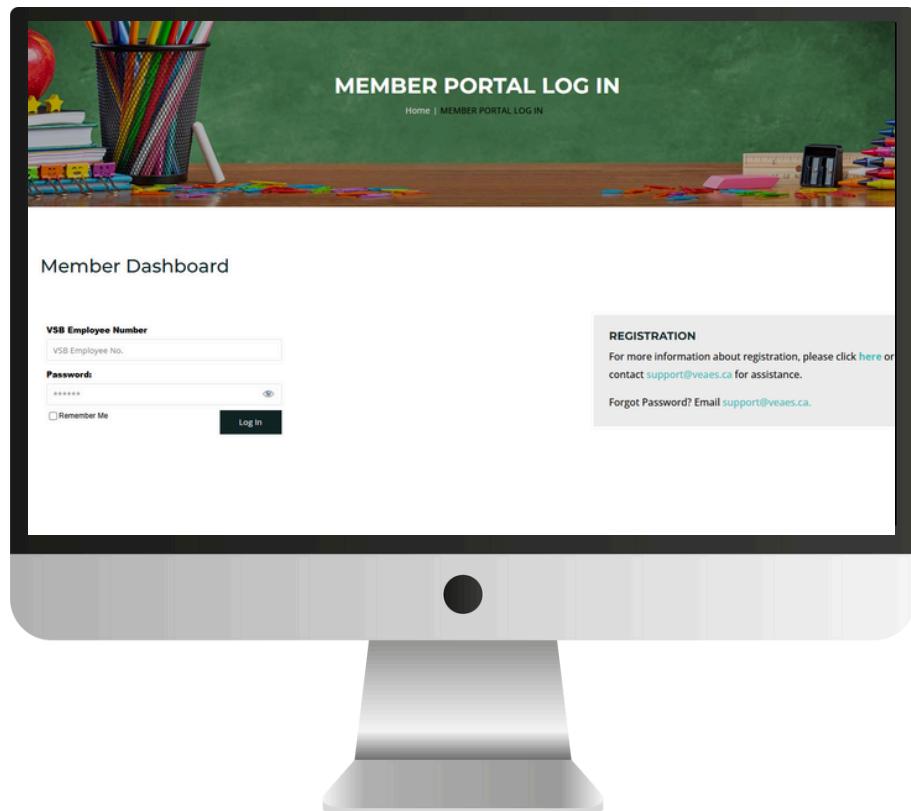
Rob McGowan Adult Ed President

rob@veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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