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#RedforBCED: Mondays or Tuesdays? – You Choose! (But Do It Together)

By Françoise Raunet

You have probably heard that the BCTF is calling for teachers across the province to wear red every Monday to call attention to the crisis in public education. The government has told the BCTF at the bargaining table that, despite the overwhelming pressures facing schools all over the province, there will be no increase in funding to improve teachers' working conditions. If they don't feel pressure from voters, they won't ever increase the public education budget. Wearing red in solidarity with colleagues is one way that teachers can show the public that we are strong, united, and that we won't back down when it comes to improving things in schools for ourselves and our students. But should we be doing it on Mondays or Tuesdays?



Last December, when VEAES suggested Vancouver teachers wear red on Tuesdays, that day was chosen because we thought it might be easier to remember; colleagues can remind each other the day before. Waking up after the weekend on Monday morning, after not being at school for two days, may make it harder to remember to put on something red. So... Monday or Tuesday? Really it doesn't matter what day you and your colleagues decide to do it—choose whatever makes the most sense for you. The key is to choose one day of the week and do it all together. A show of solidarity is the goal. Whether it's Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday, wear #RedforBCED to send a message to the community and gain allies in the fight for public education.

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.

Why are all teachers wearing red?



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

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.

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

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

[Click here to view.](#)

BCTF Opportunity: Seeking Evaluators for Focused Education

Learning Resources

Compiled from BCTF sources

The BCTF is [currently seeking](#) 70 active BCTF members to evaluate classroom resources for Focused Education for a three-year term (2026-2029). Selected teachers will be evaluating fiction, non-fiction, reference, and learning technologies—in print or digital formats—on behalf of their colleagues in BC, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. The number and frequency of assignments offered will vary and is not guaranteed. Evaluations usually occur over a six- to eight-week time period. The work includes:

- Individually scanning and reading the resource
- Scheduling and participating in an online environment (Teams, Zoom, etc.)
- Working in pairs to discuss findings and reach consensus
- Collaboratively completing the online evaluation form with accuracy and detail for each resource
- Maintaining confidentiality and giving attention to copyright guidelines.

Evaluators are under personal contract with Focused Education and are compensated for both the training and the evaluation tasks based on the amount, size, and type of resource. Work is to be done outside of teaching hours and on their own time. Print sources are shipped directly to evaluators and are theirs to keep.

Focused Education is seeking English language educators and French language (both Immersion and Langue Première) educators, from elementary through secondary school levels, with diverse lived experiences and perspectives. Teacher-librarians, educators in district mentorship/lead positions, and classroom teachers with broad understanding of all curricular areas are strongly encouraged to apply. Evaluators should have a comfort level and interest in evaluating fiction, non-fiction, and website materials. To see detailed selection criteria and to learn more about the opportunity and how to apply, see [here](#) on the BCTF website.

Carleton Closure

By IHTOs

On Thursday, December 18, 2025, during a public meeting of the VSB, trustees voted to close Sir Guy Carleton Elementary School, effective December 19, 2025. Trustees Suzie Mah, Jennifer Reddy, and Preeti Faridkot spoke against the motion.

The closure has sparked significant debate and frustration. Alongside parents and community members, we see the decision as short-sighted, and are concerned that the land could be sold or leased for private development. It is important to preserve public land to support much-needed amenities in the rapidly densifying Joyce-Collingwood neighbourhood. We also know that the area's continued growth and new housing developments will require additional school capacity.

While the decision has been made to close the city's oldest school, there is still important work ahead to ensure that the land is not sold.

Important deadline for Salary Change

By Sarah Adams

Have you recently completed the requirements for a salary category reclassification? There are three application deadlines each year, and the next deadline is January 31.

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 January 31 in order for it to be retroactive to January 1.

If the VSB does not receive your application by January 31, any approved salary adjustment will take effect on the first day of the month following the successful filing of your application. When completing the application, you will need to submit your TQS Change of Category Validation once it is issued. Please note that this documentation is not automatically forwarded to the VSB.

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

The VSB has provided a detailed document that outlines the steps necessary to fill out the VSB Change of Category form. If you cannot locate the documents on the Employee Services Sharepoint, you can obtain a copy of the entire package which includes the application form through your school's Admin Assistant, or by emailing humanresources@vsb.bc.ca.

TTOCing at the VEAES Office

By Kevin McPherson

Occasionally, due to absences, the IHTOs (president and vice-presidents) need help cover the vast amount of work that they do. Teachers can come in to provide support—as I have done over the last month—whether you are a TTOC or in a contract position. If you are new to union work, it is a great opportunity to learn how things are done at your union office. If you have experience, that experience will be put to good use.

The work includes answering phone calls and taking messages from members, searching through the collective agreement to seek answers, preparing documents, or helping to write and edit the VEAES Weekly newsletter. If you are interested in this work, please contact hitomi@veaes.ca.



The VEAES Office view today: clouds overhead but the mountains stealing the spotlight.

Anti-Palestinian Racism Workshop

By Khaled Shawwash

VEAES is excited to announce that we will be hosting a workshop on anti-Palestinian racism (APR) on Tuesday, January 27, at 4:30 PM for our members.

On April 29, 2025, a motion to host an APR workshop was carried at the Social Justice & Solidarity Committee meeting, and subsequently carried at the following Executive Committee meeting. Additionally, at the BCTF Spring 2025 RA, a VEAES motion was carried to, among other things, have the BCTF acknowledge APR and commit to addressing and protecting students and members from it.



This workshop seeks to address the APR that continues to exist in our education system and provide members with the tools to identify and respond to it. Hosted by two Palestinian educators, participants will learn about: Palestinian culture, manifestations of APR in schools with real-life examples, and how to respond to cases of APR.

Please sign-up using the link below. Food will be provided and spots are limited. See you there!

Link: <https://forms.office.com/r/knQk8tPpM4>





WE WANT
YOU

Gr. 7 & Resource Teachers: Join a VEAES Ad Hoc Committee!

By Françoise Raunet

Are you a Grade 7 teacher? Resource Teacher? Do you have opinions about the Grade 7 articulation process and/or resource support for students? As you may have read before the break, VEAES is seeking members to sit on ad hoc committees to learn more about these issues and your concerns. Meetings will be held during the daytime at the VEAES office, and teachers will be provided with release time to cover the costs of a TTOC. If you are interested in joining one of these committees, **please fill out this CV and send it to francoise@veaes.ca**. Thank you very much to those who have already submitted your CVs!

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.

A Call for BCTF AGM Delegates

By Kevin McPherson

At our January 13 General Meeting, we will elect our delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting. The BCTF AGM is 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. All related expenses, including hotel accommodation, childcare, and meals, will be covered for delegates.

Interested candidates can fill out this **[nomination form](#)**. Forms need to be in by this Friday, January 9. If you do not get your form in this week, but you still want to put your name forward, you can run from the floor at the General Meeting on January 13.



By Greg Canning

Forty-five years ago, on January 7, 1981, there was a tragic accident where four construction workers lost their lives while working on the Bentall Centre Tower. Gunther Couvreux, Brian Stevenson, Donald Davis and Yrjo Mitrinen fell 36 stories to their deaths when the fly form they were standing on collapsed. A memorial service was held this past week to mark one of the worst workplace tragedies in BC's history. While BC teachers may not experience the same level of risk as construction workers the accident does stress the importance of work place safety and the work your school's Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee does on your behalf. Remember to report any unsafe situation no matter how small it may seem. It's always better to err on the side of caution as opposed to taking unnecessary risks

Since the Bentall tragedy there have been more than 1000 construction worker deaths in BC. Many of these deaths were connected to asbestos related disease. As of December 30, 2018, the import, sale and use of asbestos and the manufacture, import, sale and use of products containing asbestos is prohibited in Canada, with some exceptions. VEAES thanks the health and safety advocates that helped promote these changes that will ultimately save lives. Our thoughts go out to the surviving family members of the four workers that passed in the Bentall Centre tragedy.

Planning Your Retirement?

By Kevin McPherson



Are you planning on retiring this year or seeking information about it for the future? [Here](#) is a link to some resources collected by the BCTF. There are past webinars to view as well as upcoming seminars and workshops that you can sign up for.

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 to RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you there!

IMPORTANT DATES

2025-26

veaes.ca

Pro-D (flexible)
on **January 12**

GM/SRA on **January 13** at **Tupper Secondary** at **4:00 pm**

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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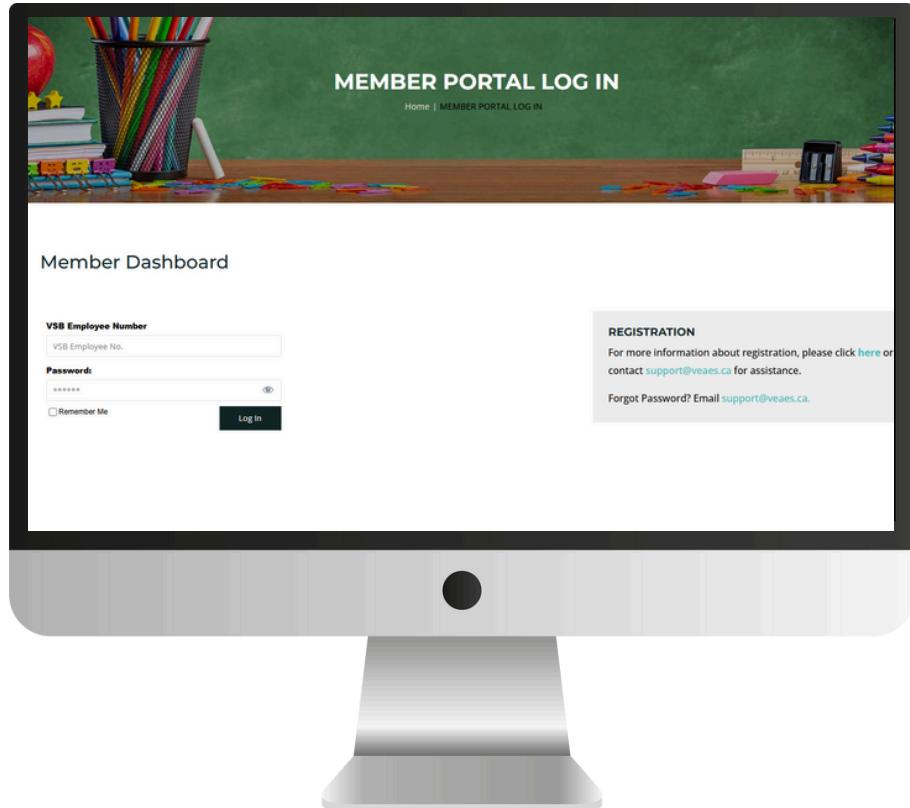
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To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. On the menu, scroll down to "Member Portal Log In". After much consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the username, as it allows us to verify members. So, you will have to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