



# VEAES WEEKLY

**TOPICS WORTH  
TALKING ABOUT**

**PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS  
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES**



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## **Holding Each Other Up with Love, Courage and Wisdom**

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

The news from Tumbler Ridge has weighed heavily on our hearts. In moments such as this, we are reminded to ground ourselves in love-love for our students, our colleagues, and the communities we serve. We hold the families and their entire Tumbler Ridge community in our thoughts and prayers, sending strength and healing during this painful time.

We respond with deep respect for the grief and shock many are carrying, and with humility as we recognize that each person will process this differently. There is no single right way to feel. In times like these, we are called to walk softly with one another – to move gently in our words, our actions, and our expectations.

We draw on courage to care openly, to check in on one another, and to ensure that our schools remain places of safety and belonging. We remain committed to truth and honesty in how we speak about what has happened, refusing narratives that divide or scapegoat. Wisdom calls us to respond in ways that protect the dignity of all members of the Tumbler Ridge community.

To VEAES members who may be particularly impacted by this news, please take care of yourselves. Reach out for support when you need it. Hold your loved ones close. Keep the families and the broader Tumbler Ridge community in your thoughts and prayers.

In this difficult moment, we stand together-guided by love, strengthened by courage, and grounded in wisdom.

**'ilkah tselhtis ~ stronger together**



# Ratification Process: Putting the “Tentative” in “Tentative Deal”

By IHTOs

Whenever a deal is reached, there are a few steps before members vote on the deal, and a deal cannot be ratified without a majority of member support. First, the BCTF bargaining team signs off on a Memorandum of Agreement (M.O.A.), which is a tentative deal with government. Next, the BCTF Executive Committee meets and votes on whether to recommend the M.O.A. for ratification and also sets a date for the ratification vote. The next step is that local union executive committees, like your VEAES EC, will review the M.O.A. and make a decision whether or not to recommend the deal their members.

## Due Diligence

In the details of any M.O.A., errors can be made, and stakeholder groups might not be consulted in time, especially when a deal is reached against a hard deadline. When considering the deal, the VEAES EC might ask:

- Does this deal remove or water-down any contract language that is specific to Vancouver?
- Does it unfairly affect an equity seeking group?
- Does it unfairly affect another local in the province?
- Does this deal improve the working and learning conditions for teachers?

Depending on the answers to the questions, the VEAES EC would make its recommendation.

## History Time: The 2022 Ratification Vote

In 2022, the BCTF EC endorsed a M.O.A. reached in bargaining. That M.O.A. was not endorsed by the VEAES EC at the time and they recommended a ‘No’ vote on ratification. Why? Because, in the deal, Vancouver teachers lost one week of maternity leave. A few other locals in the province lost some of their superior provisions around maternity as well. However, the ratification passed with 94% support of teachers in the province.

## Expect Guidance

The next VEAES EC meeting is on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. Members can expect a recommendation of a ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ vote after that. Expect details for how the March 2-4 ratification vote will be administered as well.



## Survey Deadline! BC Teacher Librarian Survey

By Kevin McPherson

If you are a Teacher-Librarian, the British Columbia Teacher Librarians Association would like you to fill out a brief survey on working and learning conditions in public school library learning commons in British Columbia.

[Click here for the survey.](#)

**The deadline is Friday, February 13, 2026.**

*"THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US"*



35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH  
LED BY INDIGENOUS WOMEN TO HONOUR THE MMIWG2S+

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

## Women's Memorial March

By IHTOs

Friendly reminder that **The Women's Memorial March (MMIWGT2S+)** is being held this **Saturday (February 14<sup>th</sup>)**. This annual march honours 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](#).

## Criminal Record Check

By Sarah Adams

Have you received an email saying you need to complete a criminal record check? The Ministry will usually notify you when it's time to complete your next check, but you can also log in to "Your Account" on the BC Government website to confirm when your current authorization is due.

If it's time to renew, here's what to do:

1. Log in to your Teaching Certification account.
2. Download and complete the Consent to Criminal Record Check Authorization Form.
3. Make sure to check off the option to authorize an automatic check every five years.
4. Confirm that your contact details and email address are up to date.
5. Submit the form by mail or email to the Ministry's Teacher Regulation Branch.

Staying on top of this helps avoid delays and ensures your certification remains in good standing.



**Strathcona  
teachers wear  
RedforBCEd.**

# Collective Care: Standing with Trans and Gender-Diverse Communities

By Xander Graham

The tragedy in Tumbler Ridge has left communities across BC shocked and grieving. Our hearts are with the victims, their families, and the educators and students whose lives have been forever changed.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, VEAES is deeply concerned to see the perpetrator's gender identity being politicized and used to fuel division. When tragedy is leveraged to spread prejudice, it places trans and gender-diverse people at immense risk, especially in our schools. As a union representing a diversity of educators, we want to be clear that scapegoating has no place in our schools or our communities.

SOGI curriculums exists to ensure that all students, including 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, see themselves reflected, respected, and supported in our classrooms. Research and lived experience consistently show that inclusive policies and practices make schools safer for everyone. When trans and gender-diverse youth already face disproportionate levels of harassment and mental health challenges, harmful rhetoric, especially in moments of crisis, only serves to compound that oppression. Fear in hallways, silence in classrooms, and anxiety among communities are all exacerbated when we don't stand up to violent and fallacious narratives.

VEAES vehemently rejects the false narrative that one individual's actions reflect an entire community. Violence is not an identity.

To our trans and gender-diverse colleagues, VEAES stands with you. We will continue to defend your safety, dignity, and right to teach and learn in affirming and authentic environments. To our students, you are seen, you are respected, and you belong in our schools exactly as you are. Thousands of educators across Vancouver are committed to creating classrooms where you can thrive.

Now is the time for us to double down on care, solidarity, and inclusive practice, not to retreat from it. As union, it is our responsibility to be the bulwark against which loathsome sentiments are discarded, and the scaffold through which our diverse communities are uplifted.

In grief, we stand together. In our classrooms, we lead with compassion. Through SOGI-inclusive education, we continue building communities rooted in respect, safety, and justice for all. To stand in solidarity is to stand together, and today we find ourselves with hands linked across our province, standing in just opposition to violence and oppression.

If a student or colleague you know needs support, the following local and provincial resources are available:

### **Local Vancouver and BC Supports**

- Trans Care BC – A provincial centre offering gender-affirming care navigation, peer support directories, and info for trans, Two-Spirit, non-binary people and families. Email: [transcarebc@phsa.ca](mailto:transcarebc@phsa.ca) | [www.transcarebc.ca](http://www.transcarebc.ca)
- QMUNITY – Queer, trans, and Two-Spirit resource centre in Vancouver with drop-ins, youth services, counselling, gender support programs, and referrals. 604-684-5307 | [www.qmunity.ca](http://www.qmunity.ca)
- Trans Alliance Society – Support, education, outreach, advocacy and community connection for trans people in BC. [info@TransAllianceSociety.org](mailto:info@TransAllianceSociety.org)
- Vancouver Coastal Health Prism Services – Referral and info service for 2SLGBTQIA+ health and community resources in Vancouver. [prism@vch.ca](mailto:prism@vch.ca) | (604) 331-8906

### **Peer & Community Support**

- Trans Care BC Peer Support Directory – Listings of peer groups for trans, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse adults, youth, and families across BC. (Contact via Trans Care BC)
- QMUNITY Youth Programs – Drop-ins, peer support, and gender supportive wear programs for youth. [youth@qmunity.ca](mailto:youth@qmunity.ca)

### **Crisis and Crisis-Related Support**

- Trans Lifeline – Peer support line run by and for trans people in Canada. 1-877-330-6366
- Crisis Centre BC – 24-hour crisis line. 1-800-784-2433
- Kids Help Phone – 24/7 support for young people across Canada. 1-800-668-6868 or text CONNECT to 686868
- Kuu-Us Crisis Line Society – Support for Indigenous people including youth and elders. 1-800-588-8717

# CHECK OUT THIS PROJECT



Image from Vancouver Sun

**Red Ribbon Skirt  
Project 2026**

**Strathcona  
Community Center  
601 Keefer Street**

**Starting January 10,  
2026 until Women's  
Memorial March  
February 14, 2026**

**Saturday 12-5pm  
Sunday 10-2pm**



# IMPORTANT DATES

**Pro-D Fixed Date on February 13**

**Family Day on February 13**

# LOST AND FOUND

\*if this is your item, please email [support@veaes.ca](mailto:support@veaes.ca)



# 2025-26

 [veaes.ca](http://veaes.ca)

# VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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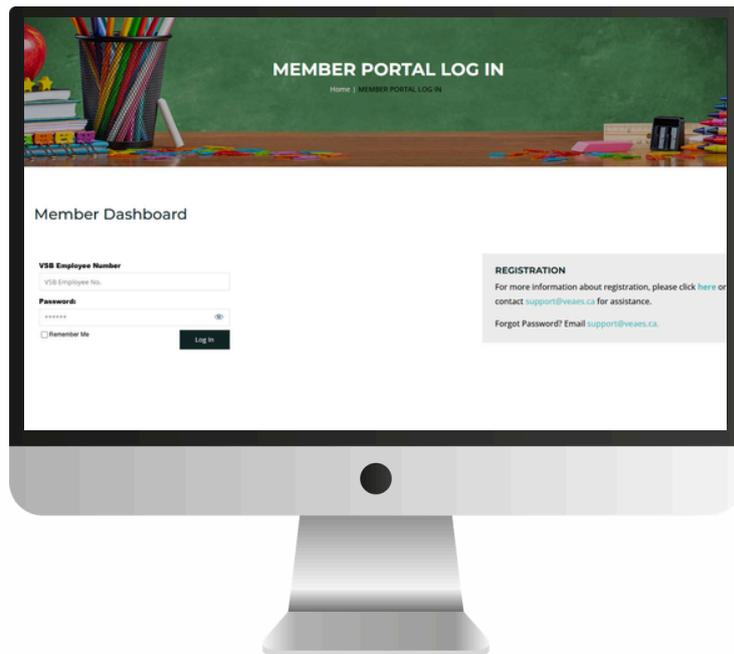
[rob@veaes.ca](mailto:rob@veaes.ca)

To access the portal, go to the [VEAES website](#). From the menu, scroll down and select [Member Portal Log In](#).

When you become a VEAES member, your Member Portal profile is created for you. After careful consideration, we have chosen to use members' VSB employee numbers as the usernames, as this allows us to verify members. You will need your VSB employee number ready in order to login to the portal.

To set your password, click [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact [support@veaes.ca](mailto:support@veaes.ca).



## 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