



VEAES WEEKLY



TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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Provincial Bargaining MOA Ratification Vote

By VEAES IHTOs and EC

The ratification vote for the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) reached between the BCTF and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) will be held March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. The VEAES Executive Committee passed a motion that all voting for VEAES members will take place in person, using paper ballots, at each VEAES work site.

You can review the entire MOA, along with summary and FAQ documents, by logging in with your credentials on the [BCTF bargaining webpage](#). If you are having trouble accessing the BCTF Portal, you can request support [through the website at this link](#) or by navigating to:



Virtual Town Halls

VEAES held two virtual townhalls to provide information to members. You can view these townhalls on the VEAES portal. Both cover the same information.

In order to get the virtual townhalls videos, you will need to log in to the [VEAES Member Portal](#). To access the portal, go to the VEAES website. From the menu, scroll down and select Member Portal Log In. VEAES has 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](#).

Preparing for the Vote

It is important that every school site picks up their school site's ballot box and voting packages by Friday, February 27. Ballot boxes and all voting materials **must be returned no later than 5pm on March 4th**. Please contact team@veaes.ca if your school site needs to make alternative arrangements.

- Ballot boxes, ballots, and voting packages will be available for pick-up at the VEAES office (#410 – 2238 Yukon Street) everyday until 4:30 pm.
- A training PowerPoint, 'VEAES Voting Procedures – Ratification Vote 2026', is available on the VEAES portal.

If your school cannot arrange to retrieve/deliver a ballot box and train a member (or members) to be the polling clerk, then your site cannot hold a vote and your members will need to vote at another school site or at the VEAES office.

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Voting Details

Voting will be at all VEAES worksites, before and after school, March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. Voting should start at 8:00 am and end at 4:00 pm, but there is flexibility with those times if needed. Whether or not voting will be available at lunchtime is at the discretion of each staff rep and/or polling clerk. All TTOCs and itinerant staff can vote at any site they are working at. Any VEAES member can vote at any VEAES worksite even if they do not work at the site. They may have to provide for proof of VEAES membership—which can be a paystub or showing them their access to SFE.

Alternative Voting Options

Advance voting (for any VEAES Member) will be at the VEAES office: February 27, from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.

Any VEAES member may also vote at the VEAES office: from March 2–4, from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

Closure of District Programs

By VEAES Office

VEAES has filed a grievance on the closure of district programs that once served students with disabilities. We have taken this step because it is the view of the union that this change had an impact on teachers' working conditions and our students' learning conditions, and that students with disabilities and neurodivergent students and their teachers deserve greater support.

Teachers are in support of inclusion of students with disabilities, and we know the power of inclusion for disabled, neurodivergent, and neurotypical students alike. The issue that we are pursuing is that we believe impacted students are not receiving the same level of support in their new classrooms as they would have in the district program. We also believe the transitions were not sufficiently anticipated or supported.

While the provincial funding is insufficient to support inclusion, Vancouver, along with many other districts, underspent within their own budget on SSW staffing. We do not believe that allocated funding should be saved as a result of the change in programming. It's our goal to work towards a better model of inclusion that ensures that student needs are being addressed, that teacher workload, and the health and safety of both, are prioritized throughout the process.

While there are many different views on how inclusion is best addressed in the public system, it's important that teachers and parents identify areas of shared values and work together to respond to the current model with appropriate levels of staffing that ensure effective working and learning conditions.

If your class includes a student that was formerly in, or would have benefited from, one of the district programs (for example, the CORE Autism program, SELC Social Emotional Learning program, or ELAC Learning Assistance programs, among others), please contact xander@veaes.ca with your name and school so that we can connect on the impact of those program closures. Thank you in advance!

The Early Retirement Incentive Plan and the Spring Transfer Process

By IHTOs

VEAES has renewed the Letters of Understanding for the Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) and the Spring Transfer Process (STP). The ERIP deadline for members aged 55–64 has moved from May 31 to March 31. Principals and staff reps should ensure members are informed of this change.

The Spring Transfer Process will again run on a compressed schedule. Posting periods are three days, followed by two days of interviews. Postings will appear Monday to Wednesday with interviews on Thursday and Friday. Members should be prepared to apply quickly and keep their schedules open if shortlisted. Postings begin in the last week of May and continue weekly until the end of the school year. If most C-category members settle into new roles early, remaining vacancies in later rounds may offer continuing positions to some E and F candidates.

The most important change affects teachers considering retirement. To qualify for ERIP, members must now apply by March 31, allowing retiring teachers' positions to be included in the first posting round. Typically, 80–110 teachers retire each year. Only a small number will be affected by this shift, but it is crucial that members aged 55–64 who may retire are aware of the new deadline.

Applying for the ERIP benefit requires teachers to email humanresources@vsb.bc.ca. In the email the member should state that they are:

1. Submitting a retirement notice for June 30, 2026
2. That they would like to receive ERIP



Some helpful links for teachers considering retirement are:

- Pension income – use TPP Estimator <https://myaccount.pensionsbc.ca/web/my-account/sign-in>
- CPP – can estimate using My Service Canada Account <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/my-account.html>
- OAS – can estimate using online tool <https://estimateursv-oasestimator.service.canada.ca/en>



Some checklists to support you are:

- <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/pre-retirement-checklist>
- <https://www.bctf.ca/redirects/retired-pages/guidance-preparing-for-retirement-checklist>
- <https://bcrtca.ca/living-well-in-retirement-a-bcrtca-guide/>

For further supports you can contact Allan Lee at the BCTF, the Teacher Pension Plan and the BC Retired Teachers' Association at these numbers:

TPP 1 800 665 6770 <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/> ; workshops: <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/online-courses-and-webinars>

Allan 604 871 1935 <https://www.bctf.ca/topics/services-information/pensions-and-retirement>

BCRTA 604 871 2260, <https://bcrtca.ca/> ; workshops: <https://bcrtca.ca/register/#lp-pom-box-123>

Retiring is a significant life decision and something we in the VEAES office take seriously. We are here to support and should anyone have questions or require support please reach out to greg@veaes.ca.

Excerpts from the **BCTF** Disability Justice Summit

The BCTF is seeking members to participate as part of the Disability Justice Summit session for members who identify as being a person with a disability and/or identify as being neurodiverse. The Disability Justice Summit session is taking place on April 24–25, 2026.

Disability Justice Summit goals:

Provide opportunities for BCTF members who identify as persons with a disability to:

- strengthen connections
- build relationships, capacity, and community
- build capacity for sustained meaningful member engagement
- build leadership capacity in the community of BCTF members living with disabilities and/or identify as being neurodiverse.

Disability Justice Summit session selection criteria:

This Disability Justice Summit session will consist of 10 individuals from the membership who identify as persons with a disability, including those who identify as being neurodiverse, plus two members of the Committee for Action on Social Justice Disability Action Group. Please see further information related to attendees below:

- active BCTF members
- experience teaching Grades K–12
- balance of diversity—gender, regional representation, etc., will be sought
- priority will be given to members from equity-seeking groups, new teachers, and members new to engaging with union.

Please see the BCTF [Postings and Opportunities](#) page to complete the application form. The deadline to apply is March 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Please send completed applications to kchong@bctf.ca and hkelley@bctf.ca.

BCTF Pension Seminar

This seminar is open to all members:

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 3:30–4:45 p.m. Pacific Time via Zoom.

This seminar is intended to help members learn about how their pension plan works, factors to consider when planning for retirement, and their pension options.

The seminar will cover topics such as:

- how pension is calculated
- eligibility for unreduced pension
- pension options
- the retirement application process
- post-retirement considerations.

If you are planning to attend, please register at the link below:

<https://www.bctf.ca/topics/services-information/events-and-meetings/pension-seminar-registration>.

After registering, you will receive an automatic confirmation email with the Zoom link and details.

If you have any additional questions, please contact jmawhinney@bctf.ca.

VEAES Delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting



By Kevin McPherson

The BCTF will hold its AGM March 14–17 during spring break. VEAES previously elected a delegation back in January to debate and vote on BCTF policy and elect the next BCTF Executive Committee.

A reminder to all elected delegates to the BCTF AGM: there are two training sessions happening, March 5th from 12:30-3:00 pm and March 9th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This information should have already been emailed out to you. Please email ashley@veaes.ca if you are a delegate and have not received any information.

A reminder to all members: the March 10th General Meeting will be an opportunity to give advice to our delegates for the upcoming AGM. The resolutions that the delegates will be debating and voting on can be found [here](#) (you will have to log into the BCTF portal to access the document).

Nisga'a Tsamiks Hoobiye 2026 Delayed

By Kevin McPherson

Hoobiye, the celebration of the Nisga'a New Year, has been delayed, but there are plans for the event to be held later on this year. When a new date is announced that information will be shared in a future VEAES weekly.



Image from tsamiks.com/hoobiye

West African Djembe Class

By Greg Canning

Are you interested in learning some West African rhythms and beats? If so VEAES has an opportunity for you. For next two Thursdays (February 26 and March 5) Percussionist Kevin Noble will be running a class for interested teachers. This is a fun opportunity to make some friends, learn something new and to familiarize yourself with our union. 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.



Lunar New Year 2026: Welcoming the Year of the Horse

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

In 2026, the Lunar New Year brings in the Year of the Horse under the Chinese lunar calendar. Observed by millions across the globe, the holiday is a meaningful time for honouring traditions, gathering with loved ones, and setting intentions for prosperity and good luck in the year ahead.

The celebration started on February 17, launching the 16-day Spring Festival.

Following the reflective and intuitive Year of the Snake, the Year of the Horse arrives with bold, dynamic energy. The horse represents enthusiasm, strength, freedom, and forward movement. Celebrations take place worldwide, especially in countries such as China. The celebration includes hanging red decorations for luck, preparing elaborate meals, cleaning homes to sweep away bad fortune, and visiting relatives and friends.

On behalf of the VEAES IHTOs, we hope your Lunar New Year was abundant, with great food, cherished moments with loved ones, and memorable festivities.

2025-26

 veaes.ca

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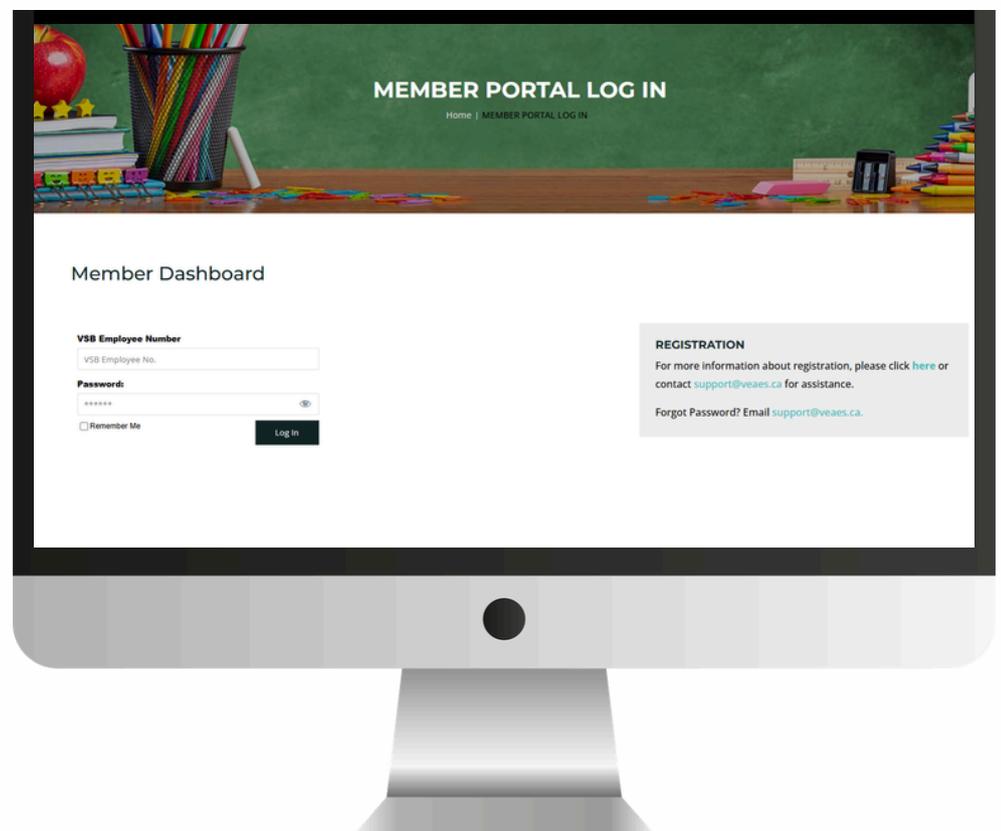
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If you have any questions, please contact support@veaes.ca.



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*