

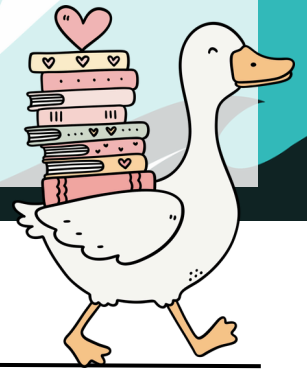


VEAES WEEKLY



TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES



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Extended Health Plan Vote

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan, Greg Canning, and Kevin McPherson

As you're hopefully aware, Vancouver teachers have a locally negotiated Extended Health Benefits (EHB) medical and dental Plan separate from the BCTF plan. We are one of only two locals (Coquitlam being the other) that have separate plans. In several respects, our EHB plan offers advantages over the provincial plan available to most other locals. Whenever improvements are made to the provincial plan, VEAES and VSTA members are asked to vote on whether to keep the local plan or switch to the provincial option.

Each option certainly has its advantage. That said, it's essential that members choose a benefit plan with a full understanding of what it offers-taking into account not just their current situation, but also the future needs of themselves and their families.

It's straightforward to line up the dollar amounts between the two plans, but switching to the provincial option brings some important changes. These include tighter limits on medication coverage, differences in total deductible costs, and a requirement to use the lowest-cost alternative treatments. It is very important to note, that once we leave our EHB plan for the provincial plan we can never return to it. It is a one-way decision.

The VTF (which is VEAES and VSTA combined) will be sharing materials in the coming days comparing the two EHB plans and explaining some of the more complex details. A comparison chart will be available through the VEAES portal, but attending the upcoming VTF virtual informational session on **April 28 at 4pm** will be key to fully understanding how these changes may affect you.

With the upcoming Provincial Benefits Plan vote on **May 6 and May 7**, be aware that as there is no Provincial Dental plan, whether VTF members decide to remain in the local plan or join the provincial Extended Health Benefits Plan, our dental benefits will remain the same.

Following a motion carried at the April 14th General Meeting, VEAES recommends remaining on our local plan.

Ad Hoc Committee Meetings

By Kevin McPherson

Last week two ad hoc committees met at the VEAES office. The Ad Hoc Committee for Resource Teachers discussed common challenges they were facing in their day to day work. The Ad Hoc Committee on Grade 7 Articulation covered the workload of articulation and extra responsibilities put on Grade 7 teachers. Read more in [last week's issue](#) of the VEAES weekly.

The Ad Hoc Committees have concluded, but if you are a Grade 7 or Resource Teacher, please click on the links below to fill out a brief survey to help VEAES collect more information about your role.

[Survey for Grade 7 Teachers](#)

[Survey for Resource Teachers](#)

Wellness Initiative and Attendance Management Programs

By IHTOs

VEAES IHTOs have been informed of the VSB's intention to bring back the Attendance Management. VEAES has existing policy from back in 2016 when this was rolled out before:

That VEAES members not speak during Attendance Management Meetings with principals.

The VSB claims that the first step of this process is not disciplinary, but is in fact designed to support teacher wellness. If flagged for attendance, teachers will receive notice and a package with resources or information regarding wellness supports. They will also be asked to attend a meeting with their administrator, and VEAES strongly encourages all members to bring a staff rep with them to these meetings. Even though the Board says that these first meetings are not disciplinary and are designed to support wellness, it is still important to have someone with you to take notes. If they stop referring to it as "Wellness Initiative" and start calling it "Attendance Management" then you will know that it has moved into the disciplinary stage.

VEAES has concerns that the Attendance Management Program may not improve teacher wellness but will instead feel punitive. We worry that the program system may not be used to promote wellness for teachers but will instead be the first step of a discipline process. If the board wants to discipline a teacher for inappropriately using their sick days, there is a mechanism for that (see section C.22 of the Collective Agreement). If the desire is teacher wellness, the following programs already exist:

Telus Health – Employee & Family Assistance Program

This is the VSB's own Employee Assistance Program, which provides immediate, free and confidential help for any work, health, or life concern. It is available to all VSB employees who are enrolled in the employee benefits program. To access it you can **download the app**, visit <https://vsb.lifeworks.com>, or call **1-844-880-9137**, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

BCTF Health & Wellness Program

The BCTF Health and Wellness Program is designed to assist members in regaining a state of wellness, health, and productivity to sustain or return to a teaching assignment. It is funded by the BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan.

The Health and Wellness Program puts teachers in contact with professional rehabilitation consultants located in communities throughout the province. In consultation with health care providers, these consultants will coordinate services that help to improve the teacher's health and functional abilities.

Apply as a Teacher: You can apply by calling 1-800-663-9163

Self-refer or refer someone else: **You can self-refer or refer someone else using the referral form**

Starling Minds

Starling Minds is an online mental health and wellness toolkit, designed for teachers, that provides education and training to manage stress and prevent anxiety and depression. In order to register you will need to have your BCTF Member ID number, which can be found on the front of your BCTF Member Cards, by accessing your [BCTF Member Profile](#), or by calling the BCTF Members Records department at 1-800-663-9163 during normal business hours. When you register, you will be prompted to enter an access code, which you can find on the Starling Minds website that is linked above. Once you have your member ID and the access code, you will be able to [sign in for Starling Minds](#).

Deadline April 30: Relinquishing a Part-time Continuing Contract to join the TTOC List

By IHTOs

If you hold a part-time continuing contract (less than 1.0 FTE), are currently on the TTOC list, and wish to work exclusively as a TTOC in September, you may relinquish your continuing contract for the following school year.

To do so, email EmployeeServices@vsb.bc.ca by April 30 with the subject line “Relinquishing Part Time Continuing Contract.” Details are outlined in the Letter of Understanding (LOU) on page 200 of the Collective Agreement. Successful applicants will return in September 2026 as a TTOC with Category F status.

This option does not apply to members who converted from a temporary contract to a full-time (1.0 FTE) continuing contract. In that case, the employer currently requires resignation from the district and reapplication to the TTOC list, with no guarantee of rehire.

Indigenous Focus Day

By Kevin McPherson



A reminder to all members (and teacher candidates in your school) that the upcoming Indigenous Focus Day on Monday, April 20. A reminder that this is not a Professional Development Day. It is a day set by the employer to allow teachers to engage with Indigenous voices, land-based knowledge, and cultural practices to deepen understanding, support reconciliation, and meaningfully integrate Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and learning into their teaching.

Indigenous Focus Day is a required employer-directed training. Your attendance, like for any work training, is mandatory but also reflects our shared commitment to reconciliation and supporting respectful and inclusive school communities.

VDLC's Townhall on Funding for Schools

By IHTOs

On Wednesday, April 22 from 6-8 pm, attend to a townhall concerning the funding of public schools hosted by the Vancouver District Labour Council (VDLC). Included in the townhall will be a panel discussion about the 'day in the life' of teachers, parents, and other unionized school staff. That will be followed by a roundtable conversation about VSB's budget priorities.

Who is the VDLC? Representing over unionized 60,000 workers across Metro Vancouver and Sea-to-Sky, the VDLC advocates for the rights, common interest and welfare of working people.

This will be held at the VSTA office, Unit 505, 63 West 6th Ave. An RSVP is required. See the following poster for details.

TOWNHALL
ON
FUNDING FOR SCHOOLS

HOSTED BY THE
VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

JOIN US FOR...

- 1** A panel discussion on 'a day in the life' of:
 - Parent of VSB student
 - IUOE - Cook
 - VEAES - Elementary Teacher
 - VSTA - Secondary Teacher
- 2** Roundtable conversations on VSB budget priorities:
 - Budget process
 - Staffing
 - Inclusion
 - Planning for the future
 - VSB Governance

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 6-8 P.M.
VSTA OFFICE
Unit 505, 63 West 6th Ave, Vancouver, V5Y 1K2
Light refreshments provided

RSVP REQUIRED
(Scan QR code or [click here](#) to register)

[Click link to register.](#)



BCRTA
BC Retired Teachers' Association

You are Invited:

Understanding Pensions & Benefits Pre-Retirement Workshop

presented online by B.C. Retired Teachers

Learn about your Teacher Pension, pension options, and beneficiaries.

Understand the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security.

Discover options for Extended Health Care, Dental, and Travel Insurance.



bcрта.ca/register/



Workshop Schedule 2025-26

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| OCT.15 – 7:00p.m. | FEB.19 – 7:00p.m. |
| NOV.06 – 4:00p.m. | APR.01 – 7:00p.m. |
| NOV.13 – 7:00p.m. | APR.23 – 7:00p.m. |
| NOV.27 – 7:00p.m. | MAY.05 – 7:00p.m. |
| JAN.19 – 7:00p.m. | May.28 – 7:00p.m. |

Join the BCRTA - Just \$58/yr

FIRST YEAR FREE

bcрта.ca/yes

Looking for an In-person workshop for your PD Day or after school? Give us a call!

604-871-2260

1-877-683-2243

office@bcрта.ca

bcрта.ca

bcрта.ca/register.

IMPORTANT DATES →

Non-Instructional Day
on April 20

Executive Committee Meeting at the **VEAES Office**
on **April 21**
at **4:00 pm**

2025-26

 veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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Adult Ed President

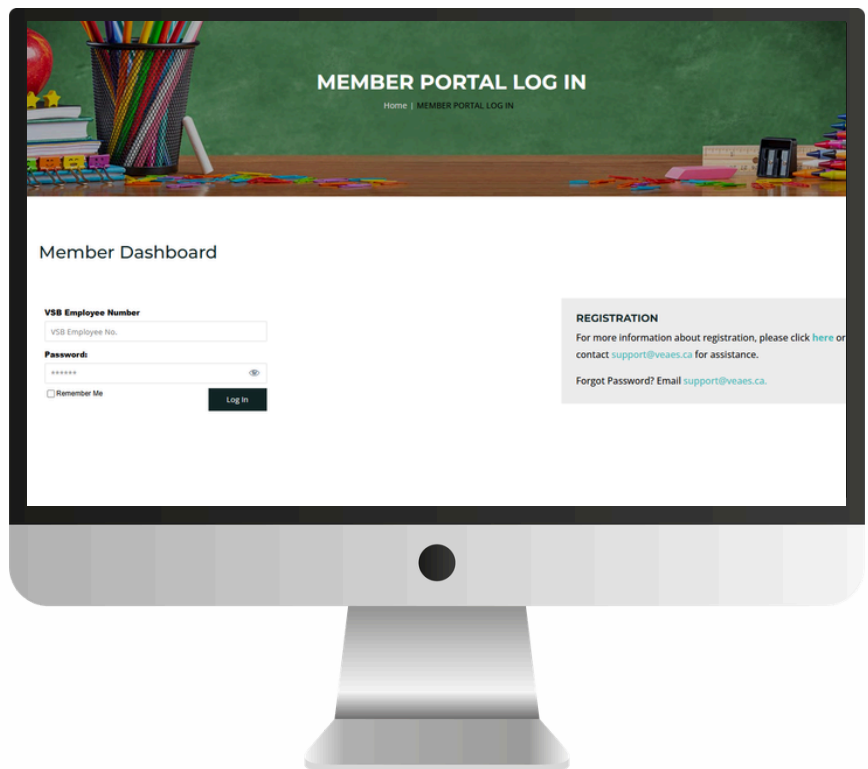
rob@veaes.ca

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.



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