



VEAES WEEKLY



TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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Annual March for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job this Sunday, April 26th

By IHTOs

This Sunday, April 26th, is the second annual March for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job. This event is being organized by the [East Van Workers Assembly](#) as a way to recognize the National Day of Mourning, without, as they put it, “the involvement of those who perpetuate and profit from the risk to workers.”

Over the last 30 years, the number of workplace fatalities in BC and Canada has steadily increased. In BC, there were 181 workplace deaths in 2022, and 175 in 2023, 2 of the 3 deadliest years for workers in 50 years. In 2023, there were approximately 5 workplace deaths a day in Canada. Last year, in 2025, there were 138 work-related deaths in BC. These deaths often result in nothing more than a fine, which the companies pay off and consider an ordinary risk of doing business.

The East Van Workers Assembly says “The status quo, which endangers workers and uses legislation like Section 107 of the Canadian Labour Code to deny them their rights, is not acceptable. No rights, benefits, or workplace protections are safe if the bosses can simply impose their will on us. Whatever issues workers face or demands they have of the bosses, big or small, it is collective struggle that will get us what we need. To that end, we have started focussing on bringing together workers from similar industries to connect and organize together, increasing our influence against the bosses who are willing to risk our lives for their profit. Currently, there is a public sector caucus and we are in the process of organizing a Warehousing, Logistics, and Transportation caucus, with plans to form more in the future. Coming together for events like this march is an important part of building connections throughout the working class, and we hope that the members of VEAES will join us.”

The March will be hosted on April 26th and will begin at Thornton Park at 1pm. They will have a few speakers before marching down Main Street to Crab Park, with an expected ending of 2:30pm.

Indigenous Focus Day - Thank you!

By IHTOs

Thank you to all members who stepped forward to facilitate workshops on the Indigenous Focus Day that took place on Monday, April 20th. Whether they submitted their own proposal or ran a pre-designed workshop, their contributions make this in-person training possible.

Thank you to all who attended and engaged with the workshops in order to foster a deeper understanding of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

Reimbursement Timeline for District Professional Development Funds

By Kevin McPherson and Sarah Adams

There are two important deadlines in May for the 2025–2026 school year. All applications must be submitted through the VSB Pro-D App.

May 11 – Temporary Supplemental (Temp Supp) Funds for the current school year.

May 15 – Recommend deadline for reimbursement application (expect delays if your reimbursement is submitted later).

If you are considering applying for funding in the future, please note:

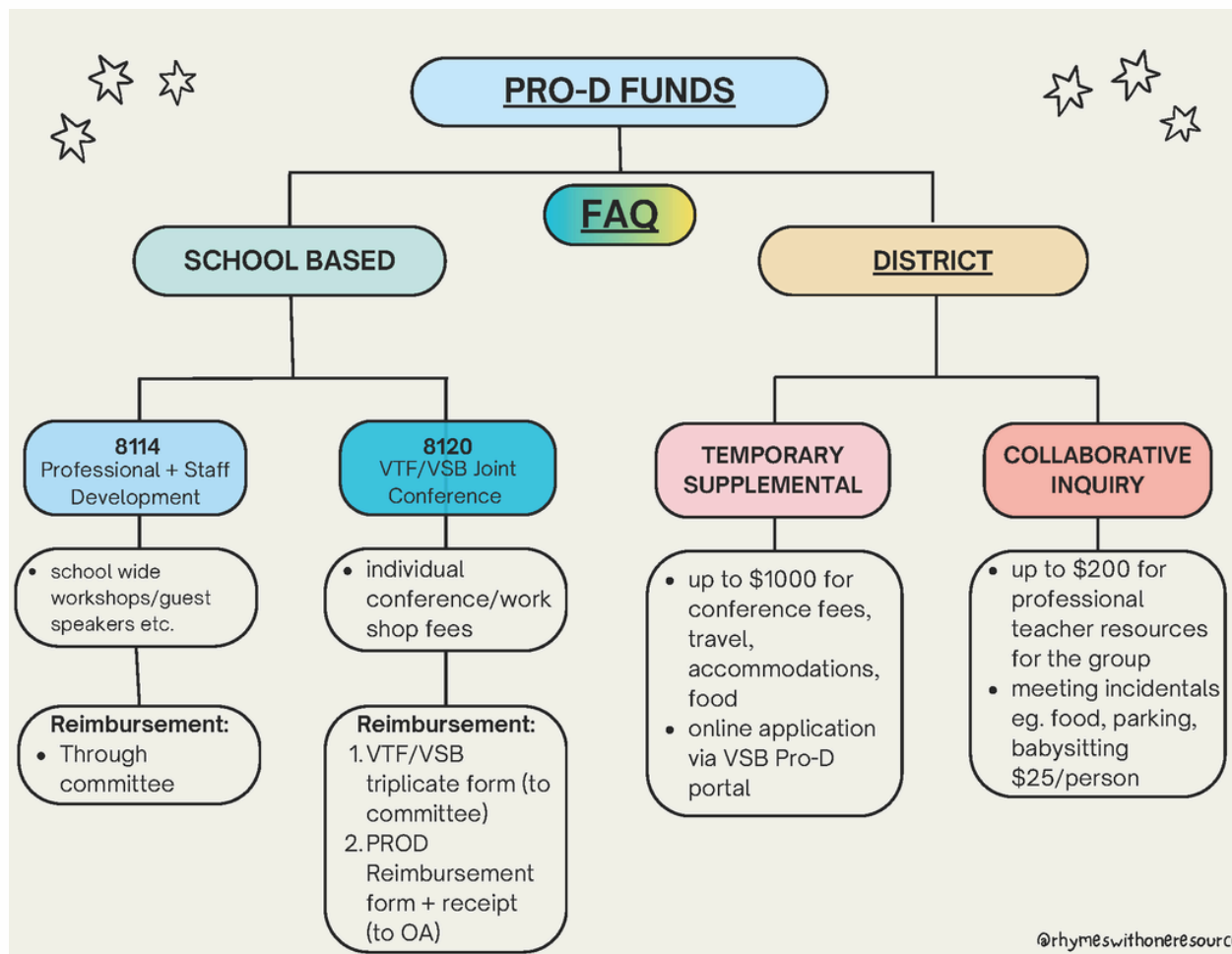
Applications for Summer 2026 and September will be accepted and reviewed between May 11 and June 22, 2026.

Important Reminder:

District funds should only be accessed after school-based funds have been accessed. Current records show that many schools still have surplus funds available. Schools are strongly encouraged to use these funds, including increasing annual allocations for staff where possible.

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

Reimbursement questions can be directed to: districtprod@vsb.bc.ca.



Celebrate Earth Day with Vancouver's Socialist Alternative Youth

By Françoise Raunet

On Saturday, April 25th, the Socialist Alternative Youth will be having an Earth Day March & Rally. They plan to gather at Clark Park, march up Commercial Drive, and have a rally at Grandview Park. The planning team, consisting mainly of young workers and students, have been working hard on their plans for the day. They told VEAES “The day’s theme will be calling for good paying union jobs, genuine reconciliation with Indigenous people, and protection of the environment that all life depends on. Unfortunately, corporations and most politicians find billions for war but say there is no money for the environment or good jobs. Overall, 95,000 jobs were cut in the first three months of 2026, and youth unemployment is over 14 percent. The climate disaster grows every day. However, this is not the time to give up. The important improvements in life were won by mass movements. The right to a union and to vote were won through struggle. “

One million Canadians marched for climate justice in 2019, let's rebuild that movement!



On Saturday, April 25, we will:

- Assemble at Clark Park, 14th and Commercial Drive from 11:30 am
- March down Commercial Drive starting around noon
- Rally with speakers and music in Grandview Park starting at 1 pm
- In Grandview Park there will be a kids' activity area and tables of participating organizations

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.

Extended Health Vote – Upcoming Virtual Information Session April 28 at 4pm

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

As a reminder, Vancouver teachers have a locally negotiated Extended Health Benefits (EHB) medical and dental plan that is separate from the provincial plan offered through the BCTF. Only two locals (Vancouver and Coquitlam) have this distinction.

In many ways, our local EHB plan offers advantages. However, whenever improvements are made to the provincial plan, members are asked to vote on whether to remain with our local plan or switch to the provincial option. Each option has its benefits, and this decision should be made with a full understanding of both your current needs and your future circumstances.

While it can be easy to compare dollar amounts, switching to the provincial plan also means:

- Tighter limits on medication coverage
- Differences in total deductible costs
- A requirement to use the lowest-cost alternative treatments

Most importantly: if we leave our local EHB plan, we cannot return to it. This is a one-way decision.

Join the Virtual Information Session – April 28 at 4:00 PM

This session will walk you through the key differences between the plans and help you understand how any changes may impact you and your family. Attending is strongly encouraged so you can make an informed decision ahead of the vote.

Additional comparison materials, including a detailed chart, can be found through the VEAES portal.

Please also note that regardless of the outcome of the vote on May 6-7, dental benefits will remain unchanged, as there is no provincial dental plan.

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

If you have any questions that you would like answered during the information session, please email Greg (greg@veaes.ca)

Communications with the Union

If you are calling for the first time, or have a new issue that has come up, the timeliest way to talk to someone is by phone at 604-873-8378. The phones are live from 8:30am 4:30pm. Each day there are IHTOs assigned to take calls. Please do not request a specific IHTO unless you have an existing issue they are helping you with. This will ensure your questions and concerns are dealt with as soon as possible.

Understanding the Surplus Process

By IHTOs

Unfortunately, due to declining enrollment in the district, some schools might have members forced to transfer out in a process colloquially referred to as ‘being surplus.’ When there are more teachers at a school/worksite than there is available FTE (enrolling and non-enrolling) it is considered a surplus—this also occurs when a program is closed down. In a surplus situation, some teachers will lose their position at their site and will have to apply for a new position elsewhere during the Spring or Summer job posting period.

There is a process and protections around getting surplus (Article E.26: Transfer Because of Surplus Staffing in [your collective agreement](#)). First, if there is a surplus at your school, the teacher at that school/worksite with the **least seniority** will be surplus. However, there are some exceptions to seniority.

Teachers who have been previously surplus in the last three school years cannot be surplus again. They are protected from the process. However, if that teacher voluntarily changes schools a second time within that window they lose this protection.

Teachers on maternity/parental leave can be surplus, but they have two options. They can follow the regular surplus procedure or they can delay the process to the end of their leave. If, at the end of their leave, the surplus situation is still the same at their school and they are still the member with the least seniority, then Human Resources will place that teacher in a position in the district (if no position exists, they will be placed in the role of a Permanent TTOC until a position opens up).

Please note: that if the reason for the surplus (like the closure of a program or projected decrease in enrollment) does not materialize, surplus teachers can return to the position they previously held. Exemptions also exist for special programs and qualifications, but those will be discussed in an article next week.

If a teacher is to be surplus, their administrator is supposed to meet with them to discuss the reason. They will also be informed in writing no later than June 1. If there are any deviations from this process please contact the VEAES office.

District Program Closures

By IHTOs

The Board has notified VEAES that they intend to close another CORE Autism Program, and 2 EXSEL programs. There are no Secondary program closures. Prior to receiving notice of the closure and surplus of teachers, the union was not consulted nor notified that such consideration was underway at the District.

Last night, at the VSB employee unions' town hall on education funding, many of the members of the public in attendance expressed deep concern over inclusion and supports for students with diverse learning needs. Parents were frustrated that their children were not receiving support from resource teachers or educational assistants. Educators described applications for additional student supports at the school level being denied by District Learning Services, with little transparency around which eligibility criteria were not met. Some families even felt like they had to make the heartbreaking decision to pull their children out of public school altogether and enrol them in private schools that catered specifically to students with diverse learning needs—despite having strong ideological views on the vital importance of public education. They described how their children had flourished once they moved into a school environment that was designed to meet their specific needs.

For many years, VEAES has consistently advocated for expanding district programs--not reducing them--to better support our most vulnerable learners and address the specific needs of certain students. While low enrolment has been cited as the rationale for the programs' closure, we are aware that the referral process has become increasingly difficult due to shortages of counsellors and teacher psychologists. We also recognize that waitlists are extensive and that many students' needs remain unidentified in the early years, despite the ongoing efforts of VEAES members.

We are actively collaborating with VSTA to bring this critical issue forward to the District and to advocate for meaningful action on the systemic barriers teachers face in accessing supports for diverse learners. Eliminating programs is not a solution to achieving equity in education--it undermines it.



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.



bcrta.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

bcrta.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@bcrta.ca

bcrta.ca

bcrta.ca/register.

IMPORTANT DATES →

Post and Fill School Union Rep Training at
the VEAES Office on April 29-30 (all-day).

2025-26

 veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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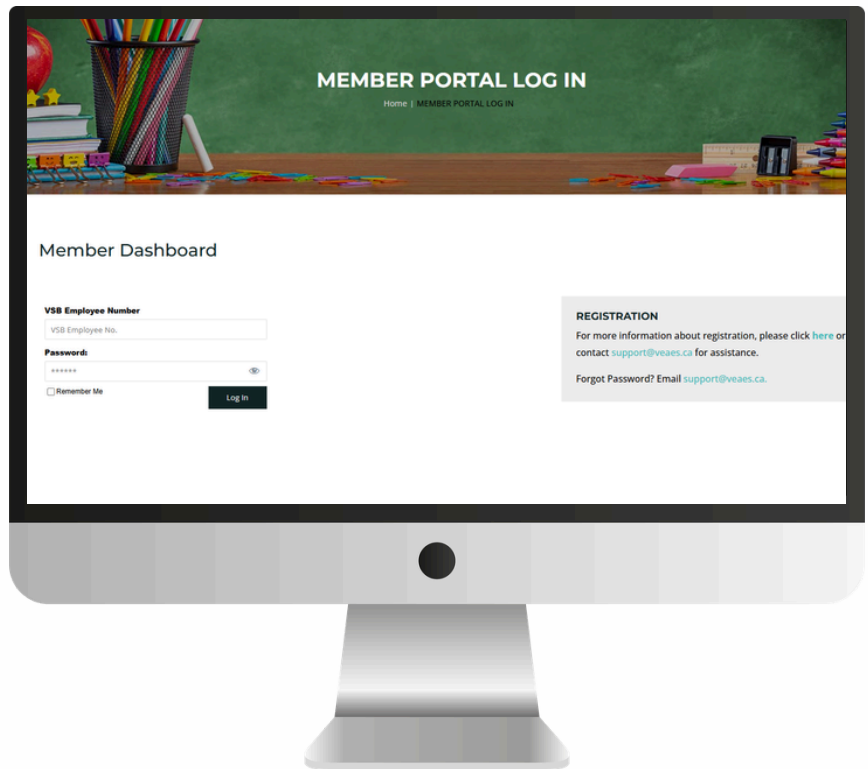
rob@veaes.ca

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/ ċ·iθamə cən