



# VEAES WEEKLY



## TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS  
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

## What's inside

### 2...VEAES Annual General Meeting, May 12

TRB Dues

**CORRECTION: April 16th VEAES Weekly Article re: BCTF  
Health & Wellness Program**

### 3...Red Dress Day

Marking One Year Since the Lapu Lapu Tragedy

### 4...OneBC's Event on VSB Property Canceled by the VSB

VSB Rolls Out "Wellness" Initiative

### 5... Call to Action from Burnaby Teachers' Association

### 6...TTOC Social is May 6



# VEAES Annual General Meeting, May 12

By IHTOs

A reminder that the VEAES Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a few weeks away. All VEAES members are welcome.

**May 12th at 4 p.m.**

**Van Dusen Botanical Garden**

**5251 Oak St. Vancouver**

**BMO Hall and Peggy Gunn Hall AB**

You should have received the yearly [VEAES News](#) which contains the AGM's agenda, our president's message, the 2026-2027 budget proposal, and the list of candidates for next year's Executive Committee. Food and refreshments will be provided at the social immediately following the AGM.

## TRB Dues

By IHTOs

Your April 30 paycheque should be \$95 less than usual—this is because our employer automatically deducts our annual Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) dues and remits it on our behalf, in order to ensure that all teachers remain certified.

An IMPORTANT note: If you are on leave and not receiving salary from the VSB, you will need to pay your own certification fee. Failure to pay your annual TRB dues will result in your certificate being cancelled, a process that is onerous and time consuming to reverse—and can result in you being put on unpaid leave until you are recertified. Check your pay advice. If you do not see the deduction, you'll need to pay it directly to the TRB yourself. The deadline for that is May 31. We advise care and awareness regarding your Annual TRB Dues and their payment, so as to avoid any costly errors.

Reminder: retroactive pay from our new collective agreement will be on our May 15th paycheque.

## **CORRECTION: April 16th VEAES Weekly Article re: BCTF Health & Wellness Program**

By Françoise Raunet

Unfortunately, the April 16th VEAES Weekly article titled Wellness Initiative and Attendance Management Programs contained an error. Please note that members must self-refer for the BCTF Health & Wellness program. The only option for someone else to refer members to the program would be if the referral was coming from the Union or the Employer. Please don't hesitate to contact the VEAES office if you need any further clarification.

## Red Dress Day

By IHTOs

May 5 is the National Day for Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2 Spirit and Trans people, also known as Red Dress Day. Taking place on the last day of the National Week of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives, this day serves as a necessary reminder of the devastating and ongoing crisis of MMIWG in Canada. If you're interested in getting involved, check out the [National Indigenous Women's Resource Center's website](#) for a schedule of related events and ways you can join in saying enough is enough. Interested in getting your students involved?



The BCTF website has a variety of relevant [lesson plans and resources](#), such as [Their Voices Will Guide Us](#)—a student and youth engagement guide designed to shine a light on the impacts of colonialism and racism on the lives of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people. Non-Indigenous people have an important role in recognizing the impact of racialized violence, violence against Indigenous People, and the systemic impact of underserved communities on Women, Girls, 2 Spirit and Trans people.

[This article on solidarity and allyship](#) with Indigenous Communities by Amnesty International identifies some of the ways settlers can step up their work in support of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people.

[The 231 Calls for Justice](#) included in the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls provides context, learning, and opportunities for learning for settlers that prioritize self-determination, inclusion, and decolonization. One of the key aspects of the Calls for Justice includes ensuring that education includes awareness about the MMIWG, 2 Spirit and Trans people, that curriculum and programming be done in partnership with Indigenous peoples, and that teaching include Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives (Call 11.1)

## Marking One Year Since the Tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Festival

By IHTOs

Last Sunday, April 26th, marked one year since the tragedy at the Lapu Lapu Festival. We recognize that this heartbreaking event deeply affected many members of our wider community, including students, families, and staff across many schools. As we remember those who were lost and honour all those impacted, we also hold space for the grief, healing, and resilience that continues to be felt. Our thoughts remain with everyone touched by this tragedy.

# OneBC's Event on VSB Property Canceled by the VSB

By IHTOs

The VSB has cancelled a planned rental of district space for a OneBC constituency session after concerns were raised by the community. VSB conducted an internal review and decided to not proceed with the agreement to ensure it was maintaining safe, inclusive and respectful environments. The board stated they are non-partisan and their decision does not endorse or reject any political viewpoints.

VEAES would like to extend a thank you to the members who took the time to call and email to make us aware of the event planned at one of the Vancouver school auditoriums. Given [the previous incident](#) at UBC involving OneBC, which was both traumatic and violent, we deeply appreciate the vigilance and care shown by our community.

We are grateful and appreciate the Board's decision.

## VSB Rolls Out "Wellness" Initiative

By Françoise Raunet

Vancouver teachers will remember a few short years ago, when we were still in the throes of the Covid pandemic, how frequently we were reminded of the importance of trauma-informed practice. Well, there was little consideration to trauma-informed practice when the VSB asked administrators to introduce the new Wellness Initiative/Attendance Management System at staff meetings last week. As administrators presented a PowerPoint and read from a script given to them by senior management, employees' reactions ranged from stunned silence, to outrage, to even tears. Despite the stated intention of "supporting teacher wellness" the presentation, with its focus on "catching" employees with "disruptive absenteeism", left many VEAES members feeling demoralized and like their Employer doesn't trust them to behave as the trained professionals they are.

The fact that VSB teachers are using fewer than their allotted number of sick days doesn't seem like a problem that needs fixing. By using statistical thresholds, Bradford Scores, and other norm-referenced measures to unearth potential attendance issues, the Employer is ignoring the unique complexity of individual employees' private health concerns. Teachers who require regularly scheduled medical appointments to maintain their health and wellness, called VEAES in a panic following the staff meetings. After watching the video presentation of the VSB's Director of Enterprise Risk and Safety Compliance, they were (rightfully) concerned that they will be called in for a stressful meeting with their administrator to discuss their private health issues.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation [reported that](#), in 2025, nearly 1 in 2 educators considered leaving the profession in the previous 12 months, and only 50% agree that they have a safe working environment. Given the chronic burnout and increasingly evident lack of public support that teachers are facing, they need to feel like their Employer has their back—treating them with suspicion and condescension is not a viable path to improved wellness.

The VSB has been planning to implement some kind of Attendance Management System for over a decade now, and VEAES has consistently voiced our opposition. At a General Meeting back in 2016, members passed the following motion:

*That VESTA members not speak during attendance management meetings with principals.*

If your administrator asks you to attend a meeting to discuss your attendance, please bring your staff rep with you to take notes and listen respectfully to what your admin has to say, but remember-- employers can't force employees to provide any of their personal medical information



## **CALL TO ACTION FROM THE BURNABY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

By Burnaby Teachers Association

The Burnaby Teachers Association (BTA) needs your help to get teachers the salaries they are owed!

In 2022, the BCTF negotiated a collective agreement with BCPSEA that eliminated the first step of the salary grid. The BC government committed to funding that change throughout the province. The true cost of the agreement in Burnaby has now been realized through the 2025 Kandola Award as \$9.4 million dollars, and the responsibility of funding remains with the provincial government. This additional funding is not a cost incurred by the Burnaby School District; it represents lost wages directly owed to hundreds of Burnaby's newest teachers. Without adequate funding, the District will be obliged to cover the costs itself, which will have devastating impacts in classrooms across the city of Burnaby.

As a union, we have grave concerns about the precedent this might set. If the provincial government does not agree to uphold the negotiated settlement of a collective agreement, they have bargained in bad faith.

### **HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT:**

Take 5 minutes and send an email to members of BC's Treasury Board to insist they provide the full funding required to settle this matter. Instructions and email template can be found [here](#). If a member of the Treasury Board is the MLA for your riding, you may want to consider emailing them directly as a constituent!

For more details, please see the relevant resources below:

[Link to Arbitration Award](#)

Media Coverage:

[Burnaby School Board Statement](#)

[CBC News](#)

[Freshet News](#)

In solidarity,

Alex Peters (BTA President)

Preet Lidder (BTA 1st Vice-President)

Elysha Fong (BTA 2nd Vice-President)

VANCOUVER SECONDARY TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
VANCOUVER ELEMENTARY AND ADULT EDUCATORS' SOCIETY

# TTOOC SOCIAL

LET'S  
PLAY

Join us for a nostalgic night of  
trivia and entertainment.

Complimentary appetizers,  
non-alcoholic beverages, and door  
prizes.



**6 MAY 2026 | 4:00 – 6:00 PM**

**CRAFT BEER MARKET – Retro Room**

85 West 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver

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

**IMPORTANT  
DATE** →

**Executive Committee Meeting** at the **VEAES  
Office** on **May 5** at **4:00 pm**

**2025-26**

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

## **VEAES MEMBER PORTAL**

**Marjorie Dumont  
President**

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

**Xander Graham  
Vice President**

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

**Vanessa Lefebvre  
Vice President**

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

**Françoise Raunet  
Vice President**

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

**Greg Canning  
Vice President**

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

**Rob McGowan  
Adult Ed President**

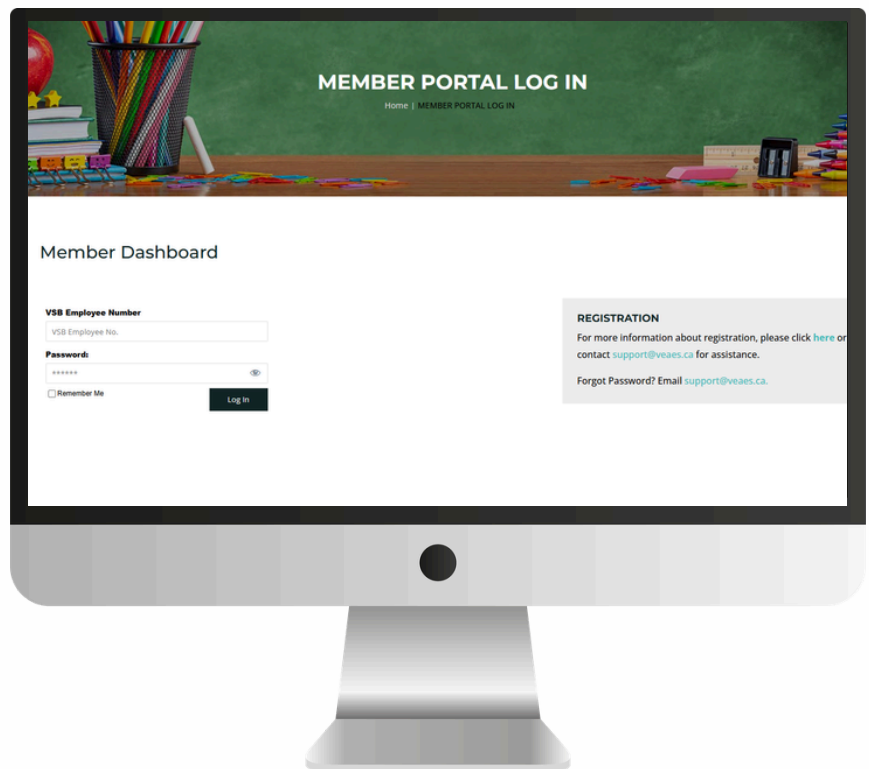
[rob@veaes.ca](mailto:rob@veaes.ca)

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/ ċ·iθamə cən**