



VEAES WEEKLY



TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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Yellowhead Institute Land Back Online Course

By Jody Polukoshko, VEAES Secretary Treasurer

Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #10 talks about how the federal government should be supporting education and addressing harm and working towards Reconciliation. All of the conditions listed in that Call to Action are essential conditions to support Education for Reconciliation.

For those of us working on learning and unlearning connected to Reconciliation, it can be hard to find resources that can connect historical context to current and culturally relevant content.

I'm recommending the Yellowhead Institute Land Back Program and spoke about it at the Staff Rep Assembly this week. Some folks wanted links to the resource. Here it is! <https://learnonline.yellowheadinstitute.org/> It's a free, online, self-paced program that I did independently in conjunction with some friends where we met and discussed after each couple of units.

A bit of historical context: In 1969, the Federal Government brought the "White Paper," a policy document that, among other things, planned to remove the Indian Act, Transfer Reserve land to Individuals and the removal of federal fiduciary responsibility to Indigenous People. It was opposed by Indigenous folks at the time because it failed to include Indigenous ways of knowing and being and would not protect the Nation-to-Nation relationship between Indigenous People and Canada.

In 1970, a group of Indigenous folks from Alberta, Citizens Plus, wrote the "Red Paper" which responded to the White paper's shortcomings and proposed the preservation of land, rights and traditions, that admits past mistakes, that recognizes historical treaties, and created the Department of Indian Affairs and changing the harmful parts of the Indian Act.

The Yellowhead Institute Program reflects **an updated "Red Paper"** that includes sections about Land Back, Consent, Denial / Recognition / Reclamation / Continuation, and Land Back Futures. The program states "The course is for people who are interested and engaged in advancing the concept of Land Back in practice. A basic understanding of the history of the relationship between Canadians and Indigenous people is expected."

Reminder: Annual VEAES Appreciation Event June 17th!

By VEAES IHTOs



This is a reminder to all Staff Reps, EC members, VEAES reps to VSB committees, VEAES committee members, and BCTF committee members that you are invited to join us for an end-of-year celebration on **Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00 pm**. Please follow [this link](#) to register.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!

THE PRESIDENT
&
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators' Society
invite you to a Reception in recognition of members who
have who have contributed to union work in the
following roles:

- **Staff Reps**
- **VEAES members on the Executive Committee**
- **VEAES members serving as reps to VSB Committees**
- **VEAES members on BCTF Committees**
- **VEAES members serving as VEAES Committee Members**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

#410 - 2238 Yukon Street
Vancouver, BC V5Y 3P2
from 4 - 7 pm

**Click here
to register**



LET'S
CELEBRATE
YOU!!!

YOU'RE
INVITED!

Surplus FAQs

By Françoise Raunet

We have been hearing from a number of members who were surplus for the first time this year, or last year, and had questions about the process. Here are some answers to common questions that have come up:

What is “surplus protection”?

If you have been surplus from your role and are forced to take one at a different school, you are protected against being surplus again for the next two school years, even if you have the least seniority among the teachers at your site.

If I have surplus protection in my current role and I successfully post into a new role at a different school, will my surplus protection follow me?

No. You are protected from surplus in the role that you moved into because of the previous surplus situation, but if you voluntarily vacate that role and take another one, then you will lose your surplus protection.

If my administrator offers me a new role at my current school to avoid being surplus, can I still apply for vacant job postings, or am I considered to have already accepted a job for the 2026-27 school year?

Yes, you can still apply for a job of your choice if you are given a new role as part of the surplus staffing shuffle. However, once you post into and accept a new position, that becomes your job for the next school year, and you can't continue to apply for new jobs in future rounds of postings, even if you see a job that you would prefer over the one you accepted.

What happens if I am surplus and I don't find a job on my own during the Spring Transfer Process?

Once all 5 rounds of the Spring Transfer Process are complete, Employee Services will start to place folks into all the positions that remain vacant. Because teachers are “owed” their continuing FTE, the Board will look at the FTE and the required qualifications & experience for each role and then place those who they determine to be the most suitable into the vacant positions. If you are placed into a job by the Board and then you happen to secure a position of your choice in a subsequent posting, the position that you post into is the one that will be surplus protected. Anything that the Board places you into is like a “placeholder” and the surplus protection will apply to the first position you successfully post into.

Spring Transfer Postings – Round 3 (Ended Wednesday, June 10)

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan and Greg Canning

Round 3 of the Spring Transfer process ended this past Wednesday, June 10th. We want to thank members for their engagement through Rounds 1 and 2. By now, most interviews and offers from Rounds 1 and 2 should be complete, and Round 3 interviews are in progress. As we move into the fourth round, we encourage all members to remain actively involved in supporting timely and transparent hiring at your schools.

As discussed in our SURT training this spring, it's critical that vacancies are posted and filled without delay. VSB management has directed principals to contact applicants and schedule interviews immediately after postings close. Staff Reps are encouraged to check in with their principals to confirm that interviews are scheduled and that the process is moving forward appropriately.

If you've applied or are applying for a position during this Spring Transfer period, you may accept or decline interview requests, but please communicate your decision promptly. Principals will typically try to reach you by phone but may follow up by email if necessary. Once a position is offered, members have 24 hours to accept or decline the offer. This is a right all members have, and if you need time to make your decision, please keep this in mind. However, if you are absolutely certain you will be accepting the job, we encourage you to communicate your decision as soon as possible to help streamline the process for others. If you accept a job at another site, notify your current principal immediately so they can prepare a posting for the position you will be leaving.

Once the Spring Transfer process is complete, VEAES receives information about all applicants, interviewees, and final offers. We review this data to ensure that the most senior and highest-category members are prioritized in accordance with the Collective Agreement. If irregularities are identified, we will follow up directly with affected members. If you have any concerns about delays, lack of communication, or believe a process may be deliberately stalled, please bring this to the attention of the VEAES office immediately. Your vigilance helps us uphold fair practices across the district. If you have questions or need support, don't hesitate to reach out.

Check out the latest edition of BCTF's Teacher Magazine

By BCTF

The latest edition of Teacher magazine is now available. Find ideas to help you [plan for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) based on Brandy Lekakis and Michael Taylor's full-day, school-wide learning experience to mark September 30. You can also read [selected poetry and prose submissions](#) from students on the writing contest's theme of people, places, and practices that feel like home. Read the full edition to find more stories about [school board elections](#), [summer lending](#) in school libraries, [connecting youth with elders](#) to learn about language and culture, and [reading recommendations](#) from your colleagues.

El Information Session for TTOCs

By Kevin McPherson

**REGISTER
NOW**

Attention TTOCs: We are hosting an EI workshop on June 18th from 4 pm to 5 pm at the VEAES Office. Navigating the Employment Insurance process can be complex and confusing even if you have successfully applied in the past. A BCTF facilitator will guide you through everything you need to know to apply for EI this summer. Food and refreshments will be provided.

Important: Please register for the workshop using this [form](#). Due to the amount of information in the workshop, it will start at **4 pm sharp**.

**Employment Insurance
Workshop**

Date: Thursday, June 18

Time: 4:00 pm

**Location: VEAES Office
#410 - 2238 Yukon Street
Vancouver**

TTOC SFE Survey

By Kevin McPherson

The general teacher shortage affecting Vancouver and other Lower Mainland school districts over the past several years may be over. In Vancouver, the number of failures to fill have dropped considerably (although not in all areas), which is excellent news for the proper operation of our schools. Fewer failures to fill mean that resource teachers and other non-enrolling staff are less frequently pulled away from their work in order to provide classroom coverage.

On the other hand, this shift has created new challenges. TTOCs who have been accustomed to a steady volume of work (and depending on that income) are now experiencing a significant decline in available jobs. For the first time in a decade, the VSB's callout system for TTOCs is operating without a widespread teacher shortage.

In response to concerns raised by the TTOC Committee, the VEAES Executive Committee developed a survey to gather feedback from TTOCs about their experiences with VSB's callout system as a whole (including the SFE website, job shopping, the request system, phone callouts, and the 50% availability clause) and how this has affected the availability of work for them this school year.

All members who work as a TTOC are encouraged to complete the survey [here](#).



Camp Just Us

By Xander Graham

A team of graduate students at UBC have developed a one-week summer camp in Vancouver and Nanaimo, happening this August, designed specifically for trans and gender expansive children ages 4–10. The camp is led by transgender early childhood educators and teachers, all of whom are UBC graduate students (importantly, this camp is *not* involved in any research, rather it is just something designed to run for community engagement).

To ensure the program is accessible to all families, the camp operates on a pay-what-you-can / sliding scale model. Families self-assess what they're able to contribute so that cost is never a barrier to participation. If your class or community has any students or families who may be interested, please refer them to the flyer below.

Please note: while VEAES is not associated with Camp Just Us, we forward the opportunity on behalf of the vital ARC Foundation / SOGI 123 organizations. Please see the flyer below to reach out to organizer TK Hannah (they/he) for registration and further contact details!

A flyer for 'Camp Just Us' with a yellow background and a circular cutout showing a forest. At the top left are three yellow stars and a string of rainbow bunting. The title 'CAMP JUST US' is in large, bold, green and orange letters. Below the title is a paragraph of text. At the bottom left are four green rounded rectangles with white text: 'AUGUST 10-14, 2026', '8:30 AM - 3:30 PM', 'VANCOUVER, BC', and 'SLIDING SCALE AND PWYC PRICING'. At the bottom right is an orange rounded rectangle with white text: 'TO REGISTER EMAIL TGELECTIVE@OUTLOOK.COM'.

CAMP JUST US

A justice-oriented outdoor summer camp where trans and gender expansive kids 10 and under can get muddy, make friends, and be completely, unapologetically themselves — led by trans educators who care deeply about every child they work with.

AUGUST 10-14, 2026

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

VANCOUVER, BC

SLIDING SCALE AND PWYC PRICING

**TO REGISTER EMAIL
TGELECTIVE@OUTLOOK.COM**

Spring RA Update

By Khaled Shawwash

The last BCTF Representative Assembly of the school year was held on May 29th and 30th. The following is a summary of the highlights, which include the passing four VEAES motions (yay!):

- A survey was conducted of the public in BC. We were reminded of the importance of getting people out to vote for progressive school board trustees this October, continuing to defend SOGI education in our schools, and the support the public continues to have for educators.
 - The biggest challenge in school board elections is voter engagement (typically a 10% turnout rate)
 - Support for SOGI in schools increased since last year but is only at 51%
 - 72% of the public have a positive view of teachers, and 88% believe they should speak publicly about classroom issues
- A survey was conducted of BCTF members, here are the highlights:
 - ~54% of teachers feel their workload has increased since last year
 - 14.5% of teachers are considering leaving the profession
 - Over 75% of teachers feel AI will have a negative impact on students
- The anti-racism policy that VEAES brought and carried last year is still being worked on. There will be no anti-racism conference this year as leadership is looking at different, more resourceful ways of supporting members.
- Those who were elected for a host of positions can be found [here](#).
- The following VEAES motions carried:
 - addressing misogyny and heterosexism in schools
 - advocating for DLD to be a distinct Ministry designation
 - advocating to make sure cost elements are funded by the Ministry and not school districts
 - advocating for more consistent and equitable changes in support for students who transition between grades
- These motions of note were carried:
 - Recognizing that Indigenous languages are best taught by Indigenous teachers
 - Oppose changes to DRIPA
 - Creation of an annual report on anti-racism initiatives
 - Investigation of issues related to teachers' right to privacy
 - Lobby Ministry to provide a review of proficiency scales
 - Discuss with BCPSEA to allow the three locals (VEAES, VSTA, and CTA) to bargain improvements to local health benefits plan

I'd like to extend a special thank you to my fellow LRs, Bernadette and Deanna, for their hard work and contributions this year. We are all moving on from this role and we are thrilled to have three new LRs starting next year!

It has been an honour serving as one of your local representatives for the last two years, and I look forward to starting to serve you in office this coming fall! Have a wonderful summer.

FIFA World Cup

By Khaled Shawwash

Today marks the beginning of the 2026 FIFA World Cup tournament. Although this event brings excitement and joy, it is important to acknowledge and address the impacts FIFA has already and will continue to have on our communities.

On top of well documented **corruption** and being hosted in the USA—a state that is actively perpetuating both **national** and **international** human rights atrocities—FIFA has already had a detrimental impact locally. The cost—initially slated to be \$250 million—is now estimated to be up to **\$729 million**. B.C. taxpayers will be footing the bill, and it is the **most marginalized communities that are feeling the greatest impact**, with **displacement** of unhoused people as a top concern. These are hundreds of millions of dollars that could be used to address the systemic issues in our society, such as the drug crisis, housing crisis, and our education system. Every one of these dollars that is spent on policing/security (of which will be around **\$242 million**, with no clear breakdown of exactly how that money is being spent), building upgrades, and operations is a dollar that won't be spent on our schools and communities that need it most. To top it off, there is **little evidence** to suggest that the World Cup will benefit B.C.'s economy in the long run.

These harms and concerns are being perpetuated through legal structures. In November 2025, the City of Vancouver passed **by-law** FWC26 to meet FIFA's classist and derogatory "beautification" standards.

“ —
| *The by-law is “supposedly crafted to protect FIFA branding and ensure the City presents a “clean and welcoming environment” but “is likely to be weaponized to support the City’s efforts to ‘clean up’ and ‘beautify’ the Downtown Eastside, an area that visibly exposes the City’s blatant failure to manage its ongoing housing and toxic drug crises.”*

Additionally it “is sure to discriminate – that is, to be disproportionately weaponized against black, Indigenous, and otherwise racialized folks, people who rely on public space, and people who use drugs. Its enforcement is also likely to be spatially selective, targeted towards neighbourhoods that the City knows bode poorly for its international reputation.” (Pivot Legal)

Once again, it is our most marginalized communities, families, and schools that will be paying the greatest price while FIFA is expected to generate a whopping **\$8.9 billion** in revenues. It is important to note that Crosstown Elementary will be included inside the **proposed exclusion zone**, directly affecting students and families that live there or attend that school.

Connecting it back to the **Social Awareness and Responsibility core competency**, asking questions like these can help students be more critical of how they engage with systems that both bring us happiness and perpetuate inequity. It can also inspire them to think about how they can make changes that benefit our communities and society. Centering the love, joy, and unity that football/soccer brings is incredibly important, but it is also important that these positives don't overshadow the harms that the FIFA organization perpetuates on communities locally and across the world.

IMPORTANT DATES →

EC Meeting
on June 16
at 4:00 pm
at VEAES
Office

Appreciation
Reception
on June 17
at 4:00 pm
at VEAES Office

Employment
Insurance Workshop
on June 18
at 4:00 pm
at VEAES Office

2025-26
veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

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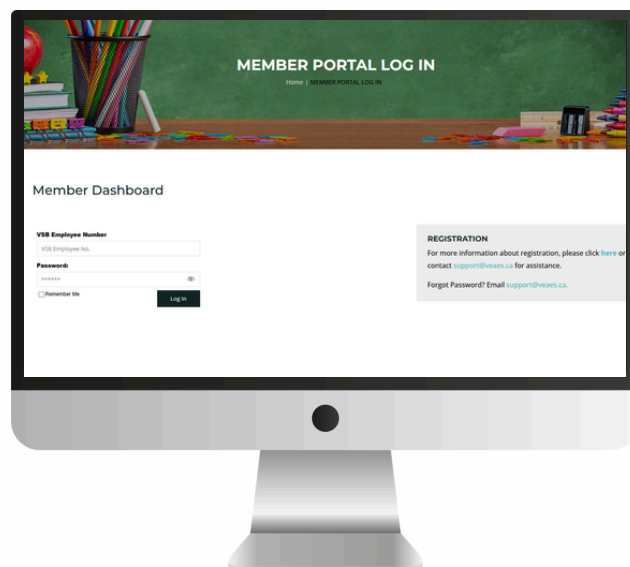
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To access the portal, go to the [VEAES website](#). From the menu, scroll down and select [Member Portal Log In](#).

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