



VEAES WEEKLY



TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

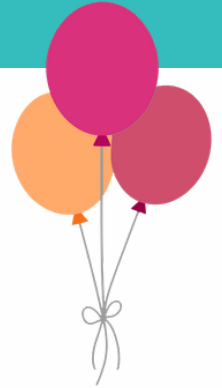
PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

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We Appreciate You! Annual VEAES Appreciation Event on June 17th

By VEAES IHTOs



We Appreciate You! Annual VEAES Appreciation Event on June 17th

Have you helped out your union this year in any of the following roles?

- School Staff Reps
- Members on the Executive Committee
- Members serving as reps to VSB committees and working groups
- Members who sit on VEAES committees
- VEAES members on BCTF committees

If so, we would like to invite you for an after-school social event at the VEAES office (#410 – 2238 Yukon St.) on Wednesday, June 17th at 4:00 pm. Join us for food, refreshments, conversations with colleagues, and maybe even some karaoke! 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**



EI Information Session for TTOCs

By Kevin McPherson

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

This workshop helps teachers with the information they need to make effective employment insurance applications.

Please [click here](#) to register.

AE AGM Information – Saturday June 6th

By Xander Graham

VEAES Adult Education members should make sure to check their inboxes for a Zoom link to Saturday's AE AGM. On **Saturday, June 6th at 4pm**, Adult Education President Rob McGowan will present a summary of important

AE bargaining updates, as well as provide information about contract ratification voting. If you are unable to locate the link that was previously sent out, please reach out to andrea@veaes.ca for assistance. Thanks for all of your work so far this year, Adult Educators! We look forward to seeing you at the virtual AGM this Saturday.

Pride Month in Vancouver

By Xander Graham



In the previous issue of the VEAES Weekly, we noted that VEAES would be continuing to provide articles, resources, and highlights from Pride Month in Vancouver. We're excited to present this week's VW issue in June and officially wish members a Happy Pride!

Educators in Vancouver are fortunate to have access to a strong network of organizations supporting 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion in schools and communities. The Vancouver-based ARC Foundation's SOGI 123 initiative provides lesson plans, professional learning opportunities, and resources that help educators create safer and more inclusive schools for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The Robert Quartermain Centre for SOGI-Inclusive Excellence in Education at UBC also maintains extensive collections of community and classroom resources for educators.

VEAES members may also wish to explore the work of the Vancouver Pride Society, whose mission is rooted in community-building, intersectionality, accessibility, and advocacy for 2SLGBTQIA+ communities. Their educational initiatives, community partnerships, and local Pride programming offer opportunities to connect classroom learning with the broader movement for queer and trans liberation in our city.

Additionally worth checking out is the QUEERING Outdoor Education article & resource that was created by Vancouver educators who sought to tackle ideas "...ideas that problematize some of the binary gender and biology assumptions that can accompany outdoor education. The teachers involved took different approaches to "queering outdoor ed" and provide some ways to create a more inclusive way to get kids outdoor and challenge status quo ideas about nature and who gets to participate in it." A BCTF Teacher magazine article written by project contributor, and VEAES member, Jody Polukoshko can be read [here](#), and the lessons and resources are available at the link below.

As we celebrate Pride, it is worth remembering that Vancouver's queer communities have a long history of organizing for social change. The struggle for inclusion in schools is part of a broader movement for equity, human rights, Indigenous sovereignty, racial justice, accessibility, and collective liberation. Public education has an important role to play in that work, and as educators within that system, so do we.

Remember that, as bell hooks stated, "the classroom remains the most radical space of possibility." Whether we make that classroom a physical location in our schools or the outdoor spaces that we look to make more inclusive, let's do our best to embrace that radical possibility.

- [SOGI 123 \(ARC Foundation\)](#)
- [UBC Robert Quartermain Centre for SOGI-Inclusive Excellence in Education](#)
- [Vancouver Pride Society](#)
- [QMUNITY – BC's Queer, Trans, and Two-Spirit Resource Centre](#)
- [Out In Schools](#)
- [BCTF LGBTQ2S+ Action Group](#)
- [QUEERING Outdoor Education](#)

BCTF's Health and Wellness Program

By Greg Canning



What is the BCTF's Health and Wellness Program?

In the early 90s, the BCTF's research department launched the Health and Wellness Program as a pilot. The stated goal of the pilot was to provide supports, services and early interventions to members experiencing health challenges to have members stay well at work or to support them in a return after medical leave. The program itself is entirely funded by BCTF members and is completely voluntary. You do not have to be on disability benefits or on a medical leave to participate in the program but should you find yourself struggling to maintain a healthy work life balance and worry about potentially needing time off due to growing concerns this may be the program for you. The key is addressing health issues early to get support and services in place. It is a wonderful service that the union provides to members in times of need.

What to expect if I refer myself to the program?

The Health and Wellness Program will put you in contact with a professional rehabilitation consultant who will work in consultation with you and your health care provider to coordinate services to support your wellbeing. The consultants work exclusively with teachers and know the system well and the struggles we experience in today's classrooms. They can help teachers navigate the system to develop individual rehabilitation plans, ensure proper forms are filled out, worksite assessments are completed, accommodations are made, gradual return to work plans are prepared, and much more. They know which supports and services are available in the community, who to contact, and can save members a lot of time and energy.

The Health and Wellness Program, which began as a pilot, has become an important support for teachers in times of need. It is one of the services I am most proud of as it was a decision we made as union members to take care of each other. No one should neglect their health but the pressures of teaching and the sense of obligation to our students and the families we work with often cause us to put our own health at risk in an effort to care for others. I caution all of us not to simply push through at the expense of our own health. There are supports out there and VEAES can help. If you haven't done so already, I would highly recommend Dr. Gabor Mate's book, *When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress* as a summer read. The summer is a time for teachers to catch their breath and recharge before beginning a new school year. Our work is about building a health future for all and that work begins with us.

For more information about the Health and Wellness Program please refer to the Q and A page on the BCTF's website [Health and Wellness Program](#) or contact Greg Canning at greg@veaes.ca.

Indigenous History Month

By Françoise Raunet

June in Canada is National Indigenous History Month. Although BC teachers are encouraged to weave Indigenous knowledge through the curriculum year-round, you may want to explore the following to highlight the history of First Nations, Inuit, & Metis in your classroom this month.

Art Activities

A few years ago, the Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art hosted an exhibition by Sho Sho Belelige Esquiro (Kaska Dena/Scottish/Cree) on the *Doctrine of Discovery*. This doctrine is the 500-year-old Catholic church “law” that allowed European settlers to view Indigenous lands as unoccupied and therefore free for them to take without permission. The resources found in the Sho Sho Esquiro, Doctrine of Discovery Google Drive folder were created to support teachers bringing their students to the exhibition; however, they can also be used as a stand-alone lesson. Lesson themes include Resilience, Land Back, Resistance, and Conflict.



The National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education also has a collection of teaching resources in a variety of subject areas. The *Elements of Art – Textures in Our Environment* lesson, for example, links First Nations, Inuit, and Metis’ ways of knowing and being to artistic representation as students explore texture through hands-on learning in the outdoor environment.

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Socials/Science Activities

One of my favorite cross-curricular units is My Seasonal Round, which is an integrated elementary Socials & Science unit developed by Open School BC. It covers seasonal rounds in four geographic regions of BC through the eyes of the Indigenous groups who live there. Teachers will find downloadable blackline masters, tools, and rubrics, as well as a teachers’ guide.

Another excellent resource is *Kayak- Canada's History Magazine for Kids*. The September 2018 issue of the magazine, titled “We Are All Treaty People” comes with an educators’ guide for grades 3-12. It offers teachers interactive instructional approaches to help students develop their historical thinking skills and deepen their understanding of treaties via activities including maps, weblinks, and blackline masters.

Other Activities

The Q'wemtsín Health Society (QHS) Indigenous Food Sovereignty Video Series is a series of videos made for students, teachers, and communities to promote the growing and sharing of traditional foods. Teachers who have access to a school garden may be especially interested in sharing this resource with their students.

Also, the Vancouver Board of Education's Indigenous Education Elementary Playlist contains over 30 videos on a variety of subjects, including some episodes of the APTN show *Coyote Science*, the animated *Raven Tales* stories, and video profiles of Indigenous children and their communities around BC, as well as many more titles.

- [Sho Sho Esquino, Doctrine of Discovery Google Drive folder](#)
- [National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education collection of teaching resources](#)
- [Elements of Art – Textures in Our Environment](#)
- [My Seasonal Round](#)
- [We Are All Treaty People](#)
- [Q'wemtsín Health Society \(QHS\) Indigenous Food Sovereignty Video Series](#)
- [Vancouver Board of Education's Indigenous Education Elementary Playlist](#)

Antisemitism Workshop Update

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan

Following the postponement notice shared in last week's VEAES Weekly, the Executive Committee discussed the matter further at its meeting this week. After careful consideration, the decision was made to reschedule the workshop to September or October of this fall.

While we recognize that members hold a range of perspectives, our decision was guided by our commitment to supporting members with the knowledge and tools needed to address discrimination and oppression, including antisemitism. Addressing these issues remains an important part of ensuring that all students and members can participate fully, safely, and equitably in our schools and communities.

We understand the communication in last week's VEAES weekly might have caused confusion, and we appreciate the feedback and engagement we have received from members regarding this workshop. These conversations reflect the care our members bring to equity, inclusion, and human rights, and they help inform our ongoing work as a union.

We invite members to join us in the fall to learn, unlearn, and deepen our collective commitment to defending human rights. In the spirit of First Nations, Inuit and Metis teachings and values of respect, humility, courage, and truth, we stand stronger when we stand together.

**IMPORTANT
DATE** →

**SRA on June 9 at 4:00 pm at Tupper
Secondary**

2025-26

veaes.ca

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL

**Marjorie Dumont
President**

marjorie@veaes.ca

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

**Xander Graham
Vice President**

xander@veaes.ca

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.

**Vanessa Lefebvre
Vice President**

vanessa@veaes.ca

To set your password, click [here](#).

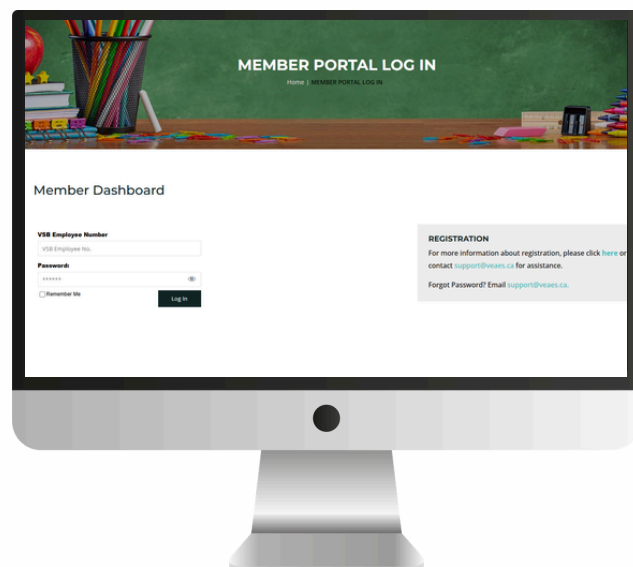
**Françoise Raunet
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If you have any questions, please contact support@veaes.ca.

**Greg Canning
Vice President**

greg@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**