

STRONGER TOGETHER



veaes weekly

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2026

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TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

Anti-FSA Campaign

By IHTOs

As mentioned in last week's VEAES Weekly, this year the Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) for grades 4 & 7 students will run from September 28-November 6. In order to ensure enough time to get the FSA withdrawal letters to each school, we are asking that schools **choose a distribution date during the week of Sep 28 – Oct 2**.

You probably know that the BCTF and VEAES have long opposed this standardized test for—among other reasons—taking up valuable instructional time and being totally disconnected from day-to-day learning in the classroom. Although the VSB maintains that the FSA test results bring funding for student supports into our district, they have not been able to provide any real-life examples. In fact, despite FSA participation rates slowly increasing, it feels like the need for additional supports has never been greater.

If you teach grade 4 or 7, please let your staff rep know how many FSA withdrawal letters for parents you require as soon as possible. There are also translated versions available, so if you have families that cannot read English, make sure that you request some.

Staff reps, please use [this form](#) (also can use QR code above) to request your materials and let us know your distribution dates before Friday Sep 18th. We will have FSA materials for you to take back to your school available at the SRA at Tupper Secondary on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd, and we will send any remaining materials via the Blue Bag. In order to comply with the Memorandum of Agreement between the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF), **it is very important that you provide VEAES the exact dates** that your grade 4 & 7 teachers will be sending their letters home.

We must inform the Superintendent in advance of the dates for each school. In addition, please inform the admin 4 hours prior to letters being provided to the students/parents.



PSA Day

By Khaled Shawwash

PSA Day is rapidly approaching and spots are already filling up! Taking place on Friday October 23rd, PSA Day is an annual, province wide professional development event. PSAs (Provincial Specialist Associations) are teacher-run organizations that operate under the BCTF and provide resources, workshops, and support for teachers in a variety of subjects and areas, such as Aboriginal education, early-career teaching, and anti-oppression. On October 23rd, most of the 32 PSAs will be running a conference where workshops/events will be hosted. VEAES members are encouraged to check out a [PSA website and conference that interests them!](#) Spots in workshops are typically limited, so we advise you to sign up as soon as possible if you see one you are interested in. You can get reimbursed for costs through the Joint Conference Funds—be sure to connect with your Pro-D chair or administrator about it.

VSB/VTF Limited TTOC Agreement

By Françoise Raunet

A reminder to members that, at the end of last school year, the VTF made some changes to their agreement with the VSB regarding the use of limited TTOCs.

Starting in 2019, the District was experiencing frequent "failure to fill" situations, when there were no TTOCs available, and non-enrolling teachers were pulled from their regular duties to sub in their colleagues' classes. At that time, the union and the Board signed a temporary agreement (a Letter of Understanding, or LOU) allowing the use of "limited TTOCs", retired teachers who were brought back as part-time substitute teachers. Unlike regular TTOCs, these retired teachers were not required to be available for 50% of all workdays, and they were also meant to be limited to no more than 50 days of work per school year.

Last year, however, the opposite situation happened. Instead of experiencing failure to fill, VEAES and VSTA members who are TTOCs reported that they were not getting enough work to pay their bills. As a result, changes were made to the Limited TTOC LOU to improve the likelihood of regular TTOCs acquiring jobs through SFE.

The changes for the 2026-2027 school year are:

- Schools (administrators, OAAs, and/or individual teachers) **can no longer request limited TTOCs** to fill specific job assignments (except in specific areas of shortage, like technical studies, French Immersion, counselling, etc.)
- **Limited TTOCs are expected to work a minimum of five (5) Fridays** between October and May – Please note, if you are a limited TTOC and you are having trouble meeting this requirement due to a lack of available Friday jobs, please contact the SFE office to let them know

Beyond "Thank You for the Real Estate": Reapproaching Land Acknowledgements

By Khaled Shawwash

A powerful article and poem, titled Beyond "Thank You for the Real Estate", written by Indigenous (FNMI) individuals was shared with me by a colleague. They draw our attention to how problematic many land acknowledgements have become, specifically ones that centre/discuss the joy, pleasure, and privilege of living on these lands, rather than recognizing the Land as sacred and acknowledging the historical and continued systemic colonial violence and our continued accountability and responsibility. After the poem's conclusion, the authors provide sets of debrief questions, activities, and recommended further readings. The article, poem, questions, and/or activities would be great to use with a class, at your discretion. I cannot recommend it enough! [You can find the work in its entirety here.](#)

October 17th Municipal Election Endorsements

By Françoise Raunet

At the VEAES Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday, members voted to endorse all the COPE and OneCity school trustee candidates, and to recommend to the Staff Rep Assembly that it does the same. This was following the Vancouver & District Labour Council, which released its own endorsements this week as well. Trustee elections are one of the best ways we have to ensure that the next Board of Education recognizes the need for resources and funding to go to the school level, and not to fund more VSB middle management.

One thing to watch out for is a new political party—True Blue Vancouver—that is only running candidates for school board, not for council, park board or mayor. Their platform includes things like banning gender-neutral bathrooms, removing bike lanes (not even a school board issue!), and—even—residential school denialism. Please make sure that everyone you know is aware of their harmful platform so that no one votes for them by mistake.

The BCTF has [a website](#) where they are keeping track of all the local and labour endorsed candidates listed by school district. If you are not a resident of Vancouver, you can go there to see who has been endorsed in your municipality. For your information, the Vancouver & District Labour Council has endorsed the following people for the Oct 17th municipal election:

MAYOR

FRY, Pete (Green)

CITY COUNCIL

BONAMIS, Iona 陶思穎 (OneCity)

BULA, Frances (OneCity)

HAGGLUND, Jarrett (OneCity)

LESLIE, Chloe (COPE)

MALONEY, Lucy (OneCity)

ORR, Sean (COPE)

REILLY, Annette (GREEN)

SINGH, Devyani (COPE)

STOCKWELL, Caitlin (OneCity)

YI-KIERAN, Solomon 易行天 (COPE)

SCHOOL BOARD

BRESHEARS, Sherry (OneCity)

BROWN, Rory (OneCity)

CARDWELL, Steve (OneCity)

CHENG, Melanie (COPE)

GLIESBRECHT, Gwen (COPE)

LEE, Christopher (OneCity)

SIGURDSON, Krista (OneCity)

MAH, Suzie 馬陳小珠 (COPE)

O'KEEFE, Derrick (COPE)

PARK BOARD

BURTON, Sacia (COPE)

DENOFRIO, Dominic (OneCity)

DIGBY, Tom (Green)

HAN, Jamie (COPE)

IRWIN, John (OneCity)

PETERSEN, Tyler (OneCity)

WYSS, Cease (COPE)

First Staff Rep Assembly of the Year!

By IHTOs

Next Tuesday, September 22nd, at 4 pm, VEAES is holding its first Staff Rep Assembly of the year in the Tupper Secondary cafeteria. If you have conducted, or will soon conduct, a VEAES Staff Rep election at your site, please fill out [this form](#) and send it into the VEAES office. For those school sites that have not yet elected a Staff Rep, please send a member on behalf of your school to the meeting, so that your staff can continue to be informed about union issues in this important bargaining year.

All members are welcome to attend and participate and the Staff Rep Assembly and, although only Staff Reps can vote, all can speak. It is a great opportunity to learn about all the issues affecting teachers across the VSB.

If you have a school concern, please use [this form](#) to let us know so we can add it to the agenda. School concerns can be any issue that is affecting your staff at your school. Bringing it to the attention of the wider union is important, as it not only gives a chance to collectively brainstorm solutions; it also allows the union to operate in an informed manner, driven by the collective will of the membership. School concerns can also be brought to the SRA on the day of the meeting by stepping up to the mic.

Day of Pink

By Xander Graham

The International Day of Pink empowers youth to challenge social norms and stand up for their 2SLGBTQIA+ peers. Through partnerships with educators and leaders, the organization aims to build a movement of young activists. Day of Pink 2027 invites you to experience INSPIRE—a theme and nationwide movement that calls us to celebrate the trailblazers of Canadian 2SLGBTQIA+ history, amplify queer and trans expression, and empower the next generation. History isn't just a story from the past, rather it's an active tool to build an equitable, affirming tomorrow.

We'd like to let VEAES members know about a wonderful opportunity to attend a theatrical event with multi-media designed for students grade 5 to 12.

VSb is offering 8 half-day, afternoon release for teachers to bring their SOGIE clubs to this event. As in past years, if there are more than 8 school sites requesting coverage, here is the criteria for selection:

- GSA/SOGIE clubs that have higher student membership.
- Ideally a geographic spread across the district.
- Only one half-day TTOC will be provided per school to encourage greater participation across the district. If fewer than 8 schools apply, then larger clubs may be considered for a second TTOC release.

For more information, and to take part in this stellar event, please [sign up here](#) by **Sept 28 2:30 pm**.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Events

From: www.grad.ubc.ca.

Vancouver Events for September 30

- 9am at Arts Umbrella Granville Island | [Welcome Breakfast, Children's book reading, and family art project](#)
- 10am at Skwxwú7mesh and Lílwat7úl Cultural Center, Whistler | [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- 10am to 2pm at Museum of North Vancouver | [Truth & Reconciliation Day](#)
- 10am to 6pm at Chilliwack Green Acres | [Truth and Reconciliation Day](#) (\$19 admissions)
- 10am and 1pm at Place des Arts, Coquitlam | [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- 11:45a to 3pm at 1956 Main Mall, UBC Vancouver Campus | [Intergenerational March to Commemorate Orange Shirt Day](#)
- 4 to 4:30pm at Frederic Wood Theatre, UBC Campus | [Where Have All the Buffalo Gone?](#)

Callout for BCFED Convention Delegates & Resolutions

By Khaled Shawwash

The deadline to apply to be a delegate for the biennial BCFED Convention is rapidly approaching! Please follow the instructions below if you are interested. The event will be taking place at the Vancouver Convention Centre from November 23-27. Here is a description of it from their website:

Our annual convention brings together union delegates from across British Columbia to meet, elect our leadership and set the BCFED's priorities for the next two years. You'll connect with friends, hear exciting speakers, learn about the issues that matter most to workers, debate and decide on policy, and more.

If you would like to become a delegate, please fill out and submit the CV below no later than **Monday, October 5th**.

- BCFED Delegate CV (due Monday, Oct 5th): [link](#)

2026-27



veaes.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

Marjorie Dumont
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Françoise Raunet
Vice President
francoise@veaes.ca

Xander Graham
Vice President
xander@veaes.ca

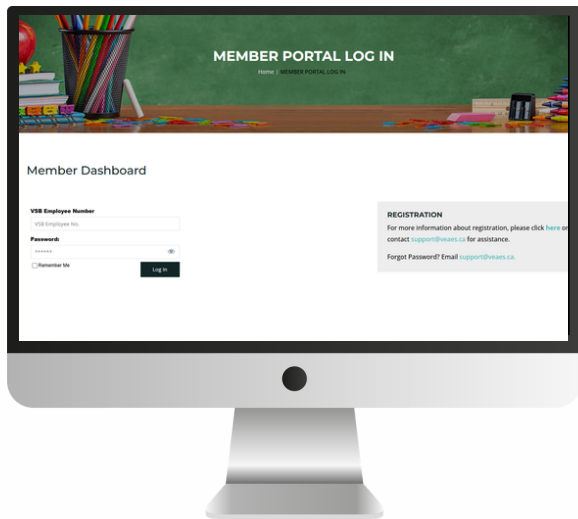
Khaled Shawwash
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Bernadette Milton
Vice President
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Rob McGowan
Adult Ed President
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- **Pro-D Flexible - September 18**
- **EC Planning Session from September 19-21 at the Hyatt**
- **GM/SRA on September 22 at 4:00 pm at Tupper Secondary**

VEAES MEMBER PORTAL



To access the portal, go to the [VEAES website](https://veaes.ca). 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/           