



veaes weekly

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2** **We Stand Together: In Solidarity with Tkemlúps te Secwépemc**
- 3** **Municipal Elections**
- 4** **Joint District Pro-D Committee Meetings
VEAES Mentorship Fund**
- 5** **K-3 Literacy Screeners
Superintendent's FSA Letter to Gr 4 & 7 Parents**
- 6** **'No AI in Vancouver' March
Social Media Usage**
- 7** **Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools Toolkit
Porting Seniority
First 2026-27 Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting**
- 8** **Photos from the First General Meeting of the School Year**
- 9** **PSA Day
IUOE Strike Vote**

TOPICS WORTH TALKING ABOUT

PLEASE READ AND DISCUSS
WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES

We Stand Together: In Solidarity with Tkemlúps te Secwépemc

By Marjorie Dumont, C'tan and Bernadette Milton

On behalf of the Vancouver teachers and educators, we stand with Tkemlups te Secwepemc, survivors, families and communities in condemning the recent demonstration by Second Sons Canada near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.

Truth and Reconciliation Day is to honor and give respect to the children who never returned home from Residential School and to honor the survivors who did. It is a time to reflect on the lasting impacts of Residential School system, to recognize the strength and resilience of Survivors, and to support the ongoing journey to healing, truth, and reconciliation for Indigenous people, families, and communities.

As teachers, we have a responsibility to ensure that students learn the truth about residential schools and the experiences of Survivors, their families and communities. Denying these histories causes harm and undermines the work of truth, education, and reconciliation. Many families are working to heal from this legacy while supporting their children, so they find a sense of belonging, safety, and connection in their communities.

We stand with Survivors whose voices and experiences must be heard and respected. We reject efforts to erase or deny the history of residential schools. Recognizing this intergenerational effect is an important part of the truth, healing, and reconciliation, and creating learning environments where all children can thrive.

As educators, we will continue to teach the truth, support Survivors and their families, and stand together against racism and residential school denialism. Denialism dismisses and distorts the experiences that Survivors endured while attending Residential Schools. It undermines their truth, calls their experiences into question, and diminishes the profound harm caused by the Residential School system. Listening to and honoring Survivorss' stories it's an essential part of truth, healing, and reconciliation.

As we reflect on this history, we honor the children who never returned home, the survivors, their families, and their communities. We remain committed to learning through Truth and Reconciliation, and walking together in a spirit of respect, understanding, and hope. We stand with Tkemlups te Secwepemc. We stand with Survivors. We stand with the truth.



Municipal Elections

By Khaled Shawwash

The municipal election is rapidly approaching! Election day is Saturday, October 17th and advance voting begins this weekend on October 3rd, continuing on the 7th, 10th, and 13th. More detailed information can be found [here](#).

We strongly recommend our members to vote (which can be done in person or by mail) as electing more progressive city councillors, park board commissioners, and school board trustees will have a dramatic impact on the operations of our local services and schools. The trustees election is especially pertinent to us as they have significant influence over the policies, budgets, and overall direction of our school district, making this vote crucial. Plus, this is our chance to (finally) evict Ken Sim!

The **VDLC has endorsed a list of candidates** (also below) and we recommend referring to this when you vote. The BCTF has also sent a list of the VDLC endorsements via mail to VEAES members. Stay tuned for more updates.

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)

GIESBRECHT, 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)



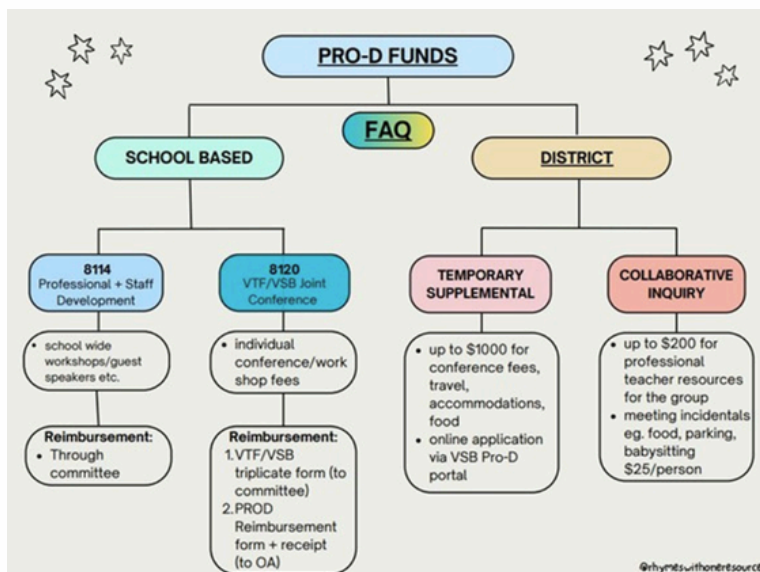
Joint District Pro-D Committee Meetings

By Xander Graham and Khaled Shawwash

Once a month, the Joint District Pro-D Committee meets to engage with Professional Development issues and applications from across the district. The committee also uses this meeting to review and approve submissions to the Temporary Supplemental and Collaborative Inquiry funds. VEAES (currently represented by Professional Issues Committee chair Sarah Adams and an IHTO, Khaled Shawwash), alongside VSTA, Administrators, and the VSB, has consistent representation on the committee, and VEAES uses this position to advocate for equitable, autonomous, and teacher-driven Professional Development. For your calendars, the following are the upcoming meeting dates for the Joint District Pro-D Committee meetings.

- October 5
- November 9
- December 7
- January 11
- February 8
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 7

Additionally, our VEAES Pro-D Committee meetings will start soon. Please stay tuned for updates on scheduling and how to join!



Sometimes a visual aid can be useful when trying to consider the different funds and avenues for members to access professional development funding. The following infographic was spectacularly created two years ago by a member, Thanh Ngo, to help visualize these different avenues of opportunity and access.

Please note that this year's VEAES IHTO liaison for Pro-D is Khaled Shawwash. If you have questions about the joint district or VEAES meetings, please contact khaled@veaes.ca.

VEAES Mentorship Fund

By IHTOs

Unfortunately, after five years, the remaining mentorship funds have dropped low enough that we are not able to offer the program for the 2026-27 school year. There is a small amount remaining, but not enough to provide mentorship to anywhere close to the number of teachers that we have for the last few years. We will need to decide how best to spend the remaining amount to benefit as many of our members as possible. Ideas welcome!

K-3 Literacy Screeners

By Françoise Raunet

As you have surely heard by now, the Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC) is continuing to push for mandatory early literacy screening in all school districts in BC. Last year it was only mandatory for Kindergarten students, but for the 2026-27 school year it will be mandatory for all students in grades K-3. According to [the MECC's backgrounder on the screening program](#), it "is not a diagnostic assessment or an evaluation of a student's academic achievements ... not meant to designate in an inclusive education funding category, nor ... meant to evaluate the performance of teachers or make decisions about funding."

Teachers obviously care about literacy, and literacy assessment has been an integral part of our jobs forever. However, for previous literacy assessments that I remember in wide use in our district, such as School Wide Write and others, classroom teachers were very involved in selecting the tool to use and working collaboratively to develop benchmark examples to standardize their assessment processes. There was release time for marking, and sometimes even for classroom teachers to assess individual students.

The DIBELS and/or Acadience tools that teachers are being asked to use are, from what we are hearing, not what many teachers would have selected themselves if given that choice. There is no guaranteed release time to do the assessments, and teachers aren't given time to review and use the data to support their instruction. The Ministry has mandated something without providing much guidance and support to Districts and teachers who have to implement it.

Most importantly, teachers understand that assessment alone will not improve outcomes. It's all well and good to identify students who need extra support – teachers already do that all the time, every day. But what will happen once those students are identified? What actions will be taken to make sure that the extra supports those students need are available to them at every school in the city? The Board has told us that if teachers need support to improve their literacy outcomes, they should talk to their administrators, their school resource teachers, and/or reach out to the Learning and instruction team at Gladstone.

Superintendent's FSA Letter to Gr 4 & 7 Parents

By Françoise Raunet

VEAES is aware of the letter sent by Helen McGregor, "CEO" and Superintendent of the Vancouver School Board, to Gr 4 & 7 parents in which she referred to classroom teachers and the FSA materials they shared as "sources other than the Ministry of Education and Child Care or VSB." When communicating to parents, casting suspicion on their children's classroom teachers is not a great way to inspire trust in public education, to say the least. Her message went on to say (contrary to the protocol agreement that has been signed between BCPSEA and the BCTF for years) that parents cannot exclude their children from the FSA tests by submitting a form. If only McGregor cared as much about support for students and learning conditions in our schools as she does about standardized testing, we might actually start to see improvements to our working conditions. As it stands, however, her message was not only insulting to teachers—who work hard to design and assess meaningful learning opportunities tied to the specific needs of the individual students in their classes—but also confusing to parents, and it added a lot of unnecessary stress to what is already an unwelcome addition to the school calendar. VEAES continues to push back, and we are exploring all possible avenues to address this.

'No AI in Vancouver' March

By Xander Graham

Recently, VEAES voted at a General Meeting to endorse the School Board Trustee Slates for both COPE and OneCity in October 17th's upcoming municipal elections. One of the themes that COPE has been especially strong on is the detrimental effect of AI data centres and the use of AI in general. This weekend, on October 3rd, members can add their voice to the chorus calling for better regulations and safer standards to protect our cities, our environment, and our workers.

No AI Vancouver is hosting the Vancouver edition of the International Day of Protest against AI and AI Data Centres. Activists and municipal election candidates will be speaking on AI and AI Data Centre regulation, starting 12pm at Jonathan Rogers Park, before the protest evolves into a march to the Vancouver Art Gallery. For those with a creative inclination, an art jam is planned to start at 10am, with a couple of hours to create posters for the march.

For any questions about accessibility concerns related to the protest or march, feel free to email no.ai.vancouver@protonmail.com, and either click [here](#) or follow the QR code below for more information!



Social Media Usage

By IHTOs

Every year, teachers are expected to do more with less. Literacy screeners, FSAs, learning to use SpacesEDU, surpluses, the lack of in-class support, and so much more, continue to compound what is already a very stressful job. Here at VEAES, we are aware of these hardships and are committed to advocating on your behalf.

It can be tempting to voice your frustrations on social media or public forums. Please be mindful of how critiques and discussions of your working conditions are communicated on public platforms and make sure to strictly avoid criticizing the VSB; doing so could be a violation of every employee's "duty to fidelity", the legal obligation to act in good faith towards the employer. You can, however, criticize the government and discuss province-wide issues. Additionally, please be mindful of social media posts in general, whether or not your account is private, as we "are role models. Educators are held to a higher standard and are accountable for their conduct on duty and off duty." ([Professional Standards for BC Educators](#)). Please refer to [AP 403](#) for more information and guidelines regarding social media usage.

If you would like to communicate challenges you are experiencing in your role, we encourage you to reach out to us or to attend a GM/SRA where the concerns can be heard, discussed, and addressed.

Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools Toolkit

By Khaled Shawwash

Late last school year, the Canadian Anti-Hate Network (CAHN) [released a toolkit](#) for members of school communities outlining and describing contemporary sources of hate groups and ideologies, as well as strategies for adults and teachers to combat them.

Far-right networks continue to spread dangerous and bigoted information—related to everything from white supremacy to anti-2SLGBTQ+ beliefs to the manosphere—and students are at a great risk of absorbing or being victimized by this through social media usage. Hate spreads rapidly, and this resource aims to help equip educators with the foundation to identify, address, and stand against it. Here is an excerpt from the toolkit:

“Canadians across the country report a rise in hate-promoting social movements. Because schools are hubs of our communities, they have become battlegrounds for hate-motivated organizing. There is evidence that hate-promoting groups specifically target young people with their messaging. Networks which target young people for recruitment operate on a wide variety of platforms, including mainstream video game and social media platforms... The goal of this toolkit is to supplement a comprehensive anti-racism education program. It will give you the tools to identify when a young person is consuming hate propaganda and is becoming radicalized, and to intervene as early as possible before the situation escalates.”

The goal of this toolkit is to supplement a comprehensive anti-racism education program. It will give you the tools to identify when a young person is consuming hate propaganda and is becoming radicalized, and to intervene as early as possible before the situation escalates.

Porting Seniority

By Khaled Shawwash

This is a friendly heads up that if you came from another district and have recently accepted a continuing contract, you are able to port your seniority and sick leave from that district. You should have received forms from the VSB to complete that process. As per our collective agreement, you have 120 days, from the date that you receive your continuing contract, to complete and forward those forms to them. You can port up to 20 years of seniority and up to 60 sick days. Please email employeeservices@vsb.bc.ca to ensure your forms have been processed

First 2026-27 Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting

By Xander Graham

The Social Justice & Solidarity committee would like to remind members and interested parties that the first committee meeting of this school year will take place after school on **Tuesday, October 27**, at the VEAES office. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Photos from the First General Meeting of the School Year



PSA Day

By Khaled Shawwash

PSA Day is rapidly approaching, and spots continue to fill 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.

IUOE Strike Vote

By IHTOs

We stand in solidarity with our sibling union, IUOE (International Union of Operating Engineers) Local 963, who will be holding a strike vote on October 3rd! VEAES supports their members in their determination to achieve meaningful improvements to their collective agreement. This is a significant moment in the labour movement as this could be the first time in their history that they go out on strike.

A successful vote does not necessarily mean IUOE will strike, however; should job action take place, VEAES members are expected to respect IUOE's picket lines. The following is the language set out in the BCTF Members' Guide:

- 44.02—1. That BCTF members will honour picket lines established by employees during a strike, lockout or political protest and will respect any union's job actions.*
- 2. With respect to third party job action that involves members of a union employed by a school board, an employer providing services to a school board or an employer at the member's work site, members shall not*
- a. cross a picket line;*
 - b. work behind a picket line; or*
 - c. perform work that, but for the job action, would be performed by an employee engaged in the job action, unless required by the Labour Relations Code to do so. (84 AGM, p. 42) (02 AGM, p. 30)*

VEAES will keep you posted on important updates regarding IUOE's vote and potential job action.

We wish our colleagues in IUOE nothing but success in their bargaining.

2026-27



veaes.ca

IMPORTANT DATES

Marjorie Dumont
President

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Françoise Raunet
Vice President

francoise@veaes.ca

Xander Graham
Vice President

xander@veaes.ca

Khaled Shawwash
Vice President

khaled@veaes.ca

Bernadette Milton
Vice President

bernadette@veaes.ca

Rob McGowan
Adult Ed President

rob@veaes.ca

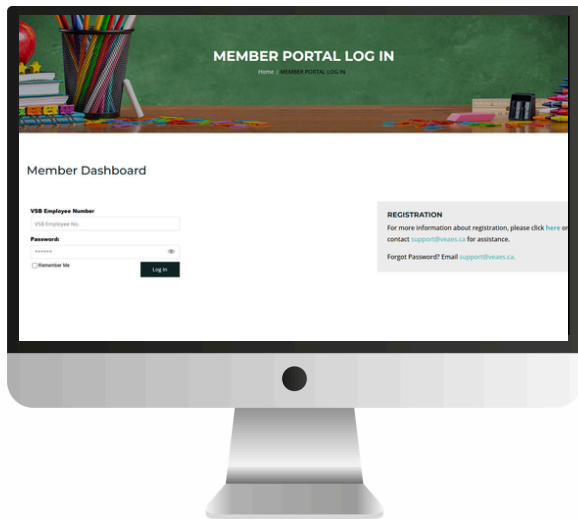
October 6

EC Meeting at 4:00 pm at the
VEAES office

October 7 & 8

SURT at the Holiday Inn Centre
(Broadway)

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/           