

Exceeding Class Size Maxima

Our restored collective agreement language allows for two circumstances in which class size may be exceeded *at the request of the teacher*, for educationally sound reasons.

***22.80 EXCEEDING CLASS SIZE MAXIMA**

Classes may exceed these limits in the following circumstances:

**22.81 For educational purposes, in Band, Choir, P.E. or other specialized classes where the teacher has so requested, or*

**22.82 Where the member(s) of a school staff, after consultation with the Association, who is(are) affected by a class size situation choose to exceed the guidelines for educationally sound reasons.*

However, making a request to exceed class size may affect the implementation of the restored language, which we fought to restore for the last 15 years. Therefore, teachers need to consider very carefully whether or not to make the request. First of all, teachers who request to exceed class size cannot reasonably expect to receive remedy. This should be of particular consideration to those teachers of specialized classes listed in 22.81 (band, choir, etc). Second, any request to exceed class size in these specialized classes should be a clear "request" from the teacher, not an "agreeing to." For example, many of our grade 7 band teachers have taken classes larger than 30 in the past, because of student interest in the program. Grade 7 band teachers may feel that they are under pressure to take larger class sizes because they do not want to exclude students. Our advice is that band teachers, with the assistance of their staff rep, let the principal know that they expect their band classes to adhere to class size, and if more students are interested in band, that the school add another block.

At this time, the district must first go through a process of making best efforts to fully implement the restored language. Choosing to exceed class size prior to the district making best efforts to comply with class size limits could affect remedy. Please use the attached class size and composition document as a resource and contact the STA ASAP for advice on your specific concern. While class organizations may not look 'perfect' this year, as this language has not been used in 15 years, it is vitally important that we work to protect it rather than work around it.



Classroom Space Issues

Some schools are adding additional divisions to accommodate increased enrollment, and we are starting to hear from non-enrolling teachers who are losing their classroom space. Please let us know if this is happening for you, particularly if there are other spaces available in the school, such as a multi-purpose room or a daycare.

BCTF applauds new funding for students, schools, and vulnerable children

The new government's update to Budget 2017 includes significant new investments that are going to make a very positive difference for students, schools, and vulnerable children across BC, said BCTF First Vice-President Teri Mooring.

You can read the rest of the BCTF's News Release on Today's Budget announcement by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.bctf.ca/NewsReleases.aspx>

The hard numbers from the budget are as follows:

- A \$681 million increase for our K-12 education system over 3 years (We will have to wait for more information from the Ministry of Education to see how that is broken out. Each annual increase will build on the next.)
- The funding announced includes \$177 million of new money for this fiscal year over and above what was announced in the spring. (The current fiscal year ends in March 2018.)
- The new 2017–18 provincial budget (different fiscal calendar than school districts) is \$385 million more than what was outlined by the February 2017 budget.
- There is a new \$50 million investment to help school districts meet immediate space needs.
- There will be \$19 million for the restoration of free Adult Basic Education and English Language Learning in both K-12 and postsecondary sectors.
- Former children in care now have access to tuition-free post-secondary education.

Repeat with **Correction**: STARA/Special General Meeting, September 20th

There will be a STARA meeting and a Special General Meeting at 4:00 on Wednesday, September 20 at EagleQuest Golf Club. We will be electing two new Members-at-Large for our Executive Committee: one to replace Marjorie Dumont in the position designated for an Aboriginal person, and one to replace June James, who was elected as our new Professional Development Officer in June. We encourage anyone interested in becoming part of our STA leadership team to run for a position, and bring colleagues to vote for them! Candidates will each be able to make a 1-minute speech. In addition, candidates should submit a Candidate's Statement to esther@surreyteachers.org by the end of the day **Friday, Sept. 15th**.



PRO-D REP TRAINING

Training for PD reps will take place this year between **September 19th and 29th**. PD reps, please see the attached flyer and register as soon as possible, and definitely **prior to September 19th**! All PD reps are required to attend a day of training, and the later dates tend to fill up quickly.

CUPE 1816 ratifies agreement with Pacific Blue Cross

As per the update on CUPE BC's website http://www.cupe.bc.ca/cupe_1816_ratifies_agreement_with_pacific_blue_cross

BURNABY—CUPE 1816 members have ratified a new collective agreement with Pacific Blue Cross that includes annual wage increases, preserves retiree benefits and establishes a health and welfare trust to be managed by joint union-management trustees... The contract came with a return to work agreement that will see PBC's 600 employees back on the job next Monday (September 18). The union's picket line outside PBC's Burnaby office will be down today.

"We understand that PBC plan holders have been seriously inconvenienced by this dispute. We wish to thank them for their patience over these past few months and assure them that we will do our very best to bring service levels back to normal as soon as possible. We also want to thank everyone who supported us during this labour dispute."



Walk for Reconciliation, Sunday, Sept. 24

At the Reconciliation Walk a couple of years ago during the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's process, an astonishing 90,000 people turned out in the pouring rain on a Sunday morning in downtown Vancouver. Since that time, people, organizations and communities have been taking steps, both large and small, to integrate their work and thoughts with the TRC's demands. It is an important moment in Canada's history that we all can be a part of. Let's walk again to celebrate the continuation of this work and process.

This is an opportunity for people of all backgrounds to make a personal contribution to the reconciliation movement.

How we build relationships today affects our next generations. Through walking in the spirit of reconciliation you honour intergenerational lives taken, honour survivors and those impacted by the Indian residential school system, and show your support for the youth in all communities. <http://reconciliationcanada.ca/walk-for-reconciliation-2017>



Repeat: Orange Shirt Day, September 30th

The STA is encouraging teachers and students across the district to wear an orange shirt to school on Friday, September 29th. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity for schools to come together in the remembrance of residential schools, and in a spirit of reconciliation. (<http://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>)

The BCTF has a new resource called Gladys We Never Knew that explores the history of residential schools through the life of a child.

<https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/AboriginalEd/GladysResource/eBook.pdf>

STA is ordering “Every Child Matters” orange t-shirts in a unisex style and in a variety of sizes. We will have enough to send 2 to every secondary school and 1 to every elementary school/learning centre/other educational site. Please see the attached picture of the t-shirt. Staff reps, we are asking you to help by organizing a draw at your school for teachers interested in these t-shirts. Please email (subject “Orange Shirt Day”) the office at events@surreyteachers.org with the name(s) and preferred size(s) (S-XXXL) of the recipient(s) by **4pm Monday, September 18th**. Office staff will send t-shirts to recipients through the courier and do their best to matched preferred sizes to requests, as long as those sizes are available.

Repeat: Have You Elected Your STA Staff Representatives?

The Collective Agreement requires that, at the beginning of each school year, STA members in each workplace will elect a staff representative(s), and that the staff representative(s) will advise the Principal/Vice Principal of their election. Each workplace must have a minimum of one staff representative. Additional staff reps can be elected on the basis of one per every 15 teacher staff members or major portion thereof. (E.g. if your school has 32 teachers on staff, elect two staff reps. If there are 53 teachers on staff, elect 4 staff reps.) Once you have been elected as staff rep(s), please fill out the attached school information form indicating **all of the various STA**

positions, and send it to the STA office. Please endeavor to complete these elections before the first STARA meeting on September 20th.

Please be advised that if no staff rep is elected at your workplace, the STA will be sending a letter to your administrator advising them that the STA table officers will be the staff reps at your school and will attend meetings with administration, as well as holding union meetings at the school.



STA/SD36 Mentorship Program

Our Mentorship program is now open for application for new and experienced teachers. All teachers who are new to the district or new to their role are welcome to apply. Of course we are also looking for experienced teachers to join our mentorship program. Please see the attached flyer for more information, or go to www.mentor36.com.

Information required

If you are a secondary school teacher who has been assigned to teach a split shift schedule, please contact Joanna Cerazy, Grievance Officer, at grv-spt@surreyteachers.org



BCTF PQT/Teacher Inquiry Project

Teacher inquiry has become a well established model of self-directed professional development throughout the province, and the BCTF is pleased to offer teachers the opportunity to be part of one of 18 joint local/district inquiry projects. Please submit project applications to the STA Office, attention June James, by **Wednesday, September 27th**. More information and project applications can be found at <https://bctf.ca/TeacherInquiry>.

PSA Super Conference

Registration is now open and includes two full days overflowing with professional learning opportunities created by 25 BC PSAs and over 30 remarkable keynote presentations. Register on-line at: <https://www.psuperconference.ca>

Teachers can apply for STA School Based or Consolidated funds to cover the registration fee.



Opportunity for Members

The BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) has an opening on its Environmental Justice Action Group. Responsibilities of CASJ members include making recommendations to the BCTF Executive Committee on social justice issues, creating resources for teachers and locals, assisting locals and zones in developing general social justice programs and projects, and developing links with other unions and community groups. More information and application forms are available on the BCTF Committee/Facilitator Postings page:

<http://bctf.ca/opportunities/BCTFCommittees.aspx>

The application deadline is **September 12, 2017**.

New teachers' conference: call for workshop submissions

The BCTF's New Teachers' conference, **March 2-3, 2018**, is now accepting submissions for workshops. If you have an idea for a workshop that would help new teachers, why not share your expertise? See attachment for details.

Joke of The Week



A new teacher, trying to make use of her psychology courses, started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up."

After a few seconds, little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Johnny?"

"No Ma'am," he said, "but I hate to see you standing up there all by yourself."

This week's joke was submitted by Eric So. If you would like to participate in joke of the week, please submit a short, clean, (but not necessarily education-related) joke to Gioia Breda at pres@surreyteachers.org. If your joke is drawn for publication, your name will then be entered into a draw for a gift card at the end of the month.

Calendar

Date	Event	Time	TTOCs	Venue
September 04	Labour Day			
September 12	Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 – 6:00	N/A	STA
September 14	Awards Committee Meeting	8:30 – 4:00		STA
September 18	SURT – Staff Rep Rookie Training	8:30 – 2:45	25	STA
September 19	SURT – Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA
September 20	SURT – Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA
September 20	STARA Meeting	4:00 – 6:00	N/A	Eaglequest
September 21	SURT – Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA
September 22-23	Executive Training	8:30 – 2:30		
September 25	Non-Instructional Day			
September 26	Executive Committee Meeting	4:00 – 6:00	N/A	STA
September 26	SURT - Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA
September 27	SURT - Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA
September 28	Awards Committee Meeting			
September 28	SURT – Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA
September 29	SURT – Pro-D Rep Training	8:30 – 2:30	25	STA