



# Monday Memo



## Upcoming Dates

### OCTOBER

30

Deadline for New Teachers' Conference Workshop Proposals

### NOVEMBER

1

Grade 7 Girls' Conference Planning Dinner

LST Secondary Teachers Meeting

2

Health + Safety SURT

3

Non-Instructional Day for Curriculum Implementation

3-4

BCTF Representative Assembly

6

Meeting with Secondary Counsellors (STA Office)

7

Executive Committee Meeting

7-8

Health + Safety SURT

10

Non-Instructional Day  
To Shine a Light On It 2017

13

Statutory Holiday (Remembrance Day)

14

Deadline for Variance Application to STA !

22

STA+SD36 joint New Teacher Social (information to come)

## LST Crisis

### Meeting with the District: No Good News



In good faith, the STA attempted to resolve the cuts to LST positions this year. These attempts included meetings and discussions between the STA, school district management, BCTF, and BCPSEA. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to come to an appropriate resolution for members or the services required for our most vulnerable students. We will be referring all the challenges we have faced with implementing our restored non-enrolling language to arbitration. We hope that this process will bring certainty to the non-enrolling disputes we are having with the employer so that we can move forward with clarity.

There is nothing stopping the provincial government and school district from adding additional positions at any time. The STA will continue to lobby and advocate for additional funding and LST positions as the arbitration process goes forward.

### November 1st - LST Secondary Teachers Meeting



We are facing a **serious shortage of LST teachers** in both Elementary and Secondary schools this year as a result of growth and what we believe to be incorrect implementation of the contract. We want to meet with Secondary LST teachers to discuss how it is going in your schools and to be able to strategize together to bring our concerns forward.

**All LST Secondary teachers are invited to this meeting, we hope all schools are represented!**

**Time: 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Place: Frank Hurt Library (13940 77th Avenue)**

**Coffee and sandwiches will be served**

## Right and Responsibility to Advocate

Last week, the STA and the District Parental Advisory Council met. Gioia and Matt were able to speak at length with DPAC, and one of the topics of discussion was low/high incidence LST students who are not receiving the specialized support that they deserve. DPAC invited the STA to encourage those parents to contact DPAC directly so that DPAC could support those parents by sharing some ideas on how to advocate for their children.

Due to the devastating cuts to 66 LST positions this year, many LST teams across the District are performing triage. Students who received specialized support, or LST blocks last year, are not being serviced this year. This is unfortunate, unacceptable, and avoidable! The STA continues to advocate for the restoration of LST positions, and for the FULL implementation of our returned collective agreement language.

As teachers, it is our right and our responsibility to advocate for our students. This means that during Parent/Teacher interviews, you are encouraged to share with parents if their child is not currently receiving the supports and services they should have access to. We encourage teachers to direct parents of affected children to the school administrator, the school district, and their MLA as places to direct their advocacy, and to DPAC should they need support in how to go about advocating.

Contact information for Surrey DPAC: [www.surreydpac.ca](http://www.surreydpac.ca)



## Delegation to Victoria

This week, the STA sent a delegation of 5 teachers to Victoria to speak with MLAs. The Special Education Advocacy team was able to share their concerns about Special Education and the cuts to 66 LST positions Surrey. More details to come in the next issue of the Advocate!

## November 6th – Meeting with Secondary Counsellors

We have scheduled a meeting November 6th with Secondary Counsellors to learn about their experience of implementing the restored language, and to hear about other concerns about their roles and jobs. (We are in the process of arranging a meeting with Elementary Counsellors as well.)

**Time: 3:30-5:30**

**Place: STA office (201-9030 King George Blvd)**

**Snacks will be served**

## Curriculum

### Curriculum Implementation Delayed



The new BC government, having listened to teachers and other stakeholders, is adding another year to the transition period for the revised graduation years curriculum. In a [NEWS RELEASE](#) sent out on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, Education Minister Rob Fleming said the additional year of transition is in response to feedback from educators in the K-12 sector, along with post-secondary partners, who need to ensure alignment of the new curriculum with their admission processes and requirements. BCTF President Glen Hansman [WELCOMED THE EXTENSION](#), saying more time is needed to ensure the curriculum, graduation requirements, and post-secondary entrance requirements all line up. We continue to advocate for additional non-instructional days for ongoing work on the revised curriculum.

### November 3rd Curriculum Implementation Non-Instructional Day

Friday, November 3rd is a Curriculum Implementation Non-Instructional Day. Teachers are expected to be working at a Surrey School District site on any curriculum implementation activities that are most relevant and meaningful for them. PD reps are not expected to plan curriculum implementation activities, and if something is planned at your school, you are not required to participate in that activity if you have another curriculum implementation activity planned. This is a good opportunity to get together with colleagues at your school or neighbouring schools for planning and resource sharing. If you are a member of the Surrey Teachers' Facebook page, we encourage you to find others to work with that day by posting your interest.

Please note: PD funds cannot be used for any costs related to the Curriculum Implementation Day

### BCTF Educational Change Bulletin: "Communicating Student Learning"

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for detailed advice from the BCTF on reporting and assessment. It includes many issues to think about as you consider which method of reporting to use this year and what kinds of information to include in the report.

There is also a lot of information on the [DISTRICT'S COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING PAGE](#).

## October 28th - Rally to Push for New Schools in Surrey



Many community members rallied Saturday at EMS at the Community Rally for New Schools in Surrey. This event was sponsored by Surrey DPAC.

Surrey needs dozens of new schools and that can't happen if school districts are forced to pay for up to 50% of a new build. That forces money out of a district's operating budget for the year! That means less funding for District programs and services to students.

Portables are meant to be temporary spaces. The Surrey School District has 300+ portables and 7000 students in those portables. This means less access for those students to gyms & libraries, clubs & teams! It means teachers trying to adapt subjects like art and science in portable classrooms that have no sinks. It means overcrowded and unsafe hallways and not nearly enough washrooms for staff and students!

Teachers do their best to make portable classrooms inviting spaces. But imagine what the District could do if it wasn't saving money to help build more schools... perhaps the District wouldn't have cut 66 Learning Support Teachers this year!

It's encouraging to see parents use their voices to keep this issue of overcrowding in Surrey Schools current as well as the need for a change to how capital projects are currently funded!

## Teacher Shortage



A new **TASK FORCE** to develop strategies to deal with BC's teacher shortage has been established by the Ministry of Education. The task force, which includes BCTF President Glen Hansman, will work to develop a concrete plan to address the shortage of TTOCs, specialist teachers, and classroom teachers across the province. As the task force gets to work, the BCTF will continue to advocate for immediate solutions that can be quickly implemented to address the TTOC shortage and unfilled contract positions.

## Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

On October 25, 2017, the Minister of Education **RELEASED A STATEMENT** that was signed by representatives from all of BC's major education partner groups affirming their joint commitment to inclusive and safe schools. The statement said, "we believe that all schools in our province, public and independent, must be spaces that are safe, acceptable, respectful, and welcoming for all students, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion or background." It concluded with, "our goal as teachers, administrators, support staff, trustees and parents is to create learning environments where all students can thrive and live authentic lives."

As part of her Social Justice class at Fraser Heights Secondary, teacher Ami Kambo, invited her students to respond to the recent media attention given to the negative reactions to SOGI 123 Curriculum. The students submitted thoughtful, well-written letters to the Editor, expressing their appreciation for the lessons which, "helps students become more empathetic and have an open mind towards others." [READ THEIR LETTERS IN FULL HERE](#)

Great **ARTICLE** in Globe and Mail

**LANGLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLISHED A WEBSITE** for parents which debunks myths, and answers questions about SOGI Curriculum in response to misinformation being spread by Culture Guard.

Once again, we are pleased with our district's decision to not permit Culture Guard to hold a meeting or rally in our school facilities.

## How To Deal With "School Concerns"



An elementary school in Surrey has been holding regular STA meetings, where they come together to discuss issues they're facing, and brainstorm what their main concerns are. They are then able to categorize those concerns into, 1) What goes to Staff Committee, 2) What they can take to the Principal, and 3) What they need Union support with.

They invited an STA table officer to one of their meetings, where they shared their concerns. They felt quite empowered by the process!

It's a great idea, and one the STA would encourage more schools to try. If teachers are meeting regularly to share their issues and discuss their concerns, school concerns could become bargaining objectives in the upcoming negotiations. Not every objective can be met, but it's helpful for staffs to start having those conversations, and thinking about it now. It doesn't need to be a formal process to start reflecting on what could be improved moving forward.

## Social Justice

### Peace and Global Education: Veteran's Week

On Remembrance Day, as teachers honour and remember the sacrifices made by Canadian veterans, our discussions often touch on the impacts war has taken on veterans, their families, and civilian victims of conflict. These conversations may lead to deeper reflections on how war and conflict can become things of the past.

November is the perfect month to expand upon these conversations by making peace and global education a classroom focus.

At the elementary level, teachers can support students in developing strategies that promote peaceful relationships in classrooms and schools. Older students can begin to think about their role as global citizens, by investigating how Canada contributes both to peace and to conflict, and by learning about ways to take a stand for peace. This edition of Seeds of Social justice features resources to bring peace and global education into the classroom. For more resources, visit the [BCTF PEACE AND GLOBAL EDUCATION WEB PAGES](#).

Veterans' Week begins on November 5 and ends on Remembrance Day on November 11, with National Aboriginal Veterans Day, falling on November 8. The [BCTF PEACE AND GLOBAL EDUCATION WEB PAGES](#) provide suggestions for strategies to incorporate peace into the Remembrance Day activities in your classroom.



Teachers, would you like a selection of social justice theme DVDs to show to your class? Did you know we have a mini lending library available to all Surrey teachers through the courier?

Go to [HTTP://JUSTICETOGO.WIKISPACES.COM/FILM+LIST](http://JUSTICETOGO.WIKISPACES.COM/FILM+LIST) to view the options. Then just email Julia MacRae at the STA and she will pop the film(s) in the courier to you. After a few weeks you can return them to her the same way.

## Health + Wellness

### SURT Health and Safety Training

For the first time in years, the STA is excited to offer SURT (School Union Rep Training) for Health & Safety Reps. All STA members elected to site-based Joint Occupational Health and Safety committees and all Worker Representatives at smaller sites (sites with between 9 and 20 workers) are invited to attend.

This training is offered in addition to, or instead of, school district health and safety training sessions. The workshops will be presented by a BCTF Health & Safety Facilitator over 4 dates in November at the STA offices. The topics are Violence in the Workplace and Incident Reporting. [REGISTER ASAP FOR YOUR PREFERRED DATE!](#)

## Professional Development

### 5-Minute SOGI Pro-D

As [NEWS BROKE THIS WEEK](#) of a Chilliwack trustee posting an anti-LGBTQ Facebook rant, renewed attention was put on the [SOGI 123](#) to help teachers create safer and more inclusive learning environments. Watch this [SHORT VIDEO](#) to find out what SOGI 123 is and why it is so important. There is also a series of five-minute professional development day videos that can help you learn about the program and strategies to support LGBTQ students in your school.

### BCTF Bullying and Violence Experience Survey NOW OPEN!

The BCTF, in collaboration with Simon Fraser University, invites members to [COMPLETE AN ONLINE SURVEY](#) on your experiences of workplace violence and bullying during your career as an educator. Participation is entirely voluntary and all information members provide will remain confidential. The findings will assist BCTF officers, staff, and committees to raise awareness and formulate informed policies advocating for safe and respectful teaching environments in BC public schools. A preliminary report will be released at the BCTF's Violence Summit in January 2018 and made available to members in the spring of 2018.

### November 10th Pro-D Opportunity: "To Shine A Light On It" Conference

Are you interested in learning more about how to infuse Aboriginal worldviews & perspectives into your curriculum?

Join the STA's Aboriginal Education Committee on Friday, November 10th at Queen Elizabeth Secondary for the "To Shine a Light on it" conference. There are over 17 workshops on offer, covering a wide variety of topics. For more information, and to register for this FREE valuable Pro-D opportunity, [CLICK HERE](#). Lunch will be provided!

## Twitter Highlights

@creativewilson

Education is not abuse. Gender identity & sexual orientation is not a choice. Inclusion and SOGI education is necessary for all. #SOGI123

@JKwasnicki

Such an important conversation @CBCOnTheCoast "Why #SOGI123 should be part of #bced" & proud that it all started in #sd37

@BC\_STA

#ICYMI Read BCSTA's message of support for #SOGI initiatives and policies from September. #SOGI123 #bced <http://www.bcsta.org/TheLeader/index.php/2017/09/29/message-of-support-for-sogi-policies-and-initiatives>

@MariahFranzmann

Looking to connect with other teachers passionate about #sogi in primary. #sogi123

@the\_KG\_spot

Check out these learning modules from #SOGI123 with videos on curriculum resources, inclusive environments & more:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj68bDeZHi46EY5LspLU8DQ/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf\\_id=0](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj68bDeZHi46EY5LspLU8DQ/videos?view=0&sort=dd&shelf_id=0)

## Grievance Report: Help Us, Help You!

### Term Assignments

Last year, were you placed into a "term assignment" teaching position? That means that you had a job for the duration of the school year, but it was not a continuing position. Did the same thing happen this year? Was your placement into "term" position, one that won't continue beyond June 2018? If so, please reach out to Joanna Cerazy at [grv-spt@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grv-spt@surreyteachers.org)

## Opportunities for Members

### • G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award

This committee has two 3-year term vacancies and meets prior to the Annual General Meeting to examine nominations for the G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award to select the recipient. Details regarding the award are found under Section 15 on page 93 of the [MEMBERS' GUIDE](#) to the BCTF.

### • Pensions Committee

This committee has one 2-year and 6-month term vacancy. The committee provides advice to the Executive Committee on pension plans and promotes awareness of pensions and retirement-income planning among members. Committee members attend both the Pensions Committee meetings and the Teachers' Pension Plan Advisory Committee meetings.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about, and apply for these vacancies. The deadline is November 21, 2017.

### • Ed May Social Responsibility Fund

Do you have an idea for an activity in your school or classroom that promotes socially responsible teaching in an inclusive, safe, and healthy environment? The Ed May Social Responsibility Fund provides up to \$2,000 for teachers to implement projects focused on promoting social justice in areas such as violence prevention, anti-racism, anti-poverty, gender equity, global education, environmental justice, sexual orientation, gender identity, and peace.

For an [APPLICATION FORM](#) and examples of past Ed May projects, visit the [GRANTS AND FUNDS PAGE](#) on the BCTF Social Justice web pages. The submission deadline is November 22, 2017.

## Joke of the Week

Q: What do you get when you cross a TEACHER with a VAMPIRE?  
A: Lots of blood tests!

Thanks to Rick K. for this week's joke!



If you have a short, clean, (but not necessarily education-related) joke, please send forward it to [hello@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hello@surreyteachers.org). When your joke is drawn for publication, you will be entered into the monthly prize draw.

## Quick 2 Minute Survey

We value your feedback! Please [CLICK HERE](#)

## Contact Us!

The STA is YOUR union. We're here to help and to support YOU!

We want to hear from you. Not sure who to contact? Send your message to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) and it will get directed to the appropriate person.