

Monday Memo | January 15, 2018

Monday Memo

Upcoming Dates

JANUARY

- 15-17** Staff Rep Training
 - 16** Support Rally in Chilliwack
 - 17** Grievance Committee Meeting (4:00 pm at the STA office)
 - 18** Health and Safety Committee Meeting (4:00 pm at the STA office)
Strike History Panel
 - 20** March On, Vancouver!
 - 23** SPTA Pro-D
 - 24** STA Special General meeting
 - 25** Reel Causes Screening
- ### FEBRUARY
- 12** Family Day (Closed)
 - 15** Working Together for a Bright Future
 - 16** SD36/STA Focus Day



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

January 24, 2018 • 4pm-6pm

Bombay Banquet Hall
7475 135 Street (Lots of parking behind!)

All members are invited

Please join your colleagues at the Bombay Banquet Hall on January 24, 2018. The Special General Meeting will begin at 4:00 PM and **feature special guest, BCTF President Glen Hansman** with updates on the latest provincial developments. The purpose of this meeting is to elect delegates for the BCTF's Annual General Meeting (happening in March). Candidate statements have been compiled and distributed in hard-copy to every school site. They can also be read online. If you did not submit a candidate statement, but are interested in being considered as a delegate, it is possible to nominate yourself from the floor of the meeting. Surrey is able to elect approximately **50 delegates** (plus alternates). Attending the BCTF AGM is a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to not only learn more about our Union, but to connect with colleagues across the Province and discuss the state of public education. The STA provides a release day for new delegates, as well as preparation sessions for all delegates prior to the AGM in March.

Child Care for Special General Meeting

The STA's nanny service offers childcare for children aged 3 months to 6 years. They require the names and ages of children needing care in advance of the meeting. Please email **ESTHER** by January 17. You can also obtain childcare through your own provider, and submit receipts to the STA for reimbursement.

Time for Change in SD33: Rally In Support of DPAC and SOGI 123

The BCTF and the STA are encouraging teachers in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley to attend this rally on January 16, 2018 in support of LGBTQ youth in Chilliwack. The BCTF said, "Let's support our colleagues and a lot of amazing parents who are taking a stand against hate and intolerance!"

From the event details: "Given trustee Barry Neufeld's continuing attacks on the LGBTQ+ community and the fact that he recently organized an email campaign against our DPAC president for daring to challenge him, it is important to rally once again to show that Chilliwack does not agree with Mr. Neufeld's backward ideas. SOGI 123 is a program developed to bring BC schools in line with the Human Rights Code, and we believe it is disgraceful for any school trustee to oppose it. All other trustees in Chilliwack must stand up for what is right and demand Mr. Neufeld's resignation."

The rally is scheduled to start at 6:00 PM, outside of the Chilliwack school board office located at 8430 Cessna Drive.

Please access their **FACEBOOK EVENT** for more details and to participate in the discussion.

Panel Discussion: Strike History

As part of the Museum of Vancouver's City on Edge exhibit, documenting a photo history of protests, BCFED is pleased to host a panel discussion on the union history in the exhibit.

The panel is called "When Labour Walks the Line: Workers' Side Story" and brings to life the stories behind the images of striking workers in the exhibit. We will delve into discussion about significant job action events across Vancouver's labour history including: the 2001 Transit Strike, the 2004 HEU Strike, the 2007 Municipal Workers' Strike (aka Sam's Strike) and the 2014 BCTF Teachers' Strike.

Irene Lanzinger will be moderating the panel, and the panelists include Donisa Bernardo (HEU), Joe Elworthy (Unifor 2200), Aliza Navarie (CUPE 391) and Glen Hansman (BCTF).

This promises to be a lively educational evening about the issues behind the strikes, and how workers stuck together to fight back and win.

When: Thursday, January 18, 2018

Where: Museum of Vancouver, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The event has limited tickets with early bird pricing until January 17. For more information on this event, visit the [MUSEUM OF VANCOUVER WEBSITE](#).

Surrey Featured in the Latest Edition of the BCTF's Teacher Magazine



Have you seen the latest edition of the BCTF newsmag Teacher? There's an article about us! In the last edition, the Province's smallest local was featured. This edition features the largest local: Surrey! The newsmag can be accessed [ONLINE HERE](#).

Best Efforts Conversations

The STA has concluded the "Best Efforts" conversation with the District, and is not anticipating any more LOAs from Staff Reps for "Best Efforts" conversations. However, if there are Staff Reps who still feel that they need to take those leaves to have those conversations, please contact Gioia Breda **PRIOR** to taking the leave.

AGM



Each year over 750 delegates from around the province attend the BCTF AGM, held during Spring Break. It is a great opportunity to see how the BCTF operates, to hear new perspectives on important issues, meet colleagues from other parts of the province, and to have a voice in the decisions made by the union. Hotel accommodations and expenses are covered by the BCTF. Childcare arrangements are also available.

Surrey is able to send up to 60 delegates. Under the STA's Policies and Procedures, the 10 members of the Resolutions Committee automatically become delegates, therefore we need to elect **50 delegates** plus alternates.

Delegates will be elected at the **Special General Meeting on January 24** at the **Bombay Banquet Hall**.

Elected delegates and alternates are expected to attend all training sessions leading up to the AGM. **Please note updates on times from the original notice sent in a previous Monday Memo.**

February 15 – Rookie AGM Delegates training (8:30 am to 2:45 pm at the STA office includes breakfast and lunch).

February 22 – AGM Delegates training (**4:00 pm to 7:00 pm location TBA** includes dinner).

March 1 – AGM Delegates training (8:30 am to 2:45 pm location TBA includes breakfast and lunch).

March 8 – AGM Delegates training (**4:00 pm to 7:00 pm location TBA** includes dinner).

Update Contact Information



Have you moved recently? Does the BCTF have your current, up-to-date, contact information? Please double check that everything is correct to ensure you're receiving any important communications. Many PSA's and local Associations use the BCTF membership database to send out information to members. Don't miss out - **UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION** today!

Grievance

Help Us, Help You

Every week the Monday Memo provides teachers with an update of what's going on with the STA, but we don't always hear from you! When we don't hear anything, we assume that things at your school are running smoothly, that teachers are satisfied with how administrators are managing the sites, and that you don't need our support in any specific way. When members do call the office, it's often about situations that have been simmering for a long time, where perhaps we could have lent advice or support earlier on to help minimize the overall impact to members.

The STA has three Grievance Officers whose roles depend on information provided by teachers. While not every issue is grievable, with more details and information, they're better able to speak to a situation - especially if it involves multiple school sites! When we ask for information, it's not a bad thing. Being in the office, we don't have first-hand access to know about what's happening in the schools and we rely on you, the members, to keep us in the loop.

Calling us at the office is not a bother and it doesn't have to be a big deal. Answering your questions, brainstorming what you might say or do next, and helping you understand your rights are all part of our job as Table Officers. If something seems off, it probably is!

Please do not hesitate to check in with us, we love to hear from you. If you don't have time to call, or aren't sure who to ask, you can always [SEND A QUICK EMAIL](#). All inquiries will be kept confidential and passed on to an appropriate Table Officer.

Term Assignments

Have you been placed into a "term assignment" for 2 consecutive years? We want to hear from you!

Last year, did the district place you into a "term assignment" teaching position? Meaning that you had a job for the duration of the school year, but it would not be a continuing assignment beyond June 2017. Did the same thing happen this year? Was your placement into "term" position, one that won't continue beyond June 2018? The STA's grievance officers are collecting data and would like to hear from anyone affected. Please reach out to [JOANNA CERAZY](#).

Is Special Education Understaffed?

The Special Education class size and composition limits apply to the BASES programs and programs for students with Severe Behaviour Designations. So far, the District has applied a 10.5 student per 1 full time teacher average to assign staffing. However, in some cases, this might mean that programs have been understaffed. Please check your ratios to ensure that you have received appropriate staffing for your classes. Contact [JOANNA CERAZY](#) with questions or concerns.

The class size and composition language is as follows:

1 FTE per 12 students: students with MID designations and MID/MOD combination

1 FTE per 8 students: MOD designations

1 FTE per 7 students: Multicategory - MOD, MID, ASD, Severe Profound designations or a combination

1 FTE per 6 students: Multicategory - ASD, Severe Profound, Physically Dependent

Social Development Programs (Elementary Schools)

With the restoration of the Collective Language, class size limits for Social Development classes are back. The teacher - student ratio for these programs is one FTE per 8 students. It is our understanding that these numbers are being followed, but if you believe that your Social Development Program does not have appropriate staffing, please contact [JOANNA CERAZY](#).



Did you take a break during the break?

As teachers, we work hard to ensure that our students' lives are healthy and happy. We must remember to do the same for ourselves. Many of us experience stress on a daily basis, and with the ever-increasing demands on our time, it can be hard to take a step back to regroup. The importance of self-care cannot be emphasized enough. Studies show that even a few days can make a big difference, if you truly take the time off. [READ MORE HERE](#)

Did you spend more time marking and planning over the winter break than you wanted to? Make it a goal to enjoy a work-free long weekend during February's Family Day!

Professional Development

BCAMT New Teachers' Conference

If you are new to the profession, new to teaching numeracy or teaching a new grade, this is the conference for you! The BCAMT is hosting a day-long conference on January 27, 2018 at Queen Elizabeth Secondary. [VISIT THEIR WEBSITE](#) for more information and to register.

UBC MOOC: Reconciliation through Indigenous Education

This is a free 6 week course supporting professional and personal learning for advancing Indigenous perspectives and reconciliation in community, education, and work contexts. It runs asynchronously, which means you view materials and engage in the course at your own pace. There are many exemplars from Canada, Australia, the US, and New Zealand.

The MOOC begins January 30, 2018 and registration is now [OPEN ONLINE](#).

Surrey Primary Teachers' Association Pro-D

The SPTA is hosting a brief after-school workshop on Tuesday, January 23 from 3:45 PM-5:00 PM at Hazelgrove Elementary. It will be a repeat of the Nov. 20 workshop as there were many people waitlisted.

Come and learn some short/quick warm ups (5-10 min) that are deep in math, and will promote rich discussion and metacognition among students. Stephanie Turner will be presenting high tech and low tech ideas to get students pumped-up, alert and ready to succeed in Math.

STA Convention 2018

The [STA CONVENTION COMMITTEE](#) is looking for educators interested in sharing their passions, learning environments, teaching practices and/or challenges with their peers on May 4. Please consider facilitating a session or encourage someone else to present a workshop! This year, the Convention will be spread over 4 locations. Sessions will be grouped based on Primary, Intermediate, Secondary and Aboriginal focus. Volunteers will be needed on the day of to help out at each of the 4 sites. If you want to get involved, please contact [JUNE JAMES](#).

BCTF Featured Workshop

Did you know that the BCTF offers a wide variety of workshops that are free to book? This is a great option for Pro-D days, or for small groups (15-30 people). All PSI workshops must be booked through the BCTF Professional and Social Issues Division (PSID) and **must be made at least three weeks** prior to the date of training. To book a workshop, contact the BCTF Professional and Social Issues Department (PSID), Ashley Gurat at 604-871-1857 or 1-800-663-9163, local 1857.

Creating Positive School Culture (3 hours)



This workshop explores the ways local and school teams can lead on professional issues and professional learning communities, and how teachers can develop ideas and practices around professional cultures. The workshop seeks ways to enhance and support the autonomous professional practices of teachers.

SD36/STA
FOCUS DAY
February 16, 2018
with
Ivan Coyote

Mark your calendars! Registration opens on January 22!

See the [WEBSITE](#) for more information and to complete your registration.

This will be a day that you won't want to miss! The STA is thrilled to announce that Ivan Coyote will deliver "The Heart of the Learner" keynote presentation. The Globe and Mail newspaper called Coyote "a natural-born storyteller" and the Ottawa Xpress once said that "Coyote is to Canadian literature what kd lang is to country music: a beautifully odd fixture."

Ivan often grapples with the complex and intensely personal issues of gender identity in their work, as well as topics such as family, class, social justice and queer liberation, but always with a generous heart, a quick wit, and the nuanced and finely-honed timing of a gifted raconteur. Ivan's stories remind of us of our own fallible and imperfect humanity while at the same time inspiring us to change the world.

Social Justice + Activism

March On, Vancouver! The Next Step March

When: Saturday January 20th from 10am-1pm.

Where: Jack Poole Plaza (1085 Canada Place, Vancouver BC)

Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/935631489925413>

Surrey teachers are encouraged to participate in this intersectional feminist event. We are excited to learn that activist and Surrey Teacher, Annie Ohana has been asked to speak at the event. Come join Annie and other members of the STA Executive to show our solidarity in working towards a more equal world for those who identify as girls and women.

About the event from the organizers of March On Vancouver:

We acknowledge that this event will be taking place on the unceded Coast Salish Territories xʷməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh).

March On Vancouver is proud to host this event. We gathered on Jan. 21, 2017 in a historic march in solidarity with a world-wide movement of grassroots resistance. Now, we march on. While we have worked to combat the rise of white nationalism, misogyny and xenophobia, there is still much to be done.

We come together to reject the hate that tries to damage our communities - Muslims, Jews, racialized people, Indigenous people, migrants and those with precarious or no legal status, members of the LGBTQ2SI communities, disabled people and women.

Our event will be one of positivity, inclusivity, and diversity, uplifting all in our community. We hope to bring you voices of those you never heard from before, the voices that need our strength and support.

Allies are welcome. The event will be disabled-friendly and will include ASL interpreters.

Grade 7 Girls' Conference

The STA Status of Women Committee is once again planning our annual **GRADE 7 GIRLS' CONFERENCE**. I would like to ask if you are able to work with us to give the girls a fun and inspiring day.

The conference will be taking place on Monday, May 28, 2018 at Princess Margaret Secondary, located at 12870 – 72 Ave, Surrey. The theme is "Creating a Positive Future". I am very excited to announce that our keynote speaker for this year will be Tara Teng, Miss World Canada 2012. The day will begin at 8:30 AM and end by 2:30 PM. Presenters will present for 3 sessions, about 1 hour and 15 minutes each.

Please **SUBMIT A PROPOSAL** ASAP if you are able to commit your time and talents to this event.

I look forward to hearing back from you,
Angela Marcakis
Chair, STA Status of Women Committee

Reel Causes: Luk'Luk'I Screening

Reel Causes is thrilled to present an encore screening of VIFF and TIFF favourite, Luk'Luk'I directed by Wayne Wapeemukwa. It is a story about the contemporary state of urban colonialism in Canada today as told through the dramatic prism of the Winter Olympics, the Downtown Eastside and the resilient, inspiring and powerful people who live there. There will be a post-film Q&A with cast members. **WATCH THE TRAILER.**

Event Details:

7:00 PM Thursday January 25, 2018 at Djavad Mowafaghian Theatre (149 W. Hastings St., Vancouver)

Tickets:

Available **ONLINE** or at the door



Bright Beginnings Foundation (BBF) and the Surrey Teachers' Association are hosting an evening of connecting with other caring individuals and organizations entitled "Working Together for a Bright Future". We will have a Keynote speaker (Bernard Richard, BC Representative for Children and Youth), authentic voice speakers, entertainment, a silent auction, fabulous raffle prizes and, of course, a dinner.

This fundraising event will help the Bright Beginnings Foundation (BBF) be able to give a bright beginning to a much-deserving Surrey student in just a few months. BBF, along with the KEATCA Foundation, will be providing the opportunity to a motivated, academically-capable Surrey high-school graduate to attend post-secondary and break the cycle of generational poverty permanently. We will start receiving applications in February and will award our first BBF Scholarship in May of this year.

Please join us on **Thursday, February 15, 2018** at the Grand Taj Banquet Hall (8388 128th Street in Surrey) from 6:00 PM– 9:00 PM. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$450 for a table of 10.

The STA's Anti-Poverty Committee is encouraging teachers to share this event with their staffs and consider using it as an opportunity for a social event by purchasing a table of 10 seats. The Anti-Poverty Committee will cost share \$100 with up to 3 school groups who participate. Please email **JULIA MACRAE** for more information.

Additional details and ticketing information can be found **ONLINE**.

Opportunities for Members

AGM Ombudspersons

The BCTF is looking for four members to serve as the Annual General Meeting Ombudspersons for the upcoming March AGM. The Ombudspersons work together as a resource to help in the resolution of any member-to-member complaints during the meeting and assist any members who may feel they have been harassed. The deadline to apply is Monday, January 22, 2018. More information and an application form can be found [ONLINE](#).

Put Your Name Forward for Bread and Roses: BCTF's first-ever Women's Institute

The BCTF will be holding the first annual Women's Institute in Vancouver from **March 8-10, 2018**.

Attendance

- The BCTF is sponsoring one delegate who identifies as a woman from each local and sublocal, with a request to locals to promote the opportunity to their members and encourage the involvement of women new to union leadership roles

The purpose of this institute, "Bread and Roses: Women Creating Community, Inspiring Action" is to:

- Gather feedback from the participants' lived experiences as to the opportunities for, and challenges to, participation in school, local, and community levels.
- Create an opportunity for members who identify as women to share their experiences, build community, and learn new leadership skills and strategies together.
- Support and inspire women's leadership in the workplace, union, and broader community.
- Deepen understanding of women's issues, feminist analyses, intersectionality, and effective collective organizing.
- Celebrate the contributions of women in the union, profession, and the community.

Location

The 2017-18 Women's Institute "Bread and Roses: Women creating community, inspiring action" will be held at the Pacific Gateway Hotel, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond, BC.

How to become the participant from Surrey?

Interested female-identifying members should submit a paragraph stipulating their interest, their availability to attend the institute March 8-10 2018, and identify why they would like to attend. This information should be emailed to [GIOIA](#). The deadline for applications is by noon Monday January 22, 2018. There will be a draw done Monday afternoon to determine our Surrey delegate. This person will be contacted by Tuesday, January 23rd with information around registration including: LOAs, accommodation, travel, and onsite childcare (if needed).

Joke of the Week

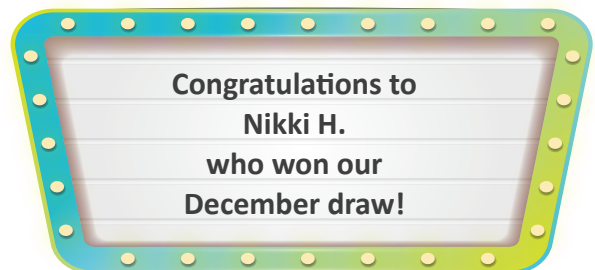


**Why did the melons have to get married right away?
Because they cantaloupe!**

Thanks to Jas S. for this week's joke!

If you have a short, clean, (but not necessarily education-related) joke, please email it to [KELLY](#).

If your joke is drawn for publication, you will be entered into the monthly prize draw for a **\$25 Indigo gift certificate**.



CONTACT US!

Reach us by phone at **604-594-5353** or via [EMAIL](#).

Please do not hesitate to call the STA office whenever you have a question or concern. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting advice from your Union on any employment related issue, even if it's only to confirm information you've received from another source.