

# Monday Memo

## Recognition of Aboriginal Territory

The STA acknowledges that we work on the traditional and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and Qayqayt First Nations. We thank them for allowing us to work on this territory.

## Upcoming Dates

### JANUARY

**10** Rookie Staff Rep Training:  
The Complete Staff  
Representative 101

**14-16** [Staff Rep Training:  
Advanced Advocacy Skills](#)

**22** [Staff Rep Training:  
Advanced Advocacy Skills](#)

**23-24** Staff Rep Training:  
Preparation for Bargaining

**23** Special General Meeting  
at Bombay Banquet Hall

## Education Funding Model Review Released

During our last week of school for 2018, the BC government released its [report](#) on the education funding model review. The government committed to another phase of engagement and consultation with the education community. No changes will be made ahead of bargaining or the 2019-20 school year. In a [news release](#), BCTF President Glen Hansman welcomed the additional consultation time and pushed government to focus on increasing operational funding and negotiating a new collective agreement with teachers before June 30, 2019.

## Changes to the Graduation Program

The government released their changes to the BC Graduation Program and grades 11 and 12 curriculum before the break. We are not happy with the decision around secondary assessments and creation of a third assessment in grade 10. We are also upset that a mandatory First Peoples course was not included. This requirement would have ensured that students graduating from BC schools had learned of First Peoples' histories, perspectives, knowledge, and rights. This was an opportunity to work toward reconciliation that was completely missed. We will continue to advocate for this valuable change.

## More Prep Time for Elementary Teachers Next Year!

Good news for elementary school teachers - you will be receiving an additional 10 minutes of prep time next year, giving you a total of 110 prep minutes per week. We negotiated this increase of elementary prep time during the last round of bargaining.

## Qualifications Deadline for Positions Requiring Special Training/Experience: Get into the Qualified Book!

We are expecting that there will be a large number of postings for positions that require special training or specific experience, especially LST and IST teachers for the next school year. In order to be shortlisted in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers need to be listed in the District Qualification Book. Teachers who are interested in changing their assignments to such positions need to apply to the Human Resources Department by **January 31st** to have their qualifications evaluated. The evaluation will be completed by March 31. (CA, Article E.28.1)

Job descriptions and evaluation forms for specific jobs can be found on the District website at <https://www.surreyschools.ca/careers/jobdescriptionhandbook/Pages/default.aspx>



## Cross Border Conference: Teaching for Joy and Justice

Would you like to present at our [cross-border conference](#) taking place Saturday, March 2nd in Surrey?

The shape of the day will be keynote, workshop, workshop, dinner, playnote. We hope to have between 500 and 1000 participants, and may be able to repeat some workshops.

You are invited to [submit a proposal](#) for a 90 minute workshop.

## Job Sharing: All the information you need



Join your colleagues on Thursday, February 7 at Eaglequest from 3:30 pm to 6:00 pm to connect with potential job share partners and learn about your rights when it comes to job shares. The STA will facilitate this information session and answer any questions you may have. In addition to taking you through the application process, you will learn about possible denials and what options you have available to you. Bring your questions! Snacks and beverages will be provided. Babies welcome!

Register at [jobshare2019.eventbrite.ca](https://jobshare2019.eventbrite.ca)

**February 7, 2019 • 3:30 pm - 6:00 pm • Eaglequest Golf Centre**

## Clause of the Week: Right to Representation

If you ever find yourself stuck in a meeting with an administrator that is not going well or feels disciplinary, remember that you have a right to representation. You can call for a caucus to stop the meeting immediately and to reschedule when you are able to have a union representative present with you. Your representation could be one of your STA staff reps at your school, or one of the STA Table Officers. Do not be afraid to call upon us to help you - we are here to support you!

- A.26.1 A representative of the Surrey Teachers' Association will attend a meeting between a Surrey Teachers' Association member and an administrative officer if the meeting is discipline-related, or if the Surrey Teachers' Association member or the administrative officer has reasonable cause to believe a representative of the Surrey Teachers' Association should be present.
- A.26.2 Should a meeting between a Surrey Teachers' Association member and an administrative officer become disciplinary, the meeting will be adjourned until such time as a representative of the Surrey Teachers' Association is able to be present.
- A.26.3 In the event that it is not possible to hold a meeting pursuant to Article A.26.1 because a Surrey Teachers' Association member refuses to have a Surrey Teachers' Association representative present, the administrative officer will convey written notice of his/her concerns to the Surrey Teachers' Association member, with copies to the President and the Human Resources Department.
- A.26.4 An administrative officer will not determine which Surrey Teachers' Association representative will attend any meeting.

## EFAP E-Learning Courses

Did you know that our Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) offers a series of interactive, self-paced e-Learning courses at [www.homeweb.ca](http://www.homeweb.ca). Once you login, you select Tools, and then E-Courses, and then you can choose from the following topics:

### Health and Well-Being / Life Skills

- Foundations of Effective Parenting
- Taking Control of Alcohol Use
- Taking Control of Anger
- Taking Control of Your Mood
- Taking Control of Stress
- Taking Control of Your Money
- Resilience
- Resolving Conflict in Intimate Relationship
- Responsible Optimism
- Stop Smoking: Get Your Life Back!

### Career and Workplace Issues

- Embracing Workplace Change
- Respect in the Workplace
- Taking Control of Job Loss and Transition
- Taking Control of your Career
- Leading the Human Side of Change
- Managing Sensitive Employee Issues
- Supporting Respect in the Workplace
- Fundamentals of Effective Supervision
- Values-Based Leadership
- Preparing for Your Retirement

## Give the Ministry of Education Feedback on Work Experience Courses

The Ministry of Education is inviting feedback on the updated program guides for [Ministry-Authorized Work Experience Courses \(Draft, 2018\)](#) and [Youth Work in Trades \(Draft, 2018\)](#). The curricula have been updated and the program requirements clarified. BCTF members are invited to review and provide feedback on these guides. Feedback can be sent to [educ.skills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:educ.skills@gov.bc.ca) and will be accepted until January 18, 2019. Reminder: These guides do not take effect until the 2019–20 school year.

## Nominations Open for Prestigious BCTF Awards

Nominations are now open for the BCTF's provincial awards. The winners are invited to the Annual General Meeting to be honoured by colleagues from across the province.

- [The Bob Rosen Social Justice Award](#) is granted to a member or honorary associate member who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution in working for systemic change on issues of social justice. Applications are due by January 31, 2019.
- [The Stewart Schon Award](#) is granted to a member or honorary associate member who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution to the health and safety of BCTF members. Applications are due by January 31, 2019.
- [The G.A. Fergusson Award](#) is granted annually to a BCTF member (or former member) who has made an outstanding contribution to public education. Applications are due by February 10, 2019.
- Nominations are also open for [Honorary Life Memberships](#). Applications are due by February 10, 2019.

## STA CONVENTION 2019



## Convention Sub-Committee Vacancies: Primary, Intermediate and Excursion Committees

The STA Convention is the largest convention in the province that is put on by teachers for teachers, and we need you! There are currently vacancies for two members each on the Primary and Intermediate sub-committees and one member on the Excursions sub-committee. If you are interested in helping to organize a great convention, please complete the [STA Committee Curriculum Vitae Form](#) and return it to June James, STA Pro-D Officer.

## Do You Do Great Things in Your Classroom?

The STA Convention on May 3, 2019 is the largest convention put on by teachers for teachers in British Columbia. We know Surrey teachers are doing great work with their students and the website is now open for workshop proposals. If you have a great idea you would like to share with your colleagues, please submit your proposal to [www.staconvention.ca](http://www.staconvention.ca).

# SAVE THE DATE

## SD36/STA **FOCUS DAY**

**February 22, 2019**

North Surrey Secondary  
15945 – 96th Avenue  
8:30 am – 1:30 pm



## “IGNITING MINDS”

Keynote speaker

**Dr. Lauryn Oates**

Dr. Lauryn Oates is a women's human rights activist focused on education in conflict zones.

Lauryn is Executive Director with Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan, a Canadian charity that leads education projects in Afghanistan including teacher training, village libraries, literacy classes, schools and training programs, and the Darakht-e Danesh Digital Library, an award-winning repository of open educational resources in languages spoken in Afghanistan.

She is a fierce proponent of the universalism of human rights, and frequently speaks out for

global citizenship in the Canadian and international media. She is the recipient of several awards and distinctions, including a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal awarded by the province of BC.

Drawing from her work advancing education in Afghanistan, Lauryn shares insights that ring true in the mud classrooms of rural Central Asia as much as in the modern classrooms of the industrialized world.

## BCTF 2050: Engaging the Future

Are you a BCTF member in your first 10 years of teaching? Would you like to be part of a provincial team exploring new teachers' professional and union engagement? The BCTF is seeking 16 facilitators from across BC to be part of BCTF 2050: Engaging the Future. Successful applicants will receive an introduction to the BCTF's organization, staff, and services, as well as team-building, resources, and ongoing support for designing and conducting focus group conversations with new teachers. If you are interested in learning more about your union and are seeking an opportunity to meet and collaborate with new teachers from across BC, please submit your application by January 15, 2019, at 4:30 pm. More information and an application form can be found on the BCTF website at [bctf.ca/opportunities/BCTFCommittees.aspx](http://bctf.ca/opportunities/BCTFCommittees.aspx).

## Opportunity for Members: Grade 7 Girls Leadership Conference

The STA Status of Women Committee is once again planning our annual Grade 7 Girls' Conference. We believe an event for Grade 7 girls can improve their self-confidence at a crucial developmental stage just before high school. We need teachers able to work with us to give the girls a fun and inspiring day. The conference will be taking place on the Pro-D day, Monday, May 27, 2019 at Princess Margaret Secondary. 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. Feminist teachers! We need your input!

Please send a proposal to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) ASAP if you are able to offer your time and talents to this event.

## Retiring Soon?

Connect with the [Retired Teachers' Association](http://Retired Teachers' Association)! The BC Retired Teachers' Association promotes the interests of the members, provides information and advice to on retirement programs and benefits, and promotes excellence in public education. Members have access to exclusive extended health benefits packages, insurance plans and other financial services. In addition, the association's Members' Advantage Plan connects retirees to a wide range of discount offers and special promotions on travel, accommodation, car rental, recreation experiences and other products and services.


## Shout Out!

We are so proud to be Surrey Teachers and we know there are amazing things happening around the district that we would love to hear about. In the spirit of acts of kindness, we would love for our members to send us a "shout out" about a colleague who inspires you and who you think deserves recognition, whether it is for their kindness, a great resource they shared recently, or an awesome lesson they teach.

### This week's shout out is from Lisa Porter to Val Lumsden:

*"My shout out is to Val Lumsden, Humanities and Social Studies teacher. Val is a master teacher who has taken on the task of mentoring our new colleagues who are settling into their careers. Val is a fabulous mentor who has taken on such challenges as teaching new teachers how to give a great job interview, how to conduct a positive parent/teacher interview, various ways to assess students, and how to make connections with important people in the building. Val is a creative and innovative teacher herself who takes her students on nature walks and keeps her classroom alive with plants and natural lighting. Kudos to Val for being a mentor not only to new teachers, but also to me – twenty years into it!"*

Thank you Lisa, you and Val are now entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo! gift certificate. Please submit your "shout outs" to Angela via [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) to spread the kindness around our local and for your chance to win a gift card too!



**VANCOUVER BIENNALE EDUCATION**  
**BIG IDEAS**  
 ART AS A CATALYST FOR LEARNING

**Surrey Teachers**  
 join us to celebrate the 2019 big ideas in Schools Launch Party

**January 16 • 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm**  
**290 West 3rd Avenue, Vancouver**

Big Ideas is an award-winning education program that engages with public artworks installed by Vancouver Biennale, a non-profit arts charity.

At the Launch, meet participating teachers and artists, share experiences between new and returning participants, hear about upcoming Biennale projects and relax over some tasty treats!

**FREE**  
 Please RSVP via:  
<https://bit.ly/2GbkyUs>

## Childcare for Special General Meeting

Do you need childcare in order to attend the upcoming Special General Meeting on January 23rd?

If so, please contact Esther at [graphics@surreyteachers.org](mailto:graphics@surreyteachers.org) ASAP as final numbers need to be confirmed by **January 15, 2019**. You also have the option of finding your own child care and submitting the receipt to the STA for reimbursement.

## REACH OUT!

Reach us by phone at 604-594-5353 or via email at [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org).

Please do not hesitate to contact 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.