

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

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

19 [SPTA: Story Workshop](#)

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

23-24 Staff Rep Training:
Preparation for Bargaining (full)

23 Special General Meeting
at Bombay Banquet Hall

FEBRUARY

7 [Job Share Meeting](#)

Special General Meeting

Our next STA Special General Meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23 at the Bombay Banquet Hall. At this meeting, you will be deciding what our local bargaining objectives will be. We will also be voting on who will get to represent Surrey as a delegate to the BCTF AGM, which is taking place in Victoria this year! There will be a vote for positions on the Judicial Council of the BCTF, as well as a couple of proposed By-Law amendments. Of course, let's not forget the free butter chicken and other delicious dishes that will be available throughout the whole meeting - you do not want to miss it!

Help Us Get To Know You!

At the Surrey Teachers' Association, we strive to keep you informed of current issues in education and of your rights as a Surrey teacher. One of the objectives of the Surrey Teachers' Association to represent its members and to regulate relations with their employer through collective bargaining of terms and conditions of employment. The Surrey Teachers' Association recognizes that all members need to be involved in pursuing local bargaining objectives in order to seek needed improvements to the working and learning conditions in our school communities. To assist in meeting the needs of our members, we want to know more about the unique characteristics that blend to create our association. Please consider assisting in furthering the goal of promoting member welfare, equity and inclusion in our local by volunteering the anonymous information requested in this [survey](#). Thank you in advance for your participation.

Zone Model of Representation



STARA Steering is investigating how to better serve members through STARA. One suggestion is to host meetings by zone for Staff Reps and members to come and share school concerns. Another is to coordinate zonal groupings and interaction at current STARA meetings.

This model could be expressly for Staff Reps or could intentionally include other members. (All members are always welcome to attend STARA already.) The BCTF hosts 2 zone meetings annually in 6 zones where representatives from Professional Development, Social Justice, Bargaining, Health and Safety and other committees meet both individually and as full zone memberships.

Please submit your thoughts about a this zone model of representation to sta@surreyteachers.org.

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.

[Registration](#) now open, too!

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

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

BCTF AGM in Victoria: We are Still Accepting Applications

Due to the overwhelming response, we are still accepting names and candidate statements for BCTF AGM Delegates. If you are interested in becoming a delegate, please email your name and a brief statement to sta@surreyteachers.org by Thursday, January 17th. Remember, your chances of being elected as a delegate are much better if you have a written statement! It is also possible to nominate yourself from the floor at the meeting. If you have any questions about the BCTF AGM, or the process of becoming a delegate, please contact Jatinder Bir at 2vp@surreyteachers.org.

The BCTF Annual General Meeting will take place from **March 16-19, 2019** at the Victoria Conference Centre.

Each year over 750 delegates from around the province attend the BCTF AGM. 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. Surrey can send up to 63 delegates. Under the STA's Policies and Procedures, the 10 members of the Resolutions Committee will automatically be delegates, so we will need to elect **53 delegates** plus alternates. Hotel accommodations, travel costs, and expenses are covered by the BCTF. Childcare arrangements are also available.

Delegates will be elected at the **Special General Meeting** at 4pm on **January 23rd** at the **Bombay Banquet Hall**.

Elected delegates and alternates are expected to attend all training sessions leading up to the AGM.

Sessions are as follows:

- February 11 – Rookie AGM Delegates training (8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the STA Office)
- February 21 – AGM Delegates training (3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at Eaglequest)
- February 28 – AGM Delegates training (8:30 am to 2:45 pm at Eaglequest)
- March 7 – AGM Delegates training (3:30 pm to 6:00 pm at Eaglequest)

School Visits – We Want to Visit All our Members!

As you probably know we do regular lunch visits throughout the school year to give all STA members a chance to meet their union officers, ask questions, and feel connected to their union. We have already visited 54 schools in the fall, and have 10 more already booked in Jan./ Feb. If your school would like a visit, please contact Julia (1vp@surreyteachers.org) to suggest a date, and we will book one of us to visit you. Teachers have questions about bargaining, strategy, the transfer rounds, remedy, supervision, lost prep time, pro d, professional rights, and many other topics, and we want to answer them.

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 and will be accepted until January 18, 2019. Reminder: These guides do not take effect until the 2019–20 school year.

STA CONVENTION 2019



Can You Help with Primary, Intermediate Sites or Excursions?

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.

RESIST! PERSIST!

JANUARY 19, 2019 10AM.



3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S MARCH IN VANCOUVER #MARCHONYVR

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.

We Asked the Board, and They Answered

Every month members of the STA executive attend the School Board meetings representing the teachers. (If any member would like to join us, you are invited!) Unfortunately, it is not possible to ask questions in the meeting (and have them recorded in the official minutes,) so along with other members of the public, we ask questions after the meeting is adjourned, and receive answers by email a couple of weeks later. Here are two questions we asked recently, and the answers we received, for your information. We will continue asking questions, and reporting back to you in the Monday Memo, whatever answers we receive. If you have questions you would like us to ask, please let us know.

Nov 21 Board meeting

Out of concern for all the problems with kids not getting the specialist service they need, we asked: "Will the school board initiate a process of discovery to determine whether specialist staffing is adequate to meet the children's needs?"

Answer: This question will be added to the agenda for the next STA Executive/SD36 Senior Team Monthly Liaison Meeting for further discussion.

At the monthly meeting on Dec 18th, Jordan Tinney reported back to us, saying, "short answer, no".

Dec 12 Board meeting

We asked, out of concern for the extreme crowding at KB Woodward Elementary, "Is the Board considering renovating the building housing City Central Learning Centre back to an elementary school to house the burgeoning student body in the neighbourhood?"

Answer: Our Five Year Capital Plan is located on our district website at this link:

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/Publications/Five-Year%20Capital%20Plan%202019-2020.pdf>

On that Capital Plan KB Woodward Elementary is listed as our 11th priority for an eight classroom addition. KB Woodward Elementary will alleviate the growing population in that area surrounding City Central Learning Centre. In addition, looking long term you can also find that École Kwantlen Park Secondary is also listed for an addition moving it from a 1200 capacity school to a capacity of 1500. Specifically to your question, the Board is not considering renovating the Learning Centre but as stated is expanding KB Woodward Elementary.

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>



SURREY PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

STORY WORKSHOP

Tuesday, January 29th, 2019 • 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM • Mary Jane Shannon Elementary

Presenters: Kerri Hutchinson & Kim DeSchutter

Stories live inside ourselves, the children we teach, and the materials we use. Imagining, creating and sharing our stories help us learn about ourselves and connect us to one another. Through a strength based lens, story workshop provides the foundation for playful and joyful storytelling and writing for every learner. Explore and engage in conversations where we will look at ways to set up story workshop, structure focus lessons, engage in formative assessment, and help connect many of the core competencies, big ideas, curricular competencies and content in the Language Arts curriculum through the joy of storytelling in your classroom!

Register: www.spta36.weebly.com

This workshop will focus on how to set up story workshop, structure focus lessons, and make connections to many core competencies, big ideas, and curricular competencies.

Snacks, refreshments, and door prizes included

SPTA Members: Free
Non-members and out-of-district: \$10
Please make cheques payable to: SPTA
Send to Sylvie Afilal @ Courier #117

REGISTER NOW FOR STAFF REP TRAINING



ADVANCED ADVOCACY SKILLS

JANUARY 16, 22

To further develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed by staff reps to carry out their roles through

- increased confidence
- practice of analyzing issues
- practice of using assertive communication skills
- practice of framing discussions

One of the hardest things for staff reps to do (particularly new staff reps) is to separate their roles as employees (teachers) from their roles as equals to the administration when upholding the Collective Agreement. This workshop will let you practice your role, learn where your strengths are where you might need more support and practice to carry out your role.

CLICK TO REGISTER

Free Labour Studies Conference!



Labour History Project

Working People: A History of BC

Space is limited, if you are interested, please register ASAP!

This free conference is brought to you by the [British Columbia Social Studies Teachers Association \(BCSSTA\)](#), The [BC Labour Heritage Centre](#), and the [Labour Studies Program](#) at Simon Fraser University. The conference is designed for all teachers interested in BC's Labour History with a specific focus for those teaching secondary social studies courses in the new BC curriculum.

This event qualifies for pro-d funding; please contact June James at pd@surreyteachers.org for more information.

WHEN: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm Friday, February 15

WHERE: Vancouver Technical Secondary School (2600 East Broadway, Vancouver)

The day will begin with a plenary session discussing the topic of “Why the Teaching of Labour History matters in the current Social Studies curriculum”.

Sessions will be offered on the following topics:

- History of Political Action in the Labour Movement.
- History of Women, Work and the Labour Movement “On the Line” A History of the BC Labour Movement “Teaching the Work Process and “Deskilling” with the Paper Airplane Game”
- Child Labour: Then and Now
- Changing Nature of Work: the Precariat
- History of Health and Safety in BC
- Immigrant Experiences in BC's Labour History The History of Indigenous Labour In BC: The Importance of Teaching About It

There will be 2 workshops available for each attendee and a free lunch! A social event is planned at the conclusion of the conference at a location TBA. To prepare for the catering needs and the organization of the workshops, [pre-registration](#) is required and needs to be completed by Wednesday February 13th, 2019.

Each teacher needs to register independently for this conference. When registering, please note your school name and school district # in the organization box.

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.

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



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 ASAP if you are able to offer your time and talents to this event.


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 Anna Morrie to Gurpal Sandhu:

"I just wanted to give a big shout out to Gurpal Sandhu. She stepped into a medical leave LST position with me in late September. She has been an amazing addition to our support team. I feel so lucky to have her with us at Peace Arch."

Thank you Anna, you and Gurpal are now entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo! gift certificate. Please submit your "shout outs" to Angela via 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 ASAP as final numbers need to be confirmed by **January 16, 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.

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.