

STA CONNECTION

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

MAY

- 3 STA Convention Day
- 6 Deadline for STA Executive candidate statements
- 6 Pro-D Committee Meeting
- 8 LGBTQ Committee Meeting
- 9 Status of Women Committee Meeting

All STA members (that's you!) are invited to sit in any of our committees' meetings, whether you are a member of that committee or not. Please feel invited to come to a meeting, participate in discussions, and see the great work our members are doing! Meetings begin at 4 pm at the STA office on 9030 King George Blvd, unless otherwise stated.

GRIEVANCE: Failures-to-Fill

The STA has filed a grievance regarding the District's practice to direct non-enrolling teachers to cover failure to fill for classroom teachers. The STA is therefore collecting data to support this grievance by requesting that staff reps regularly report failures to fill. In an effort to make this task as quick and efficient as possible, we have created a new format for reporting failures to fill. Please use the [attached link](#) to report failures to fill at your school.

Thank you for your input – welcome to the new and improved STA CONNECTION!

We are pleased to announce the new name for our beloved Monday Memo – it will now be called THE STA CONNECTION! Thanks to all who suggested names and voted. (Unfortunately, Memo McMemoface and Mountains and Molehills didn't make the cut!) We know members need information and rely upon our continuous supply through our weekly memo.

Call for Nominations: Do you want to be on the STA Executive?

Elections for Executive Committee positions will be held at the STA Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, May 22 at the Bombay Banquet Hall (7475 135 St) from 4-6 pm. We are very excited to announce that the election voting will be done electronically via "clickers" in hopes of speeding up the process!

Please take a look through the **attached PDF** which includes details about all the different Executive roles and see if one speaks to your skills and passions. Members of the Executive Committee must be available to attend EC meetings from 4-7 pm every second Tuesday (with some extra meetings), monthly STARA or General Meetings, and executive training on a weekend in September.

If this interests you, the next step would be to nominate yourself by sending a candidate statement (max 600 words) via email to sta@surreyteachers.org or fax at (604) 594-5176 by Monday, May 6 in order to make the printing deadline. The candidate statement is not required, and you could even nominate yourself by phoning the office at (604) 594-5353 or from the floor at the AGM on May 22. At the AGM, all candidates will have the opportunity to give a speech (up to 2 minutes for full time office positions, and up to 1 minute for Local Representatives and Members at Large) before the elections take place. The AGM will also include the Professional Development Funding Draw (4 winners of \$2,500! - see below), adopting the STA budget for 2019-2020, and changing the bylaws to add a new executive committee role entitled "Member at Large for Person of Colour".

BCFED Young Worker School at Camp Jubilee



Would you like to join young workers from around the province for a weekend of learning, connecting, and fun? The STA is looking for 5 teachers under 30 to send to Camp Jubilee. If you would like to put your name into the draw, please send an email to sta@surreyteachers.org by **Tuesday, May 7**.

The BCFED's Young Workers' School at Camp Jubilee is for workers aged 30 or under. The school is held in a retreat-like environment in the Indian Arm. Participants will attend courses to help them build skills related to the labour movement, political and community organizing, and leadership skills. In addition to coursework, attendees will be able to participate in a variety of outdoor activities and connect with fellow young workers. For more information, please contact Rick Kumar at kumar_h@surreyschools.ca.

BBF's Walk-a-thon CANCELLED!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Bright Beginnings Foundation is unable to host a Walkathon this year. The event scheduled for Saturday May 11 at North Surrey Track will not go ahead.

We are very sorry if this cancellation inconveniences anyone. Bright Beginnings Foundation will continue to work to raise funds for Surrey grads to attend post-secondary education. We appreciate your support for our main goal which is to eliminate poverty. All financial donations are appreciated and will be used for bursaries.

We still believe the Walk-a-thon has merit as a fundraising project because it engages students and schools in the cause of our youth needing support for post-secondary education. We will be reviewing this year's experiences in the hope of renewing the Walk-a-thon event in the coming years.

Bright Beginnings Foundation appreciates your support.

Sylvia's Plant Sale will take place on **Saturday, May 4**. Please see the attached poster for details.

BCTF 2050 Project - are you a new teacher? Check this out!

Are you a teacher that is within their first 5 years of teaching? Do you feel like you are (or are not) connected with your union? Do you feel like you have not had the opportunity or ability to share about your experiences in the classroom, your workload, or your general health and wellbeing related to your career? This is the chance you have been waiting for! We want to give you a voice! The BCTF is listening and you are invited to be a part of an exciting focus group led by new teachers just like you. We need your voices to help our union understand what life is like for teachers so that we can work together to make the necessary changes to support our work-life balance. You have two dates to choose from, **May 21st and 23rd, 2019**. The discussions are being held at the STA office from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. There will be food and prizes, and all information shared during the discussion will be anonymous! Have a question or can't wait to sign up? Feel free to email Amanda at asalkeld@bctf.ca.

BCTF New Teachers Conference

There are still a lot of spaces available for the BCTF New Teachers Conference "Gaining Ground: New Teachers Together Leading the Way!" at the Vancouver Island Conference Center in Nanaimo on May 10, 2019. The program includes keynote speaker Tracy Myers, a panel on infusing Aboriginal ways of being, learning and teaching in the classroom, and many workshops covering a wide variety of educational topics, including an offsite workshop on Aboriginal Education. The event will have a welcoming reception on the night before as well as a resource fair full of up to date teaching material aligned with the new curriculum. There will also be delicious food served for breakfast and lunch!



[Registration](#) is \$60 and teachers can apply to cover it through consolidated funds and individual Pro D funds. Check the STA website under "[Forms](#)" for criteria for professional development fund applications, or you can also check with your school pro-d rep.

If you have been teaching for 5 years or less, or if you changed districts, or if you are teaching a new subject matter, or if you are a teacher candidate at a Faculty of Education, or even if you just simply would like to attend... you are all welcome to the New Teachers' Conference!

Opportunities for Members

BCTF Facilitators

Have you ever been to a BCTF led professional development workshop, or to one of our Staff Rep Training sessions, and wondered how you could travel the province and facilitate a session too? Well you are in luck! The BCTF is accepting applications for teachers to serve a three-year term. Successful applicants will receive all the training they need and are provided with release time and expenses to cover travel, meals, childcare, and accommodation when they are giving workshops around the province. The deadline to [apply online](#) is May 6, 2019 at 5:00 pm. There are [openings](#) in the following areas:

- Aboriginal Education
- Health and Safety Trainers
- Professional and Social Issues
- School Union Rep Trainers
- Social Justice
- Teachers Teaching On Call

BCTF Employment Opportunity: Director of Research and Technology

Larry Kuehn, a past BCTF President and the [Director of our Research and Technology Division](#) since 1991, has announced his retirement. This means the BCTF is looking for a new Director!

The successful applicant will be responsible for the effective operation of the division and coordinate the BCTF International Solidarity Committee program. The BCTF will be accepting applications (citing job posting JP1103) and résumés (including reference contact information) by email to postings@bctf.ca or by mail until May 15, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

School Visits – we want to visit all our members!

We have visited (or have booked to visit) 100 of our STA worksites so far this year. Hurray! We still have not visited the following schools and other work sites: Bonaccord, Colebrook, City Centre/ Discovery LC, Coast Meridien, DEC, Dogwood, Dr. FD. Sinclair, East Kensington, Ellendale, Erma Stephenson, Goldstone Park, Guildford LC, Guildford Park, HT Thrift, Janice Churchill, KATzie, Kennedy Trail, Kwantlen Park, Lee School, Lord Tweedsmuir, MJ Norris, Ocean Cliff, Panorama Park, Senator Reid, South Meridien, SAIL, TREES, The Welcome Centre, WM Davidson, and various small programs such as APU, TREK, Am'ut, PLEA, HOPE, Fast track, Hospital Homebound, Growing Together, The HUB, ETC, CBTOP, and potentially a few other worksites where STA members work their magic every day!

If you would like to help arrange a time for one of us to visit to your above-mentioned site, please contact Julia at the STA, 1vp@surreyteachers.org to suggest a date, and we will book a table officer to visit you. Members have questions about bargaining, strategy, the transfer rounds, remedy, supervision, lost prep time, professional development, professional rights, and many other topics, and we want to answer them, and let members get to know us better.

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.



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 to Roslyn Sundset:

"Roslyn has volunteered many hours, including her Good Friday, to become our creative director for a special project that the STA is putting together. We really appreciate Roslyn's creativity and talents and are very excited for the final product to be unveiled in the upcoming few weeks. Thank you Roslyn!!!"

Thank you Roslyn, you 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!