



STA Connection
October 21-25, 2019

#RedforBCED - On Wednesdays, We Wear Red



Surrey Teachers are going to wear red on Wednesdays to stand together for a fair deal. This action has been used effectively by our American colleagues in their struggle for better working and learning conditions, and for fair salaries.

If students ask why you are wearing red, you can say that you are doing it to show support of public education, but please do not discuss bargaining issues with them.

Please post your pictures on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using the hashtag #RedforBCED

The STARA Meeting is at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, October 23 at Eaglequest Golf!

If you are a staff rep for your school, you are eligible to vote at this meeting and bring forward any school concerns. We will be presenting awards and holding committee elections at this meeting. You can check out the [Standing Committees Vacancies](#).

Light refreshments will be provided and prizes will be drawn at the end of the meeting. Please refrain from wearing any scented products.

Who Speaks for You at the BCTF?

The BCTF Fall Representative Assembly will be on November 1-2. This is where our elected local representatives will be making important decisions about provincial bargaining.

Surrey has six Local Representatives ("Local Reps", or "LRs") who will be representing you at RAs:

- Kevin Amboe (IST, David Brankin)
- Lizanne Foster (Queen Elizabeth)
- Rick Kumar (Salish, and also representing Adult Education Teachers)
- Isaac Louie (Hall's Prairie)
- Angela Marcakis (Creekside)
- Pauline Veto (Queen Elizabeth)

It is helpful to the LR's in their work to hear from STA members about their views on provincial issues, such as bargaining. If you wish to contact your LR's, you can email them at LR@surreyteachers.org and they will all receive the message. *(Please use your personal email, so the message will not be on the employer's system.)*

This Friday, October 25 is PSA Pro-D Day!

On Friday, October 25, Provincial Specialist Associations will be putting on a variety of professional development conferences around the province. You can choose to attend any of these or you can also choose to do self-directed professional development. A list of all the available PSA conference is available on the [BCTF website](#).



Tuesday, October 29 is the day when we will be hosting our popular New Teachers' Conference here at the STA. If you are a new teacher, either first or second year, and you haven't already attended this before, please feel invited to sign up to attend. We review topics such as preparing for your first year evaluation, how to understand your paycheque, Pro D opportunities, and legal pitfalls for teachers. You will be inducted into the provincial union; each teacher will receive a certificate and a pin.

[**Register Now**](#)

Changes to Extended Health Benefits for TTOCs

In response to a recent arbitration regarding extended health benefits (EHB), BCPSEA has unilaterally created a new provincial plan specifically for TTOCs. This plan is administered by Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) and is only for TTOCs and not contract teachers. While the new plan provides the same coverage as the regular provincial plan, the BCTF is concerned that the new plan for TTOCs contains changes to premiums and additional restrictive terms.

Despite our concerns, because there is a **deadline of October 31** to apply to PBC for coverage, it is very important that TTOCs submit their application forms as soon as possible and arrange to remit payment directly to PBC. Any late applicants have to provide evidence of good health and may be denied EHB coverage due to medical conditions. See the attached documents for more information.

Volunteer Opportunity: STA Mediation Service

Your STA Executive Committee seeks to appoint up to 2 more Surrey teachers to the STA Mediation Teams. Successful applicants are appointed for a three-year renewable term. Release time will be provided to attending training in conflict resolution and mediation, as well as to conduct mediation sessions.

For more information, visit [STA Mediation Service](#). Teachers can apply using the [STA Curriculum Vitae form](#). The deadline to apply is Friday, October 25.



surrey teachers' association

STA'S INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS ITS 4TH ANNUAL

"TO SHINE A LIGHT ON IT" CONFERENCE



A DAY OF INDIGENOUS EVERYTHING

- Hot lunch included
- Many academic and experiential workshops
- Indigenous Dancers, Singers, Speakers, Giveaways, and much, much more!

Guest speaker

CHARLENE BEARHEAD

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH, 2019

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Queen Elizabeth Secondary
9457 King George Blvd., Surrey

Registration

- Free to all STA members
- \$100 registration fee for all out-of-district teachers
- \$25 registration fee for CUPE members and student teachers

For further details, contact Carolyn Sousa at sousa_c@surreyschools.ca

This is a scent-free event



Failure 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. This link is also located on our [Surrey Teachers' Association](#) website homepage for easy access.

Report Failures to Fill

Variances

The process of looking at possible variances to the school day for 2020 – 2021 secondary classes has begun. Secondary staff reps should have received information and application forms that we ask be forwarded to the Fine Arts Department Head and any other interested teachers. The [forms](#) need to be completed and returned to the STA office by November 15, 2019. [Read More](#)

TTOC Experience Transfer Form

Your pay increment (step level) is based on your teaching experience. Contract teachers move up one step on the pay scale after 10 months of full-time experience. Incremental increases take place automatically on September 1 and January 1 each year.

The next incremental increase will be January 1, 2020. Contract teachers should have their [form](#) into Payroll, no later than November 15, 2019, in order to receive an increase on January 1, 2020. If there's any confusion, or you have questions, please contact Mark Keelan at the grieve2@surreyteachers.org. [Read more](#)

Call For Presenters: Cross Border Conference 2020



This year's theme for the Cross Border Conference is "Leaping into Action: Teachers Rise for Climate Justice". The conference will be taking place on February 29, 2020.

The climate crisis can be overwhelming given its complexity and seriousness. In the face of this existential threat, it's no wonder that many people choose to shut down when the topic arises. For teachers, however, denial is not an option. In our classrooms, we have students in front of us who need to know how to prepare for the alarming future in front of us all. They need to know what to prioritize as they face a future of unprecedented changes.

We invite you to [submit your workshop ideas](#) (Sign in to Google and continue to Forms) for our conference. We want diverse ideas! We recognize the complex intersectionality of the required actions!

Deadline November 1, 2019

BCTF Grants Available

The [Ed May Social Responsibility Education Fund](#) deadline is fast approaching on November 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm, while the [Local Social Justice Grants](#) are now on a first come, first serve basis until April 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

To learn about additional grants visit the [Social Justice Grants and Funds webpage](#) for more details and application forms.

The [Provincial Social Justice Initiatives Grant](#) is awarded on a yearly basis to support social justice projects that have an ongoing and systemic impact on teachers and students across the province and in their community. Projects may involve local community groups but should not be donations to these groups. The total amount of grant funds awarded in each school year is a maximum of \$5,000. This amount may be awarded to one applicant or divided between two applicants. The deadline is December 2, 2019 at 5:00 pm.

BCTF Opportunity for Members: BC Teachers' Council

There is a vacancy on the BC Teachers' Council for a BCTF appointee. The Council is responsible for setting standards for teachers in BC, including education, competence and professional conduct requirements. The BCTC also sets standard, reviews and approves post-secondary teacher education programs. [Applications](#) are due by 4:30 p.m. on November 8, 2019.

BCTF Employment Opportunity: Assistant Director, Field Service Division

Reporting to the Director of the Field Service Division and the Executive Director, this position provides support to locals in political action, contract enforcement, bargaining, communications, and the handling of a range of professional, social justice, Aboriginal education, and other issues. The role provides advice, assistance, and support to locals regarding the development of effective local structures and planning processes, and

administration and enforcement of the collective agreement up to and including Step 3 of the grievance procedure. The deadline to [apply](#) is 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 1, 2019.

Edge of the Knife (SGaawaay K'uuna) Movie Showing – October 29th

Edge of the Knife is the first feature film spoken entirely in Haida (with English subtitles) and is inspired by the traditional Haida stories of the Gaagixxiid/Gaagiid Wildman. This movie follows the transformation of the Wildman through one family's loss and grief. There will be a discussion guide and curriculum connections to follow. [Register here](#). Contact Heidi Wood at wood_h@surreyschools.ca if you have any questions.

Opportunity for Students: CBC Indigenous Junior J School

The event is for Indigenous youth between the ages of 15 and 21. It's on November 13 at the CBC studio in Vancouver. Students listen to Indigenous journalists stories about how they got in the business and what they do. They are introduced to workshops about audio, video and text news, as well as production. There's room for 100 Indigenous youth. See the [video](#) from last year's event.

Please contact Wawmeesh Hamilton, coordinator of CBC Indigenous Junior J-School and Associate Producer of CBC Vancouver at (604) 662-2923. Alternatively, you can contact him on his cell at (778) 873-4713.

We want to publish YOU!

We are looking for articles to publish in our bimonthly Surrey teacher magazine, The Advocate, and we would love to feature you! We know Surrey teachers are doing great work in their schools and communities. Please feel free to contact Angela Marcakis at communications@surreyteachers.org for more information.

PROVINCIAL PSD DAY 2019

BCTELA

BC Teachers of English Language Arts
October 25th, 2019
L.A. Matheson Secondary
Surrey, BC

*Seeing Self in Story:
Holding space for identity and perspectives.*

Friday Oct. 25th, 2019

Keynote Speaker
David A. Robertson



Featured Speakers
Brad Baker
Faye Brownlie
Jo Chrona
Leyton Schnellert
and many other BC educators



Thursday Oct. 24th
Portage and Main
sponsored book launch
@ 7:00pm



Faye Brownlie's highly anticipated 2nd edition of *Grand Conversations*

Join us Thursday night for this Portage and Main sponsored book launch. With introduction from Leyton Schnellert

Registration Information

BCTF members	\$200
Non BCTF members	\$250
Host district teachers #36	\$185
TTOCs/Retired BCTF Teachers	\$175
Teacher candidates	\$75

Registration Open
www.bctela.ca

Civic Hotel
13475 Central Ave, Surrey BC
Event included in registration

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 Monica Grant to Ross Scott:

"I would like to give a shout-out to Ross Scott. He is new to our school this year, and he has stepped up to be our STA rep. He is doing a great job with keeping our teaching staff informed and communicating with our administration. Thank-you, Ross!"

Thank you Monica, you and Ross 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!

Upcoming Events

October 21 - Peer Support Training
October 21 - LGBTQ Committee - all are welcome to attend!
October 22 - Resolutions Committee
October 22 - [Staff Committee Chair Training](#)
October 23 - [Pro-D Training](#)
October 23 - STARA @ Eagle Quest Golf
October 25 - PSA Pro-D Day
October 26 - [Troublemakers Workshop](#)
October 29 - [New Teachers' Conference](#)
October 29 - Executive Committee
October 30 - Cross Border Conference Planning Committee Meeting
November 1-2 - BCTF Representative Assembly