



STA Connection

October 28 - November 1, 2019

Bargaining Information Meetings!

Are you wondering what is happening in provincial bargaining? Curious about next steps if there is no deal through mediation? Then come out next week to one of our information meetings about bargaining! You will have an opportunity to hear the latest information on bargaining (including decisions made at the BCTF Fall Representative Assembly on Nov. 1-2), ask questions, and let us know what you think. Please remember that you can also contact Surrey's six Local Representatives (Kevin Amboe, Lizanne Foster, Rick Kumar, Isaac Louie, Angela Marcakis, and Pauline Veto) at LR@surreyteachers.org at any time to let them know what you think; your input is valuable to them when they vote on your behalf at the Representative Assembly.

November 5: Tamanawis Secondary – Cafeteria (4-6 pm)

November 7: North Surrey Secondary – Gym (4-6 pm)



The plan for each meeting is as follows:

- 3:30 Information will be available and conversations with executive members
- 4:00 In-committee Presentation will begin
- 5:00 Questions and Answer Period
- 6:00 Wrap Up

Hope to see you there!

#RedforBCED - On Wednesdays, We Wear Red



Surrey Teachers are wearing 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, please say only that it is to show support for public education. It is important that you not discuss anything about bargaining with students.

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



STA'S INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS ITS 4TH ANNUAL
**YUSÁYŁTHUT, "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 and admin
- \$25 registration fee for CUPE members and student teachers

Register at toshinealightonit2019.eventbrite.ca

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

This is a scent-free event



Register Now

BC makes history - 1st province to implement UNDRIP!

We are very excited to note that last week, BC made history as the first province to introduce a bill implementing the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP). "With this legislation, the government of British Columbia has taken a significant step forward on the path towards truth and reconciliation in our province," said BCTF President Teri Mooring. "As teachers, we often witness the devastating impacts of residential schools and intergenerational trauma upon our colleagues, students and their

families. Working to make the principles enshrined in the Declaration come alive in our schools and society is one of the most significant contributions we can make to future generations of British Columbians—both Indigenous and non-Indigenous.” Indigenous rights are human rights. We look forward to supporting any educational aspects of UNDRIP and continuing our actions for reconciliation.

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.

Are you interested in Politics?

Do you care about what your local politician is saying about teachers in their caucus? Are you the type of person who would like to have regular contact with your local MLA to discuss teachers' work? We need classroom teachers to help us with this ongoing dialogue with MLAs. Do you live in Surrey? We are building a team of teachers who live (ideally) in each of the nine Surrey constituencies.

In particular, we need people for:

- Surrey - Newton
- Surrey - Green-Timbers
- Surrey - Whalley
- Surrey - Cloverdale
- South Surrey
- Surrey - White Rock

This is not signing up to be on a committee; you will commit to do this lobbying for a couple of years, and there will be training. Please contact Julia at 1vp@surreyteachers.org to indicate your interest.

Opportunities for Members: BCTF Committees

- [CASJ - Antiracism Action Group](#)
- [CASJ - Environmental Justice Action Group](#)

- [Advisory Committee on French Programs and Services](#)

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 take place at Kwantlen Park Secondary (10441 132 St, Surrey, BC) 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 for our conference. We want diverse ideas!
We recognize the complex intersectionality of the required actions!

Please submit your proposal through our website: www.crossborderconference.com
Deadline December 1, 2019

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 Ravi Gill to Jennifer Aulakh:

“This Shout Out is to Jennifer Aulakh. An amazing educator who works tirelessly to create community connections with the Learning Centre students. Your energy, charisma and team spirit is always appreciated.”

Thank you Ravi, you and Jennifer 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 30 - Convention Committee
October 30 - Cross Border Conference Committee
November 1 - Mentorship Advisory Team
November 1-2 - BCTF Representative Assembly
November 4 - Status of Women Committee
November 4 - Pro-D Committee
November 5 - Bargaining Information Session @ Tamanawis Cafeteria
November 6 - Indigenous Education Committee
November 7 - Bargaining Information Session @ North Surrey Gym
November 8 - [“To Shine A Light On It” Indigenous Education Pro-D Day](#) @ Queen Elizabeth Secondary