



STA Connection November 4-8, 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 this week to one of our information meetings! 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 Assemblies.

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! Staff reps, please try to attend so you can bring back the latest information to your staff.

#RedforBCED - On Wednesdays, We Wear Red



Check out Martha Currie staff last week! So Awesome!

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, 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
**YUSÁŁTHUT, "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

Are you a Political Activist?

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 you to help us with this ongoing dialogue with MLAs. Do you live in Surrey? We are building a team of teachers who are living in each of the nine Surrey constituencies.

In particular we need people for:

- Surrey - Newton
- Surrey - Green-Timbers
- Surrey - Whalley
- Surrey - Cloverdale
- 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.

Teacher Wellness Event: Forest Therapy



The STA Status of Women Committee will be hosting a wellness event at the Surrey Nature Centre after school on Monday, November 18. If you have been to one of our wellness events in the past, then you know this is an event you do not want to miss! The event begins with coffee/tea and light snacks as you unwind from your day. Alison Leslie will lead us through a forest bathing experience, teaching us about the impact of nature on our mental and physical health. This will be followed with yoga and meditation by BCTF Executive member Violette Baillargeon. A delicious dinner will end our time together.

Register Now

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](#)

Opportunities for Members: BCTF Committees

- [CASJ - Antiracism Action Group](#)
- [CASJ - Environmental Justice Action Group](#)
- [Advisory Committee on French Programs and Services](#)



Spotlight on Economic Justice

The BCTF has named November Antipoverty month. As teachers, we know first hand the effects of poverty on our students. Please take the time to look through this month's [Seeds of Social Justice](#) and use the resources, book the workshops, apply for grants, and continue to be part of the solution.

White Poppies for Peace

The white poppy represents a culture of peace and was first introduced in Britain in 1933. These white poppies can be worn alone, or alongside the red poppy to show your commitment to ending war and to recognize all its victims. Vancouver Peace Poppies offers [ideas and resources](#) for teachers to explore the broader impacts of war and reflect on the experiences of recent immigrants, keeping Remembrance Day relevant to students' lives and interests. Vancouver Peace Poppies runs an annual campaign to distribute white

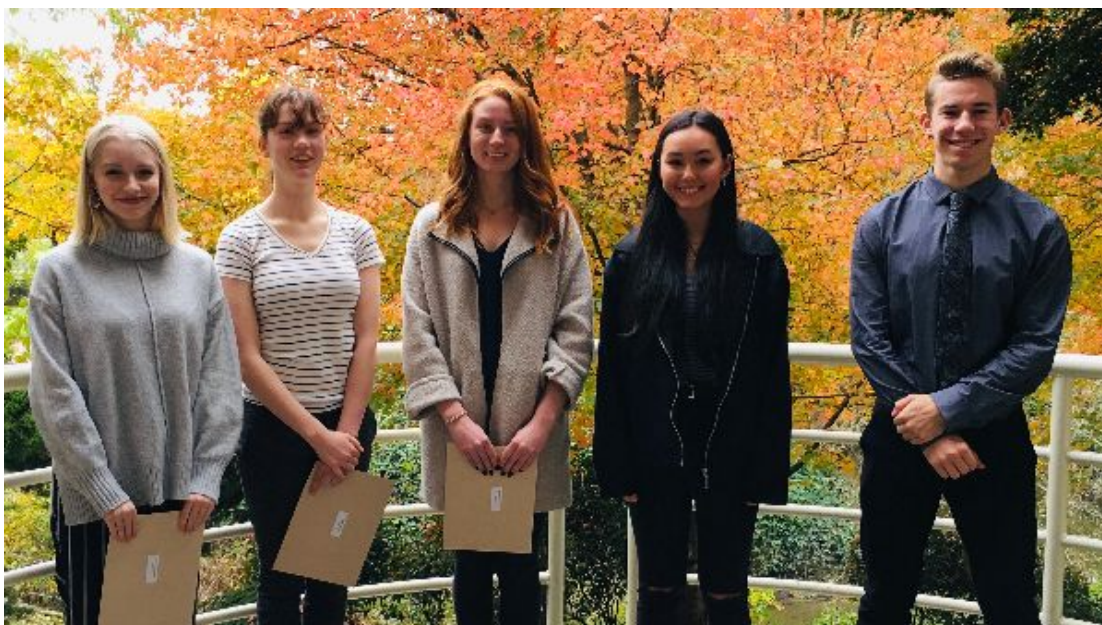
peace poppies across Canada and you can order subsidized white poppies for your school using this form.

Aboriginal Veterans Pin



Aboriginal Veterans have served both in Canada's Military Forces and as allies, from the formative times of the War of 1812 to the present. Their military contributions were essential to Canada's survival in earlier times. The Royal Canadian Legion honours today's Aboriginal Veterans and their ancestors with this [commemorative pin](#).

STA Awards Recipients 2019



Each year, the Surrey Teachers' Association awards scholarships, bursaries and the Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Awards. Some are children of our members, others received STA scholarships through their schools. Through their hard work and determination, the following students have proven themselves worthy of acknowledgement. On behalf of the Awards Committee and the Surrey Teachers' Association, we recognize your achievement and wish you continued success in your academic and professional pursuits. Congratulations on a job well done!

- Brady Lumsden - International Economics, UBC
- Kira Anne Szewczyk - Philosophy / Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, UBC
- Haley June Biggin - Microbiology and Immunology, UBC
- Lucy Sera Fournier - Visual Arts, Emily Carr
- Wyatt William Schnare - Engineering, UBC
- Rachel Smith - Science, UBC
- Mackenzie Sturn - Education, SFU
- Caitlyn Wakelin - Education, SFU
- Sarah Buckingham - Engineering, SFU
- Kymber Maxfield
- Hannah Christine Milic - History of Anthropology, UBC
- Christian Richardson
- Madeleine Richardson - French, SFU
- Conall Sexton - Baseball, UFV

Shoe Donations Needed!



The STA Status of Women Committee will be helping to collect shoes for this year's [Shoe Memorial](#) and is asking you to please look into your closets. Sadly, there are now over 1000 names of murdered women in BC. In order to visually represent each of these women with a pair of shoes, we are in need of way too many pairs. The shoes will first be used to help build a memorial at the Vancouver Art Gallery, with a ceremony to take place at 1:00 pm on December 6. After the memorial, all shoes will be donated to women in need.

Shoe donations can be dropped off at the STA office or sent via courier to #000 ATTN: Angela Marcakis. Please help us honor and remember these victims.

Welcome New Teachers!



A big, warm welcome to our new Surrey teachers, some of who attended last week's conference and induction ceremony. We hope you enjoyed your day here at the STA and learned a lot about your union and your profession. Congratulations! We wish you all the best as you begin this wonderful career.

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 Amy Grainger to Joyce Ahonen:

"I'd like to give a shout out to Joyce Ahonen. Not only is she our STA rep, she is also a coach extraordinaire AND unofficially mentoring many new teachers at our school. Joyce adds so much to our school community and we all really appreciate her kindness!"

Thank you Amy, you and Joyce 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!



SURREY PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Wisdom in Visual Arts and Math

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 2019
3:30 – 5:30 P.M.**

**ECOLE LARONDE ELEMENTARY (GYM)
1880 LARONDE DR., SURREY**

Presenters: Heidi Wood & Nadine McSpadden

Indigenous Education Helping Teachers

Learn how Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Wisdom play an important role in understanding form, line and colour. Learn how we can use concepts found in math to reinforce connections to the land and story. Explore some loose parts, weaving, beading and patterns in addition to understanding the history of visual arts from a West Coast perspective.

You will rotate around to stations and try out a variety of math and art activities which promote a deeper connection to ecological knowledge .

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Snacks, refreshments, and door prizes included.

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**SPTA Members:
Free**

**Non-members and
out-of-district: \$10**

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**SURREY
PRIMARY
TEACHERS'
ASSOCIATION**

Register:

www.wspta6.weebly.com

Register Now