



STA Connection

November 12-15, 2019

The Mediator's Report was Released - What Happens Next?

The BCTF has an important [update](#) on bargaining and mediation that is available on the BCTF members' portal. All members have access to the portal and need to log in using their member ID number. For members who have never accessed the member portal before, click the "Sign up now" button when you first arrive at MyBCTF.ca.

This update is confidential to BCTF members and not to be shared online, social media, or with anyone who is not a BCTF member.

#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

Use Your Teacher Voice: Surrey School Board Meeting

You have an opportunity to come to the Surrey School Board meeting this **Wednesday, November 13, 7:00 pm** at DEC. Wearing our #RedforBCED, let's sit together and ask our questions about concerns such as funding, prevalence model, and what have they done to advocate for a fair contract for teachers!

Failures-To-Fill at your school? Time to let John and Rob hear about it!

As many of you already know, the STA has filed a grievance regarding the District's practice to direct non-enrolling teachers to cover failures to fill for classroom teachers. The STA has been collecting this data to support this grievance by requesting that staff reps regularly report failures to fill via this [link](#) found on our [homepage](#).

Why not take this one step further and also email (using your personal email, not your district mail) our Premier John Horgan (john.horgan.mla@leg.bc.ca) and Minister of Education Rob Fleming (rob.fleming.MLA@leg.bc.ca) about the number of failure-to-fills at your school each day, and explain what is happening and what kids are missing out on. Receiving countless emails from around the province every day may help them to understand how large this issue really is. This idea was sent in by a STA member (thank you so much!), and we think it's great!

Feel free to also email them to let them know of any positions that are still vacant at your school and going unfilled or covered by TTOCs.

Special General Meeting

On **Wednesday, November 20 at 4:00 pm** there will be a SGM at the Bombay Banquet Hall (7475 135 St, Surrey). You won't want to miss it, as Carole Gordon, 2nd VP of the BCTF, will be giving an executive report on the bargaining. We will also be adopting the resolutions Surrey will be bringing to the BCTF AGM. Dinner will be served at the meeting. The meeting will conclude with a pro-d draw and prizes.

The STA Status of Women Committee is also collecting shoe donations for women in need at this event (see below for more info). Please bring any new or gently used shoes if you have them.

Collecting Shoe Donations



The STA Status of Women committee is collecting shoe donations for the upcoming December 6 National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. 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.

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

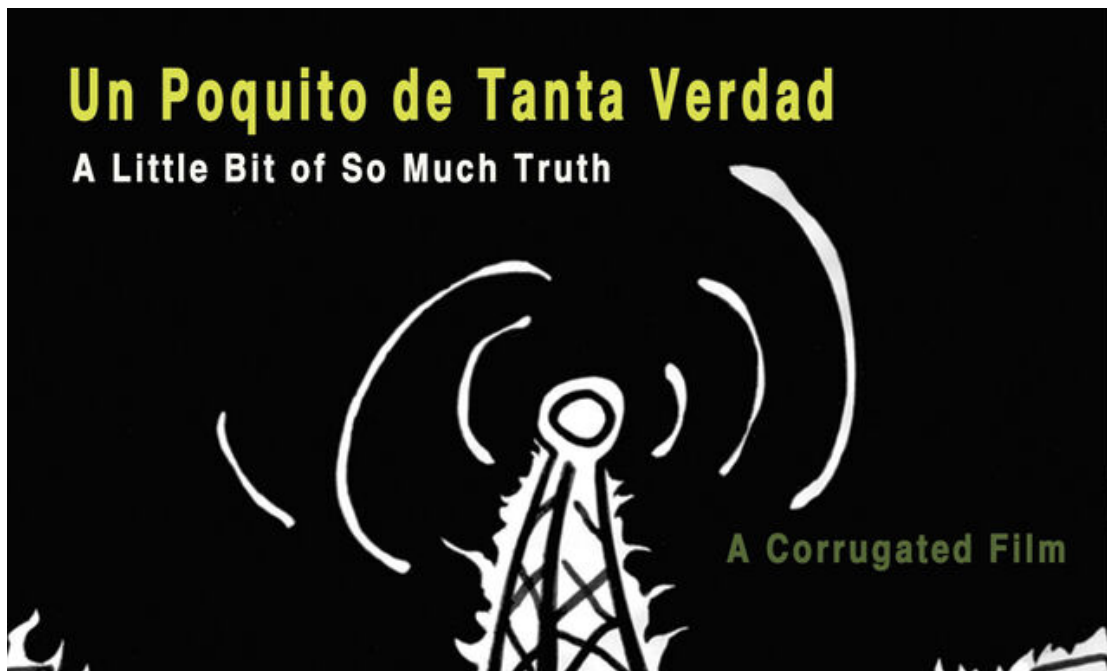
wellness events in the past, then you know this is an event you do not want to miss!

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 by a choice of either yoga and meditation with Violette Baillargeon (remember to bring a yoga mat and towel), or a lighter chair yoga with Cindy Thornton-Veltri (no mat required, for beginners, or those with limited mobility). A delicious dinner will end our time together.

The committee is also collecting shoe donations for women in need at this event (see below for more info). Please bring any new or gently used shoes if you have them.

Register Now

Labour Affairs Committee Film Night



Please join the Labour Affairs Committee of the STA in our first Film/Dinner Night of the year on Thursday, November 21, 3:45 PM at the STA Office. We will be showing the film, Un Poquito de Tanta Verdad (A Little Bit of So Much Truth), a 93 minute film about teachers in Mexico who take over media and tv channels to move forward on issues of social justice.

Enjoy the film with colleagues, lively discussion and a delicious Mexican dinner.

This event is open to everyone. Free for STA members, \$15 for non-members.

Watch the [Youtube trailer](#).

Register Now

BCTF New Teachers' Conference



Registration is now OPEN for the BCTF New Teachers' Conference taking place on Saturday, January 25, 2020 in Richmond. This conference will feature a renowned keynote speaker, a panel of teachers, a wide range of workshop topics, and a resource fair displaying teaching material and more. Most of all, this event is an opportunity to network with teachers coming from all over the province and make some new lifelong friendships. The registration fee includes a welcoming reception in the evening before the conference as well as breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

The conference is specifically designed to serve teachers who have been teaching for five years or less, it is also open to teachers who have come back to the classroom after a leave or who changed district and/or workload. Student teachers are encouraged to attend.

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 - White Rock

You are 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.

Health & Safety: Unsafe Water in Schools

Global News recently came out with an [article](#) about children in schools and daycares across Canada being exposed to unsafe drinking water that include dangerous levels of lead. They included a list of 74 Surrey schools that had been tested, as only schools built before 1990 require the testing. The locations of contaminated water sources in each school were identified and either the water was shut off or appropriate filters or safe water sources were supplied. If you have questions or concerns about water sources at your school please contact Dana Neidig, health and safety grievance officer at the STA, at hs@surreyteachers.org for more information.

If you know that you worked at a school where lead has been found in the water, then you can register through the Exposure registry program using [form 41MI](#) on the WorkSafeBC website. This is a registry for workers who may have been exposed to a dangerous substance at some point in their work history and allows them to open an injury/illness claim in the future should symptoms appear. An obvious example is potential/possible exposure to asbestos where illness does not present for many years.



On June 20, 2019, the STA's Indigenous Education Committee put on a **celebration for National Indigenous Peoples Day**. Harley Chappell of Semiahmoo First Nation was the MC for the event, and a number of groups shared their cultures, issues, and concerns to a very receptive audience. Groups and individuals that shared that evening were: The Sasquatch Dancers (Sts'ailes FN), The KGN Dancers (Nisga'a FN), Hummingbirds Rising (Rhiannon Bennett & Andrea Hilder), Butterflies in Spirit (danced for the MMIWG), Mavis Dumont (Cree and SD#36 Enhancement Worker), and Bruno Philip (Guitarist/Singer).



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Check out the [Indigenous Education edition](#) of The Advocate!

November 16 is Louis Riel Day in BC!

The Métis are Aboriginal people with their own culture, language and heritage, and they continue to assert themselves as a distinct and rights-bearing nation. Louis Riel was a leader of the Métis people of the Canadian prairies, and in BC we commemorate Louis Riel Day on November 16. He helped lay the framework for minority rights and cultural co-operation, and is regarded as a founder of Manitoba. Think about recognizing Métis culture in the week preceding November 16th.

"Dream It - Be It" Career Fair

When: Saturday, November 16, 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Where: Panorama Ridge Secondary (13220 - 64 Avenue, Surrey)

This is a FREE career planning event for high school girls grades 8 - 12.

Attendees will have an opportunity to:

- Hear and meet inspiring guest speakers
- Participate in motivating forums
- Meet professional women in a variety to careers, trades, professions and sports

Includes a free lunch.

Register Now

Canada Music Week

Canada Music Week is a national initiative started in 1960 by the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association to bring to the attention of the public, through various means the importance of Canadian music; to support composers and performers of Canadian music; and to introduce contemporary music to young Canadians. This year, Pardalis Studio has created a two day conference to bridge the music community, creating a stronger connection between music educators, performers, and industry leaders. [Tickets](#) are \$25 for students, and \$50 for adults. Teachers are free if accompanied by two students. Saturday's event includes catered lunch.

They are looking for student volunteers for the event to help with

1. Door/Catering Help
2. Helping with Film Crew

(They would attend the event for free and also receive lunch)

If anyone has any questions or would like to discuss more -- please email

natalia@pardalisstudio.com



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Education

Dean's Distinguished Lecture

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Senator Murray Sinclair

Former Co-Chair of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry in Manitoba and
former Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Hosted by Dr. Blye Frank, Dean, Faculty of Education
and Mr. Jerry Nussbaum, President, Janusz Korczak Association of Canada
Janusz Korczak, the Father of Children's Rights: Turning Rights into Action
In partnership with the Faculty of Education and Janusz Korczak Association of Canada

Robert H. Lee Alumni Centre, Jack Poole Hall

6163 University Boulevard | Vancouver, BC

RSVP at: educ.ubc.ca/deansdistinguishedlecture



Register Now

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 Charles Jungclaus to Harpreet Johal:

"I would like to give a Shout Out to Harpreet Johal. He and his family recently moved to BC from England, and even though he is term specific, he is stepping up to organize sport bins for each classroom - bringing ideas to staff for revision, PAC for funds, ordering equipment, and creating a procedure for others to follow next year in case he isn't back at A.J. McLellan. Hopefully he stays!"

Thank you Charles, you and Harpreet 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

November 12 - Executive Committee

November 13 - Status of Women Committee

November 13 - Surrey School Board Meeting 7 pm @ DEC

November 14 - Members of Colour Committee

November 14-16 BCTF FLI

November 18 - [Wellness Event: Forest Therapy](#)

November 20 - Special General Meeting

November 21 - [LAC Film Night](#)

November 23-24 - BCTF Representative Assembly @ Victoria