



STA Connection November 18-22, 2019

Reconvened Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting

On **Wednesday, November 20 at 4:00 pm** all of you are invited to the [Bombay Banquet Hall](#) (7475 135 St, Surrey). You won't want to miss it, as there will be:

- an executive report regarding bargaining, including Carole Gordon, 2nd VP of the BCTF.
- adoption of the resolutions Surrey will be bringing to the BCTF AGM.
- consideration of a motion from a member to eliminate term limits for Grievance Officers; this would be a significant change, as currently all full-time table officers are limited to serving six consecutive years in any combination of positions.

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.

Opportunity for Members: Lobbying in Victoria, Saturday, November 23

The BCTF is holding a special Representative Assembly in Victoria this weekend (Nov. 22-23), to coincide with the BC NDP Convention. It will provide an excellent opportunity for lobbying MLAs, party delegates, and members of the public. We need to apply political pressure to the government to provide more funding so that we can bargain a new collective agreement. Taking political action now is our best chance of avoiding job action in the future!

The BCTF and STA will be sending members to Victoria to engage in this lobbying. We have arranged a bus (which will be departing at 7:30 am from the Park & Ride in South Surrey, 3800 King George Boulevard) which will go to Victoria on the 9:00 am ferry and return on the 7:00 pm ferry. Transportation, meals (lunch and dinner), and parking costs will be covered by the union. First preference will be for members who will travel on the bus, to save on cost and carbon emissions. We may also support members to go using their own vehicles, but only if they will be carpooling with other people doing lobbying.

Now is the time to apply pressure, and to show our spirit as teachers! Wear red and join us!

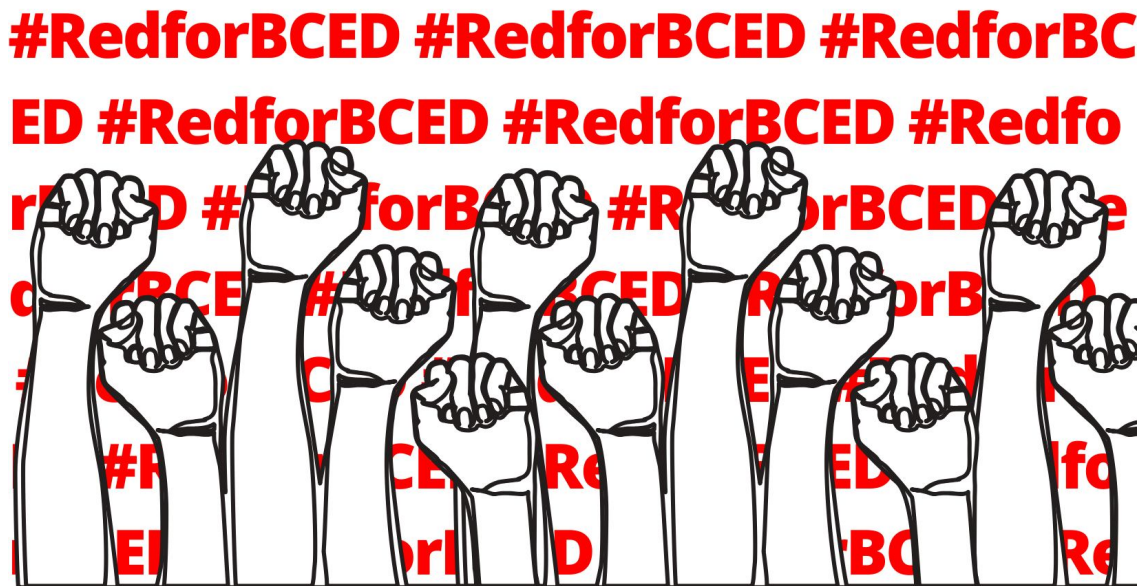
If you are interested, please email sta@surreyteachers.org as soon as possible. Further instructions will be provided for those who sign up.

#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



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 failure 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](#).

Why not take this one step further and also email our Premier [John Horgan](#) and Minister of Education [Rob Fleming](#) about the number of failures-to-fill 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 an 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.

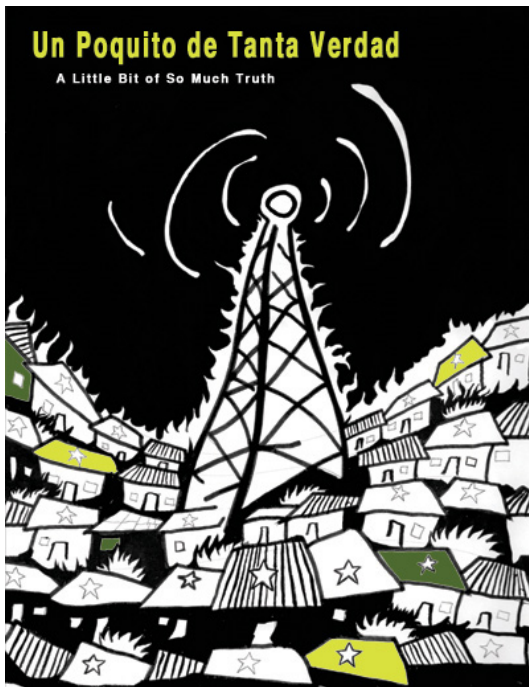
Labour Affairs Committee Film Night

Please join the Labour Affairs Committee of the STA in our first Film/Dinner Night of the year on Thursday, November 21, 3:30 PM at the STA Office. We will be showing the film, 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](#)

Let's Talk About Gender-based Violence

STA STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE'S
**ANTI-VIOLENCE
TRAINING**

DECEMBER 6

12 PM - 3 PM
STA Office
9030 King George Blvd.,
Surrey, BC



**Let's Talk About
Gender-based Violence
Presented by
Anastasia Gaisenok**
Executive Director of Check Your Head:
The Youth Global Education Network

Join us from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm on Friday, December 6 for an interactive multimedia session on the reality of violence experienced by women and girls in Canada today, the ways to end it, and the tools available to engage youth in violence prevention.

Presented by **Anastasia Gaisenok**.

Up to 13 teachers can be released for the afternoon to receive this training, and who will go will be determined first come first serve by registering. Teachers will receive a unit ready to use in the classroom or workplace.

Lunch will be provided.

[Register](#)

Get Yourself in the Qualifications Book!

Have you recently completed coursework? Are you qualified for positions requiring special training such as LST, IST, Helping Teacher, or Career Facilitator? In order to be shortlisted in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers need to be listed in the District Qualification Book. Teachers who are interested in changing their assignments to such positions need to apply to the Human Resources Department (courier #481) by January 31, 2020 to have their qualifications evaluated. The evaluation will be completed by March 31. (CA, Article E.28.1)

Job descriptions and evaluation forms for specific jobs can be found on the [District website](#).

Special Project Funding Deadline is November 29, 2019

Aboriginal Learning is offering special project funding to enhance educational programs for Aboriginal learners. Funds will be made available to financially support a portion of the total cost of the plan submitted. Schools are required to share in the total cost. (Ideally, this will be matching funds.) All schools can apply for funding based on the Aboriginal student population in your school. Please see the [special project funding memo](#) for more information. The application form can be found [here](#). (Mac users - download to desktop to fill out the application form)

White Ribbon Campaign

"If it were between countries, we'd call it a war. If it were a disease, we'd call it an epidemic. If it were an oil spill, we'd call it a disaster. But it is happening to women, and it's just an everyday affair. It is violence against women." – Michael Kaufman, White Ribbon Campaign

This week, White Ribbon Campaign supplies will be distributed to your schools via the courier. The package will include a copy of the poster and 5 ribbons for elementary sites or 10 ribbons for secondary sites. You can also view and/or order the White Ribbon teacher's' guide, [Drawing the Line on Sexual Violence](#).

The White Ribbon Campaign corresponds with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. Currently, more than 3,700 organizations from approximately 164 countries participate in the campaign annually. There are many resources on the [BCTF Gender-Based Violence webpages](#). Another interesting idea would be to research or study one [legal case](#) about violence against women. The [Canadian Women's Foundation](#) website is another excellent resource with many facts surrounding gender-based violence.

The third annual BCTF Women's Institute will be held in Richmond on February 13 - 15, 2020. Each Local has been asked to send one member, who identifies as a woman, to this conference. If you would like to be considered as the delegate that Surrey sends (and you have not attended this event before), please send your name to reception@surreyteachers.org by **4:00 pm on November 26**. Selection will be by a random draw.

In addition, the BCTF Executive Committee will select 20 additional delegates. **Preference will be given to those who, in addition to identifying as women, are members of other equity-seeking groups and who did not attend the 2018 or 2019 Women's Institutes.** The posting can be found [here](#). To apply to be one of these additional delegates, please fill out the [curriculum vitae form](#).



BCTF New Teachers' Conference

The STA will be covering registration fees and mileage for new Surrey teachers to attend the BCTF New Teachers' Conference on Saturday, January 25, 2020 in Richmond. If you'd like to be considered, please email reception@surreyteachers.org by 4:00 pm on November 26. If we receive more names than we have spots, we will be selecting attendees by a random draw.

The 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](#)

Collecting Christmas Cards

Have you heard about the Christmas Card Collective? A North Delta woman organizes hand-made cards to be delivered to people sleeping in shelters during the holiday season. If you want to participate, you can get your cards to Nicole Andersen (courier #063) **by December 4th**, who will drop them off for you as she's already been in touch with the organizer. Feel free to share this information at your school, in case several classes want to be involved!



Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation

Aboriginal Helping Teacher Heidi Wood is organizing a workshop at DEC on December 4, 2019 for grades 4 - 12 teachers. Learn about appropriate resources and lessons to introduce Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation to students. Expand your own knowledge and understanding of the legacy of Indian Residential Schools. Using the FNESC guides, we will share lesson ideas, resources and guide you through those difficult conversations.

Indigenous Education Resources

The Ministry of Education is developing [Indigenous education resources](#) to help further incorporate Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into BC classrooms. Of particular interest is the “Continuing Our Journey” resource, which includes video modules accompanied by a facilitator’s guide.

Register



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 Jacqueline Alvarado Cruz to Nicole Painchaud:

“I would like to send a “shout out” to Nicole Painchaud, who is always helping others out. Nicole was the one that introduced me to “Happy Thoughts” which is sending a little something through the courier to a

colleague or putting a little something in a colleague's mailbox who may not be having a good day. It could be a just because, or just to let them know you are there or just to make their day and make them smile. It could be something silly, or practical that you send them. Thank you Nicole for sharing and spreading your kindness with us!"

Thank you Jacqueline, you and Nicole 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!



- November 18: Wellness Event: Forest Therapy
- November 19: Cross Border Conference Planning Committee
- November 19: Grievance Committee
- **November 20: Special General Meeting**
- November 21: LAC Film Night
- November 21: CCPA Gala 5:30 pm @ Fraser Hall
- November 22: FRAFCA's Guiding Youth Home Fundraising Gala 6:30 pm @ Aria Banquet Hall
- November 23-24: BCTF Representative Assembly @ Victoria
- November 23: Full day - a wonderful bus load of Surrey Teachers rallying in Victoria. See above for info to sign up!
- November 26: Executive Committee
- November 28: Awards Committee