



## **STA Connection February 18-21, 2020**

### **Special General Meeting this Wednesday!**

Our Special General Meeting will be on February 19, 2020 at the Bombay Banquet Hall, 7475 135 Street, Surrey.

We encourage you to attend this meeting. In addition to a bargaining update, and the election of delegates to the CLC Convention, the meeting will also be considering proposed by-law amendments to create a ninth full-time table officer position, and a resolution to increase the term limits for Grievance Officers from six to eight years. You should have received a copy of the Agenda via email, which includes the Special Resolutions to Amend the By-laws. Also attached are the Candidate Statements for those who will be running for a spot at the CLC Convention. Please check in with your staff rep if you did not receive them.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Sad News**

We are sorry to announce that Brian Porter, who was STA President from 1984-86, passed away last week. Our condolences go to his family, friends, and former colleagues. We will share information about a celebration of life once we receive it.

### **Call for Applications: Ad Hoc Committee on Indigenization**

The STA has formed an ad hoc committee to consider how to incorporate Indigenous ways and practices into how we operate as an organization, and develop recommendations for the Executive Committee.

Topics to be considered include acknowledgments, procedures at meetings, use of local Indigenous languages, and relationships with local First Nations. Anyone interested in joining the committee should [submit a CV](#) to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by the end of the day Friday, February 21.



- February 18 - [IST: Roles and Responsibilities Workshop](#)
- February 19 - Special General Meeting @ Bombay Banquet Hall
- February 20 - BCTF AGM Delegate Training 3:30 pm @ Eaglequest Golf
- February 21 - [Focus Day](#) @ North Surrey Secondary
- February 26 - BCTF AGM Delegate Training 8:30 am @ Eaglequest Golf
- February 27 - [Labour Affairs Committee Film Night](#)
- February 28 - [Status of Women Committee Wellness Event](#)
- February 29 - [Cross Border Conference](#) 12 pm - 7:30 pm @ Kwantlen Park Secondary

## Focus Day is this Friday!

A colorful poster for "SD36/STA FOCUS DAY" on February 21, 2020. The poster features a large green circle in the center containing the event details. To the right is a circular portrait of Dr. J. Katz, the keynote speaker. The background is white with colorful abstract shapes and a dotted pattern.

**SD36/STA  
FOCUS DAY**  
February 21, 2020  
North Surrey Secondary  
15945 – 96th Avenue  
8:30 am – 1:30 pm  
[surreyfocusday.ca](http://surreyfocusday.ca)

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. J. Katz**

There is still time to register at [www.surreyfocusday.ca](http://www.surreyfocusday.ca) for this Friday's Focus Day!

### Are you looking for ways to meet the mandatory new professional standard #9?

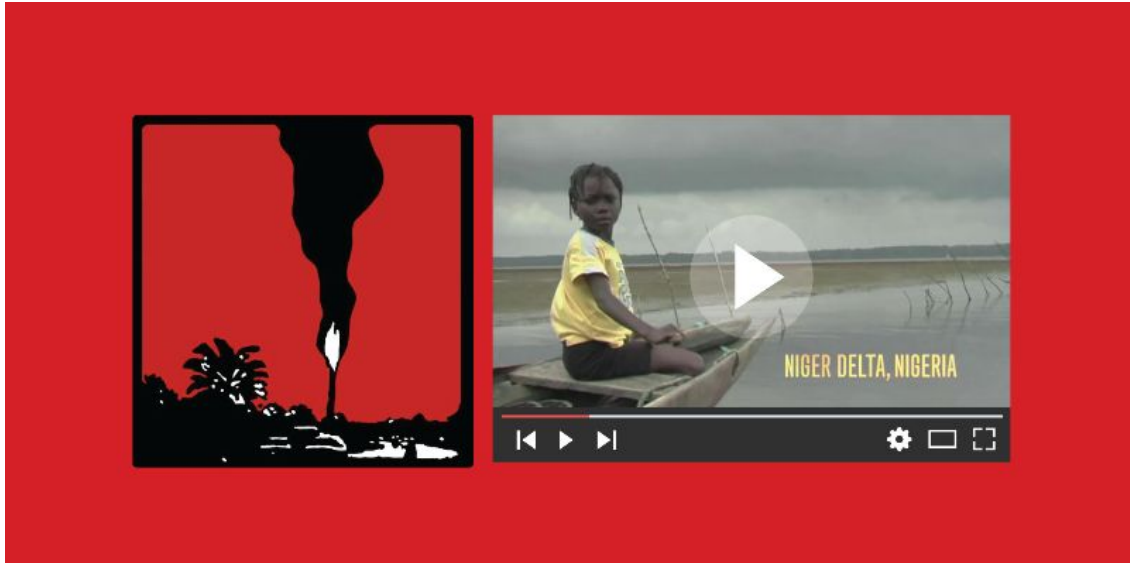
"Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis."

### Check out these workshops:

- [Infusing Aboriginal Content](#)
- [BC Blanket Exercise](#)

- [Decolonizing BC History](#)
- [History of Indigenous Labour](#)
- [The Voice of The Working People](#)
- [Capital and Labour](#)

## LAC Film Night February 27, 2020



Come join the STA's Labour Affairs Committee for our Film & pizza night on Thursday, February 27th! We will be screening another award-winning film which we will make you wonder, make you angry & initiate conversations. Join colleagues & friends for the film, Sweet Crude. Watch the [movie trailer](#).

Sweet Crude is a documentary film about the Niger Delta of Nigeria -- the humanitarian and environmental devastation there in the wake of 50 years of unregulated oil extraction, the history of non-violent protest by Niger Deltans demanding control of their own resources and the emergence of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND).

This event is free for STA members. Non-member guests are welcome for \$10. [Register](#) now!

## Wellness Event: It's fun to be at the Y-M-C-A!



## Wellness Event

Friday, February 28, 2020

3 pm - 6 pm

(feel free to stay until facility closes at 10 pm)

**Tong Louie Family YMCA**

(14988 57 Avenue, Surrey, BC)

Come explore the YMCA and learn about the facilities and programs that are available. You will have the choice to freely explore and participate in a variety of activities available at the YMCA, including the pool, the fitness floor, and yoga. A massage therapist will be on-site offering demonstrations and there will be a draw for a free massage! You are welcome to stay after and continue to enjoy the facilities and/or group fitness programs such as Bollywood dance and ballet. Delicious and healthy snacks will be provided.

[Register](#) now!

## Coming up soon! Cross Border Conference Feb 29, 2020!



We have seen remarkable leadership from teenagers on Climate Justice in the last few months, worldwide. Teachers have a role to play in supporting these activists, and in taking steps in our own practice to support all our students who are growing up in a changing climate. Your STA International Solidarity Committee is hosting the 3rd annual Cross Border Conference, which takes place in Surrey but invites Washington and Oregon teachers, plus all other BC teachers, to come here to confer! Please consider attending, encourage your colleagues to do so, and bring your student teachers along! **This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with some American colleagues, and we have some amazing workshops lined up. It is only \$50, which could be claimed through your Pro D funds. This year we**

are at Kwantlen Park Secondary, noon to 7:30 pm, Saturday, February 29th.

We promise you a delightful day. Registration is open! [www.crossborderconference.com](http://www.crossborderconference.com)

## **Surrey Teachers! Come to the Cross Border Conference for Free!**

Surrey Teachers have a unique opportunity to attend the Cross Border Conference on Saturday, February 29th, where we can discuss issues around Climate Justice and how our teaching work can contribute in important ways to that struggle, AND mingle with American teachers. Think about it, have you ever done Pro D with American colleagues? Here is your chance. The STA International Solidarity Committee would like to sponsor fifty (50) Surrey teachers to attend. Please email Stamata at [reception@surreyteachers.org](mailto:reception@surreyteachers.org) to be one of these lucky 50 teachers! See you there!

## **STA Convention May 1, 2020: Call for Presenters!**

We are still in need of close to 100 workshops to host another successful STA Convention. Do you have a great idea you would like to share with your colleagues? Or if you know of a colleague that does something in their practice that more people need to hear about, please encourage them to submit a proposal on our website at [www.staconvention.ca](http://www.staconvention.ca). A half-day of release is provided to presenters to help prepare their workshops. We will be accepting proposals until the end of February.

## **STA Call for Awards Nominations: Due March 13, 2020**

The Surrey Teachers' Association would like to formally recognize those members who have rendered exceptional services to our profession and union, whose achievements in their careers and/or whose contributions in our union have earned them distinction and brought honour to our profession and Association.

Within this community, there are a few exceptional individuals whose dedication, commitment and extraordinary contribution include achievements of such significance across a broad range of areas that our union wishes to recognize these exceptional leaders by awarding them a Honourary Associate Membership, Honourary Life Membership or Honourary Membership.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ALL NOMINATION LETTERS TO THE SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.**

**Attention: Jatinder Bir, 2nd Vice President, Awards Chairperson. Courier # 000 or**

[sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org).

[Read more](#)

## **Grade 7 Girls' Leadership Conference**

The STA Status of Women Committee is once again planning our annual Grade 7 Girls' Conference. The conference will be taking place on Monday, May 25, 2020 at Princess Margaret Secondary, located at 12870 – 72 Ave, Surrey. The day will begin at 8:30 am and end by 2:30 pm. Presenters will present for 3 sessions, about 1 hour and 15 minutes each.



If you are interested in presenting, please complete the form at [bit.ly/stagirls2020](https://bit.ly/stagirls2020). We would like to ask if you are able to work with us to give the girls a fun and inspiring day, or if you know of anyone (does not have to be a teacher) who would give a fun and interactive workshop, you can send your suggestion to Angela Marcakis at [marcakis\\_a@surreyschools.ca](mailto:marcakis_a@surreyschools.ca). Thank you so much for supporting this inspiring event!

## #RedforBCED - On Wednesdays, We Wear Red!



Pictured are some teachers from Royal Heights wearing their #RedforBCED! Don't have any red shirts? Have fun with the red theme and rock some red accessories instead, as seen by our fashionable President Matt Westphal.

We have been very impressed by the staff who have taken the initiative to order their own #RedforBCED apparel. Last week, the STA Executive passed a motion that would subsidize staffs 50% of the cost of #RedforBCED apparel (up to \$15 per item - sorry, no half-off red Air Jordans for you!) to help encourage Surrey teachers to wear red on Wednesdays. This motion is retroactive in the 2019-2020 school year. Please send your original receipts to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) or through the courier to #000.

Surrey teachers, please send us photos and videos of your staff wearing their red, holding walk-ins, burma shaves, and any other acts of solidarity. Let us know if we can help support you in any way. We need a fair deal that includes better working and learning conditions, and fair salaries!

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

## Education Funding Announcement

Last week, the Ministry of Education announced some of the funding formula recommendations they will move forward within this budget cycle. We are very excited that the government has decided to delay any implementation of the prevalence model and we see this apparent change of direction as a major win!

**Thank you** to all of our members who tirelessly pushed back and advocated for proper funding for special education!

# Have you signed the BCTF petition yet?!

Here's a quick and easy action that will help our bargaining team by putting some pressure on the government! This [petition](#) calls on the government to increase funding to education and deal with BC teacher shortage crisis by addressing our low salaries at the bargaining table. The provincial government will be announcing their budget on February 18. Now is the time to share the petition link along with your stories to your family and friends on social media. Let's get ourselves a good deal!

## One Billion Rising

This year NEVR's "[One Billion Rising](#)" event, co-sponsored by members Mustang Justice and Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships (NEVR) will take place on February 24th from 10:30 am to 1:45 pm at LA Matheson Secondary School (9484 122 St, Surrey, BC). One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence against women in human history. The campaign, launched on Valentine's Day 2012, began as a call to action based on the staggering statistic that 1 in 3 women on the planet will be beaten or raped during her lifetime. With the world population at 7 billion, this adds up to more than ONE BILLION WOMEN AND GIRLS." In attendance will be over 200 students plus members of the public. Please email Annie Ohana at [ohana\\_a@surreyschools.ca](mailto:ohana_a@surreyschools.ca) for more information.

## Teach Grade 11? Nominate a Teen Girl for Learning to Lead!

Minerva BC will be hosting [Learning to Lead](#), a leadership development programs for female, transgender, and non-binary teens to increase their confidence and explore their leadership potential while creating a support network. Teachers can nominate Grade 11 students who they witness as having leadership potential. All costs to participants and their families are covered, including travel and accommodations. Fifty students will be selected to attend one of the weekends in either Vancouver, Prince George, or Kamloops (150 students total).



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 Eleni Gittersos to Sarah Dekerf:**

*"I would love to send a shout out to Sarah Dekerf for taking on the SEL roll at our school and leading an amazing group of people in spearheading the programs!"*

Thank you Eleni, you and Sarah are now entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo! gift certificate.

Please submit your “shout outs” to Angela via [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) to spread the kindness around our local and for your chance to win a gift card too!