



STA Connection March 9-13, 2020

COVID-19 Information Update

As you have no doubt heard, two schools (Serpentine Heights and Sullivan Heights) have had a person connected to the school test positive for COVID-19. The District has been working closely with Fraser Health, and did a deep cleaning of the schools this past weekend. If you are at one of those sites and notice issues with the thoroughness of the cleaning, please notify your administration so they can address it.

Along with the District, we take our direction on this matter from Fraser Health, which has determined that the risk for people in these schools is low. We are monitoring the situation as it develops, but at present this is our advice:

- If you are ill, please stay home. If you are out of sick days, then you could access BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan benefits; contact BCTF Income Security at 604-871-1921.
- If you have a concern for your own health—for example, your immune system is compromised, or you are in a higher-risk group because of age or an underlying condition—then you should consult with a physician about whether you should be going to work under the circumstances. If your physician advises not working at that site as a precaution, please contact the STA office at 604-594-5353 for more information and support.
- Based on the information we have now, in most cases this situation would not qualify for a refusal of unsafe work, but please contact the STA office for guidance if you think it might apply to you.
- If you have a concern about going to work because a family member is in a vulnerable category, please note that sick days can only be used for your own illness. If you are not yourself sick, but do not feel comfortable going to work because of a potential risk to your family, then you would need to take an unpaid leave, such as by using personal discretionary days or Family Responsibility Leave (up to 5 days).

We recognize how stressful this situation is for everyone, particularly those working at the two schools. We

will share more information as it becomes available. For more information from the District on this issue, please see the following page: <https://www.surreyschools.ca/NewsEvents/Posts/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=786>

Marking in the Malls



March 11 and April 2 at Guildford Town Centre
April 2 at Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
3:15 pm to 5:30 pm each date, at each location

Surrey Teachers - bring your marking or prep, share a coffee or snack, and have conversations with colleagues. We are hosting a public show of collegiality and solidarity as the massive amounts of marking and prep are usually done alone in classrooms or at home where it is not visible to the public

You can stay for the whole time, or only part of it and possibly enjoy some relaxing shopping. When you arrive, check with the STA organizer at the food court and we'll buy your coffee or snack!

We are working to also make plans at City Central and Willowbrook Mall. More details to follow.

Walk-ins!



Several schools have done walk-ins this month. This action draws parents' attention to the fact that all is not normal when we are still without a new contract.

Contact your employer!

The Surrey Board of Education is your employer. Trustees are elected to fulfil that role, but also to advocate for public education. BCPSEA (BC Public School Employers' Association) is bargaining on their behalf, but is taking bargaining positions that are bad for us, and for our students. Many members are feeling frustrated about the situation in their school, particularly about failures to fill or inadequate supports. It would be helpful for trustees to have a better insight into what we are facing in schools, and to hear it directly from the people doing the work. Please see the attached document for guidance on how to let trustees know what is going on in your school!



- March 10 - Executive Committee
- March 11 - Marking in the Malls 3:15 - 5:30 pm at Guildford Mall Food Court
- March 11 - School Board Meeting 7 pm at DEC
- March 14-29 - **SPRING BREAK!**
- March 14-17 - BCTF AGM at The Hyatt
- [March 31 - IST: Roles and Responsibilities](#)
- April 1 - Post-AGM Delegate Meeting
- April 2 - Marking in the Malls at Guildford & Semiahmoo Malls
- April 2 - Indigenous Education Committee
- April 6 - Status of Women Committee
- April 6 - Pro-D Committee
- April 7 - Executive Committee
- April 8 - Health & Safety Committee
- April 8 - School Board Meeting 7 pm at DEC
- [April 9 - Thirsty Thursday: Young Workers Pub Night at Central City Brew Pub](#)

Staff Committee! Discuss the upcoming postings at your school NOW!

Schools should have a functioning staff committee, as it is a right in our contract (Article A.34) and usually a very good way to make sure things are working smoothly and to suggest policy improvements and catch potential errors. It is particularly important to have a good meeting or two in the spring, where the staff committee has a chance to review the staffing needs of the school and the postings that are upcoming. Under Article E.26.2.a, administrators are required to consult with staff committee about the "educational program needs of the school" before April 15th. Postings in round one should come first to the staff committee for review, and the staff committee can ask questions about the process the principal has undertaken in preparing these postings. **Postings must be offered internally before they are posted.** The same process would take place again before round 2. The staff committee can help bring issues the principal hasn't considered while preparing the postings to her/his attention.

The deadline to complete internal reassignments before Round 1 is April 3, so please meet with your staff committee now! Round one will be opening on Thursday, April 16. If any job is posted in your school that wasn't posted internally first, please contact Mark Keelan at the STA grieve2@surreyteachers.org.

Transfer Timeline:

<https://www.surreyteachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2020-2021-Transfer-Timelines.pdf>

DUE THIS WEEK: STA Award Nominations

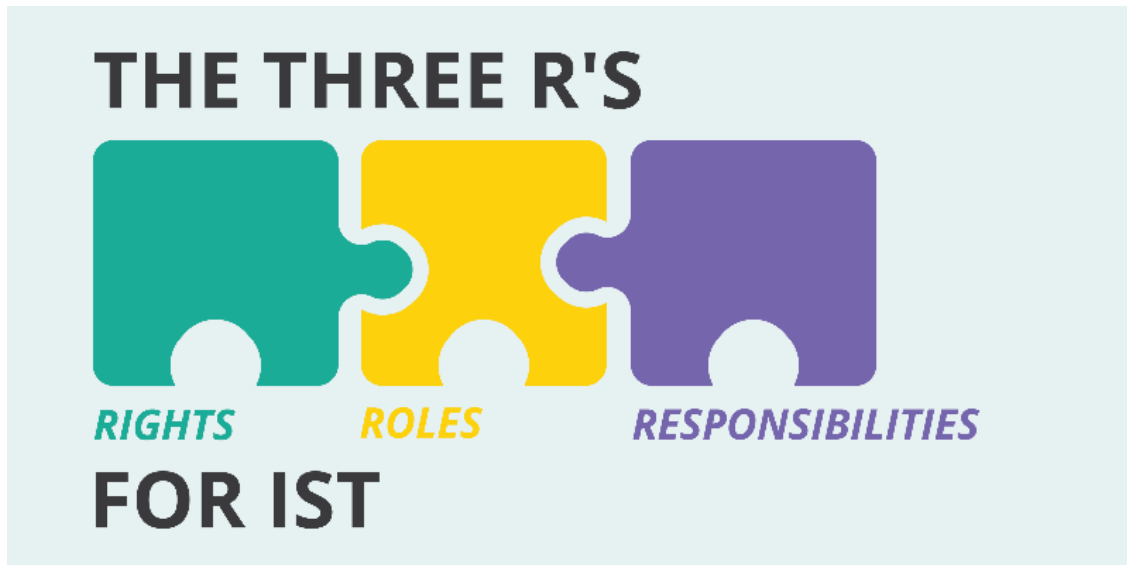
The Surrey Teachers' Association would like to formally recognize those members who have rendered exceptional services to our profession and union, whose achievements in their careers and/or whose contributions in our union have earned them distinction and brought honour to our profession and Association.

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, Honorary Life Membership and Honorary Membership. **This award may not be presented every year.**

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL NOMINATION LETTERS TO THE SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.
Attention: Jatinder Bir, 2nd Vice President, Awards Chairperson. Courier no. 000 or sta@surreyteachers.org by Friday, March 13.

Integration Support Teachers Workshop



On **March 31st**, the STA's IST Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will be hosting an afterschool workshop open to all Integration Support Teachers. It will be an orientation to our rights, roles, and responsibilities as STA members in this role. The event is tailored to be supportive and relevant to Integration Support teachers with any amount of experience in the IST role.

We will be serving delicious food and socializing together from 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Workshop time 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm that includes the following topics:

- Understanding our IST Job Description: "Yes we do / No we don't"
- How the Collective Agreement interacts with the IST role
- "Tools and Resources"--What's available to members and implications with our unique role
- Identifying specific IST challenges /concerns & recommendations to the STA Executive Committee
- Moving forward: How the STA IST Ad Hoc Advisory Committee can help support us.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Register: <https://ist-march2020.eventbrite.ca>

Thirsty Thursday: Young Workers Pub Night!



The YWC is hosting its first Pub Night to help bring any and all Young Workers together. Whether you're a social butterfly or a meme collecting introvert, if you're under 35 come down and spend some time with the new generation of teachers. We know you're always on the grind, so take a minute to chill and come have a drink on us! Start your long weekend right with your friends on the YWC.

Register: <https://ywc-april2020.eventbrite.ca>

Registration Open for New Teachers' Conference in Nelson



- Have you been teaching for 5 years or less?
- Did you just come back to the classroom after a leave?
- Did you change districts or workloads?
- Do you know any student teachers?

The next BCTF New Teachers' Conference is set for Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23 in beautiful Nelson!

The conference includes a keynote speaker, high-quality [workshops](#) on a wide range of topics, and a resource fair displaying teaching material and more. The registration fee includes a welcoming reception in

the evening before the conference as well as breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

For more information and to register, go to: <https://bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2020>

Bargaining update posted on the BCTF member portal

There was some good progress made at mediation and our Bargaining Team is feeling optimistic about the road ahead with several more mediation dates set throughout the month of March. These developments show that political pressure works and if we can keep it up, we can get a good deal in this mediation process.

A confidential update has been posted in the portal and has more detailed information about what has happened. If you need help signing into the member portal, visit bctf.ca/portalhelp.aspx.

50% discount on #RedforBCED items!



Pictured are teachers from Hillcrest Elementary wearing their #RedforBCED!

We have been very impressed by the staff who have taken the initiative to order their own #RedforBCED apparel. The STA will subsidize staff 50% of the cost of #RedforBCED apparel (up to \$15 per item) to help encourage Surrey teachers to wear red on Wednesdays. This motion is retroactive to the 2019-2020 school year. Please send your original receipts to sta@surreyteachers.org or through the courier to #000 using this form: <https://www.surreyteachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Expense-voucher-2019-20-Red-for-Ed-reimbursements.pdf>.

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

BCTF 2020 Grades 10–12 Curriculum Summit

Do you teach Grades 10, 11, or 12?

Would you like to share your perspectives on curriculum change and implementation?

The [Grades 10–12 Curriculum Summit](#) will bring together 40 teachers to explore key challenges in the ongoing process of curriculum change and identify concrete strategies for how the BCTF can support teachers and continue to advocate for their needs.

The [Summit](#) takes place on April 24, 2020, at the BCF Building. Applications are due by March 30, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Focused Education (formerly ERAC) Learning Resource Evaluators

The BCTF is currently seeking 120 active members to evaluate learning resources for Focused Education (formerly ERAC) on behalf of their colleagues in BC and the Yukon. Focused Education is a new not-for-profit organization created to fulfill a mission of supporting excellence in K–12 education in British Columbia. BCTF-appointed evaluators will be offered assignments to review and evaluate various resources. Learn more about the work, required qualifications, and application process here:

<https://bctf.ca/opportunities/FocusedEducation.aspx>



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 goes to Jodi Florio:

“A big shout out to Jodi Florio whose endless energy and passion is infectious to staff and students alike! Jodi’s connection with her class is evident as soon as you walk in to Ellendale. She is an excellent staff rep who organized a school visit and attended a rainy rally with a big smile on her face - all within one week! Surrey is so lucky to have a teacher like you Jodi!”

Thank you Jodi, you 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!

IOP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

23rd Annual IOP Conference | Education Transformed!



Saturday, May 2, 2020 | UBC Vancouver

Call for Proposals is now open!

Register by April 6, 2020 for early bird pricing!
Visit our website for more details: iop.educ.ubc.ca/



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Faculty of Education





**ASK YOURSELF.
WHAT WOULD
I BE WILLING TO
DO TO FIGHT
RACISM?**

**NOW, RAISE YOUR HAND.
HOW EASY WAS THAT?**

On March 21st from noon till 4 PM, join us at the L.A Matheson Secondary School in Surrey. Dip your hand in paint and apply it to our banner to show your commitment to tolerance and the respect for diversity.

#HANDSAGAINSTRACISM



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FINANCIAL & INSURANCE
SERVICES INC.



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basant
WORLD

NANAK



March 21, 2020 12pm - 4pm

L.A. Matheson Secondary School
9484 122 St, Surrey