



STA Connection April 14-17, 2020

We have reached a tentative deal in bargaining! Time to prepare for the online ratification vote

Thank you to all of the Surrey teachers who advocated for public education by wearing red for ed, talking to friends and families, emailing their MLAs, participating in walk-ins and rallies – your support has helped us achieve a tentative agreement in this round of bargaining! As you probably heard, we reached a deal on March 26 which the BCTF Executive Committee is **unanimously** recommending. Information about the tentative agreement is available **on the portal**.

Once you log in, you will see a space that says, “Click here to learn more and read the latest update.” The portal also has several other helpful documents in the Bargaining 2019–20 section. Use the dropdown menu under Bargaining 2019–20 to select “Agreement-in-Committee documents” to access the full tentative agreement, a more detailed summary, an annotated explanation of the terms of settlement, and a timeline that clarifies what gains kick in each year of the agreement.

A secure online vote will be held from April 28–30, 2020. We will have much more information to you about how that will work soon.

In order to ensure that you receive information about the ratification vote, we need members to make sure the BCTF has your correct contact information. If the BCTF does not have any email address on file, or has an address that you no longer use, you **will not be able to vote**. To check what email address is on file for you, go to the BCTF Member Portal home page, <https://www.bctf.ca/mybctf>.

- **If you're already registered on the portal:** Please login and verify that your contact information is up-to-date under “Your Info” on the home page. If your information is not up-to-date, please click on “Update Your Info” and follow the prompts.

- **If it's your first time on the portal:** Click "Sign up now" and follow the prompts. Then, please verify that your contact information is up-to-date under "Your Info" on the home page. If your information is not up-to-date, please click on "Update Your Info" and follow the prompts.
- **If you need your BCTF Member ID:** Click on "Forgot Your Member ID?" and follow the prompts. Then, please verify that your contact information is up-to-date under "Your Info" on the home page. If your information is not up-to-date, please click on "Update Your Info" and follow the prompts.

You can also bypass the portal and update your personal information using the "Change of Address and Personal Data Form".

Please take the time to inform yourself about the contents of the deal in preparation for ratification. In addition to the material on the BCTF Member Portal, the BCTF will also be providing other opportunities to learn more about the proposed deal:

- **BCTF President Teri Mooring will make a presentation explaining the deal, and why it is being recommended for ratification, at a Livestream** at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16. You can attend it by going to this link <https://livestream.com/bctf/april162020>. You will need to use the password **bctf2020** to tune in. If you cannot watch it, it will be posted to the portal.
- If you have questions about the tentative deal, you can send them to aicquestions@bctf.ca. Teri Mooring will answer questions during the Livestream.
- The BCTF will be scheduling telephone town halls next week so members can learn more about the details of the agreement. The BCTF will be emailing details to members soon.

If you did not receive an email from the BCTF about the Agreement-in-Committee and Livestream yesterday or today, that likely means that the BCTF does not have your email. In that case, please log in to the portal, following the instructions above, to ensure they have this information.

Working from Home Form

You will have received a form from the District regarding your working conditions at home. The STA has concerns about this form, and will be discussing it with Human Resources. We will be providing further advice about the form, and advise members not to complete it until then.



- April 20 – Convention Committee
- April 20 – Indigenization Committee
- April 21 – Executive Committee
- April 22 – STARA Meeting
- April 28-30 – Ratification Vote

COVID-19 and EI Claims

Members who experience a lay-off or shortage of work, an illness, injury or are affected by the COVID19 virus may be eligible to claim EI wage loss benefits. In 2020, the maximum EI payment is \$573 per week or \$1,146 bi-weekly. Whether or not you qualify for EI wage replacement you may qualify for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) which will provide \$500 per week for up to 16 weeks. The benefit is

available for the period from March 15, 2020, to October 3, 2020. Please see the attached document for more information.

TEP Practicum Decision

There has been an agreement reached between government, the BCTC, and the deans of education (ABCDE) regarding teacher candidate practicums. The key decision is that for Spring 2020, practicums can be delivered through a combination of face to face and up to 50% of online or remote learning approaches. Most TEP programs have already met the face to face requirement. This decision has been made to enable teacher candidates to graduate on time.

Annual General Meeting Call for Nominations



We are in the process of determining the timing and format of our STA Annual General Meeting in light of the restrictions imposed by COVID-19. We will provide more details once we have completed our planning.

If you are interested in running for a position (whether as a full-time table officer working in the STA office, as a member of the Executive Committee, or as a member of the Resolutions Committee), please review the "[Call for Nominations](#)" document. If you are considering whether you would like to run for a position, or are curious to know more, please contact Matt Westphal at pres@surreyteachers.org. If you wish to provide a candidate statement (for Executive Committee and Resolutions Committee) to be distributed to the membership before the AGM, please submit it to the STA office by April 30, 2020, via email to sta@surreyteachers.org or via fax to 604-594-5176. The maximum length for candidate statements is 600 words.

Time to Prepare for Transfer Rounds!

We have reached an agreement with the District to [adjust the transfer round timelines](#) slightly, as seen in the attached document. **If you are a teacher with a continuing contract, you are eligible to apply for positions in Rounds 1 and 2.**

Last year, the STA filed a number of grievances related to the transfer rounds. In our discussions with

Human Resources and school principals, we got some insight into the inner workings of the process.

There are three parts to the transfer process. [Read more](#)

Checking in with your mental health and wellness

Here are some resources that may be helpful for taking care of your mental health:

Seeing a Doctor

If you are concerned about your mental health, please reach out for help. Many doctors are offering virtual appointments. Call the clinic and they will advise. You can also call 8-1-1 for assistance and advice.

Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)

Through EFAP, you can receive counselling and coaching for a variety of life balance and health issues. This service is offered to all SD36 staff who are eligible for benefits. For more information, please call 1-800-663-1142, or go online to www.homeweb.ca.

Registered Psychologists

Our Pacific Blue Cross benefits package includes coverage for services of a registered psychologist. No doctor's referral is needed. Many psychologists are currently offering appointments by phone or video.

Health and Wellness

The BCTF Program contracts professional rehabilitation consultants located in communities throughout the province. In consultation with your health care provider, these consultants will coordinate services that help to improve the teacher's health and functional abilities. You can refer yourself to the Health and Wellness program here: <https://bctf.ca/wellness/>

Starling Minds Online

The Starling Program is an online mental health and wellness tool that is designed specifically for teachers. It helps you assess, monitor, and improve your mental fitness in the privacy of your home. As a member of BC Teachers' Federation, it is available to you and your family members to use anywhere and anytime you want, for free. They also have some resources specifically for managing stress and anxiety from COVID-19. Starling is and will always be 100% confidential. BCTF members can learn more here: <https://bctf.ca/SalaryAndBenefits.aspx?id=38267>

HeadSpace App

Headspace is an app with meditations, articles, videos, sleep stories and courses to support mindfulness and to help people stress less, focus more and sleep better. They offer free access to educators. You can sign up here: <https://www.headspace.com/educators>

Mental Health & Wellness Tips

Here is an article with some reasonable and wise tips for mental health self-care during this time. You may not relate to all of them, but perhaps some of them could be helpful:

<http://www.sfu.ca/olc/blog/my-ssp/mental-health-wellness-tips-quarantine>

Climate Justice Organizing in the Time of COVID-19



Webinar by Alison Bodine (Climate Convergence organizer, journalist, author and researcher with a focus on environmental, Latin American and immigration issues) and Dr. Chris Carlsten (Head of the Respiratory Medicine Department at the University of British Columbia)

Hosted by Climate Convergence
Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 pm

To register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_vdRcrsRIRvOGSxj6_WhXJg
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/898627053906623/>

Conversation on The Pandemic and Climate Change with David Suzuki and Linda Solomon Wood

Hosted by Canada's National Observer on **Thursday, April 16, 7:30 – 8:30 pm**
To register: Type RSVP into the subject line and email info@nationalobserver.com. Spaces limited.

Attend the 2020 Labor Notes conference in Chicago – virtually, this weekend, for free!

Join thousands of North American Labour activists this Saturday in a virtual version of the popular and important conference. Building stronger unions even in times of crisis requires training and preparation. It is free but registration is required.

Saturday April 18, 2020, 10 am – 2:45 pm
<https://labornotes.org/virtualconference>

One World: Together At Home

ONE WORLD TOGETHER AT HOME

GLOBAL CITIZEN  World Health Organization

CURATED IN COLLABORATION WITH LADY GAGA

APPEARANCES BY:

ALANIS MORISSETTE • ANDREA BOCELLI • BILLIE EILISH
BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG • BURNA BOY • CHRIS MARTIN • DAVID BECKHAM
EDDIE VEDDER • ELTON JOHN • FINNEAS • IDRIS AND SABRINA ELBA
J BALVIN • JOHN LEGEND • KACEY MUSGRAVES • KEITH URBAN
KERRY WASHINGTON • LANG LANG • LIZZO • MALUMA • PAUL McCARTNEY
PRIYANKA CHOPRA JONAS • SHAH RUKH KHAN • STEVIE WONDER

HOSTED BY JIMMY FALLON • JIMMY KIMMEL • STEPHEN COLBERT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

WATCH THIS HISTORIC EVENT LIVE!

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS HERE:
[GLOBALCITIZEN.ORG/TOGETHERATHOME](https://www.globalcitizen.org/togetherathome)

Global Citizen will be bringing the world together through music and inspiring everyone to stay inside and take action. One World: Together At Home is a historic, virtual, no-contact cross-platform global concert special that will celebrate and support healthcare workers and others on the frontlines, and the World Health Organization (WHO) as they lead the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The broadcast will include leading global health experts alongside exciting performances by the world's top artists and comedians.

Contributions from corporate partners will go directly to the WHO's Solidarity Response Fund to support and equip healthcare workers around the world. As of last week, WHO has shipped 2 million pieces of critical PPE and supplies to 68 countries worldwide, ensuring the poorest countries have the resources needed to tackle COVID-19. This included over 700,000 surgical masks, 51,000 N95 masks, 727,000 gloves, 85,000 gowns, nearly 14,000 goggles, and over 20,000 face shields. They also supplied 1.5 million diagnostic kits to 120 countries to bolster their abilities to detect and respond to COVID-19.

The linear broadcast of One World' Together At Home will air on Saturday, April 18 from 5 pm - 7 pm on NBC, CBS, and ABC.

The digital stream will run from 11 am - 5 pm on the following platforms: Alibaba, Amazon Prime Video, Apple, Facebook, Instagram, LiveXLive, Tencent, Tencent Music Entertainment Group, TIDAL, TuneIn, Twitch, Twitter, Yahoo, and YouTube.

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/connect/togetherathome/>



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 Lisa Porter from Anonymous:

"As a teacher-councillor at Fleetwood Park Secondary, Lisa is a constant and stable support for her school community. She is a tireless advocate for students, especially for those most at risk to being "lost in the shuffle". She has also been a dedicated source of help, comfort, and assurance to her colleagues, and even to TTOCs connected to the school, especially during this trying time. And what really deserves a shout out is that she never asks for the spotlight, or to be acknowledged for her efforts. Therefore, in solidarity, my shout out will also be anonymous. Thank you, Ms Porter!"

Thank you Anonymous, you and Lisa 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!