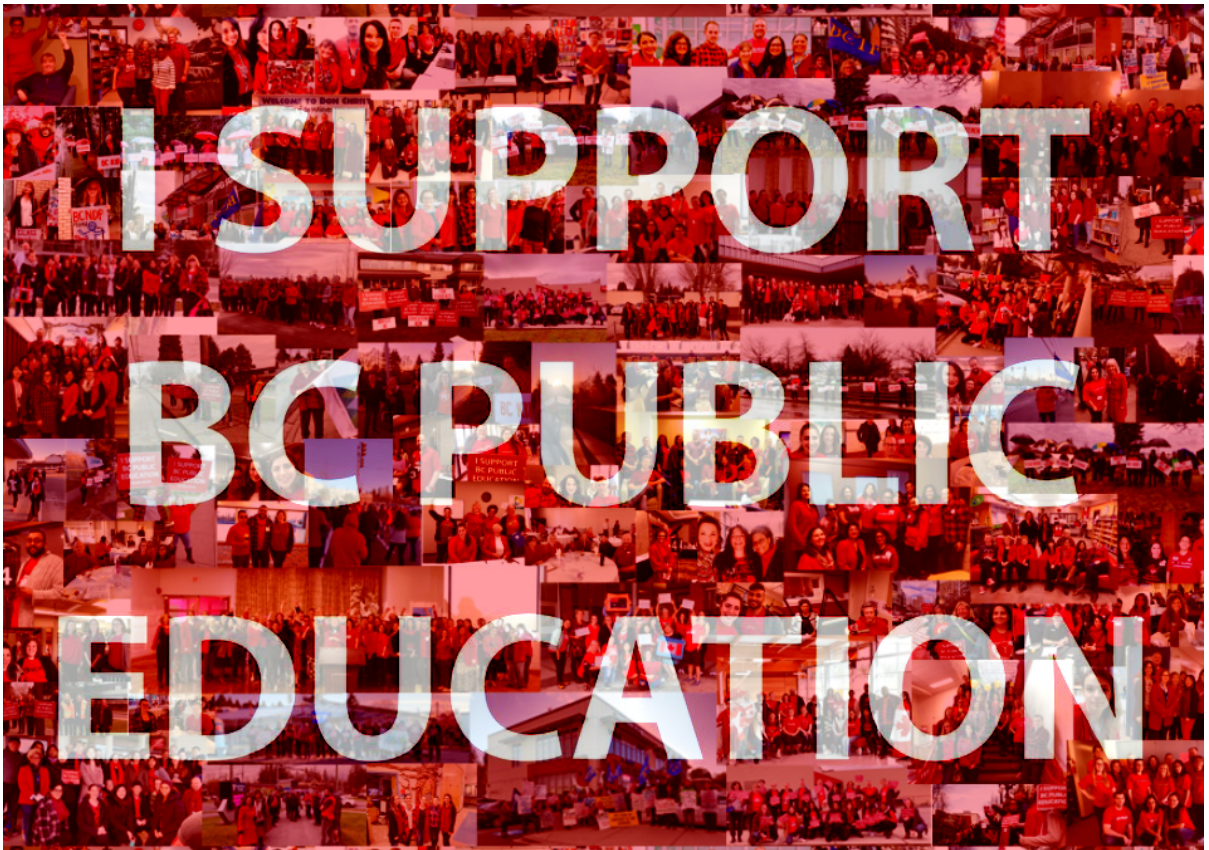




STA Connection May 4-8, 2020

BCTF 2020 Ratification: 98% voted YES



The results are in! The new collective agreement has been approved with 98% voting in favour. Out of 45,000+ members, 31,838 voted, with 31,087 voting in favour, and 751 voting against.

Thank you so much to all of the Surrey teachers who demonstrated unwavering solidarity during this long and tough round of negotiations. The pressure you put on your MLAs through emails and phone calls, the rallies and burma shaves, the walk-ins and marking in the mall events, the social media posts, wearing #RedforBCED – no matter how big or small the action, you helped us put on the collective pressure to get the government to remove the concessions and make some important gains in this round – you all make a difference. We are so proud to be Surrey teachers!

STA comments on Wednesday's update from Horgan

On Wednesday, Premier John Horgan announced the government's plan for a gradual reopening of British Columbia in line with the recommendations of the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry. The details of the plan can be found [here](#).

The plan contains general information about schools, but not much detail. You will likely have more questions, as do we. The most pressing concern for members is whether there will be any general return of students to schools before June 30. The plan says this:

"An announcement on a phased approach to resuming in-class instruction will be made in the coming weeks.

This will not be a return to normal. With weeks left in the school year, we anticipate many kids will not return to the classroom until September.

But we are also exploring ways to safely get some kids back to school before the summer, to allow more parents to return to work. How these changes unfold are the focus of intensive discussion among Ministry of Education officials, school trustees, the BC Teachers' Federation, CUPE, and other education sector partners."

The government has also released another document describing the [plan for phasing-in of education](#) (starting at p. 3). The current stage involves remote and online learning for students, and in-class learning for vulnerable students and children of Essential Service Workers. The next stage is as follows:

- In-class learning for students in kindergarten to Grade 5 on a part-time basis.
- Access to in-class learning as needed for grades 6 to 12 on a part-time basis.
- Remote and online learning continues to be available for students.

We do not know when the transition to this next stage will take place. Based on what the Premier said today, it will not be before the May long weekend, and possibly not until June.

Here is what we know right now:

- Surrey, unlike other districts, has not directed staff to return to working at school sites.
- Child care for children of Essential Service Workers will continue, as will the gradual expansion of in-person support for a small number of our most vulnerable learners.
- The District is planning for the possibility of a more general return of students to some form of in-person instruction in schools before June 30. Since there has been no announcement of a date for such a return, this is contingency planning, and does not necessarily mean that it will happen.

The union continues to advocate, both locally and provincially, for strong measures to protect health and safety. The BCTF has argued for a common set of provincial health standards. And locally, the STA is in regular contact about the District about what health and safety measures would be required for any more general return to schools. The STA is also emphasizing that many members will not be able to return to

working in schools now, and will require accommodations. We will continue to keep you informed as we receive more information.



- May 4 – Status of Women Committee
- May 4 – Pro-D Committee
- May 5 – Executive Committee
- May 6 – IST Committee
- May 6 – Convention Committee
- May 7 – Members of Colour Committee
- May 12 – BCTF AGM Delegate Training
- May 13 – Health & Safety Committee
- May 15 – STA Candidate Statements Due
- May 20 – STARA via Zoom

Using Remedy - Ideas for the Pandemic

We are currently in discussions with the District about remedy, and the plan that was sent out last week to compel teachers to take remedy in particular ways and amounts of time, and deeming remedy to have been delivered as prep if teachers do not choose one of the available forms of remedy. We hope to have further advice to send out to members later today.

In the meantime, we do encourage you to consider whether working with another teacher could be helpful to you as a form of remedy. (Please note that when the District referred to “learning support time”, they were not referring to the current LST teachers at your school. This would be additional teacher support.) Here is a brainstormed list of ways to work with a TTOC as a co-teacher, which is a way to use your remedy minutes. Another teacher could:

- help lead a small group discussion during a video meeting with your class
- take a load of your marking and do it, and / or enter marks or data you have collected
- do some research for you for a remote lesson you are planning
- find and review online resources
- adapt / differentiate materials
- create activities and resources
- create a video teaching a topic or doing a read-aloud
- turn an "on-paper" idea into a digital resource
- provide instruction or assistance via phone or video-conference
- upload documents to class website
- Connect with parents who are struggling with technology.

We are sure Surrey teachers have zillions of ideas of how a pair of helping hands could be of assistance, and in this time when many TTOCs have lost all or most of their income, helping TTOCs access this work is an act of solidarity. Consider it! To book your remedy time, communicate with your principal.

Annual General Meeting Call for Nominations



Last week, the STA successfully held its first virtual STARA meeting. It was decided to hold our annual general meeting (and executive elections) virtually before the end of June. This week, the Executive Committee struck up a task force which will be responsible for investigating different models and platforms for conducting virtual meetings to make sure our AGM will be secure, democratic, and follow our policies and procedures, even in a virtual format. We learned a lot from our first experience of the online STARA and we also look forward to learning from the BCTF AGM, which will be taking place online May 25-27.

Are you interested in joining our Executive Committee? **The deadline to submit your candidate statements to May 15.** 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 attached "[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, or any of the current executive members. We are always glad to hear about members wanting to be more involved.

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 **May 15, 2020** or via fax to 604-594-5176. The maximum length for candidate statements is 600 words.

Health and Safety Concerns

We continue to have regular and ongoing discussions with HR to address Health & Safety concerns in preparation for a return to school sites at a future date.

We would like to hear your thoughts on health & safety issues in the workplace.

Please email Health & Safety Officer, Dana Neidig, with your H&S concerns, at hs@surreyteachers.org.

Round 1 has ended

May 5 was the last day that interviews were conducted and jobs awarded for Round 1. The closed report will be released on May 19. Round 2 begins May 26.

Principal/Vice Principal Transfers

The principal/vice principal transfer process has been delayed. The plan is for appointments and transfers to go to the Board on May 13. They will then be announced on May 15.

Summer Pro-D Vote

Amongst many other unknowns, there is also uncertainty around the possibility of summer Pro D activities and the vote that must take place in order for summer Pro D to happen. This is a complex issue and we are working with HR to find a solution for a vote under these circumstances that is line with the current agreement between the STA and the district. We will provide more information when we have worked out a solution with HR. Some staffs hold the vote at a May staff meeting. However, a vote can be held at a later staff meeting with seven days' notice given to staff. Attending summer Pro D is not mandatory and all professional development, including summer Pro D, must be teacher initiated and directed.

The STA Awards Deadline is May 15, 2020!



Every Spring, the STA sends \$1,500 to each Secondary school-site and \$500 to each Learning Centre for scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. As well, awards scholarships, bursaries and the Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Award.

This year, we offer two new awards of \$2000 each to graduating Surrey students who self-identify as Indigenous (Indigenous Student Bursary) in addition to four \$2000 Jennifer Wadge Social Justice Awards which are awarded to graduating Surrey students who are active in Social Justice pursuits. The [criteria for these awards](#) are available on our website. If you require any additional brochures or flyers for your school, or have any questions in regards to these awards, please feel free to contact the STA at sta@surreyteachers.org.

Deadline for applications is **May 15, 2020** so encourage your students to get their application in as soon as possible.

Pensions and CERB

Members who are receiving pension income benefits – and who expected to be receiving income through TTOC work – may be eligible for [Canadian Emergency Response Benefit \(CERB\)](#) income support. Please contact Service Canada for more information.



These are unprecedented times for all of us as the spread of the COVID-19 virus has meant several weeks of school closures and uncertainty as we come to terms with the radical changes necessary to keep students, teachers, and staff safe. We know that some of you have been without work while others have seen a significant reduction in available work for April and there is uncertainty for May and June. This is stressful and troubling for teachers who are working on call.

Because the provincial Agreement-in-Committee has been ratified by members in last week's vote, TTOCs will be eligible for the same general wage increases of 2%, each year for three years including the retroactive pay for days worked, as contract teachers.

There has been a lot of publicity regarding the financial help that the federal government has put in place for those who have lost work because of COVID-19. The eligibility requirements for the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) have recently changed to include anyone who earns up to \$1,000 per month. This is good news for TTOCs who have small teaching contracts. The government of BC has also announced that, beginning May 1, British Columbians whose ability to work has been affected as a result of COVID-19 can access the BC Emergency Benefit, a \$1,000 one-time, tax-free payment. Most people who are eligible for the CERB are also eligible for this benefit, including those who have run out of EI benefits. More information on these benefits can be found at [this link](#).

We are in conversation with the BC Teachers' Council regarding the \$80 certification fee that is due on May 31. It is our goal to have these fees waived or postponed for TTOCs this year. Watch for more information on this in the coming weeks.

The BCTF and the STA are strongly encouraging the employer to provide meaningful work for TTOCs, such as providing care for children of Essential Service Workers. As the situation improves and the advice from the Provincial Health Officers allows for some opening of schools, we anticipate there will be increased work opportunities for TTOCs.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the STA.

Quick Solidarity Actions

Re-circulated on behalf of the BCGEU: Please sign our petition to end for-profit seniors' care in BC. Only through public delivery can we stabilize working conditions and provide the quality of care seniors

deserve. <http://www.seniorsdeservebetter.ca/no-profit-seniors>

Together, UFCW 1518 and the BC Government and Service Employees Union are asking that all home support workers be provided with equal pay to the prevailing rates in HEABC-run care facilities. Show your support for pay fairness for Community Health home support workers by signing the petition and sharing widely! <https://www.ufcw1518.com/covid-19-home-support-workers/>

Exciting UVIC course Teaching and Learning Indigenous Perspectives

The UVIC Teaching and Learning Indigenous Perspectives Integrated program is now being offered **online**, with courses beginning in July. In addition to providing teachers with knowledge and skills to naturalize Indigenous perspectives into their teaching, this program supports teachers with a 4-year B.Ed. in obtaining year five on the TQS salary grid, and teachers with a 5-year B.Ed. to obtain their 5+ on the TQS salary grid. Teachers hoping to enrich their knowledge and skills in Indigenous education are also welcome to take single courses.

For more information, please see the attached document.



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 Kristen Hulstein from Alexa Ferris:

“I’d like to give a shout out to our librarian, Kristen Hulstein. She is the most patient and helpful person I know! She has helped me so many times during the past few weeks and even creates amazing video tutorials after our phone calls. She has taught me so much and is absolutely amazing!”

Thank you Alexa, you and Kristen 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!