



## **STA Connection June 15-19, 2020**

### **Summer Pro-D**

Professional development days are so important that they are scheduled into our school calendar. We won these days through bargaining, highlighting our professionalism. Pro D days were added to our calendar and the school year was extended to accommodate them. These days allow responsive Pro-d to address issues in our classrooms and collaborative work with our colleagues. Our professional development is certainly not limited to these days; as teachers we engage in professional development in the evenings, on weekends, and during our holidays. Summer Pro-d is another opportunity for professional development. However, in Surrey, summer Pro-d is a complex issue that warrants some attention and analysis.

The original summer Pro-d agreement from 1995 as well as the memo from 2009, are agreements between the district and the union that lay out the process and guidelines for a summer PD vote. At the STA, we recognize the difficult challenges presented by these agreements. You may not realize we have made many attempts over the years to renegotiate a new agreement that would see teachers maintain their autonomy over summer professional development, if they so choose. Unfortunately the district has not been willing to renegotiate the agreement, apart from a process this year to permit anonymous online summer Pro-D votes. Until this happens, both parties are obliged to uphold the current agreement.

Participation in summer Pro-d must remain voluntary and teacher directed. It is an opportunity to collaborate on topics that benefit those who tap into the knowledge and expertise of their colleagues. A question to be asked when considering whether to hold a vote or not is: "is this valuable Pro-D for me?"

### **Staff Committees!**

If there is confusion at your school site about planning for next year, organization of a hybrid schedule, or

other aspects of how your school is dealing with the new reality of schooling under the pandemic, the right place to bring concerns is to Staff Committee. School Staff Committees are a right in our contract, and are a place where schools can be improved with the collaborative participation of the staff who bring suggestions and recommendations to administration. Staff Committee helps decision making at the school level to be **more transparent and fair** for all. Each site is different and each staff is a group of caring professionals with great ideas. The time to use our structures is at times like these! If you need support in some way as staff members or Staff Committee chairs, please feel free to contact Julia at [1vp@surreyteachers.org](mailto:1vp@surreyteachers.org).

## Reporting

We know you are wrapping up your courses and writing your year-end report cards. The disruption to regular schooling can be most keenly felt while trying to reconcile what you are used to and the new reality of (mostly) virtual schooling. The District and government have been clear that an approach of compassion and understanding is expected, and also that teachers have autonomy in teaching and assessment. There are [FAQs on the provincial government website](#), which may help clarify this tension for some members. We understand that the level of engagement among students and their families has been quite wide ranging and frustrating in some cases. Please consult with your principal and know that the whole SD 36 community is trying to do the best for the students.

## H&S Committees

All school sites should be following the *WSBC Safety Plan Stage 3 – Resumption of In-class Learning*. A copy of this plan is posted on the district and school websites in accordance with the order of the Provincial Health Officer. Health and Safety is paramount – and if you notice any H&S issues with your work site you should bring your concerns to your site supervisor/Administrator for immediate attention. Also, bring your concerns to your site-based Health & Safety committee to be discussed and addressed. Ensure that minutes are recorded for every H&S meeting as this data will reflect what is going well and what needs attention on site. If you have recurring H&S issues that are going unchecked – let your Administrator know, and also send this information to the STA at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org).

## Virtual STA AGM and New STA Executive Committee

After a very long meeting on June 10th that involved some technical hiccups, some extra wait time, (and definitely not enough delicious Indian food!) we are pleased to let members know the make-up of your new STA Executive Committee:

**President:** Matt Westphal

**1st Vice-President:** Julia MacRae

**2nd Vice-President:** Jatinder Bir

**Grievance Officers:** Joanna Cerazy and Mark Keelan

**Health & Safety/Grievance Officer:** Gavin Slade-Kerr

**Professional Support Services Officer:** Kevin Amboe

**Professional Development Officer:** Erin Coleman

**Accommodations Support Officer:** Dana Neidig

**Local Representatives to the BCTF:** Adilah Abdirahman, Lizanne Foster (Adult Ed), Rick Kumar, Angela Marcakis, Annie Ohana, Amrit Sanghe

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Kelly MacDosen

**Member-at-Large (Aboriginal):** Jacqueline King

**Member-at-Large (Person of Colour):** Sajeda Rashid

**Members-at-Large:** Violette Baillargeon, Marilyn Carr, Andrea Leeks

**TTOC/Early Career Representative:** Dana Ebtekar

Congratulations to all who were elected, and thank you to everyone who put themselves forward as candidates. An additional thank you goes to all who attended (more than 300!) and particularly, the many people who worked to make the meeting happen! We look forward to next year's challenges and will do our best for all Surrey teachers in our debates and decisions.

## Virtual Committee Elections at the June 24 STARA



**Get involved**  
**Join a Committee**

Submit your name to  
[reception@surreyteachers.org](mailto:reception@surreyteachers.org)  
by **June 19, 2020**

The last STARA meeting of the year will be held on June 24, 2020 via Zoom and we will be holding elections for our standing committees during that meeting. We will be voting via Simply Voting, and we hope it will be a fast process. Notices are being sent to all the current committee members and a list of committees and available spots will be posted on our website and circulated to the reps for distribution shortly. Interested members should forward their name and the committee(s) they wish to join to [reception@surreyteachers.org](mailto:reception@surreyteachers.org) as soon as possible. Deadline for submitting your name via email is June 19, 2020, however, as always, we encourage our members to get involved and will be accepting names from the floor.

This is a perfect way to get involved with your union and make a difference. STARA is being held virtually. Staff reps (and all members who wish to attend) will need to sign up individually as the registration keys are one use only. We need you to register in advance by 2 pm on June 24<sup>th</sup>, but the sooner the better! Why not today? Please [register](#) with your surreyschools email.



June 17 – Year End Zoom Boom Celebration  
June 19 – Indigenous Education Committee  
June 20 – Virtual event about Latin American  
Teacher Unions and Covid. (see below)  
June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day

Prep Meeting  
June 22 – Members of Colour Committee  
June 23 – Status of Women Committee  
June 24 – STARA Virtual Meeting  
June 29-30 – BCTF Representative Assembly

## Year End Zoom Boom Celebration!

Inviting all STA Members and friends to celebrate with our STA LGBTQ2+ Adhoc Committee online for the YEAR END ZOOM BOOM CELEBRATION. Please feel welcome to learn more about our work, or just to hang out.

**Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2020 | Time: From 4pm onwards**

Venue: Online on Zoom. Link: <https://pirweb.zoom.us/j/93488945470> , Meeting ID: 934 8894 5470

To join the meeting, please open the Zoom application and click on the link: <https://pirweb.zoom.us/j/93488945470>

(If you do not have a Zoom profile, you may simply click the link above and enter your full name to join as a guest.)

## Inside Public Education in Latin America: The Impact of COVID-19

Surrey teachers, put some solidarity into your zoom experiences with this interesting event. We have bought virtual “tables” at this fundraiser for [Codevelopment Canada](https://codedevelopmentcanada.com), and we invite all interested members to indicate their interest. Email Julia at [1vp@surreyteachers.org](mailto:1vp@surreyteachers.org) and you will receive the link and invitation to attend!

**Saturday, June 20, 2020 | Time: 3-5 PM**

Featuring Speakers from El Salvador and Peru, a Q & A, musical surprises and a Cumbia dance lesson live with talented Colombian teachers for all participants! (Colombian teachers have been as creative as Canadian teachers when it comes to teaching remotely!)

Please join us!

## TTOC Experience Transfer: Make Sure You Get Paid For Your Experience!

Did you know that your TTOC experience is not automatically factored into your pay level when you get a contract? You need to apply to have it transferred.

**The deadline to apply to have your TTOC Experience transferred to your Contract Teaching Experience is June 30!** Sign and send the [form](#) to the District (Attn: HR/Payroll). It might make you eligible for an incremental increase in September!

Your pay increment (step level) is based on your teaching experience. Contract teachers move up one step on the pay scale after 10 months of full-time experience. Incremental increases take place

automatically on September 1 and January 1 each year.

TTOCs are also eligible to move up the pay scale based on their experience: 17 days of TTOC experience equals one month of contract experience. If you have received a contract this year, and have previously accumulated TTOC experience, you can complete a form asking Payroll to convert TTOC experience to contract experience, because the combination of the two might make you eligible for an incremental increase. Payroll will not do this unless you request that your TTOC days and contract months are merged.

If you are a part-time contract teacher AND you work occasionally as a TTOC, you are also eligible to convert your accumulated TTOC experience to Contract experience.

For example: Taylor Smith teaches three days per week at an elementary school in a contract assignment. On Thursdays and Fridays, they TTOC. Taylor has 70 days of TTOC experience accrued in their TTOC experience bank. They also have 7 months of contract teacher experience accrued. In June 2020, Taylor applied to have their TTOC experience transferred to their contract teacher bank. The 70 days Taylor has accrued will be converted to months by dividing by 17. 70 divided by 17 is 4 whole months with 2 days remaining. The four months will be transferred to Taylor's contract teacher bank and the 2 days will remain in their TTOC bank. Taylor will now have 11 months in their contract teacher experience bank. This means that on September 1, 2020, Taylor moved from Step 0 on the salary grid to Step 1. Taylor will be able to transfer their TTOC experience twice per year.

If there's any confusion, or you have questions, please contact Grievance Officer, Mark Keelan via [grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org).

## Mentor36



Mentor36 is our Surrey Teachers' Association – School District 36 joint mentorship program. We are committed to supporting professional growth and a sense of belonging for Surrey teachers through an opportunity for collaborative mentorship at every site in Surrey. Are you interested in engaging first-year teachers through mentoring? You can now apply to be a mentor at your school or within your family of schools on the Mentor36 website at [www.mentor36.com](http://www.mentor36.com). Please call Christie Weigel, Professional Support Services officer, at 604-594-5353 for more information.

# Reminder: Submit Your Receipts!

Attention teachers! Do you have any outstanding, unclaimed expenses from this school year?

Have you filed your claim to be reimbursed for Pro-D, red t-shirts, or other related expenses?

STA Committee members and staff reps, do you have any receipts that need to be sent in?

This is a friendly reminder to complete your expense vouchers and submit your paperwork (including receipts!) by **June 30, 2020**. Donna is trying hard to get everyone paid. Please help her out by not waiting until the bitter end to get your paperwork in! Can't find your sheet?

Download the [expense voucher](#). For the voucher specific to Red for Ed shirts, you can find it [here](#).

**Forms can be sent to Donna Stewart at [accounting@surreyteachers.org](mailto:accounting@surreyteachers.org).**

## BCTF COVID-19 Survey

Now is your chance to share your thoughts and concerns with the BCTF!

They will ask you questions around the following themes:

1. How are you doing?
2. What do you think about the return to teaching in schools?
3. What shifts have you seen in your workload and use of technology?

This is an opportunity to ensure your voice is heard and that the BCTF can advocate for us all.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and will be open until Friday, June 26.

Complete the survey here: <http://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f//teachingduringcovid>

The BCTF also sent the Ministry of Education a proposal (see attachment) for a multi-stakeholder COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Committee for September start up. The committee would identify and address the many issues and concerns that have arisen during emergency remote learning and the return to voluntary in-school instruction for students.

"The BCTF believes we need a consistent plan for the full 2020–21 year that considers all eventualities (schools fully in, a blended model, or schools fully out). There needs to be a much more thoughtful and planned approach that allows teachers to plan their year without the goal posts moving every few weeks. The planning needs to take into consideration the health and safety of teachers, the impacts of any changes to teachers' workload, and the mental health and wellness of everyone involved in the school system."

## Opportunity for Students: Global Peace Alliance Art & Literacy Contest

Every year Global Peace Alliance BC runs an art and literary contest for children and adults and this year in particular they encourage artists and writers to relate their works to COVID-19. Two of our Surrey teachers are on the board of this organization and they are inviting you to get involved by joining or



sharing the information and poster details with your students and other colleagues. The mandate of GPA is to educate citizens in peace education and strategies both in our communities and elsewhere and to celebrate diversity through the arts which includes a yearly multicultural festival and contest. More info can be found at [www.peacealways.org](http://www.peacealways.org).




GLOBAL PEACE ALLIANCE  
SURREY SOCIETY

**One World - One People**


# ART 4 PEACE:

## A RESPONSE TO COVID19

**Global Peace Alliance(GPA)**  
Email: [info@peacealways.org](mailto:info@peacealways.org)  
[www.peacealways.org](http://www.peacealways.org)



GLOBAL PEACE ALLIANCE  
SURREY SOCIETY



Artwork by :  
**Golfo Tsakumis**  
Title:  
**COVID19**

# LITERARY & VISUAL ARTS CONTEST 2020

**\*Every participant receives a Certificate of Appreciation**  
**5-12 yrs | 13-17 yrs | 18-64 yrs | 65+ yrs**

**\*Winners(3 in each age group)also receive cash Prizes & Trophies**

## CONTEST RULES

\*Essay: "How Will This Pandemic Affect Peace in the World and at Home?" What have we learned from COVID19, what needs to change in society going forward.

\*Every literary/visual art work submission to the contests must have a theme of peace(love-kindness, caring & sharing, forgiving & forgetting, friendship, multiculturalism, nuclear disarmament, social justice, conflict transformation, and the like). This year we encourage you to capture the impact of COVID19 on family, work, society and the world

\*Minimum size for photographs is 5"x7".

\*Unlimited entry submissions per person.

Please note that your literary/visual artwork will be archived & displayed at ART4PEACE Exhibitions and on the GPA website and other social media platforms. Upon request original artwork may be picked up after GPA use.

\*Maximum number of words for literary works(prose or poetry); 400 for 5-12 yrs & 2000 for others.

\*The size of drawings and paintings (hand-drawn, sketched or painted) should be 8"x11" or smaller.

\*Every entry submission must accompany a cover letter giving:

(a)Your name, birthday, physical address, phone number and email address; and

(b)A description of the peace message behind your work.

\*Your literary/visual art work(s) can be emailed, mail to GPA office 17416 32nd Ave., Surrey, V3Z1C7 or hand-delivered by appointment call GPA office 604-329-0850 by August 25th, 2020



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 Stacey Bucifal from Katherine Brunner:**

*“I would like to nominate my job share partner, Stacey Bucifal, for a shout out. Stacey works part time as an LST teacher at Berkshire Park but during our learning from home journey she has been putting in full time hours. She has set up a website for our parents and students and spends hours communicating with her students and colleagues and is always available to answer questions and give us support. She also works tirelessly with our clerical staff to plan classes for next year. Way to go, Stacey!”*

Thank you Katherine, you and Stacey 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!

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