
Surrey teachers work on the unceded traditional territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Qayqayt and Semiahmoo First Nations. As part of meaningful reconciliation work, we reflect on the impacts of colonialism through self-education in order to be accountable to Indigenous people and pay attention to our students of Indigenous ancestry, providing them the tools for their success in the future. We are all on a path to learn more and understand the role of each of us as educators in healing the broken relationship with the First Peoples of this territory. We thank those who live on and care for the land.



STA Connection

March 1-5, 2021

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL

*Women's
Day*

NEXT MONDAY, MARCH 8TH

Next Monday, March 8 is International Women's Day, a day to celebrate the achievements of feminism and to look forward to new challenges. We can work together to combat white supremacy, racism, patriarchy, rapacious capitalism and other destructive forces. Here's an event you may be interested in attending: [Leading Transformative Changes as Acts of Resistance](#)

We are continuing to advocate for more safety



This week and last week teachers at five schools (AHP Matthew, Maple Green, James Ardiel, Ecole Woodward Hill, and Harold Bishop) have independently organized #RedForBCeD walk-ins before the bell to express their solidarity with each other and their concern for safety as they are working in schools where a Covid-19 variant is known to have been detected. We have heard that some schools want to organize a similar walk-in next week. If you are planning one please let us know so we can support it! These events are a way to ensure that media and public attention remains focused on schools and the additional safety measures we need.

If you do hold a walk-in, please keep these things in mind:

- Depending on your school site, you can walk around the nearby streets, or the school site itself.
- Wear masks and keep a distance between each other (we don't want it to undercut our message by appearing unsafe).
- Remember that our message is directed at the provincial government, not at the school district.
- Although curious students might want to join in, please gently say no, because we cannot be using students in our messaging.
- Let your school admin know that it will be happening, since it's always better if they are not caught by surprise.

- Take photos and video, and share it with us or directly to Twitter and our Surrey Teachers Facebook group. Please tag @SurreyTeachers on Twitter if you post it there and use hashtags #bced #bcpoli and #RedForBCEd.

STA officers have also attended staff meetings where more cases of Covid-19 and instances of a variant have been announced. We continue to tell the story of our risky workplaces in the media and to advocate strongly. This week we continue to persist, meeting with the Superintendents of our district and with the Medical Health Officer from Fraser Health.

We also continue to promote mask wearing directly to parents; we just posted our latest ask for masks in Korean, with more languages coming. Thanks to Eunice Kim for your great work on that! So far we have English, Punjabi, Tagalog, Hindi, Mandarin, and Korean. Please help promote [all our videos](#) through your social media and with the parents of your students.

Self-isolation paid leave

This new leave was established February 1, 2021.

Starting February 1, 2021 – if you are directed to self-isolate AND you are asymptomatic:

1. Talk to your Admin about work-from-home options
2. If no work is available, go to ESS, log your absence using the new code: 'self-isolation leave'.
3. If your request for 'self-isolation leave' is not approved, contact the STA.

What if you had to self-isolate prior to February 1, 2021?

We are advocating for the employer to approve the 'Self-Isolation Paid Leave' to all members who were directed by the health authority to self-isolate and were not provided with work-from-home options. If a member did not have any sick days, they would have had to take an unpaid leave of absence during their isolation period.

Please email the STA (to Dana at accommodations@surreyteachers.org) if you were in this situation prior to February 1, 2021:

- You were directed by the health authority to self-isolate
- You were asymptomatic (and did not develop Covid-19 illness during your isolation period)
- Your Admin was not able to find a work-from-home option for you while on self-isolation
- You had no sick days and had to take an UNPAID leave during your isolation period

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 for next year. Postings in round one should come first to the staff committee for review, and the staff committee can ask questions about the process

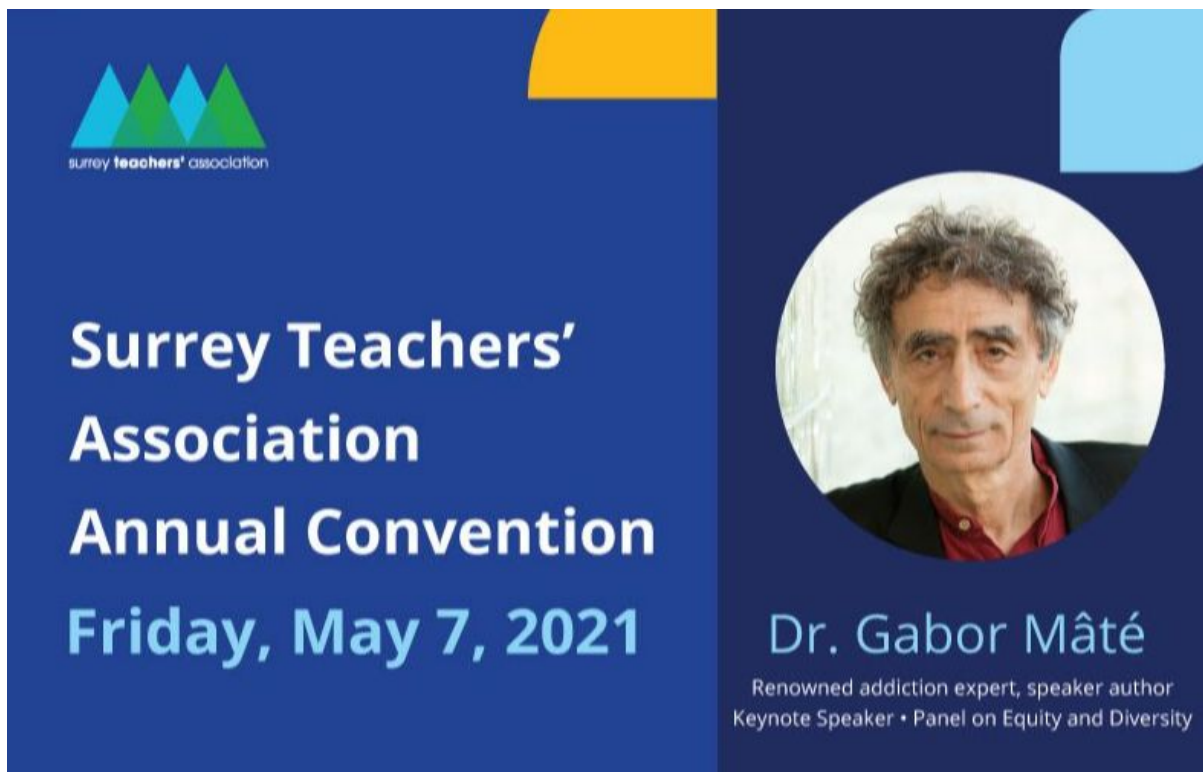
the principal has undertaken in preparing these postings. **Postings must be offered internally to staff with continuing assignments at the school in 2021-22 before they are posted.** The same process would take place again before round 2. The staff committee can help bring issues the principal hasn't considered while preparing the postings to her/his attention.

The deadline to complete internal reassignments before Round 1 is April 8th, so please meet with your staff committee now! (Plan the date of the meeting now if you can't do it before Spring Break.) Round one will be opening on April 20th. If any job is posted in your school that wasn't posted internally first, please contact Mark Keelan at the STA grieve2@surreyteachers.org.

Other Important deadlines coming up!

- March 31 - deadline for applications for Long Term Leave for next year
- April 1 - Last day for Job Share applications

STA Convention May 7th. Call for Workshop Proposals



The poster features the Surrey Teachers' Association logo (three stylized mountains) in the top left. The main text on the left side reads: "Surrey Teachers' Association Annual Convention Friday, May 7, 2021". On the right side, there is a circular portrait of Dr. Gabor Maté, with his name "Dr. Gabor Maté" below it. Underneath his name, it says "Renowned addiction expert, speaker author" and "Keynote Speaker • Panel on Equity and Diversity". The background is dark blue with yellow and light blue geometric shapes.

We have many workshops, but we need about 30 more!

Do you have a topic that you're passionate about? We know Surrey teachers are doing great work with their students and the STA Convention is now accepting workshop proposals for a wide range of topics. We are also proud to announce Gabor Maté as our keynote speaker this year and be featuring a panel on equity and diversity.

Sometimes teachers underestimate how good their own work is, but often there is nothing more useful for colleagues than someone sharing examples from their teaching practice, and the

exchange of ideas in the ensuing discussion. If you have an idea you would like to share with your colleagues, please [submit your proposals](#).

Call for workshop presenters

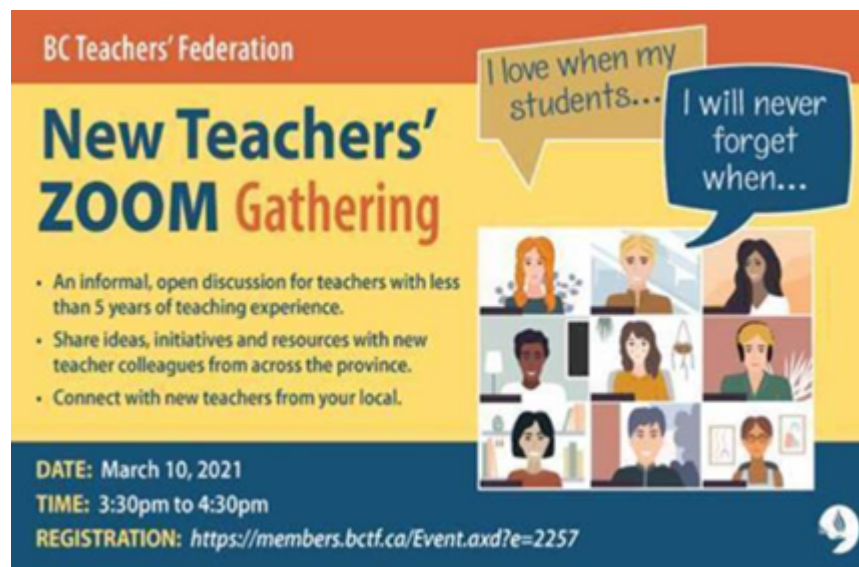
The Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Association of BC (myPITA) is accepting workshop applications for its Fall Online Conference on October 22, 2021. Please [submit your workshop proposal](#). Honorariums, training, and complimentary conference registration available.

News from your Surrey Primary Teachers' Association

The SURREY PRIMARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION held a social activity and AGM in December, and passed a motion to bring forward our paid memberships from last year as a result of our pro-d sessions being cancelled in the spring due to Covid-19. Paid memberships from last year are FREE for the remainder of this year. Any new memberships for the remainder of this school year have been reduced to a \$10 membership fee.

What does membership in the SPTA get you? As an SPTA member, you are able to attend workshops for free, be eligible for door prizes, have refreshments/snacks at workshops when in person (although our workshops are virtual at this point), make connections with other primary colleagues in the Surrey School District, and attend SPTA social functions (virtually due to covid protocols). You may apply through your school's Pro-d Funding to have your SPTA membership fees reimbursed. Typically we host between 6-10 workshops in a year. If you are interested in becoming a member, please check out our website at: www.spta36.weebly.com, or email our secretary, Sylvie Afilal, for further information.

So far this year we have put on a "Cedar Weaving" workshop and have a "Story Workshop" on March 3rd. We are also working on workshops related to Outdoor Learning, beading, yoga, and a writing workshop related to SEL. If you have any further suggestions, we would love to hear from you! Email us via our website, or check us out on [FaceBook](#).



BC Teachers' Federation

New Teachers' ZOOM Gathering

- An informal, open discussion for teachers with less than 5 years of teaching experience.
- Share ideas, initiatives and resources with new teacher colleagues from across the province.
- Connect with new teachers from your local.

DATE: March 10, 2021
TIME: 3:30pm to 4:30pm
REGISTRATION: <https://members.bctf.ca/Event.axd?e=2257>

I love when my students...
I will never forget when...

The poster features a grid of 12 diverse cartoon avatars representing teachers in a Zoom meeting. Two speech bubbles are overlaid on the grid, one yellow and one blue, containing the text 'I love when my students...' and 'I will never forget when...' respectively. The background is a gradient of orange, yellow, and blue.

The BCTF would like to create regular opportunities for new members to connect with each other and with their local and provincial unions. They are offering a New Teachers' Zoom Gathering (NTZG) every month throughout the school year. The next NTZG will take place on March 10 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. It is a free event where members can meet and chat.

To register, visit the [BCTF New Teachers Zoom Gathering page](#).

Ask a Young Worker!

Q: "I don't know if I can talk to the union. Can I get in trouble?"

A: Great question! The answer is no, you absolutely cannot get in trouble for talking to the union. There are a number of different reasons you might want to get into contact with the people working at the union office and none of those will land you in any hot water. The Surrey Teachers Association (the local that serves Surrey teachers) is stocked with experts in a wide array of issues. Whether it's a grievance over lunchtime supervision, a leave of absence you want to take, or because of an issue that occurred between staff, you can connect with the union and they'll help support you and answer any questions you may have. You may be curious about your rights as a worker, or you may be looking at going on maternity leave, there are people to support you in that as well.

Even if there are situations where you will need to end up calling some other resource, the union can guide you in the right direction as well. Don't be afraid and think that the union is the opposite of your Administration team. It's not! In fact, your Principal and VPs have their own organization as well to which they ask questions and get support. Unions ensure that everyone has a level understanding of the work that needs to be done, and they also ensure that employees are not taken advantage of by others.

If something doesn't feel right or if you're just curious about an issue we strongly recommend connecting with someone at the STA. They're from the people, for the people.

To see which STA leader can best solve your concern, please visit our [STA Table Officers page](#)!

Feel free to message the Young Worker Committee via sta@surreyteachers.org, with any other questions you want answered!



Status of Men in the Teaching Profession Committee

Gender Parity

The visible absence and declining numbers of men who teach



Town Hall Meeting via Zoom • Thursday, March 4 • 7 pm - 8 pm

The Status of Men Committee is presenting a Townhall meeting on Thursday, March 4 from 7–8 pm via Zoom to discuss the visible absence and declining numbers of men who teach. The Committee is inviting all interested members to [register](#) and participate - to ask questions or share your view. The Committee would also appreciate if anyone interested in the topic, shares their opinions by completing the Committee's [survey](#) on the topic.

STA Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee's

Art while Apart

Guided Painting Session via Zoom
April 8, 2021 • 6 pm - 8 pm

Painters of all levels are welcome!
Paint supplies will be free of cost and available
at two pick up sites in Surrey if needed.



Are you looking for a fun way to relax? Come join other teachers 35 and under for “Art While Apart,” a Young Workers Committee event for young workers. McKenzie Matthews, a secondary art teacher, will be leading a painting of a starry night. This guided painting session is no-stress, laid back, and aimed for painters of all levels. Paint supplies will be free of cost and available at two pick up sites in Surrey if needed. Locations for pick-up sites to be announced after registration close. Registration is limited so [sign up now](#) via Eventbrite! If you have any questions please email the YWC at reception@surreyteachers.org.

Revitalizing the STA Educational Governance Committee - An invitation!

Want to help bring educational bureaucracy into the 21st century? Let's tackle topics such as intellectual property rights of teachers, curricular revision and implementation, and corporate intrusion in schools. Join the [Educational Governance Committee!](#) To apply, complete our [CV form](#) and submit automatically or email it to: sta@surreyteachers.org. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, April 15th.

The STA International Solidarity Committee requests your action

Please take a couple of minutes to help us bring the Canadian Parliament's attention to the tragedy of Flight PS752 by [reading the petition and adding your signature if you agree](#).

The petition is about the Ukrainian passenger Flight that crashed January 8, 2020, after being shot down by two Iranian government missiles. A Surrey teacher, her husband and son, and 135 other people with ties to Canada died in the tragedy.



STA EVENTS

all STA committee meetings are open to all members, contact us for more information.

March 3 – All day BCTF AGM Delegate training

March 3 – [Surrey Teachers Virtual Dance class](#)

March 3 – Ad Hoc Indigenization of the STA Committee

March 4 – Political Action Public Relations Committee

March 4 – Status of Women Committee

March 4 – TIME Committee

March 4 – [Town Hall on Gender Parity](#)

March 5 – All day Executive Committee

March 5 – Labour Affairs Committee

March 5 – [Knit, Chat, and Wine Night](#)

March 8 – BCTF AGM Delegate training

March 9 – Executive Committee

March 10 – Young Workers Committee

March 10 – Health and Safety Committee

March 11 – Indigenous Education Committee

March 11 – Bargaining Committee