

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 April 26-30, 2021

STA Convention on May 7

Our amazing annual marquee Professional Development event happens next Friday, May 7th. Registration is open! There are over 160 workshops to choose from. Please note that presenters have set their own participant limits for some workshops. Some workshops, particularly for secondary, may be cancelled if registrations remain low, so register now! Find all the details and register at staconvention.ca.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Gabor Maté

Gabor Maté is a retired physician who, after 20 years of family practice and palliative care experience, worked for over a decade in Vancouver's Downtown East Side with patients challenged by drug addiction and mental illness. The bestselling author of four books published in twenty-five languages, Gabor is an internationally renowned speaker highly sought after for his expertise on addiction, trauma, childhood development, and the relationship of stress and illness. His book on addiction received the Hubert Evans Prize for literary non-fiction. For his groundbreaking medical work and writing he has been awarded the Order of Canada, his country's highest civilian distinction, and the Civic Merit Award from his hometown, Vancouver. His books include *In the Realm of Hungry Ghosts: Close Encounters With Addiction*; *When the Body Says No: The Cost of Hidden Stress*; *Scattered Minds: The Origins and Healing of Attention Deficit Disorder*; and (with Gordon Neufeld) *Hold on to Your Kids: Why Parents Need to Matter More Than Peers*.

Equity and Diversity Panel



Amrit Cojocar
SFU PhD Student in the Education Theory and Practice Program with a focus on Equity Studies



Mante Molepo
Equity and Anti-Racism Advisor, Founding member and Director of Parents for Diversity



Dr. June Francis
Co-Founder of Co-Laboratorio, Director of IDRE at SFU, Associate Professor at Beedie School of Business



Ken Shelton
Educator, ISTE Digital Equity PLN Excellence Award Winner



Starleigh Grass
Member of Tsilhqot'in Nation, BCTF Assistant Director



Moderator: Annie Ohana
Aboriginal Department Head, Anti-Oppression Educator

We're in a hotspot

We began this week being notified that nine classes, all but one in elementary schools, have been ordered into isolation. We note with dismay that there is still no requirement for K-3 to wear masks.

Of the 16 designated Covid 19 hotspots in BC, 10 are within the Fraser Health Region and 5 are in the Surrey School District. Unsurprisingly, schools in these hotspots have had hundreds of exposure letters and dozens of classes in isolation, an indication that the virus doesn't stop at the front entrance of schools.

One would expect that, given the importance of physical distancing in the prevention of virus spread, Fraser Health and the District would implement a plan to lower density in schools within hotspots. But we are disappointed to report that we are back to where we were when we advocated for a mask mandate. We want to see some clarity from health and educational leaders in the province about the risks to health from the variants and the aerosolized nature of the virus.

And so, we're on the roundabout again while hotspots get hotter, cases numbers keep climbing, classes keep going into isolation, and students and staff keep getting sick. Our advocacy for safer schools continues.

Covid 19 and Vaccinations

Although many of us have been fortunate enough to be vaccinated, it is very important that those who are vaccinated continue to follow Covid 19 health and safety guidelines. (If you were eligible for a vaccine in the original rollout but were not able to make your appointment, please contact your principal to request a vaccination appointment.) No vaccine is 100% effective: indeed, we have some vaccinated members who have since contracted Covid 19. Though your symptoms are likely to be milder having been vaccinated, as a result you are more likely to be unaware that you have Covid 19, yet continue to spread the virus. Please continue to protect others in your community by continuing to follow Covid 19 protocols.

Car Caravan plan – THIS FRIDAY April 30!



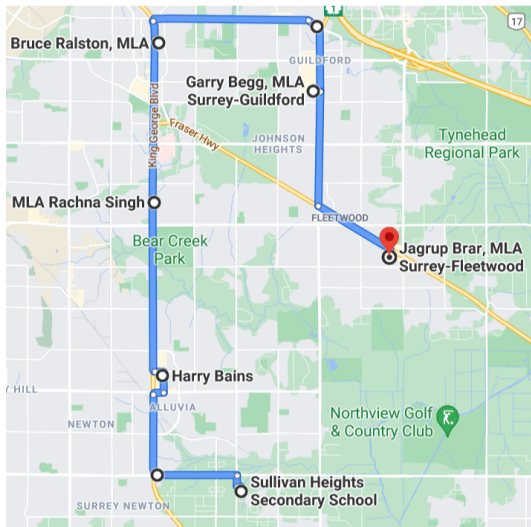
Surrey Education workers, students, and parents are all being impacted by Covid 19. Some feel safe in class but many feel nervous to come to school, nervous that they might bring home the virus, tired and anxious after all these long months. Most Surrey teachers have their first vaccination, which helps a lot, but issues of ventilation, the impossibility of physical distancing, confusion about notification letters, and an incomplete mask mandate are still frustrating. We are more and more concerned about the dangers posed by the variant forms of the virus, and by the aerosolized nature of its spread.

Come and get your frustrations out by participating! The Car Caravan helps us generate media exposure, while we ask Surrey MLAs to speak up for us in government. We will meet at 2 locations

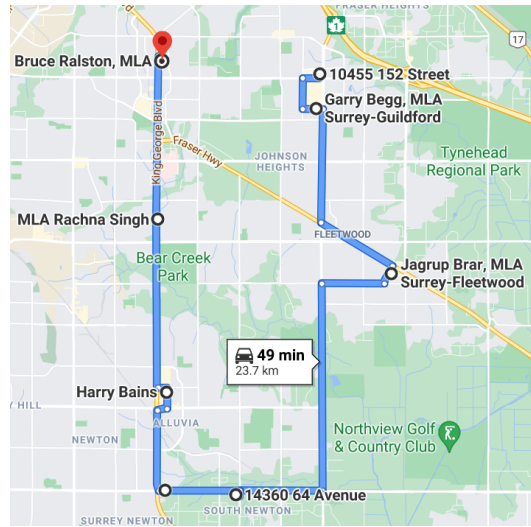
on Friday just after 3 pm, decorate our cars (we will bring signs, tape, flags etc.) and set off in

parking lot, and one group will start at the parking lot at the corner of 152nd and 104th (formerly Sears). We will be wearing masks while assembling, and then will be in our cars = very low risk of transmission. We will do a 20 km route past 6 offices; see maps below and links to google maps attached. Those who participate will receive some STA swag as a thank you!

Our target is the Surrey NDP MLAs! We know that advocacy works. Other teacher locals have noticed what Surrey teachers have been able to achieve through our actions! Let's continue to advocate for safer conditions for staff, students, parents and community!



[Directions starting from Sullivan Heights](#)



[Directions starting at former Sears parking lot](#)

STA Annual General Meeting plans

At the STA Executive meeting this week (April 27th) it was decided that we will break our General Meeting into two meetings, so the meetings will not be so long. The first one, on May 19th will deal with the budget, setting the fee (union dues) for next year, and by-law and policy changes and updates. The second, on May 26th, will be for our elections for the Executive Committee positions and Resolutions committee for next year. More detail will be coming, but we wanted to give a heads up as soon as possible.

Remedy Update

Some teachers are reporting that they have been told that they must use remedy by the end of the school year. That would be a change in past practice, which was that unused remedy rolled over to the next school year. (There is an active grievance about the District's decision to force teachers to use remedy each week at the end of last school year.) HR has confirmed that teachers are not required to use remedy by the end of the school year, though they encourage it. Likewise, the STA encourages teachers to use their remedy as it becomes available, if that will be helpful to them.

Have you been approved for Pro D funds for an event that has already taken place this school year?

If so, have you received and deposited your cheque yet?

There are quite a few cheques that have been issued for Pro D reimbursements that have NOT been cashed yet, so please check to see if you have an uncashed cheque laying around somewhere. If you have not received your cheque yet, please check at your school office to see if it is there somewhere.

If you cannot find, or did not receive your reimbursement cheque, please e-mail Donna at accounting@surreyteachers.org.

Covid 19 and WorkSafeBC

We have had teachers contact the STA who contracted Covid 19 and were denied coverage for worktime missed. WorkSafeBC reviewed the details of their interactions with the members and determined that they did not contract Covid 19 at school. It is complicated, and there's a lot of discretion for the WCB case managers to apply policy and accept or deny claims. For more details, please visit the BCTF's [Adjudication of Occupational Disease \(Covid-19\)](#) page.

Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if you are denied coverage by WorkSafeBC.

Nurses Week May 10-16

Nurses Week is fast approaching and we were asked if any of our students in Surrey would be interested in showing recognition and appreciation of the nurses as they are in the toughest time of their careers. If your class wants to get creative with artistic tributes to their work, or cards, poems, mini videos etc., these gestures can go a long way.

In our health region and school district the hospitals are Peace Arch and Surrey Memorial Hospital.

Summer Pro-D

Reminder that if your school is thinking of having summer Pro D activities, there needs to be a vote which many staffs hold at a May staff meeting. A vote can be held at a later staff meeting with seven days' notice given to staff. The vote must take place at one, single meeting with the principal present. We have an agreement again this year for the virtual vote using the Polly app.

If you feel frustrated with the limitations of the Summer Pro D agreement, and these rules, please

know that the STA has asked for a renegotiation of the agreement, and the district has not been willing to reconsider it.

Teachers who miss the planned summer Pro-D due to illness may not take a sick day in the summer and an in-lieu day later. They must make up the Pro-D on the date designated for the other staff as "in-lieu".

Attendance at summer Pro D is voluntary, even if your school voted in favour of it. Teachers who choose not to attend the summer days will do their professional development on the non-instructional in-lieu date. Attending summer Pro-D is not mandatory and all professional development, including summer Pro-D, must be teacher initiated and directed. Also note that it's okay to attend a Pro-D activity from home, virtually.

Non-instructional days for the 2021 – 2022 school year are:

- September 27
- October 22
- November 12
- February 25
- May 6
- May 30

October 22nd 2021 is the Provincial Specialist Association date, and May 6th 2022 is the STA Convention. These dates cannot be considered as an in-lieu date. Teachers should also consider that the STA Aboriginal Education Committee will be organizing a professional development event on November 12th, 2021, and the STA/SD36 Focus Day Committee will be organizing a Pro D Day on February 25th, 2022.

Application for Consolidated Professional Development Funds deadline is June 25, 2021

All STA members are entitled to apply for Consolidated Professional Development funds, including TTOCs and Full Time Table Officers. A maximum of \$450.00 will be available to members on a first come, first serve basis, for a SINGLE SPECIFIC EVENT, once every two years. Applications for Consolidated funds must be pre-approved by the STA Professional Development Officer and applicants are notified by email to let them know if their request has/has not been approved (pending availability of funds at the time). The event in your application can take place prior to 15 September 2021. Please remember that applications are not processed over the summer as the office closed.

For more information, check out [STA Pro-D Forms](#).

TTOC Experience Transfer

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.

Retirement Celebration June 2021

The STA has a long tradition of hosting a fun dinner dance in June for retiring members and we are disappointed that Covid 19 has disallowed this event for another year. In order to honour those members who have served this district, we have a replacement plan involving gifts and gift certificates. We want to ensure that we celebrate the careers of our "graduating" colleagues, so if you are retiring this year and have not already contacted us to make sure your name is on our list, please do so as soon as possible by emailing sta@surreyteachers.org.

Earth Day everyday

Check out what the [city of Surrey](https://www.surrey.ca) has to offer in support of learning outdoors all year. Staff at Surrey Nature are always available to help.

**You're invited - Sooke Teachers' Association locally
developed Pro-D - Friday, May 14, 2021**

The Sooke Teachers' Association is inviting everyone to their Friday, May 14th 2021 Locally developed Pro-D.

Attached is a session info and a snapshot of our day as a quick reference to what we are offering. Registration is \$25 and is required and closes May 10th at 9am.

ETRANSFER TO:

Please email your transfer to STAVP62@shaw.ca and in the message please include: May 14th STA Pro-D.

- You can use the question: Who is hosting:
- Answer: STA

OR MAIL A CHEQUE TO:

Sooke Teachers' Association
#107-689 Hoffman Ave,
Victoria, BC V9B 4X2

For more information, contact the Sooke Teachers' Association at 250-474-5555.



Young Workers Game Night

May 13, 2021 at 6 pm



When: Thursday, May 13th, 6pm-8pm

Where: Zoom

Who: For all young workers in the STA age 35 and under!

What: An online games night using Zoom and other platforms that includes games such as Skribbl, Scattergories, Codenames, and even an opportunity to make an origami crane!

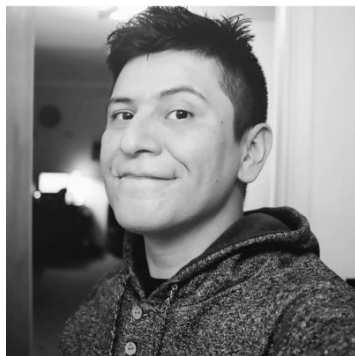
Why: The STA Young Workers Committee cares about making sure new and young members are supported despite the many barriers this particular group faces. Connect, socialize, and stay engaged!

Please register at ywc-gamenight.eventbrite.ca.

For full participation a laptop or computer is recommended. To increase digital equity, there will be game options for those who are only able to connect to Zoom, but not other websites. For further information please contact reception@surreyteachers.org and they will forward questions to the STA Young Workers Committee.



Come join us for an evening of drawing alongside Ovila Mailhot, a Coast Salish artist from the Sto:lo Nation. Using traditional elements of Coast Salish design Ovila has designed clothing, mural artwork in Vancouver, and even a Valentine's day card for CBC. This event, hosted by the STA Young Workers Committee, is open to all members and aims to bring together Surrey, Chiliwack, and Mission members for a night of art, connection, and fun. Register soon as spots are limited. You'll need paper, pencil/s, and pencil crayons. For questions please email reception@surreyteachers.org.



Ovila Mailhot: Sto:lo Coast Salish Artist

Feel welcome to join me in a fun Coast Salish art session. Learning a bit about the art style, elements used and who I am as an artist & how I express myself through the arts & creativity.

Register at ywc-coastsalish.eventbrite.ca.

Surrey Teachers Virtual Paint Night

May 20, 2021 at 7 pm



Everyone is invited to join us at 7 pm on Thursday, May 20 while Leanne Whynot (who teaches Art at L.A. Matheson Secondary) shows us how to paint a mountain scene using only 3 colours! This event is hosted by the STA Status of Women Committee, who will be covering the costs of the canvas, paints, and brushes for all who sign up. The free items will be available for you to pick up at one of 3 locations in Surrey. All that's left for you to prep is the paper towel, masking tape, water cup, palette, and whatever your favourite beverage is! Registration closes at 3 pm on Friday, May 14. We hope to see you there! Register at sw-paintnight.eventbrite.ca.



STA EVENTS

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

April 30 – Car Caravan (see above for route and time)

May 3 – Indigenous Ed committee

May 4 – Convention Committee

May 6 – PAPR Committee

May 7 – [STA Convention](#)

May 10 – Ad Hoc Indigenization of the STA Committee

May 10 – Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee

May 10 – Pro D Committee

May 11 – Executive Committee

May 12 – Health and Safety Committee

May 13 – [Young Workers Game Night](#)

May 13 – International Solidarity Committee

May 13 – Local Specialist Associations Council meeting

May 17 – Anti Racism Committee

May 19 – AGM #1 – Budget, Fee, Bylaw updates

May 20 – [Status of Women Paint night](#)

May 21 – [Young Workers Coast Salish Art Night](#)

May 26 – AGM #2– STA elections