
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.

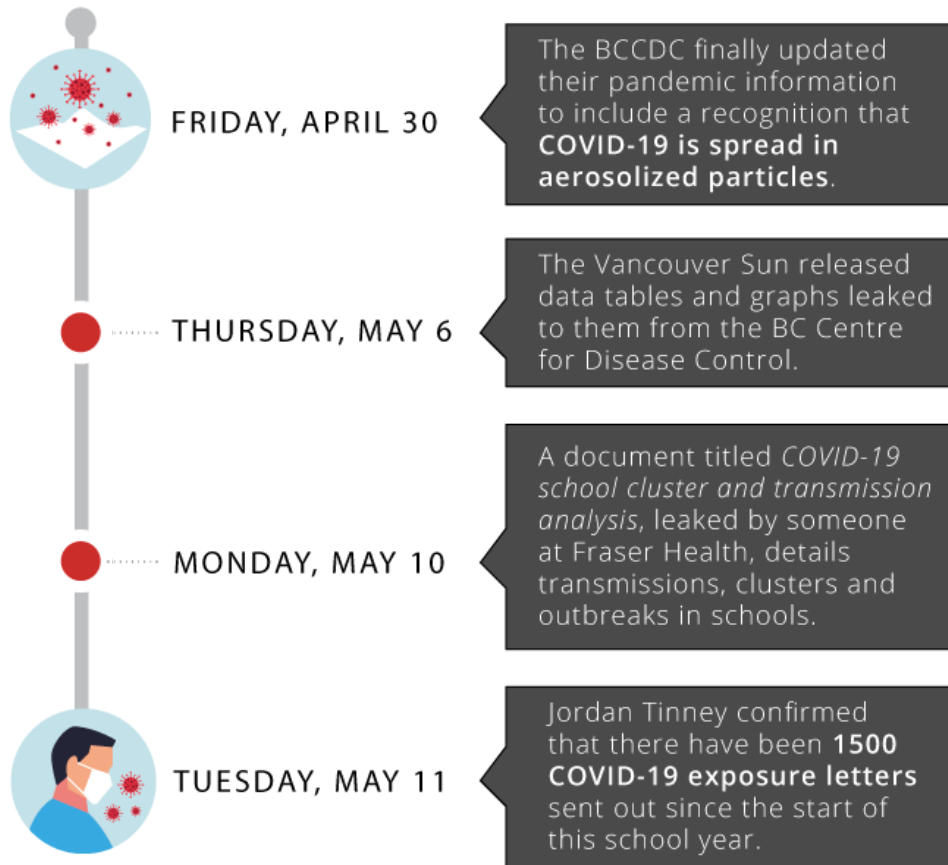


STA Connection May 10-14, 2021

Timeline of Significant Covid News

Over the past fortnight, a slew of documents has provided information that supports all our calls for more preventative measures in schools. The BC CDC confirmation that the virus is aerosolized supports our calls for improved ventilation in classrooms. A Fraser Health study that details the data they have on student-to-student transmissions in schools, supports our calls for less density and more physical distancing. Documents leaked to the Vancouver Sun provided data on the northwest quadrant of Surrey being the hardest hit by COVID-19. We hope that this is more than enough validated information for the District and the Ministry of Education to enact changes that increase health and safety in our schools.

The best news is that most Surrey teachers who want to be vaccinated have been and that there is currently a province-wide effort to get every single education worker in the District who wants a vaccine to get one. [Read more](#)



Convention 2021 was an Amazing Success!

Mountains and oceans of gratitude to everyone who helped to make Convention 2021 an awesome event! It takes a village to host a Convention and all members of the Convention committee pulled off a Herculean task gracefully! Thanks to you the thousands of members who attended, a record was set for Convention attendance! Many of you have told us that you were extremely moved by the words of our keynote speaker, Dr. Gabor Maté, who reminded us that safety is not the absence of threat but the presence of contact. What a profound confirmation of the work that teachers do each day: making contact with students and making a difference.

Election Candidate Statements Deadline

Statements must be received at STA office by **8:30 am, Monday, May 17, 2021**, via email to

sta@surreyteachers.org or via fax to 604-594-5176.

The maximum length for candidate statements is 500 words, and the maximum length of video is 3 minutes. Both statements and videos will be posted to our website in the order which they are received so the earlier the better. The statements will also be compiled and distributed to the membership electronically one week before the election.

LST allotments are out

If you are concerned that your LST entitlements are affecting the staffing at your school, please contact Mark Keelan (grieve2@surreyteachers.org) or Joanna Cerazy (grieve1@surreyteachers.org) to discuss your particular circumstance.

Round 2 is Coming

Round 2 of the Transfer Process will begin on Tuesday, May 25. Make sure the personal information page of Employee Self-Serve makes it clear how you are qualified for the position for which you are applying. You have the option on this page to indicate whether or not you agree to have your current principal or vice-principal contacted for a reference. We have been assured by Human Resources that if you select "No" to having current admin contacted, they will not be. However, you will need to provide the names and contact information for two people, usually administrators, who have recently seen you teach. [Read more](#)

Retirement Celebration

The STA has a long tradition of hosting a fun dinner dance for retiring members and we are disappointed that COVID has disallowed this event for another year. In order to honor those members who have served this district, we have a replacement plan involving gifts and gift certificates. We want to ensure that we pay tribute to those who have given their service so if you are retiring this year and have not already contacted us to let us know, please do so as soon as possible by emailing sta@surreyteachers.org.

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 **Wednesday, June 30!** Sign and send the form to the District (Attn: HR/Payroll). It might make you eligible for an incremental increase in September! [Read more](#)

Prohibited Action Complaints

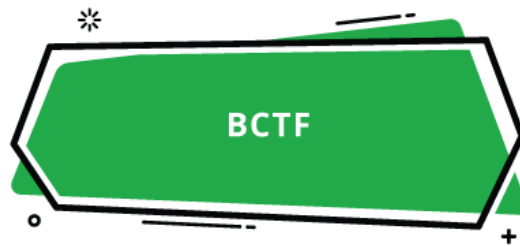
If you become aware of unsafe or unhealthy conditions at the workplace and report it to someone at work or to WorkSafeBC, you are raising a health or safety issue. If you do so, you are legally exercising a right or carrying out a duty under the Workers Compensation Act.

It is illegal for an employer to penalize you for raising a health or safety issue at work. If you experience negative actions from your employer after raising a health and safety concern, you can submit a prohibited action (formerly known as a discriminatory action) complaint.

If you believe you have been subjected to a prohibited action, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org. [Read more](#)

Fans in Portables

The District has informed us that portable fans are not allowed in Surrey during the pandemic. This is a concern because the science shows the COVID19 virus can be spread in a room when fans are on. You should keep track of the temperature in your class on hot days. As the temperature reaches close to 30, the school may need to take steps regarding access to water. If the temperature reaches near 40 there may be a requirement for breaks. Humidity and acclimatization are also factors. Please email me at Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if your class gets to 28 or above.



Day of Action Against Anti-Asian Racism

As a strong social justice union, the BCTF and our members work every day to help make the world a better place. We believe that every child has an equal right to education and a safe learning environment. That's why it is our moral duty to speak out against hate, take action against racism, and inspire our students, families, and communities to join in the fight against racism. We also need to address systemic racism by advocating for changes to policies and structures that present barriers to full participation for people of Asian heritage.

It is simply not enough to just be "not racist"—we must all be actively and deliberately antiracist. [Read more](#)



Women's Wellness Event

The BCTF will be holding a virtual Women's Wellness event on the evening of Thursday, June 10 and during the day of Friday, June 11, 2021.

BCTF members who identify as women are invited to apply to attend this event. As the Women's Wellness Event is distinct from the BCTF Women's Institute, members who have attended previous Women's Institutes are also welcome to apply.

Apply to attend this by completing a form you will find at [BCTF opportunities page](#). Application deadline is on **Friday, May 24, 4:30 p.m.** [Read more](#)

Opportunities for Members

The BCTF has committees do the work of the federation. Joining an advisory committee is a great way to learn more about your union and contribute to our profession! We are the largest local in the BCTF and it's important that the voices of Surrey teachers are represented. Be sure to contact the STA's President and/or VPs for endorsements! We would like to see a bunch of Surrey teachers get involved in these provincial committees. The deadline for applications is **Friday, June 4, 2021.** [Read more](#)



Covid Action Committee: What we've been doing



The Covid Action Committee has been working hard to make sense of all the data that is issued by the Fraser Health Authority each week. We also try to make sense of the gaps in public data related to Covid and forward this information to the STA Executive Committee to consider when planning actions such as the Car Caravan and Press Releases.

The images below provide a snapshot of the impact of COVID-19 in our District.

Isolations of classes and individuals (staff and students) in Surrey School District since February 2021

Grade	Isolate	
	Class	Indiv
K	39	0
1-3	45	0
4-7	28	0
8-10	23	0
11-12	9	0
Unknown Elem	2	1768
Unknown Sec	2	961
Other		4
Total	148	2733

The number of sites that have Covid exposures this year

3	COVID free sites
3	only 1 exposure
29	2-5 exposures
33	6-9 exposures
38	10-19 exposures
8	20-29 exposures
2	30-39 exposures
5	40-49 exposures
2	50-59 exposures
2	60-69 exposures

Thank you to everyone who has submitted reflections and stories about their “teaching during the pandemic’ experiences. If you have a story or reflection you’d like to share, please email it to Communications@surreyteachers.org.

**International Solidarity Committee:
Recommendations for Funding**

The International Solidarity committee’s recommendation (see attachment) that the STA executive approve funding from the International Solidarity Fund for the following projects was

carried at an STA Executive meeting on Tuesday, May 11.

- \$2000 to the Canadian Women For Women in Afghanistan Lantern Fund 2025
- \$2000 to ANDES (Asociación Nacional de Educadores de El Salvador – National Association of Educators of El Salvador)
- \$1500 to COPEMH (Colegio de Profesores de Educación Media de Honduras - Association of Secondary Teachers of Honduras)
- \$3500 to FECODE (Federación Colombiana de Trabajadores de la Educación - Colombian Educators' Federation)

LGBTQ2+ Adhoc Committee: Invitation to Members

Inviting all STA members to join the LGBTQ2+ Adhoc Committee meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2021 from 4pm. Send an email to Noel Abraham (abraham_n@surreyschools.ca) to be on the list to get the Zoom link for the meeting.



Dear Grade 7-12 teachers! You are invited to register your class to join us at the “Empowered Girls’ Conference”, taking place on **Thursday, June 10 from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm**. The conference is geared to all genders - students will be empowered and/or learn how to be an ally.

We will hear from inspiring and influential young Canadian women, including Calista Robinson, Shilpa Narayan, Rochelle Prasad, Noor Fadel, Ndidi Cascade, Friba Rezayee, and Taylor LN. This event is hosted by the STA Status of Women Committee and will be focusing on topics such as empowerment, leadership, building confidence, mental health, resilience, consent, online safety, and allyship.

You can register your class at stagirls2021.eventbrite.ca to receive the Zoom link. Please contact us if you have any questions at marcakis_a@surreyschools.ca.

Coast Salish Art Night

May 21, 2021 at 6 pm

CLICK TO REGISTER



STA EVENTS

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

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 – [Surrey Teachers Virtual Paint Night](#)

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

May 25 – Executive committee

May 26 – AGM #2– STA elections

May 27 – LGBTQ2+ Adhoc Committee

May 27 – Local Reps BCTF Rep Assembly Prep

May 28 – BCTF Spring Rep Assembly