
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 17-21, 2021

Bargaining

With June 2022 marking the end of our current collective agreement, local bargaining for a new contract with the Surrey School District will open in November 2021. Staff Reps have been sharing a slide deck with information about what to expect over the next year. The survey soliciting your input has been sent out to Staff Reps. It should take about 15 minutes to complete and is due by Monday, May 31, 2021.

Given that many of the people in the Ministry of Education and BCPSEA have not changed since the Christy Clark years, we anticipate a tough round of bargaining. Nevertheless, we believe that a good deal for teachers can be achieved if we remember that there is strength in our solidarity and our commitment to public education.



**COMPLETE BARGAINING SURVEY
BY MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021**



**TO GET ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED,
ATTEND A TOWNHALL**

- **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021 • 4-6 PM**
for Local Specialist Associations
and Specialty Groups
- **THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2021 • 4-6 PM**
for all STA members

Registration for the townhalls will open next week and a notice will be sent to the Staff Reps and appear in next week's STAC.

Sad News: Nicole Wiles



It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we share with you the news of the sudden passing of our beloved colleague and Kindergarten teacher, Nicole Wiles, on Wednesday, May 12, 2021. Nicole had been with the Kennedy Trail family since 2003 and with the school district since 2000. Her warm, loving presence and profound love and devotion for her students will be greatly remembered and dearly missed by all her colleagues and students. Our sincere condolences go out to all who knew Nicole and most especially her son and family.

STA Elections



Twenty-one positions on the STA Executive and seven positions on the Resolutions Committee are up for election on **Wednesday, May 26, 2021**. The deadline is now passed to put your name in with a write-up in advance, but if you want to run for a position on the Executive Committee or on the Resolutions committee you could nominate yourself from the floor during the meeting. Check out the write-ups, videos and photos of candidates who have declared in advance on our [election page](#).

In the May 10-14, 2021 STAC, we stated that we would be listing our candidate statement in order received, giving an advantage to those who applied early. However, quite a few of our members sent items in one at a time, putting their name forward, their photo, their write up and their video all at different times. We get it, we all fit our tasks in as we can but, doing that has brought up the question by what date do we list their statement on our website? Is it fair for someone to put their name forward and then wait to submit their video, photo or write up and still get that priority treatment? As a result, we decided to go back to past practice and list the names of our candidates alphabetically. This matter will go back to the EC & STARA for discussion and, should they decide we will continue in the first come, first listed policy for next year, we will be more specific on what will constitute first come. We apologize if this decision upsets anyone, but it was made in the interest of being fair.

Be sure to [register to attend](#) virtually. Have a say in who leads the STA!

BCTF President Teri Mooring will also be attending the meeting to provide a provincial update and answer questions. [Read more](#)

Professional Development Virtually? Yes!

On **teacher-led Pro-D days**, you can attend virtual/online workshops from your home for as long as there's a pandemic in B.C. On the admin-directed non-instructional day, you can be required to be at the worksite; however, it is still worth speaking to your principal about permitting staff to attend virtually for health and safety reasons.

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 honour 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.

Covid 19 and Vaccinations

Although most of us have received their first vaccination dose, it is very important that those who are vaccinated continue to follow Covid 19 health and safety guidelines. 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 may continue to spread the virus. Please continue to protect others in your community by continuing to follow Covid 19 protocols.

Hearing Tests for Band, Music, and Shop teachers

If you work in an environment with hazardous levels of noise (more than 85 dB averaged over an eight-hour shift), your employer is required to have your hearing tested each year. The employer pays for the testing.

This year the hearing testing will be offered in October, one year from the last offering. Once things return 'back to normal', they will resume the testing annually in June.

Internal coverage can be scheduled by the school. Contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if you have concerns or questions. [Read more](#)

Violence in Schools

Concerned about information on a violent student not being communicated to other staff? Remember that privacy can't be used to withhold information about violence. Go to [Prevent Violence Related Injuries to Workers WorkSafeBC](#) for more information.

Contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if you have concerns or questions.

Learning Assistance Teachers' Association Workshop

The Learning Assistance Teachers' Association (LATA) would like to invite you to a workshop on Wednesday, June 9 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. to celebrate the launch of the draft of our new Learning Assistance Teachers' Handbook.

Through a BCTF-facilitated Teacher Inquiry Project (TIP), several members of the LATA Executive have collected valuable data from around the province. Data on learning assistance roles and responsibilities, scheduling frameworks and timelines, resources, and research-based practices have informed the creation of this handbook.

Please register for this free event by either emailing LATA at psac53@bctf.ca or through [Eventbrite](#).



Women's Wellness Event Deadline: Monday, May 24, 2021, at 4:40pm

BCTF members who identify as women are invited to apply to participate in a Women's Wellness Event to take place on the evening of Thursday, June 10, and all day, Friday, June 11, 2021.

This event will include a panel discussion, workshop sessions, wellness activities, slam poetry, and music presentations.

Leaves of Absence will be provided by the BCTF for the Friday sessions.

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. For more information and application instructions: [BCTF Opportunities for Members](#)

BCTF Ratification Vote

On **May 25, 26, and 27**, there will be a province-wide ratification vote on an Agreement in Committee between the BCTF and the BC Public School Employers' Association that would change the timelines and dispute resolution process for local bargaining. Information about this has been sent by the BCTF to your email address registered with MyBCTF portal. BCTF will be sending you a Simply Voting link to the same email address.

BCTF Committees, a way to get involved provincially

The BCTF has advisory committees contribute to 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! The deadline for applications is **Friday, June 4, 2021**. [Read more](#)



COMMITTEE NEWS



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](#) to receive the Zoom link. Please contact us if you have any questions at marcakis_a@surreyschools.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS

STA EVENTS

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

May 25 – Executive committee
May 25 – BCTF Ratification Vote
May 26 – AGM #2– STA Elections
May 26 – BCTF Ratification Vote
May 27 – LGBTQ+ Adhoc Committee
May 27 – BCTF Ratification Vote
May 27 – Local Reps BCTF Rep Assembly Prep
May 28 – BCTF Spring Rep Assembly
June 2 – Bargaining Town Hall for LSAs & Specialty Groups
June 3 – Bargaining Town Hall for all members

Mark your calendars – advance notice

June 9 – STA New Teacher conference for TTOCs (more info next week)
June 14 – EI workshop for TTOCs at 4 pm (more info next week)

Correction to STA Connection: May 10-14, 2021

Last week's article about fans was titled "Fans in Portables". What it should have said was "Portable fans". Portable fans are not permitted in any location in Surrey schools this year.