
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 25-28, 2021

Five weeks to go!



This final stretch of teaching before the summer break is always a challenge but it's even more so after this Covid-19 year! Please remember variants that are circulating in Surrey now are VERY transmissible. One vaccination does not protect you from contracting the virus. It may help protect you from serious illness or death, but you could still get sick and transmit it.

Please also keep your mental health a priority. You have professional autonomy and do not have to cover everything in the curriculum. Jordan Tinney has also encouraged teachers to decide for

themselves what's most important for students to know. What's most important for us is the well-being of all SurrPey teachers. Take care of yourself!

Election Results!

Your 2021/2022 STA Executive Committee

- President: Matt Westphal
- 1st Vice-President: Julia MacRae
- 2nd Vice-President: Jatinder Bir
- Grievance Officers: Mark Keelan re-elected & Joanna Cerazy continuing for year 2 of 2020-22term
- Health & Safety/Grievance Officer: Gavin Slade-Kerr continuing for year 2 of term
- Professional Support Services Officer: Kevin Amboe continuing for year 2 of term
- Professional Development Officer: Erin Coleman
- Accommodations Support Officer: Dana Neidig continuing for year 2 of term
- Local Representatives to the BCTF: Thais Cabral, Lizanne Foster, Angela Marcakis, Rick Kumar, Annie Ohana, Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay
- Secretary-Treasurer: Kelly MacDosen
- Member-at-Large (Aboriginal): Jacqueline King
- Member-at-Large (Person of Colour): Amrit Sanghe
- Members-at-Large: Violette Baillargeon, Gavin Hainsworth, Katelyn McCloy
- TTOC/Early Career Representative: Ziyad Shukri

STA 2021-22 Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions committee prepares resolutions to take forward from Surrey to the BCTF AGM. It automatically includes the President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and all six LR's. On May 26th we elected the other seven members, who are: Violette Baillargeon, Marilyn Carr, Gavin Hainsworth, Derek Imai, Andrea Leeks, Regie Plana Alcuaz, and Hilary Wardlow.

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 and particularly, the many people who worked to make the meeting happen!

Communications Coordinator Job Opportunity at the STA

We are seeking an STA member to help us at the office with our communications work for the coming school year. The person will have great writing skills, be adept with social media strategies, and be passionate about public education and union work. This job will be 3 days per week for the 2021-22 school year. Find attached to this newsletter a longer description of tasks and expectations. If this catches your attention, please submit your application using the attached STA CV form, attach a cover letter and some recent original writing in any format on any topic.

Deadline: Wednesday, June 2 at 4 pm

WHAT??? It's time for bargaining already?

Yes, indeed! This one arrived quickly because the agreement we ratified in spring 2020 was retroactive to July 2019. Now it's time again to consider how we want to improve working and learning conditions. What do you want to gain now? How should our schools be improved?

The Bargaining Survey is designed to be completed within 15 minutes and will be active until Monday, May 31. Completing the survey will inform the Bargaining Committee about your thoughts on what should be prioritized this round. You can find the survey here: <https://bit.ly/2021BargSurvey>.

Bargaining Town Halls

The Bargaining Committee is hosting 2 Town hall meetings for members.

- [June 2 – Focus - LSA and Specialty Groups](#)
- [June 3 – Focus - All Members](#)

We are encouraging all members to attend. If you would like to bring forward a topic for discussion, submit your name, the session you will be attending and a brief description of what you wish to speak about to bargaining@surreyteachers.org.

We will keep a speakers list and topic list and follow Roberts rules as needed to ensure everyone that wants to have voice gets to during the meeting.

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 EI Workshop

Are you a TTOC? Did you know that you are likely eligible to receive Employment Insurance payments over the summer months? Applying for EI can be a bit of a confusing process, but we are here to help!

On Monday, June 14, 2021 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, The STA will be holding a zoom seminar for TTOCs explaining the process and answering your questions. This seminar helps TTOCs understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI benefits. Key information will be shared by an expert facilitator! [Register now!](#)

TTOC Experience Transfer

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!

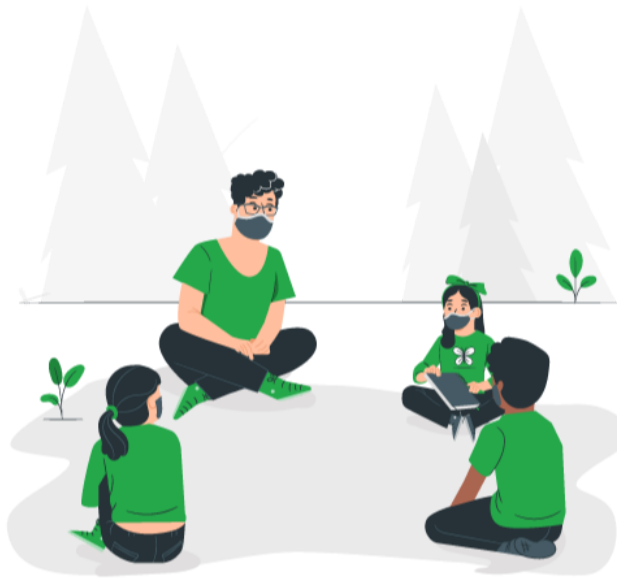
Your pay increment (step level) is based on your teaching experience. Contract teachers move up one step on the pay scale after 10 months of full-time experience. Incremental increases take place automatically on September 1 and January 1 each year. [Read more](#)



Reaction to the Fogging

We have been contacted by members who had a reaction to the fogging spray Clorox360 used in schools. We are in discussions with the district as to the process they used in accommodating members. **We are particularly interested in whether the district requirement for your doctor to read documents around covid protocols, and further to name the compound in Clorox 360 that led to the allergic reaction, were barriers to being accommodated.** If you applied for an accommodation to have a different product used in your workspace other than the Clorox360 spray, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org to let us know how it went.

Beat the Heat!



Don't feel you have to stay in your classroom on hot days. You can take your class outside and sit in the shade where it is cooler. Please find a space maintaining sufficient distance from other classes.

SEED 36 on Teams has lots of great resources for teaching outside. As well here's a resource for [creating outdoor spaces for learning](#).



Committee elections will be held
during June STARA, Wednesday, June 16

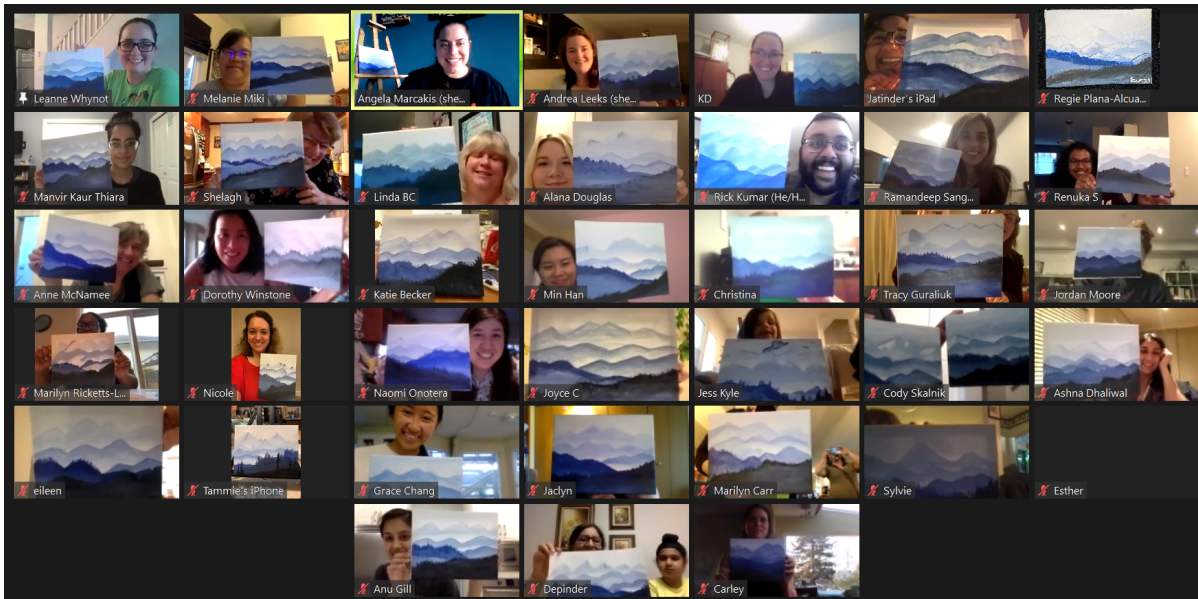
STA Committees advise the Executive on union priorities. The STA has 32 committees covering a wide range of topics of concern to Surrey teachers. Here are a few:

- [Awards Committee](#)
- [Bargaining Committee](#)
- [Convention Committee](#)
- [Economic Welfare Committee](#)
- [Environmental Justice Ad Hoc Committee](#)
- [Educational Governance Committee](#)
- [Finance Committee](#)

- [Grievance Committee](#)
- [Health & Safety Committee](#)
- [Indigenization Ad Hoc Committee](#)
- [Indigenous Education Committee](#)
- [International Solidarity Committee](#)

Why not join one? Check out the [list of committees](#).

Virtual Paint Night



Thank you to the 95 members who joined us for our first virtual paint night last week! We hope you all enjoyed your night with us, it was so nice to connect with you all and learn how to paint from the talented Leanne Whynot! A big shout out to our co-chairs Raman Sangha and Angela Marcakis for handing out supplies at the North site, Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay-r for handing out supplies at the Cloverdale/Clayton site, and Maire Walker and Regie Plana-Alcuaz for handing out supplies at the South site. We hope you all join us again at the next STA Status of Women event!

Book Giveaway!

The STA Status of Women Committee is giving away 5 copies of "Stories for South Asian Super Girls". [Add your name](#) to the draw! Deadline to apply is 8:30 am on Monday, June 7.

The stories of 50 powerful women from Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are showcased in "Stories for South Asian Super Girls", curated and written by Raj Kaur Khaira (founder of the feminist PinkLadoo Project) and illustrated by 10 incredible South Asian women. The stories are appropriate and inspiring for all ages, genders, and cultures. "Stories for South Asian Super Girls" seeks to redress the imbalance for young girls of colour by empowering them to break new ground for themselves, inspiring others in the process, and dreaming amazing dreams as they see themselves represented in the pages.



Grade 7-12 teachers - Don't forget to register your class to join us at the "Empowered Girls' Conference", taking place on Thursday, June 10, 2021, from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. The conference, geared to all genders, 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.



STA EVENTS

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

June 2 – [Bargaining Town Hall for LSAs & Specialty Groups](#)

June 3 – [Bargaining Town Hall for all members](#)

June 8 – Executive Committee

June 9 – STA New Teacher conference for TTOCs

June 10 – [Empowered Girls' Conference](#)

June 14 – [EI workshop for TTOCs at 4 pm](#)

June 16 – STARA

June 22 – Executive Committee