
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 31-June 4, 2021

Truth, Reconciliation, and Resilience

In the wake of the discovery of the remains of 215 children buried at the site of the former Kamloops Residential school, we extend our condolences to the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Nation, all the families that lost beloved children, and to the survivors and their descendants in our community who are experiencing intense feelings of sadness and loss.

As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission requested, we as educators must reflect on our role in reconciliation. We need to act with respect, solidarity and kindness in our work, and we need to do all we can to make sure that education is a path to healing and reconciliation among settlers and Indigenous people.

It's especially important this week not to expect our Indigenous colleagues to help with this learning. There is a plethora of [resources available](#). Hearing the news about the Kamloops Residential School provides settlers with a challenge to do more during this year's Indigenous History Month to not only learn the truth about the colonization of these lands but also to celebrate the resilience of the First Nations who have lived here since time immemorial.

Sad news: Colleen Scott

It is with great sadness that we share with you the news of the sudden passing of Colleen Scott, a beloved teacher and colleague at Surrey Traditional.



Colleen's obituary in the Vancouver Sun

Colleen Lylia Scott, BFA B.Ed passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 23 February 2021 at age 54. Colleen was warm and kind-hearted, with the soul of an artist, and a brilliant mind. She was an adventurer who travelled and lived abroad. Teaching English in Japan had a great influence on her. She loved and practised many forms of art: singing, acting, sculpture, photography, and painting. She was an inspiring teacher in Surrey BC for over 20 years, working with underprivileged children for most of her career. It was very important to her to make a difference by providing a fun, safe, and stable learning environment for children at school.

Colleen believed in helping others and expressed those beliefs through community work and teaching. She valued kindness and peace and was a great support to her friends and family. She was dearly loved and will be missed and remembered by her family, friends, students (old and new), and her rabbit Skittle.

By family request, donations in Colleen's memory can be made to the Surrey Food Bank.

STARA Meeting: Wednesday, June 16

Elections for positions on dozens of STA Committees will be held during STARA (STA Representative Assembly) on Wednesday, June 16, starting at 4pm online. If you have not already received your voting and Zoom links for the 2020-2021 year, [sign up](#) for this year's links.

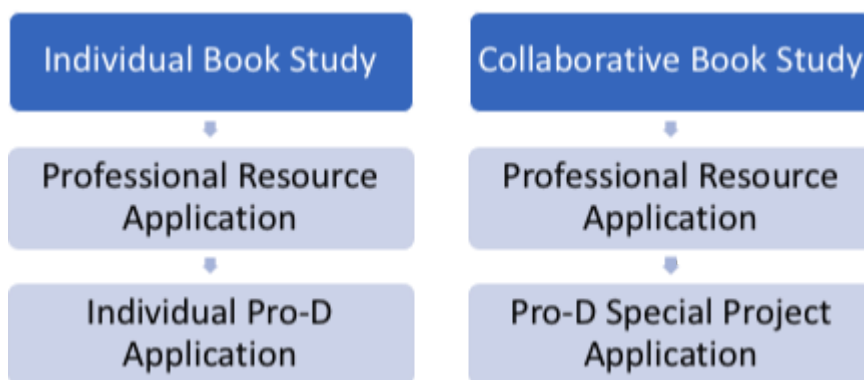
If you'd like to be considered for a position on a committee, submit your name and the name of the committee/s you're interested in putting your name forward for election to sta@surreyteachers.org no later than 4pm on June 14th. You may also nominate yourself from the floor, but it is handy to have as many names in advance as possible.

Save the Date: Special General Meeting on Thursday, June 17

At a Special General meeting on June 17, the STA will set the bargaining priorities to be submitted to the BCTF for consideration in the October BCTF Bargaining conference.

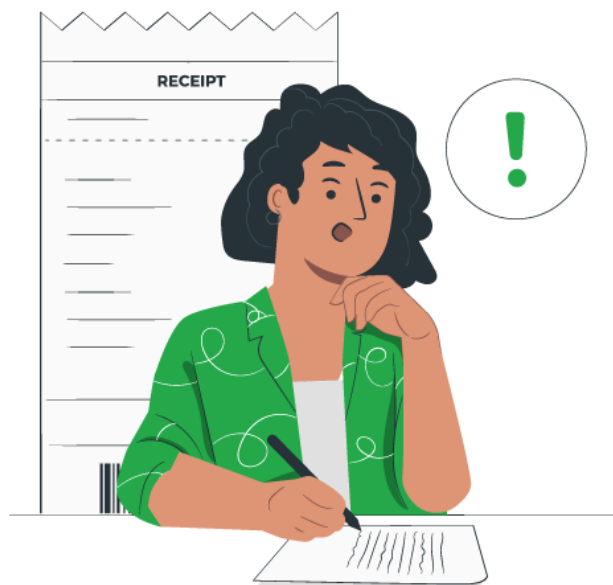
In September, we will elect the delegates to the BCTF Bargaining Conference.

Learning about residential schools as part of professional development



If you and/or a group of colleagues would like to include learning about residential schools as part of your professional development, you could apply to the STA Pro-D Officer for support in doing so. [Read more](#)

STA Expense Forms

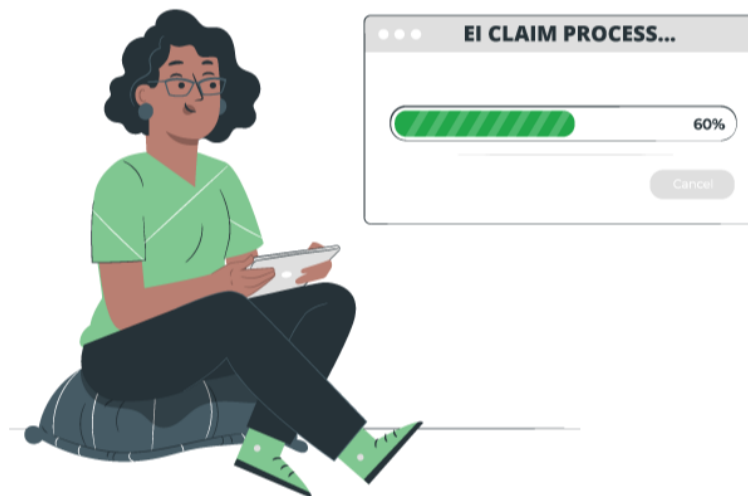


Reminder that this is the last month to submit STA expense claims for 2020-21. Please submit your forms do as soon as possible so that the office not inundated with claims to process at the last minute! [Expense form](#) is available on our website.

2nd Covid 19 Vaccinations

We know many members are now eligible for their second Covid 19 vaccination, and we hope most will get their vaccinations as quickly as possible. We imagine most members will be able to book a time outside of the school day. The district is choosing to provide time for school-hours appointments in the form of internal coverage. If you have a specific circumstance that makes it difficult to attend a vaccination appointment outside school hours, speak to your principal to arrange to try to minimize the impact on colleagues and students if you must be absent.

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! This seminar helps TTOCs understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI benefits.

The STA will be holding a seminar for TTOCs explaining the process and answering their questions on Monday, June 14, 2021 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. [Register now!](#)

June is Men's Health Month

Did you know?

1. Males account for more than 75 per cent of suicides in Canada.
2. The BC Coroners Service reports that males accounted for 81 per cent of drug overdose deaths in BC in 2020.
3. Boys make up 70% of high school dropouts and educational drop out is a strong determinant of mental health issues

As educators, what role does public school play in preparing boys for adulthood in our society?
How can school change to lead to brighter statistics in the future?

Source:

- [CBC](#)
- [Men's Health Month](#)

Health and Safety Poll

We created a [quick poll \(7 questions\)](#) asking members if their health and safety concerns are being addressed. We recognize how busy everyone is at this time of year and wanted to keep it short! Your responses will be kept confidential.

Professional Services

Included in the portfolio of the Professional Services Officer is support for members who may be experiencing conflict with colleagues. Most often conflict arises as a result of miscommunication or the misinterpretation of someone's words or intentions. To provide support for all STA members who may be experiencing difficulty with collegial relationships, there'll be occasional articles highlighting ways to improve communication. This week the focus is the kinds of questions that can often be misinterpreted. For more information, [watch a video by Kevin Amboe](#), the STA's Professional Services Officer.

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.

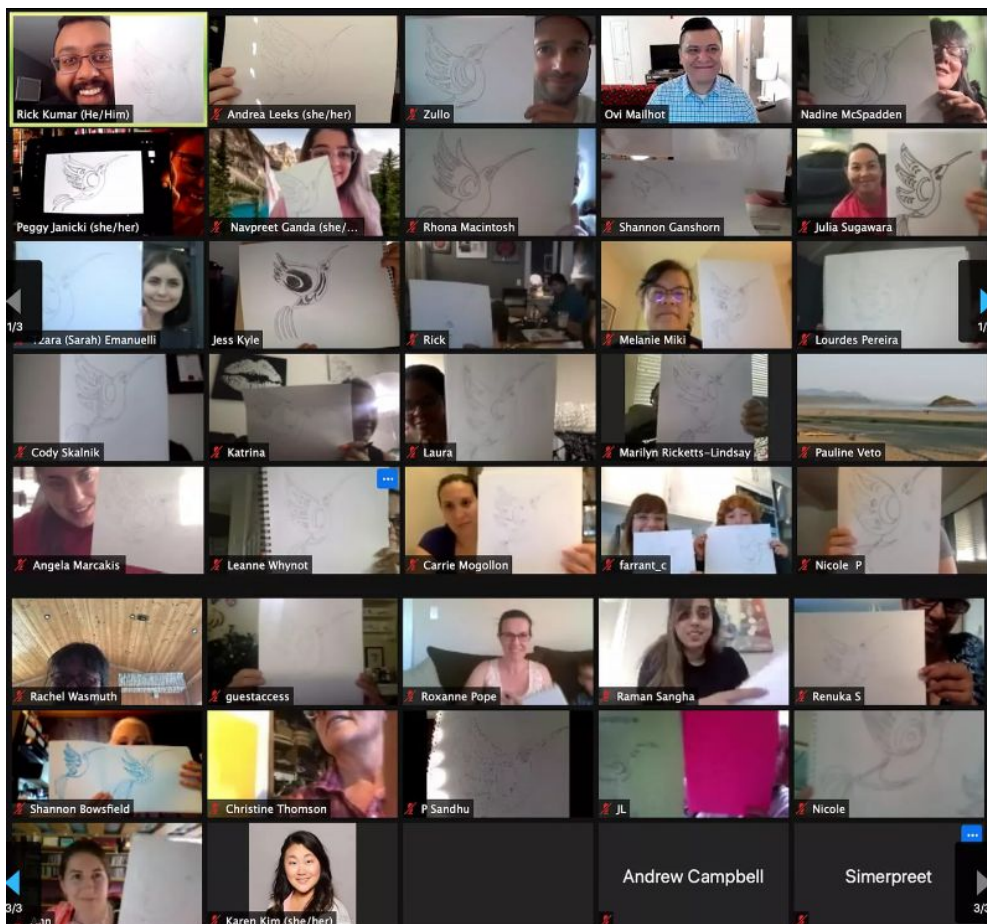




Grade 7-12 teachers - Don't forget to register your class to join us at the "Empowered Girls' Conference", taking place on Thursday, June 10, 2021, from 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. The conference, geared to all genders, will be focusing on topics such as empowerment, leadership, building confidence, mental health, 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.

Young Workers' Committee



On Friday, May 21, the STA Young Workers Committee brought Surrey, Mission, and Chilliwack teachers of all ages together for a multi-local union wellness event, one of the first of its kind! Coast Salish artist Ovi Mailhot led a drawing of a hummingbird using traditional techniques and tied in his own lived experiences in the world of art. Ovi left participants from all three locals with amazing pictures, full hearts, and a better understanding of Coast Salish artwork.

Special thank you to Chilliwack teacher Rick Joe, and Mission teacher Peggy Janicki for their contributions to this amazing event!

Stay tuned for more STA Young Workers Committee events next year!



LITERARY & VISUAL ARTS CONTEST 2021



ART 4 PEACE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

**One World - One People
Global Peace Alliance(GPA)**

Email: info@peacealways.org
www.peacealways.org

***Every participant receives a Certificate of Appreciation**

***Entry Deadline August 25th, 2021**

***Winners(3 in each age group)also receive cash Prizes & Trophies**

5-12 yrs | 13-17 yrs | 18-64 yrs | 65+ yrs

Please note that your literary/visual artwork will be archived & displayed at ART4PEACE Exhibitions and on the GPA website and other social media platforms. Upon request original artwork may be picked up after GPA use.

CONTEST RULES

*Essay: What have we learned from COVID19, what needs to...

*Every literary/visual art work submission to the contests must have a theme of peace(loving-kindness, caring & sharing, forgiving & forgetting, friendship, multiculturalism, nuclear disarmament, social justice, conflict transformation, and the like). This year we encourage you to capture the impact of COVID19 on family, work, society and the world

*Minimum size for photographs is 5"x7".

*Unlimited entry submissions per person.

*Maximum number of words for literary works(prose or poetry): 400 for 5-12 yrs & 2000 for others.

*The size of drawings and paintings (hand-drawn, sketched or painted) should be 8"x11" or smaller.

*Every entry submission must accompany a cover letter giving:

(a)Your name, birthday, physical address, phone number and email address; and

(b)A description of the peace message behind your work.

*Mail original work to Postal Box PMB #235 800-15355 24th Ave. Surrey, BC, V4A 2H9 or call 604-329-0850 to hand deliver by appointment, or enter online at GPA website www.peacealways.org

*Although we welcome entries outside of the Vancouver/Fraser Valley region, please be aware that trophies cannot be mailed. If entering from outside the country only a winning certificate is issued.



STA EVENTS

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

- June 7 – Ad Hoc Indigenization of the STA Committee
- June 7 – Pro-D Committee
- June 8 – Executive Committee
- June 9 – STA New Teacher conference for TTOCs
- June 9 – Health and Safety Committee
- June 10 – [Empowered Girls' Conference](#)
- June 11 – Status of Women Committee
- June 14 – [EI workshop for TTOCs at 4 pm](#)
- June 14 – Anti-Racism Committee
- June 15 – Bargaining Committee
- June 16 – STARA (including committee elections)
- June 16-18 – Canadian Labour Congress Convention
- June 17 – Special General Meeting to discuss bargaining
- June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 22 – Executive Committee