

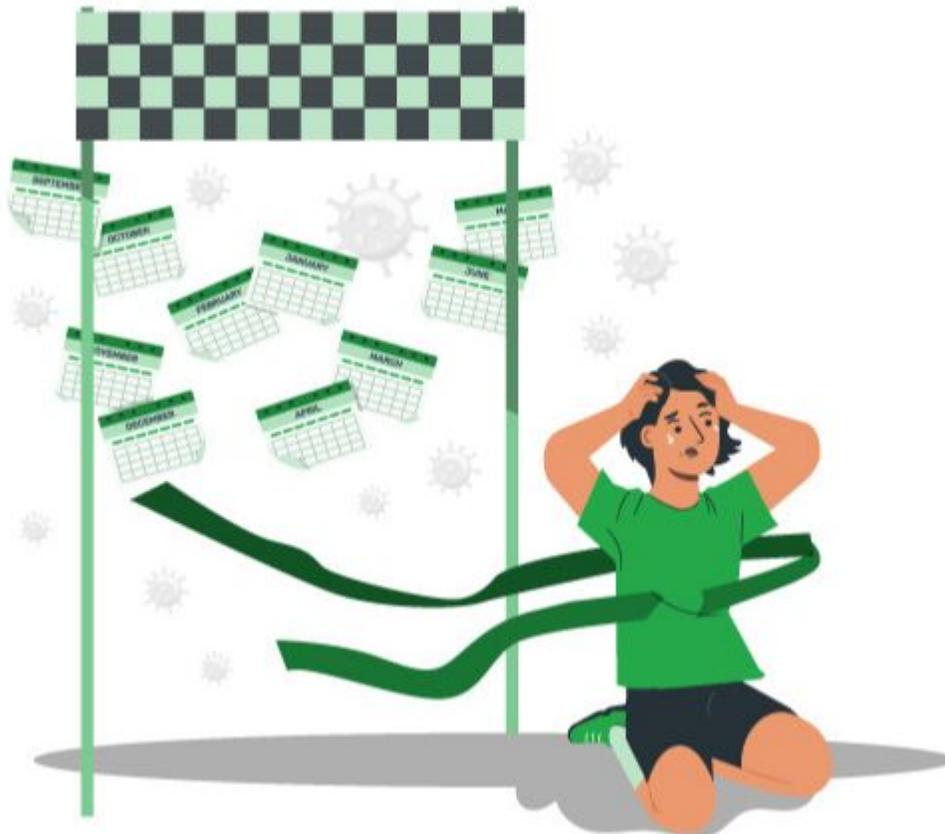
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*Surrey teachers work on the unceded traditional territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Qayqayt and Semiahmoo First Nations. As part of meaningful reconciliation work, we reflect on the impacts of colonialism through self-education in order to be accountable 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 June 21-25, 2021**

**What a year!**



Doesn't it feel like the last year has been a decade long? What a historic experience we've been through! You can read about some of the highlights (and lowlights) in the [Covid Commemorative edition of The Advocate](#).

Looking ahead to the next school year, we've been wondering what exactly September will look like given the paucity of details in the recent announcement by Minister Whiteside. We anticipate getting those details sometime at the end of August since the provincial level Covid-19 committee is not meeting until at least August 10.

For now, we wholeheartedly congratulate you on your great work this year! Surrey teachers taught with the riskiest school workspaces in the province. Even though we feel safer after being vaccinated, the pandemic is not over. However, let's worry about September in September and savour each second of relaxation this summer!

## Remedy Agreement for Next Year

The STA and the District have an agreement for remedy next year and for the carryover of unused remedy to next year (see attachment).

We are happy to have an agreement in place because this means that teachers with unused remedy will be able to access it starting September 13, earlier than in previous years. We hope that this will be helpful for teachers to use remedy early in the school year when they can use the time for planning or other work.

The following forms of remedy will be available.

- prep time;
- co-teaching time;
- additional non-enrolling time (not to be taken from existing LST or other time at the school); and
- in-lieu time (where a full day is owed, and the teacher calls in on the day of to ensure there is coverage, as is the current process).

The agreement also permits teachers to choose to transfer their remedy to other teachers at the same school.

As in previous years, there are limited provisions for the payout of remedy in the following situations:

- where someone retires or leaves the district and is owed remedy;
- where someone is on full leave of absence and will not be returning until March 1, 2022 or later;
- TTOCs who are not in assignments but are owed remedy.

## STA Facebook group monitoring over summer

We all need a real break, and this summer more than ever. We will not be approving posts on the main Surrey Teachers' Facebook group during most of the summer until late August.

If you have an emergency, please contact us via email so we can respond. Table officers' direct contact information is listed on our website's [Table Officers page](#).

## Reminder: Submit Your Receipts!

This is a **final reminder** to submit your committee expense vouchers and Pro-D reimbursement claims (including receipts!) **ASAP** because the last day of work for staff at the office is June 30, 2020.

[Download the expense vouchers](#) and send completed forms to Donna Stewart at [accounting@surreyteachers.org](mailto:accounting@surreyteachers.org).

## Summer Pro-D

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".

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. [Read more](#)

## Out of our Pockets



The [Out of Our Pockets](#) (OOP) project is a Web-based research tool that will enable teachers and other education workers to document and record instances where they use their own money to purchase things to be used with their students, in their classrooms and in schools. Collecting this data will help in advocacy work around school funding. We encourage Surrey teachers to get involved. [Read more](#)

## Update on EFAP – LifeWorks (Morneau Shepell)

We met with the District Joint EFAP committee this week, including SD personnel, STA officers, and Morneau Shepell (MS) reps. Throughout this school year we have regularly expressed our serious concerns about the rise in mental health issues and lack of timely access for our members to connect with appropriate counselling services. MS has acknowledged that they were caught off-guard at the onset of the pandemic. There is a massive backlog of requests for counselling appointments.

We discussed the service level of the contract with MS and re-emphasized that over the past 10 months the district EFAP program has been inadequate and our worry that many of our members have been very frustrated and may have disengaged from seeking the necessary counselling support for their mental health.

We are interested to know if you have found the EFAP counselling service to be lacking this year, and we will bring information on this issue back to MS. If you would like to share your comments about navigating the LifeWorks platform or accessing a counsellor please email us at [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org).

## Mentor36

Our [Mentor Application Form for the 2021-2022 school year](#) is now open for teachers who work at our Elementary Schools and Learning Centres. If you're interested in being a mentor, we invite you to apply and join our mentoring community! (The Mentor Application Form for Secondary teachers will be coming in the Fall.) [Read more](#)

## 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! [Read more](#)

## Round 3 Posting Information: Regular and Special Bulletins

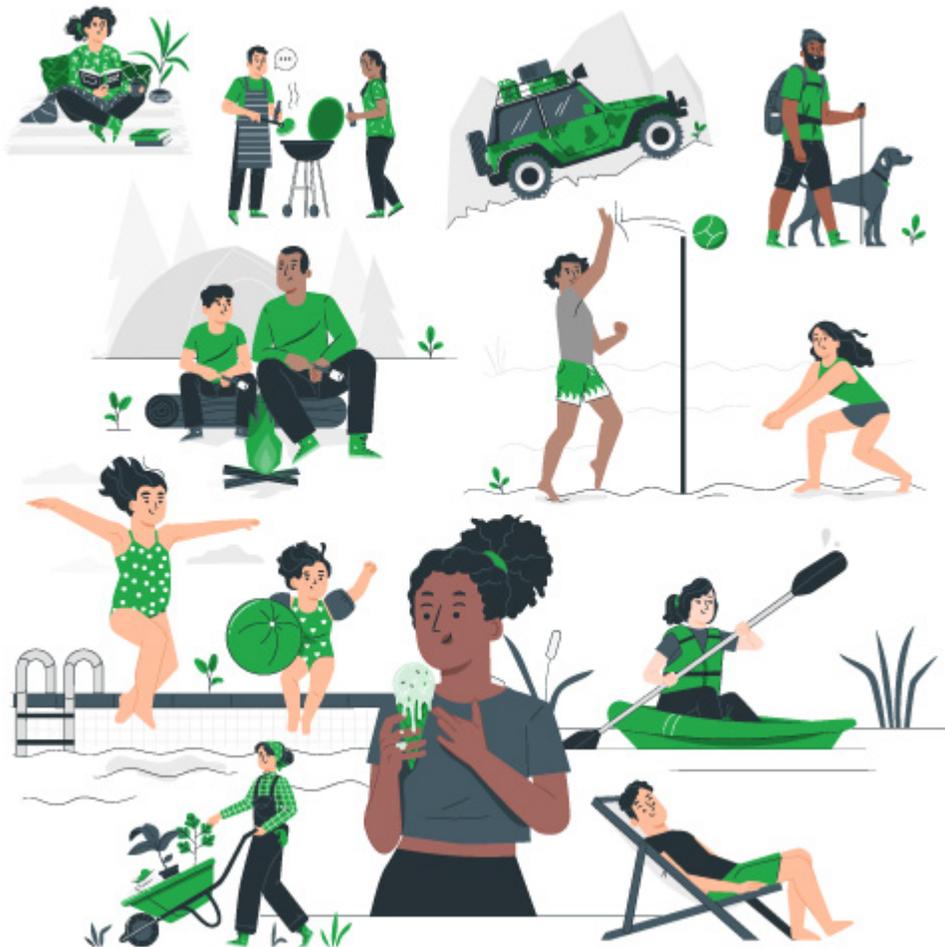
Reminder that you're not eligible for Regular Round 3 postings if you already have a contract position but you are eligible for postings in the Special Bulletins if you have a contract position.

Round 3 Postings for 2021-2022 are as follows:

- June 24 - 28: Regular and Special Bulletin
- July 22 - August 23: Regular and Special Bulletin

[Read more](#)

**Now is the time to do everything you want to do!**



**Have a wonderful summer!**