



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 these shared territories. We thank those who live on and care for the land.

### **Using remedy from previous years**

We have an [agreement in place with the employer about alternate forms of remedy](#). In lieu time is one of the available forms of remedy, subject to the same rules as have applied in previous years. If you have accumulated remedy from previous years, please talk to your principal about accessing it now.

### **Extra-curricular activities this school year**

The risk of COVID-19 means that many teachers, coaches, or sponsoring adults may feel cautious when thinking about whether to offer extra-curricular activities such as clubs, teams, etc. this year in your school. We would like to remind you that extra-curricular activities are *entirely voluntary*, are not a condition of employment, and STA members are not required to do them. If you are feeling pressured and need support, call on us.

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## **BARGAINING**

### **Local Bargaining Townhalls**

We are hosting town hall meetings on Thursday, October 7 and Thursday, October 14, to share briefly our local bargaining objectives and to hear from you what other considerations we may be able to include. Zoom link to attend will be sent to your Staff Rep for distribution next week.

### **Call for Resolutions**

Did you know that all policies in the BCTF Members Guide started with an idea a member had? You too have the opportunity to [submit your ideas](#) by September 17, 2021.

### **BCTF Bargaining Conference: Delegates Needed!**

Be a part of the discussion on our bargaining objectives at the virtual BCTF Bargaining Conference on October 28-30. Submit your name before Monday, September 27 to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) in order to stand for election as a delegate to the conference at the SGM on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Members can also self nomination from the floor during the meeting.

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## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

### **COVID-19 is still here. Please take care.**

If you have any concerns, be sure to let your principal know immediately. If your concerns are not addressed, contact your Health & Safety committee. Please take care and stay safe. [Read more](#)

### **Masks**

Masks are not currently mandatory for grades K-3 students, leaving our primary colleagues more exposed to COVID-19. If you are concerned that a 4-12 student is not wearing a mask in your classroom, report it to the administration as they are responsible for health and safety at the school. [Read more](#)

### **New phones in secondary schools**

We are concerned about the safety implications around the use of web-based phones in classrooms. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) if you have concerns around these new phones. [Read more](#)

### **Health and Safety Recommendations to principal**

Health and Safety Committee members, thank you so much for becoming a health and safety representative. Please have your school Health & Safety committee [forward these recommendations to your administration](#).

### **Health & Safety Town Hall**

The STA will be hosting a [Health & Safety Townhall](#) on September 29, 2021 from 3:15 – 4:30 pm. This open forum will allow members to voice their concerns and all members are welcome to attend.

### **BCTF Violence Prevention Workshop**

The STA is presenting a [Violence Prevention workshop](#) on September 23, 2021 from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm to review the WCB section on violence protection.

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## **PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Mentor 36**

Surrey Schools and the Surrey Teachers' Association provide opportunities for early-career teachers to receive support and to learn with other colleagues. Complete the [Application Form for the 2021-2022](#) for teachers and TTOCs before October 8, 2021.

### **Do you have words of wisdom to share?**

What words of wisdom could someone who's been teaching for 30 years share with the hundreds of new teachers who've recently been hired by the District? If you'd like to pass on your words of wisdom, please share them through the [Advice for New Teachers Form](#).

### **The Struggle is Real: Peer Support may be for you**

The Peer Support Program, a joint initiative between the STA and the Surrey School District, is available to help those struggling with the many layers of stress and complexity that is being a teacher in Surrey. [Read more](#)

### **Volunteer as a Peer Support Consultant**

As you continue growing in your teaching career, you may feel the desire to give back to the profession in the same way that others helped you at various points in your career. If you are interested in volunteering as a Peer Support Consultant, complete the [Peer Support Volunteer Application Form](#) by September 28, 2021. [Read more](#)

### **Teacher Inquiry Project**

The [BCTF Teacher Inquiry Program \(TIP\) grant applications](#) are now available for submissions by Wednesday, September 29, 2021. [Read more](#)

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Special General Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom**

We will be holding a [Special General Meeting](#) to conduct elections for delegates to the BCTF Provincial Bargaining Conference held on October 28,29,30. [Read more](#)

### **Pro-D Rep Training**

The STA is offering [Rookie Pro-D Rep Training](#) on September 21st and [Returning Pro-D Rep Training](#) on September 22nd, 28th and 29th. Please note that Pro-D Funds will only be released to your school once you have attended a Pro-D training session.

### **September 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

On the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Thursday, September 30, 2021, settlers to this land are expected to spend the day reflecting on the legacy of residential schools. One of the many events organized to commemorate the day is taking place in Chilliwack (see attached poster).

## Truth and Reconciliation

The First Nations Caring Society has a child-friendly PDF version of the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#).

## Are you a Chair of an LSA?

The first LSA Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2021. We are asking all LSA Chairs to submit their information as soon as possible via our [Google Poll](#) in order to be included in the email invitation for the meeting.

## Learning Assistance Teachers' Association Fall conference

The [Learning Assistance Teachers' Association \(a PSA of the BCTF\)](#) is hosting a conference on Thursday, October 21, 2021 (see attached poster).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### September 21

Resolutions Committee  
[Rookie Pro-D Rep Training](#)

### September 22

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)  
[STARA](#)

### September 23

Covid Action Committee  
Convention Committee

### September 27

[Joint STA/NWTU Virtual Pro-D Workshop](#)

### September 28

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)  
Executive Committee

### September 29

[Health & Safety Townhall](#)  
[Pro-D Rep Training](#)  
Status of Women Event

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