



## PLAN YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

Although Truth and Reconciliation Day on Thursday, September 30 is not a provincial statutory holiday, the school district is closed for the day so that employees can observe this solemn day by reviewing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report or participating in live or virtual events.

Please note that the STA office will be closed that day so that table officers and STA staff can also observe the day. Table officers will not be available for calls or emails. We invite you to explore the many options for observance of the day below:



### Truth and Reconciliation Week: For Students

Truth and Reconciliation Week is a 5-day national event (September 27-October 1) that includes historical [workshops, exclusive video content, and activities for students from Grades 5 - 12](#).



### Truth and Reconciliation Week: For Educators

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation is offering [multiple opportunities during Truth and Reconciliation Week for educators](#) to learn more about the ongoing impact of the colonization of these lands.

### Suffer the Little Children

Tamara Starblanket, author of "Suffer the Little Children" will discuss genocide, Indigenous Nations and the Canadian state at 7 pm. [Register for the webinar](#)



### Phyllis Webstad at Fraser River Heritage Park

Learn more about the origins of Orange Shirt Day from [Phyllis Webstad](#) at Fraser River Heritage Park (gather at the north hill by 10:45 am). For more info, contact [vivian.searwar@mpsd.ca](mailto:vivian.searwar@mpsd.ca). See attached poster for more details.



### Truth-making event in Chilliwack

There will be a [Truth-marking walk in Chilliwack](#). Gather at Stó:lō Nation, 7201 Vedder Rd, 7201 Vedder Road (near or in Longhouse) at 4 pm. See attached poster for more details.



## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT UPDATES

Staff reps discussed the new agreement about failures-to-fill and other issues at STARA on Wednesday, September 22. We know it means changes in coverage practice. The STA is working through an issue regarding interpretation of the agreement with HR and will send further advice when more information is available, including specific advice for school staff committees about how to arrange equitable coverage rotations.

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## BARGAINING

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

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 6th. Members can also self-nominate from the floor during the meeting.

### **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 Staff Reps on Thursday, September 23 so please check your email. [Read more](#)

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## HEALTH & SAFETY

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

The STA will be hosting a Health & Safety Townhall on September 29, 2021, from 3:15 – 4:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend and to voice concerns in the open forum. Please [register early](#).

### **Supporting Health Care Workers**

Are you interested in having your students create posters or write letters to support the amazing health care workers in Surrey who have been subjected to horrible public attacks recently? We have a project for you! [Read more](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Myrna McCallum: Pro-D Day on September 27**

The STA and the New Westminster Teachers' Union have planned a joint Pro-D opportunity with Myrna McCallum as guest speaker. See attached flyer and [register for this opportunity](#).

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

Training for Returning Pro-D Reps will take place via Zoom on September 28 and 29. Please [register for Training](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Pro-D Funds will only be released to your school once your school's Pro-D rep has attended a Pro-D training session.

### **BCTF Teacher Inquiry Project**

The [BCTF Teacher Inquiry Program \(TIP\)](#) grant applications are now available for submissions. Please submit project applications using the [BCTF Application](#) to the STA Office, attention Erin Coleman, by Wednesday September 29th.

### **No Staff Meetings on Pro-D days**

If Monday, September 27th is a *teacher-directed* Pro-D Day at your school and you have a staff meeting scheduled for that day, the meeting **cannot happen during instructional hours**, because a staff meeting is admin-directed, not teacher-directed. [Read more](#)

### **Can Admin split Pro-D Days?**

Four of the six non-instructional days provided for by our Collective Agreement are teacher-directed. Admin has one non-instructional day that they are responsible for planning and **this**

single day cannot be split. [Read more](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

### Connecting Event for Early-Career Teachers

The Mentor36 Program will be hosting a virtual connecting event for teachers with less than 5 years teaching experience on Tuesday, September 28 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. You will get a chance to unwind and to connect with other beginning teachers in our district. [Join this gathering](#)

### Mentor 36 Applications

Research highlights that early-career teachers thrive when they are in mentoring relationships with experienced teachers. The [Mentor36](#) Application Form for the 2021-2022 school year is now open for teachers and TTOCs. Please [sign up](#) by October 8, 2021.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Notice of Special General Meeting: 4:00 pm on October 6 via Zoom

We will be holding a Special General Meeting to conduct elections for our BCTF Provincial Bargaining Conference held on October 28,29,30. To receive your voting and Zoom links, [sign up for the 2021-22 links](#).

### Erratum for the provincial conference of the Learning Assistance Teachers' Association (LATA)

LATA Annual General Meeting will be on October 21  
[LATA conference](#) will be on BCTF PSA day on October 22

### Sad News: Trish Kelley

After an extended struggle with cancer, long time STA activist Trish Kelley passed away in Kamloops, July 8, 2021. [Read more](#)

### Take Me Outside Day

[Take Me Outside day](#) is a national annual event to encourage outdoor learning.

### October 22 Provincial Pro-D Event

The BC Association for Teachers of Modern Languages is holding a conference on the provincial Pro-D Day. Find out more at [www.bcatml.org](http://www.bcatml.org).

### City of Surrey Facilities Discounted Pass

The city of Surrey offers a 25% corporate group rate for teachers for their annual Recreation Pass as well as discounts for single swipe passes. [Read more](#)

### Face shields available for the asking

Could you make use of good quality face shields? We have a bunch at the office but cannot send them out by courier. They'd have to be picked up. [Read more and see pictures](#)

### Missing Surrey Teacher

Langley RCMP are seeking the public's assistance in the search for Surrey teacher Naomi Onotera.



# NAOMI ONOTERA

MISSING FROM LANGLEY BC SINCE AUG 28/21

**40 YEARS OLD - 5'9" - 150LBS**

**LONG BROWN HAIR - BROWN EYES**



PLEASE CHECK SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE FOR SIGHTINGS OF NAOMI'S  
2018 SUBARU CROSSTREK BETWEEN AUG 25-28

**CALL LANGLEY RCMP WITH ANY INFORMATION  
ON NAOMI'S WHEREABOUTS**

**604-532-3398**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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

**September 30**

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

**October 4**

Resolutions Committee

[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)

**October 5**

[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)

World Teachers' Day

**October 6**

[Special General Meeting](#)

**October 7**

Bargaining Townhall

**October 8**

Young Workers Committee

**October 12**

Executive Committee

**October 13**

Bargaining Committee

Bargaining Delegation

[Staff Rep Training](#)

**October 14**

Bargaining Committee

Bargaining Townhall

[Staff Rep Training](#)

**October 15**

Bargaining Delegation

*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.*