



STA CONNECTION

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.

BITTERSWEET NEWS

After 28+ years as a Surrey teacher, 1st VP Julia MacRae, will be leaving to take up a position at BCTF Field Services. Julia worked at Johnston Heights from '93 to '03 and then at Fraser Heights from '04 to '17. Her creativity and enthusiasm for the work of our union and all the campaigns, events and projects she's done over many years have made a big difference to us all. She will be taking learnings from our struggles in Surrey to her new job which, among other duties, will be advising local presidents in one zone of the province. Good luck Julia! Remember, once a Surrey teacher, always a Surrey teacher!



COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT UPDATES

As explained at the STARA meeting last week, discussions are currently taking place between the STA, HR, and legal counsel about the interpretation of the failure-to-fill provisions of the grievance settlement agreement. At issue is the total number of teachers who might be covering an elementary class on a given day. We know that the uncertainty is stressful but expect to provide guidance next week for how School Staff Committees can arrange rotations for coverage so that the work of covering failures-to-fill includes administrators and is distributed equitably.

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 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. [Read more](#)

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 sent to Staff Reps on Wednesday, September 29, so please check your email. [Read more](#)

HEALTH & SAFETY

COVID-19 Exposure Notifications

B.C. Public Health Officer Dr. B. Henry recently announced that health authorities would be providing notification of exposures at schools, but as of publication time, no details have been given.

HVAC

Thank you to Health & Safety committee members who recommended that their administration share what level of MERV filters are being used at their school. We have been told that the District is compiling this information and is planning to communicate about it in mid-October. Stay tuned.

Cleaning of student desks in Elementary

Custodians have been directed to clean elementary student desks and tables once per week. The District has determined that as these desks are normally used by 1 individual that they do not qualify as high touch surfaces requiring daily disinfecting and cleaning. We are discussing with CUPE how to jointly respond to this policy.

Masks for primary

The Vancouver School Trustees voted this week to require masks for students in K-3. The Public Health office has indicated that they do not intend to extend this policy for the province. The STA supports mandatory masks for K-3 and has challenged the District to bring the policy to Surrey as well.

What to do when people are not wearing masks?

Working in a pandemic is inherently stressful. Members have asked how to respond when colleagues are not wearing masks, when all staff are required to wear masks in school buildings subject to specific exceptions. If this situation arises in your school, please notify your administrator as the Code of Ethics does not apply in this situation. It's the administrator's responsibility to ensure compliance with health and safety rules. Similarly, if a student declines to wear a mask, it is the administrator's responsibility to discuss the matter with the student and their family.

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](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election for 1st VP of the STA

An election for the now vacant 1st VP position will be held on Thursday, October 21 at a Special General Meeting starting at 4pm. Members who wish to be candidates should forward their names along with a statement to sta@surreyteachers.org by 4pm on Wednesday, October 8, 2021.

FSA Opt-out Pamphlets

FSA administration begins October 4, 2021, but the materials were only received in our office late last week. With printing and prepping of the packages, we anticipate that the materials will arrive at the schools on the 6th or the 12th. If your school is starting their FSAs sooner, we do have the electronic versions that we can send you if you want to distribute/print those. Please note: if you send them home with students, they must be in a sealed envelope indicating it is a message for parents from the union. However, you can also provide the documents directly to parents.

The documents are available in English, Punjabi, Mandarin, Tagalog, Cantonese, Persian and French. Please email sta@surreyteachers.org your Name, School/Site and the languages you would require.

Staff Rep Training

The STA is offering [Rookie Staff Rep Training](#) on October 4, 5 and November 2 and [Returning Staff Rep Training](#) on October 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and November 3. Please note that if we do not have more registrants for the October 5 training, we may need to cancel it.

How can we improve communications from the STA?

Please [complete this survey](#) to help us fix or fill any gaps in communication that may exist. The survey should take less than 5 minutes and will be open until Friday, October 8th.

World Teachers Day 5 October

To celebrate World Teachers' Day next week, we're collecting stories about your favourite teacher. Tell us who your favorite teacher was and why in about 200 words. If you have a picture of you with your favourite teacher, include that too. Send these to communications@surreyteachers.org by 4pm on Monday October 4. Submissions will be entered into a draw for a gift card!

BCFED National Day of Truth & Reconciliation Events

BC Federation of Labour has published a list of events for the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. [Read more](#)

Sad News: John Robert (Bob) Peters

We are sorry to announce that Bob Peters, who last taught at James Ardiel elementary school and retired in 2015, passed away on August 7, 2021. Condolences for his family can be [shared here](#).

API-Surrey: General Assembly to elect the executive committee

On Wednesday, October 6 at 3pm via zoom, there'll be an election of members of the executive committee of API-Surrey, a local association of French Immersion, Core French, and Intensive/Enhanced French teachers. [Join Zoom Meeting](#) Meeting ID: 816 8983 2448 Passcode: 1JcfV8

Provincial Specialist Associations Day 2021

This year PSA day is Friday, October 22. Take note of all the [offerings from various PSAs](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 4
Indigenous Education Committee
Resolutions Committee
[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)

October 5
Members of Colour Committee
Pro-D Committee
[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)
TTOC Advisory Committee
World Teachers' Day

October 6
[Special General Meeting](#)

October 7
Bargaining Townhall

October 8
Young Workers Committee

October 12
Executive Committee
Resolutions Committee

October 13
Bargaining Committee
Bargaining Delegation
[Staff Rep Training](#)

October 14
Bargaining Committee
Bargaining Townhall
[Staff Rep Training](#)

October 15
Bargaining Delegation

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