



# 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.



To celebrate World Teachers' Day 2021 on Tuesday, October 5, we called for stories of Surrey Teachers' favourite teachers in last week's STA Connection. [Check out the entries](#) we received. Submissions were entered for a gift card draw. Congratulations to Victoria Vick of Georges Vanier elementary!

## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT UPDATES

### New Reporting Policy

The Ministry of Education has released a draft form of a new K–12 Student Reporting Policy which includes significant changes to the current reporting order. Teachers, parents, and students have from now until November 5, 2021, to provide written comments and feedback. This policy is still a draft and should not change reporting practices this year. We are discussing it with the District and strongly encourage you to [share concerns](#) and feedback. [Read more](#)

## Coverage for failures to fill

We are still awaiting legal advice on the interpretation of the provisions of the settlement agreement that affects coverage of failures to fill. We expect to have more information next week, and apologize for the delay.

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## HEALTH & SAFETY

### BCTF Statement on Mandatory Vaccines

The vaccine mandate for public service workers does not apply to schools. School Boards are the employer who would be responsible for issuing a vaccine mandate. We would have no opposition to a mandate for school staff and would work with those who have medical exemptions to receive accommodation.

### Masks

With the extension of the mask mandate, we recognize the potential to increase stress for teachers in seeking compliance from students. Please talk to your administrator: they are responsible for the health and safety in your school. [Read more](#)

### Being contacted while on sick leave

You are not obliged to respond to emails or calls from an administrator or the District during the first 20 days of sick leave. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) if the District does attempt to contact you. [Read more](#)

### Swish-and-Gargle Tests

If you are sending a student home who has signs of COVID-19, ask them or their parents to ask for a swish-and-gargle test when they sign-out at the front office. All Surrey schools were distributed swish-and-gargle tests for students who show symptoms of COVID-19 at school to take home to get tested. The test may be particularly useful for families that don't have a car to get to the testing centre in Cloverdale.

### Cleaning

If a classroom has more than 10% of students absent for illness, contact your principal, who will then arrange with the District for disinfecting of desks, tables, and other surfaces that evening. You can follow up with your principal to ask if it was done.

### 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

### Pro-D Townhall - October 27, 2021

The STA office will be presenting a Pro-D Townhall on October 27, 2021 from 3:30-5:00 pm via Zoom. This will be an open forum for you to ask questions and share ideas with other Pro-D Reps. [Register now](#) and feel free to submit your Pro-D questions during your registration.

### Provincial Specialist Associations Day 2021

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

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## 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](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by 4pm on Friday, October 8, 2021

### **Staff Rep Training**

The STA is offering [Rookie Staff Rep Training](#) on November 2 and [Returning Staff Rep Training](#) on October 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and November 3.

### **Zoom Meditation for Surrey Teachers**

Are you feeling stressed out? On Wednesday, October 27, come and spend the afternoon relaxing and freeing your mind within the safety of your home through a virtual guided meditation hosted by the STA Status of Women Committee. Achieve mental and emotional release and stress relief surrounded by those who understand our stress the best - other Surrey teachers! [Register now](#)

### **BCTF Social Justice Grants**

As members of a Social Justice union, Surrey teachers can access BCTF Social Justice grants. These grants are offered by the BCTF to promote social justice initiatives in locals, schools, and classrooms. [Read more](#)

### **Take Me Outside Day**

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

### **CoDevelopment Canada's Fall Online Fundraiser**

The STA International Solidarity Committee has tickets to CoDevelopment Canada's Fall Online Fundraiser "From the Classroom to the Streets: Spotlight on Teachers' Movements in the Andes" on Saturday, October 16 at 4pm. If you would like to attend, [fill out this form](#) by Monday, October 11, 2021 to enter a draw for a virtual seat. [Read more](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October 12

Executive Committee  
Resolutions Committee

### October 13

Bargaining Committee  
Bargaining Delegation  
[Staff Rep Training](#)  
TTOCs Mentorship Orientation

### October 14

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

### October 15

Bargaining Delegation

### October 18

Bargaining Delegation Training  
Resolutions Committee  
[Staff Rep Training](#)

### October 19

Bargaining Committee  
Finance Committee  
[Staff Rep Training](#)  
Status of Women Committee  
Technology Advisory Committee

### October 20

Mentor36 Orientation  
[Staff Rep Training](#)  
STARA Meeting

### October 21

Indigenous Education Committee  
[Rookie Pro-D Rep Training](#)  
Special General Meeting (elect 1st VP)

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