



STA CONNECTION

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Hul'q'umi'num' speaking Kwantlen, Katzie, Qayqayt and Semiahmoo First Nations who have cared for this land for thousands of years, and who continue to live on and care for this land. As educators, we are committed to actions aimed at healing the broken relationship between settlers and Indigenous peoples.

PSA DAY, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22



Visit psaday.ca for your one-stop spot for BCTF Provincial Specialist Associations (PSA) Fall PSA day conferences.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Despite Canada having the largest reserves of fresh water in the world, dozens of Indigenous communities have no access to drinking water and those that do often have problems with the supply as evidenced in the [situation in Iqaluit](#) recently. A helpful resource for classroom discussions on the issue of water for Indigenous people is [Water Teachings: the decolonizing water project](#).

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NOTES

Failure to Fill

The STA is still in discussions with the District about the application of this agreement. We will notify members when we have more information to share.

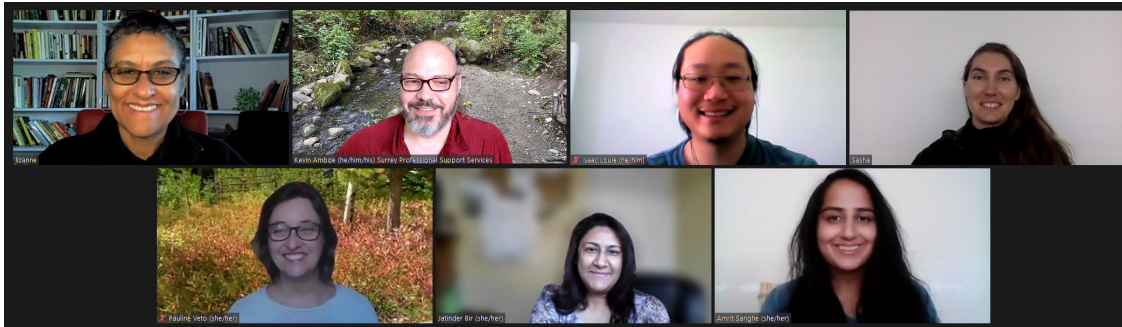
Vaccine mandate?

It is still not clear whether there will be a vaccine mandate. Discussions are still underway about a provincial template for school districts to use if they decide to implement a vaccine mandate. The union's position remains that any such mandate should be implemented provincially, not district-by-district, and that there need to be safeguards for legitimate exemptions.

BARGAINING

This week in bargaining

The Bargaining Committee has been meeting since last spring to work on objectives for local and provincial bargaining. This week we have identified themes to focus on for local bargaining. The STA Bargaining Delegation to the Provincial Bargaining Conference met on October 15 and will meet again on October 25. To contact the Bargaining Committee with questions or concerns, email bargaining@surreyteachers.org.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Flu shots

The District is organizing a vendor to provide flu shots for District employees. They will communicate out to the District via the Weekly Memo once shots are available. They will have the same plan as in 2020, where employees will go into the Pharmasave location with their ID badge rather than go to DEC/REC.

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.

Ideas for STA Convention 2022

Your Convention Committee is working on planning the STA Convention that will take place on Friday May 6, 2022, and we'd like to know what you're interested in! If you have an idea for a workshop topic, or have the name of a presenter who you'd love to see at convention, please send us a message at convention@surreyteachers.org.

If you're passionate about a topic and would like to present a workshop yourself we are now accepting [workshop proposals](#).

Convention Committee seeking 3 more members

The Convention Committee plans the annual STA Convention and is looking for 3 members to round out the committee. Members serve for a two-year term and there are currently openings for 1 Aboriginal, 1 Primary and 1 Excursion member. Interested members are encouraged to submit a completed [Committees curriculum Vitae Form](#) to reception@surreyteachers.org. For more information, visit the [Convention Committee Page](#) on our website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Justice Reps

Every school site should have a Social Justice Rep as part of the union team that includes the Staff Rep, Health & Safety Rep, and Pro-D Rep. Because the BCTF is a social justice union, there

are multiple opportunities for the Social Justice Rep to engage colleagues in various events, activities and projects. To sign up to be Social Justice Rep for your school, talk to your Staff Rep or contact the STA office for more information. [Read more](#)

Zoom Meditation – Presented by Status of Women’s Committee

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](#)



Staff Rep Training

The STA is offering [Rookie Staff Rep Training](#) on November 2 and [Returning Staff Rep Training](#) on November 3.

New Teachers’ Conference – October 27, 2021

Are you new to teaching? Do you have questions about what your union has to offer or about your pay cheque or about your contract? Please feel invited to attend our New Teachers’ Conference on October 27th, 2021, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, held via Zoom. [Registration is open](#) to teachers in the first 3 (or so) years of teaching, who have not attended before.

Decentering Whiteness: An anti-racism institute

[This Institute](#) draws from the understanding that structural racism starts from the social structures of language and thought and will explore approaches to decentering whiteness. Register by October 24.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 25

Bargaining Delegation Training
Grievance Committee

October 26

November 1

Bargaining Committee
Environmental Justice Committee
Pro-D Committee

Bargaining Committee
Pro-D Training
Executive Committee

October 27

[New Teachers Conference](#)
Health and Safety Committee
[Pro-D Town Hall](#)
[Status of Women Meditation Event](#)

October 28

BCTF Bargaining Conference
Anti-Racism Committee

October 29

BCTF Bargaining Conference

November 2

[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)
International Solidarity Committee
Status of Men Committee

November 3

[Staff Rep Training](#)
LSA Council
Indigenization Committee

November 4

Public Advocacy/Public Relations Committee

November 5

BCTF Representative Assembly

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Hul'q'umi'num' speaking Kwantlen, Katzie, Qayqayt and Semiahmoo First Nations who have cared for this land for thousands of years, and who continue to care for this land. As educators, we are committed to actions aimed at healing the broken relationship between settlers and Indigenous peoples.