



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 Semjahmoo 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.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

November 8 is Indigenous Veterans Day. [Forgotten Warriors](#) is a NFB documentary film about the experiences of Indigenous soldiers who fought for Canada in both World Wars. While other veterans were offered the chance to buy land as a reward for fighting for their country, Indigenous veterans returned to find that parts of their reserve land had been seized and given away.

YusáƳłthut, "To Shine a Light On It" Conference: Friday, November 12, 2021

Join the STA Indigenous Education Committee for a FREE virtual Indigenous Education Pro-D Event featuring Award Winning Cree author, David A. Robertson, who will be in conversation with a mystery author to highlight the importance of quality Indigenous representation in literature for both our Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and Len Pierre, Indigenous Thought Leader from Katzie Nation, who will discuss Indigenous cultural safety, decolonization and reconciliation. [Register today](#).



David A. Robertson



Len Pierre

STA INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE PRESENTS

YusáƳłthut, "To Shine a Light On It" Conference

Friday, November 12, 2021

Virtually via Zoom from 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

BENEFITS

Are you running out of sick days? SIP is there to help you!

If you run out of sick days, you can get income replacement through the BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan (Short Term). Short-term SIP benefits can be accessed for intermittent absences when you have no sick days, in addition to longer absences.

If you are getting close to running out of sick days, apply for SIP benefits to avoid an interruption in income. (Note, however, that SIP will pay retroactive benefits back to your final day of sick leave.)

For more information about how to apply (including the required forms), visit the [BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan page](#).

ANTI-RACISM

Being Anti-Racist

If you're interested in combating racism within schools in Surrey, there are a few options. The first is to be your school's Anti-Racism Lead, raising awareness and implementing initiatives with support from Inclusive Practices Helping Teacher, Nicole Curtis. The second option is to work with your school's Social Justice Representative on initiatives and projects. A third option is to join the STA's Anti-Racism committee. [Read more](#)

School Names and Mascots

You may have heard that Semiahmoo Secondary [has officially changed its team name to the Thunderbirds](#) as part of ongoing reconciliation efforts with Semiahmoo First Nation.

Are there other schools with names or mascots that need to be changed in the spirit of decolonization and reconciliation? Do you have concerns with your school's name or school's mascot? Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyschools.ca to let us know.

BARGAINING

The Provincial Bargaining Conference was held this past weekend. Kudos to first-time delegates each of whom spoke at the microphone during the conference. Another highlight was that the inequitable situation that adult education teachers find themselves in was the topic of discussion in several motions. We are confident that the BCTF Bargaining Team has been well-informed about STA members' priorities. We will now turn our attention to local bargaining which begins next week.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Mask enforcement

When administration is not appropriately enforcing the PHO Order regarding masking in schools, we have the following advice. First ensure that the reporting of the concern to the principal has been documented. If there's no satisfactory response, report the concern to the JOHS committee. If the results of this reporting is unsatisfactory with no effective action taken, contact WorkSafeBC with the prepared trail of documentation. WorkSafeBC Prevention Information Line Phone toll-free (Canada): 1-888-621-7233 (1-888-621-SAFE). Contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org at any point for support with these issues. [Read more](#)

Incident Reporting Workshop on Thursday, November 25, 2021

Workplace injuries are preventable and unacceptable. The most important incidents to report are the "near misses" (e.g., something is thrown at you but misses) so that whatever caused the near miss is eliminated or controlled and does not cause a more serious accident or injury. The STA is presenting an afternoon workshop on Thursday, November 25, 2021 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm for all members. This workshop will cover what should be reported, how to report, and what should come from reporting. [Register today](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Special General Meeting

On Wednesday, November 17th, the STA will be holding a Special General Meeting that will include the election of our new 2nd Vice-President, the Adoption of the 2020-21 Financial Statements and the passing of STA Resolutions to go to the BCTF AGM in March 2022. All members who have previously registered to attend STARA and General Meetings will receive their meeting package and voting keys on the evening of November 15, 2021. For those who don't receive their

information, [registration](#) will remain open until November 17, 2021 at 12:00 pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please email sta@surreyteachers.org. "See" you there!

Workshop Opportunity for site-based Social Justice Reps or those interested in becoming Social Justice Reps

Do you want to learn more about what is involved in being a school-based Social Justice Rep and connect with other reps and those interested in social justice and anti-oppression work? The STA is offering the opportunity to attend an after-school workshop presented by the BCTF: The Role and Function of the Social Justice Contact on November 30, 2021 from 4:00 – 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Whether you are a new Social Justice Rep, an experienced rep, or just someone who would like to know more about this role, this workshop is an excellent opportunity to learn more. [Register today](#).

SHOUT OUT!

There are amazing things happening around the district that we would love to hear about. We would love for our members to send us a "shout out" about a colleague who inspires you and who you think deserves recognition, whether it is for their kindness, a great resource they shared recently, or an awesome lesson they teach. You and the colleague you shout out will have your names entered into our monthly draw for a \$25 Indigo Gift certificate.

Please submit your "shout outs" to Lizanne via communications@surreyteachers.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 8

Bargaining Committee

November 9

Bargaining Committee
Executive Committee

November 10

Bargaining Committee
Ad Hoc Young Worker Committee

November 12

[Yusá¥+lthut, "To Shine a Light On It" Conference](#)

November 16

Public Action & Public Relations Committee
Peer Support Training

November 17

Bargaining Committee
[Special General Meeting](#)

November 18

Indigenous Education Committee
Education Governance Committee

November 19

Mediation Training
Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

November 22

Bargaining Committee

November 23

Executive Committee

November 25

[Incident Reporting Workshop](#)
Status of Women Committee

November 30

Bargaining Committee
[Workshop for Social Justice Reps](#)

December 1

Health and Safety Committee

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