



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.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Yusáʔilthut, “To Shine a Light on It” Conference

Join the STA Indigenous Education Committee on **Friday, November 12, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm** 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.](#)

Climate Change and Environmental Racism



Indigenous leaders are attending the United Nations climate conference, [COP26](#), which ends this week. They are advocating for inclusion in decisions about responses to climate change. In Canada, multiple Indigenous communities have been disproportionately impacted by climate change and by [environmental racism](#). A lesson plan for environmental racism in Canada can be found [here](#). The lethal effects of industrial waste in Nova Scotia is the focus of the documentary, [There's Something in the Water](#).

ELECTIONS

Elections for 2nd Vice President

An election for the position of 2nd VP of the STA will be held during the Special General Meeting on Wednesday, 17 November. **Election statements of candidates can be found [here](#).** Other items on the agenda for the meeting include the Adoption of the 2020-21 Financial Statements and the passing of STA Resolutions to go to the BCTF Annual General Meeting 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.

BARGAINING

The STA's 6 Local Representatives met with 125 other local representatives this past Friday and Saturday to discuss regular Representative Assembly business and also to deal with unfinished Provincial Bargaining Objective motions from last week's Bargaining Conference. Local bargaining with the District begins on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. There will be opportunities for a few STA members to observe the proceedings over the next few months of bargaining. Details coming soon.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Consolidated Funds

The Professional Development Committee passed a motion at their November 1, 2021 meeting, that the Consolidated Professional Development Funds be increased from \$450 to \$500 per person effective September 1, 2021.

November 12th non-instructional day

Friday, November 12th is a teacher directed non-instructional day. Members may also choose a self-directed activity on this day. Self-Directed Pro-D activities can include:

- Teacher study group
 - Action research group
 - Developing a Pro-D growth plan or portfolio
 - Round table discussions on a relevant topic
 - Reading/Discussing educational materials
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HEALTH & SAFETY

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 here](#)

Training for NEW Health & Safety Committee Members

WorkSafeBC requires that all NEW committee members receive a full day of training within 6 months of joining a committee. If you have not been trained or if you are already on a H&S Committee or it has been less than 2 years since you were last on a committee, you need not take this course. Dates for teaching staff: Thursday, November 18 and Tuesday, November 30. [Register Here](#)

[Read More](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Union Training Opportunity!

The STA will be sending a number of members to the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School at Harrison Hot Springs in January-February 2022 (or to an event of similar or lower cost). The intention is to provide opportunities for members to prepare to undertake future leadership roles in the STA and for new members to become more involved in union activities.

As such, priority will be given to members who are Young Workers (under 35) or Indigenous, Black, or a Person of Colour, who have already demonstrated an interest in union work through being a staff rep or participating in a union committee (preferably both).

Please submit applications to sta@surreyteachers.org by 4:00 on Thursday, November 18, with a brief (200 word maximum) statement explaining your interest and goals and identifying whether you are IBPOC or a Young Worker.

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](#).

Voices of Hope



The International Solidarity Committee will be supporting 'Voices of Hope', a benefit concert for women in Afghanistan, on November 27. We will be purchasing 20 online tickets which will be offered to interested STA members in a draw. If you are interested in getting tickets for this event, please complete this [form](#) by **November 22** to be entered for the draw. Find out more at <https://www.voicesforhope.ca/>.

This concert features Dalanna Gail-Bowen Afro Canadian/Cherokee Blues Matriarch, Blues Hall of Fame inductee, and Laydy Jams, Duo mixing hip hop, vocal harmonies, violin, and a little 90s throwback. Link for the form to enter the draw <https://forms.gle/HkQcLLYGjsfp1i6J7>

Get Published!

Here's an opportunity to get published! We're looking for submissions (written or drawn or graphics/images or a combination) for the Winter edition of The Advocate on the following themes/topics:

- Teaching for joy and for justice
- Indigenizing teaching practices
- Anti-racist teaching
- Climate crisis education
- Maintaining well-being during stressful times
- Reflections on the "festivals of light" season (Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa)

Ideally submissions have connections to any of the following: being a teacher, teaching practice, education, BCTF & STA resources/events.

Submissions should be emailed to communications@surreyteachers.org until 4pm on Tuesday, 30 November. Written submissions should be 400 - 600 words. Submissions with graphics should be photographed with highest possible resolution.



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 11

Remembrance Day

November 12

[Yusáʔłłthut, "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

December 2

Bargaining Committee

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