



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

At the Special General Meeting held virtually on Wednesday, November 17, Kevin Amboe was elected as 2nd VP of the Surrey Teachers' Association. Congratulations Kevin! Please note that as a result of this election, there will be an upcoming election for Professional Support Services Officer.



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## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

On November 16 each year, the Métis celebrate the legacy of Métis leader Louis Riel who fought for Métis sovereignty in the late 19th century. Although executed by the Canadian government in 1885, he remains a hero to Métis and Indigenous people across Turtle Island. The graphic book [This Place: 150 years Retold](#) includes an episode from the early life of Riel. A [podcast version of the episode](#) is available.

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## BENEFITS

If members take an unpaid leave, including the new COVID-19 related leave, they have the option of buying service for the period of their absence. If members choose to buy service for such a shared-cost leave, both the teacher and the employer will pay a portion of the purchase cost. **A leave with full pay does not count as a leave because both the teacher and the employer are still contributing to the plan.** [Read more](#)

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## BARGAINING

STA Bargaining Committee members met with the District on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. It was a good session during which we agreed on most of the negotiation protocols and discussed two specific areas important to members.

## 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 the workshop, **Incident Reporting**, 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](#)



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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All applications for Pro-D funding or reimbursement **must include the original application and original receipts, and must be fully completed** with the signature of both the applicant and Pro-D Rep at the applicant's school site. Effective immediately any incomplete submissions for reimbursement or funding will be returned to the applicant with a note indicating the issue/what is required. Please submit all applications to the STA oce (#000) through the courier mailbag. **We cannot accept emailed or faxed applications.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Racial Equity Report & Recommendations

As part of a Racial Equity Audit, the District recently arranged for listening circles with students, families, staff, district oce staff, educators, members of the school community and the Surrey community in general to address racism in the Surrey school district. You are invited to join Jordan Tinney on Thursday, November 18 at 6:30PM to hear more about the recommendations arising from the Racial Equity Audit and to ask questions. The [virtual session will be accessible via Teams](#). If you have any questions, please submit them using the [Question Submission form](#). Questions will be addressed during the live presentation.

### Update from the STA Office

STA President Matt Westphal will be on a medical leave from now until Winter Break. In his absence Jatinder Bir will be Acting President. Please direct any messages you would have sent to Matt to Jatinder at [1vp@surreyteachers.org](mailto:1vp@surreyteachers.org).

Also, given absences and workload, June James (former Professional Development Ocer) and Lori Wilson (former Health & Safety Ocer) have been helping in the STA oce on a temporary basis. We appreciate their experience in supporting STA members!

### Call out for 2022 BCTF AGM Delegates

Do you want to attend the BCTF AGM from Saturday, March 19 – Tuesday, March 22, 2022? It's expected that the AGM will be a hybrid event with final details still being worked on by BCTF. Delegates will be elected at the Special General Meeting on Wednesday, January 19th, 2022. If you are interested in becoming a delegate and can commit to the preparation meetings, please email your name and a brief statement to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by **4pm on Friday, December 17, 2021**. [Read more](#)

### Pan-Canadian K-12 Teacher Survey on the Teaching of History

Dr. Carla Peck and colleagues at “Thinking Historically for Canada's Future” are conducting a national research study on the state of K-12 history education in Canada – the first study of its kind in more than 50 years. This survey aims to assess the state of K-12 history teaching and learning in Canada. Thinking Historically is interested in the teaching strategies, resources, and assessment strategies teachers use when teaching history. For detailed information, consent form and survey, please visit the [Thinking Historically for Canada's Future page](#).

## Opportunity to be a published writer!

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](mailto: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.

## Podcast Project

Do you love listening to podcasts? Or have you ever created a podcast? Yes? Then you may be interested in joining the Podcast Project sub-committee of the PA/PR Committee. The big idea is to have interviews and conversations on particular topics with pairs of early career and late career teachers. There are 6 thematic episodes outlined so far.

Interested? Contact [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org)



## Social Justice Rep Training

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. [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 the form](#) by November 22 to be entered for the draw.



## 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](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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

**December 6**  
Pro-D Committee  
Status of Women Committee

**December 7**  
Executive Committee

**December 8**  
Young Workers Committee

**December 9**  
STARA  
Indigenous Education Committee

**December 13**  
Bargaining Committee  
Grievance Committee

**December 14**  
PA/PR Committee

*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.*