



Xets'ō:westel (November 25 - December 24)

Time to store away canoe paddles

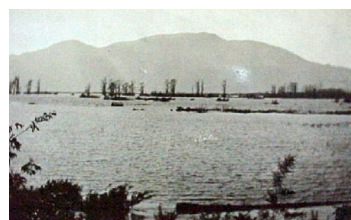
FRASER VALLEY FLOODING

Witnessing the recent devastation in the Fraser Valley has been overwhelming. Our hearts are with all our colleagues who have been impacted directly or indirectly by the flooding. If you have been affected and need help, please contact our office at sta@surreyteachers.org or by phone at 604-592-8399. The BCTF also has [available supports and resources](#).

We know that our members can be courageous and stoic in the face of adversity but please know that there is help. We are a union. You are never alone.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Did you know that Sumas Prairie, one of the sites of the recent flooding in the Fraser Valley, used to be a lake called Semá:th Xótsa? It was a rich source of food for the Sto:lo who lived along its shoreline. For teaching resources on the history of Sumas Lake from an Indigenous point of view, visit the curated [Sumas Lake collection page](#).

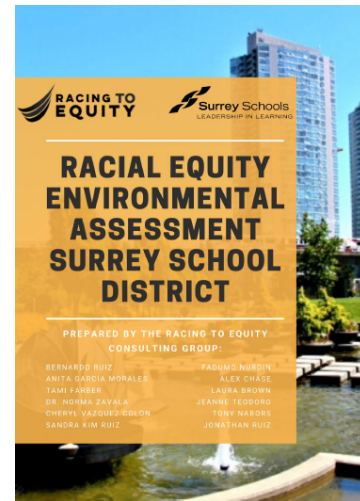


BARGAINING

The Bargaining Committee met with the Employer on Monday, November 22. We presented two proposals and received two Notices to End Practice. Further meetings are scheduled for November 25, 30 and December 2. If you are interested in observing a future bargaining session, email sta@surreyteachers.org.

RACIAL EQUITY AND EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE

Last week the Surrey School District released the [Racial Equity Environmental Assessment](#) report as prepared by the Racing to Equity consulting group. The report confirmed what many BIPOC students and educators have long known: racism exists in schools in Surrey. We are pleased to see that the Board passed a motion at its meeting on November 17 that tied the recommendations in the report to the budget process for the 2022-2023 school year. We look forward to working with the District to ensure that the recommendations are enacted. [Read more](#)



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Effective immediately any incomplete submissions for reimbursement or funding will be returned to the applicant with a note indicating the issue/what is required. 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. Please submit all applications to the STA office (#000) through the courier mailbag. **We cannot accept emailed or faxed applications.**

STA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Funds for snacks or prizes at union meetings

The following motion was passed at the November 9, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting:

THAT in 2021-2022 Elementary schools and Learning centres have \$160, Elementary schools with over 600 students would have \$200, and Secondary schools would have \$240 to purchase snacks or prizes for union meetings, with the funds to come from Line 147 – Union Education / Training fund.

As schools have returned to fully face-to-face instruction the funding guidelines have reverted to pre-COVID-19 practice. Email any questions or concerns to sta@surreyteachers.org.

Ending Gender-based Violence Workshop

The Status of Women Committee is hosting a free full-day gender-based violence workshop with Dr. Balbir Gurm (NEVR) and Angela Marie MacDougall (BWSS) on **Monday, December 6, 2020 from 8:30 - 2:30 pm**. The Committee will cover the costs of your TTOC but spots are limited, so make sure you sign up via the link first before booking your LOA. LOA information will be forward to you after registration. markers, pencil crayons, watercolours etc. [Register now](#)



Virtual Therapeutic Art Workshop for BIPOC Educators

The Members of Color Committee present "Racial Trauma + Reclaiming Identity: A Therapeutic Art Workshop" on **December 10 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm**. Presented by Registered Clinical counsellor and Professional Art Therapist Linda Lin, this experiential workshop is a reflection on the dominant cultural discourses and their impacts on us. This event is intended for STA members who identify as Black, Indigenous or as a Person of Colour. Supplies needed are any art materials you have - paper, pens, markers, pencil crayons, watercolours etc. [Register now](#)



STA 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



Be published in the STA Winter Advocate!

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
- Re. actions 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.

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 now](#)



On June 20, 2019, the 15th Indigenous Education Committee met on a celebration for National Indigenous Peoples Day. Harry Chappell of Samson Cree Nation was the MC for the event, and a number of groups shared their cultures, stories, and concerns to a very receptive audience. Groups and individuals that shared that evening were The Squamish Dancers (Dancers Pk), The KCM Dancers (Dancers Pk), Hummingbirds Rising (Dancers Pk), and Andrea Wilson, Butterflies in Spirit (Dancers Pk). (Dancers Pk) Photo: Mary Dunsmuir (Cree and Sora Enhancement Worker, and Bruce Philip (Kwakwaka'wakw)

PHOTO: SURREYTEACHERS.ORG - TEL: 604-594-1001 - FAX: 604-594-1001 - WWW.SURREYTEACHERS.ORG



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 by **4pm on Friday, December 17, 2021**. [Read more](#)



BCTF ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Teachers' Zoom Gathering

[B.C. Early Career Teachers' Association](#) is a collaborator for this initiative that focuses on health and safety during the pandemic. It's a wonderful opportunity to share experiences and feel seen by other newer colleagues from around the province. Attendees can choose to join a French or an English language breakout room. [Register now](#)



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CoDev Holiday Open House

CoDevelopment Canada staff and board would still like to recognise our partners for a year's worth of solidarity, so we are holding a virtual Holiday Open House on **Thursday, December 9**. [Register now](#)



Asian Labour Solidarity Event

You are invited to an evening of intra-Asian solidarity building, featuring leaders advancing justice in BC's labour movement and beyond! [Register now](#)



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 30

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

December 1

Health and Safety Committee

December 2

Bargaining Committee

December 6

[Ending Gender-Based Violence Workshop](#)
Pro-D Committee
Status of Women Committee

December 7

Executive Committee

December 8

Young Workers Committee

December 9

Indigenous Education Committee

December 10

[Virtual Therapeutic Art Workshop](#)

December 13

Bargaining Committee
Grievance Committee

December 14

PA/PR Committee

December 15

[STARA](#)

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.