



We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples, the q'w'a:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), q'ícəy (Katzie), q'iqéyt (Qayqayt) and scmi'á:mu: (Semiahmoo) 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.

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Recently there has been extensive media coverage of Wet'suwet'en land defenders' arrests and resulting protests across Canada. Unfortunately, there has been very little explanation of the governance system that forms the background of the land defenders' actions. [Learn more about the Wet'suwet'en hereditary governance system](#) and how it differs from the *Indian Act* governance system.



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## BARGAINING

The Bargaining Team met with the Employer on November 25, November 30, and December 2. We tabled 10 proposals and engaged in a combination of interest-based discussions and typical positional bargaining. We have not received any proposals on new language from the Employer. If you are interested in observing a future bargaining session, please email [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org).

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## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT UPDATE

### Special Bulletin Postings for IST

The STA and District have entered into a continuing Special Bulletin Agreement for the 2021-22 school year regarding Integration Support teacher vacancies. [Read more](#)

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## ELECTIONS

### Call for Nominations

There will be an election at the January 19, 2022 General Meeting for a Professional Support Services Officer and for a Grievance Officer. Both are Table Officer positions and part of the Executive Committee which meets every second Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested in being a candidate for either or both of these positions, please forward your statement to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**.

[Read Election Guidelines](#) | [Read more details about each position](#)

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Daily Health Check

The District has changed the [Daily Health Check](#) to reflect that those vaccinated members returning from international travel **may not need to isolate**.

### Flooding Impacts Support

If you have you been placed on evacuation order due to the flooding and extreme weather of November 14-16, 2021, your [household can receive \\$2,000](#). To access these supports, register with Red Cross Canada by calling 1-800-863-6582 (8am - 8pm).

If you have been affected by the flooding and need help, please contact our office at [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) or by phone at 604-592-8399. Remember that the BCTF also has [available supports and resources](#).

### How are you (really)?

Often, we get asked how are you and respond with 'Fine.' [Watch this short video message](#) to consider you might use the quadrants of the medicine wheel to consider how you are really. Being honest with ourselves and others can ensure we are healthy as a profession.

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Save the Date for Focus Day 2022

SD36/STA Focus Day 2022 will be on Friday, February 25, 2022. Our keynote is [Len Pierre](#). His address is Decolonizing Education & Institutionalizing Cultural Safety. The Focus Day committee is also looking for more workshop presenters. If you have a workshop you would like to present, please submit a proposal by **January 10, 2022**. Please visit [www.surreyfocusday.ca](http://www.surreyfocusday.ca) for more information and a reminder to register. [Read more](#)



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## PEER SUPPORT SERVICES

### Peer Mediation

Are you a good listener? Are you a good navigator of complex conversations? Do you find yourself supporting those around you to navigate challenging conversations? We are looking to add to our mediation team by 1 or 2 more people. With possible mediations and training, you may be out of your classroom 4 to 8 days per year for a 3-year term. Interested members are asked to commit to a three-year term. (All release time for training and mediations is paid for by the STA)

For information on the application process, please contact Kevin Amboe at [services@surreyteachers.org](mailto:services@surreyteachers.org) or 604-592-8396.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### December 6 Vigil

On **Monday, December 6**, the 32nd anniversary of the 1989 Montreal massacre and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, join the STA Status of Women committee at the End Violence Against Women candlelight vigil at Holland Park from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. [Read more](#)



### Coast Salish Drawing Night

On **December 14th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm**, come join the STA Young Workers Committee for an evening of drawing alongside [Ovila Mailhot](#), a Coast Salish artist from the Sto:lo Nation. This event is open to all STA members and aims to bring together Surrey, Chilliwack, and Mission members for a night of art, connection, and fun. [Register now](#) as spots are limited.



### 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 4:00pm 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](#)



### 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](#)



### Message for Staff Reps

We know you're busy doing a million and one things, and it can be hard to remember all the issues that have popped up in between STARA meetings. There's two easy ways to get these items off your mental load!

1. You can submit a school concern **anytime** via [www.bit.ly/starep1](http://www.bit.ly/starep1) (and either ask for a response or speak to it at the next meeting).
2. You can **email** the STARA Steering committee ([STARA@surreyteachers.org](mailto:STARA@surreyteachers.org)) with any possible issue or motion that you'd like to address during the meeting (or with your questions/ideas/suggestions!)

Don't hesitate to reach out - we'd love to hear from you!

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## SHOUT OUT!

We received a record number of shout outs for this month, an indication that there's a lot of amazingness and kindness happening in schools throughout the district! Kudos to you all! Take a look at [all the shout outs for the month](#).

The winners for the first draw are **Monica-Rae Grant of Walnut Grove elementary** and **Shaunna Macdonald of Don Christian elementary!** Congratulations!

Inspired to submit a shout out? Send to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**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

[Coast Salish Art Night](#)

**December 15**

[STARA](#)

**January 4**

Bargaining Committee

**January 5**

Health & Safety Committee

**January 7**

Health & Safety Committee

**January 10**

Pro-D Committee

**January 11**

Executive committee  
Rep Training