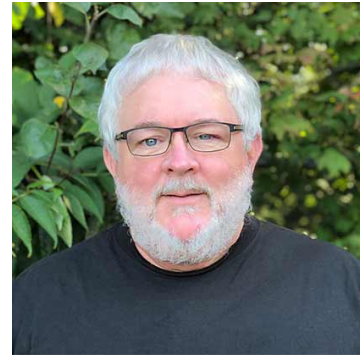




We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples, the q'w̓a:ḥ̓'əḥ̓ (Kwantlen), q̓íq̓əy̓ (Katzie), q̓íq̓əy̓t (Qayqayt) and sc̓mi'á:mu: (Semiahmoo) who have cared for this land for thousands of years, 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.

MARK KEELAN RETIREMENT

Mark became a teacher in 1984 and has been a Surrey teacher since 1990. He was the STA Grievance Officer for the first time from 2001 – 2002 and added Health & Safety to that portfolio from July 2002 until December 2004. He then moved on to working at the BCTF as a Health & Safety Officer from January 2005 until February 2009. He returned to being the STA Grievance Officer in 2017 until his retirement this month.



Mark always gave his full attention to matters he was dealing with and put in careful, detailed work. He advocated for members strongly and firmly. He was always willing to challenge views he did not agree with, and a phrase often heard by those who worked with him was "With all due respect,..."

Before he became a teacher, Mark worked in a number of different jobs. One of his favourites was managing a drive-in movie theatre on Vancouver Island. He often spoke fondly of the late nights and odd tasks that the job entailed.

When asked for retirement advice to pass on to members and friends, Mark said: "Take care of yourself so you can take care of others."

We are deeply grateful to Mark for many years of dedicated service to members and wish him a relaxing retirement free of grievances of any kind.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

While Surrey is currently undergoing the transitioning of its policing services from the RCMP to the new Surrey Police force, Surrey educators are invited to consider the history of the relationship between the RCMP and Indigenous peoples. Kent Monkman's painting [The Scream](#) could be a resource for a lesson on [image analysis](#). For a history of the RCMP in Canada from an Indigenous perspective, visit [A Condensed History of Canada's Colonial Cops](#).



COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NOTES

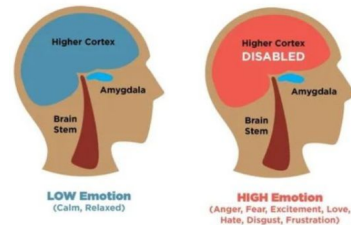
January 31 qualifications deadline reminder

In order to be shortlisted for jobs that require certain qualifications in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers need to be listed in the District Qualification Book. Teachers who are interested in changing their assignments to such positions need to apply to the Human Resources Department (courier #481) by January 31, 2022 to have their qualifications evaluated. The evaluation will be completed by March 31. (CA, Article E.28.1). For more information regarding job descriptions and evaluation forms, visit the [Job Description Handbook page](#).

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Learning about anger

During times of enormous stress, expressing anger in destructive ways becomes quite common. As teachers we have the opportunity to model constructive ways of managing frustration and anger. [Learn more about anger and how to handle amygdala hijacks](#)



December 6 Vigil reflection by Annie Ohana

Answers for difficult questions were hard to come by at the Holland Park Dec 6 Vigil but we celebrated our resistance to the kind of hatred and violent anger that spewed at Ecole Polytechnique 32 years ago. In our joyous resilience we continue to fight against a system that produces so much gendered violence. Surrounded by union family and fellow Status of Women Committee members we sang the Womens Warrior Song and listened to breathtaking stories. We felt strengthened in our hearts and minds to continue to act on behalf of those lost, those stuck, those surviving, and those thriving. #WarriorUp



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS FRIDAY: 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](#)



Young Worker's Committee presents a Coast Salish Art 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.



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 by **Tuesday, January 4, 2022**.

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

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](#)



Ethical Shopping

Thinking about gifts for the holidays and want to stop shopping at Amazon? Consider ethically shopping for a conscious gift to help improve the lives of people all over the world. The STA recommends purchasing [Fair Trade Kampot pepper](#) to support social justice initiatives that help alleviate food insecurity and shop at [Café ético](#) to support human rights in Latin America. Consider buying gifts that gives back!

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. Be sure to get your submissions in by 4pm on **Friday, January 7** for this second draw of the 2021- 2022 school year.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 12
Status of Women Committee

January 13
Indigenous Education Committee
Pro-D Town Hall

January 14
Young Workers' Committee