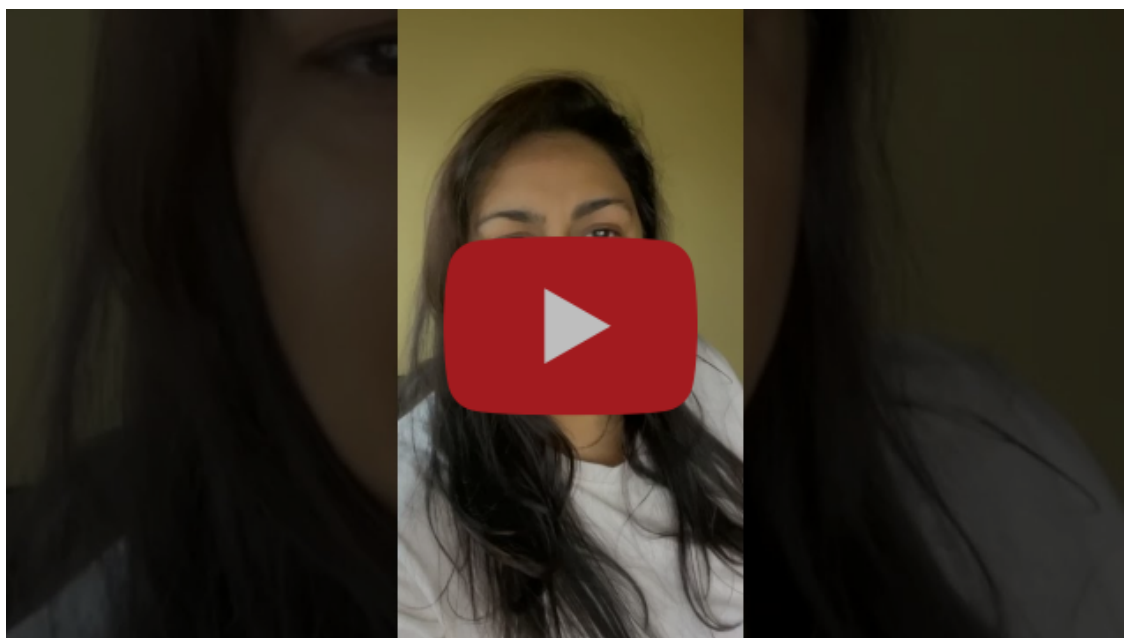




We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples, the q'wa:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), qícəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'ɑ:mu: (Semiahmoo) who have cared for this land for thousands of years, and who continue to care for this land. As educators, we are committed to actions aimed at healing the broken relationship between settlers and Indigenous peoples.

WELCOME BACK!



Message from Acting President, Jatinder Bir

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

This week [a historic agreement](#) was reached between the Canadian federal government and representatives of First Nations' children who experienced the impacts of racist underfunding of child welfare services on reserves. The fight for justice was led by First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and the indomitable Cindy Blackstock. Read more about [what the society does here](#).

SAD NEWS

Naomi Onotera

We were devastated by the news about Katzie elementary teacher-librarian Naomi Onotera. Our hearts ache for her family and daughter Kianna. Many Surrey teachers remember Naomi as a loving mother and dedicated teacher who enjoyed gardening, travelling and hiking. Tributes for Naomi by two colleagues who worked with her can be found here. [Read more](#)

ELECTIONS

At the January 19 General meeting, we will be holding elections for a new President, a Grievance Officer, a Professional Support Services Officer, and a Secretary-Treasurer. Self nominations will be accepted, and published on our website, up until January 10, 2022 and candidates are also encouraged to run from the floor. [Read our current candidate statements for each position](#)

We will also be holding elections for 54 STA delegates to the BCTF AGM. Statements already received will be circulated with the meeting agenda but you can also put your name forward from the floor. Don't forget to [register to attend the SGM](#).

GRIEVANCE UPDATE

IST Special Bulletin

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](#)

Special Bulletin Postings for Low Incidence Assignments in Intensive Intervention and Support Program

The STA and District have entered into a [Special Bulletin Agreement for the 2021-22 school year regarding Low Incidence teacher vacancies](#). Special Bulletin positions are term assignments that expire at the end of a school year. If the successful candidates for these vacancies are presently in continuing assignments, they will be able to return to their current assignments when the Low Incidence assignments end. If you have any questions regarding this Agreement, please contact Joanna Cerazy, Grievance Officer at grieve1@surreyteachers.org. [Read more](#)

Secondary Teachers' Preparation Time

On November 19, 2021, the STA and the Employer have reached an [agreement that settles Grievance 20-21-011 regarding secondary teachers' preparation time for 2020/21 school year](#). The Association filed a grievance on November 23, 2020, following the Employer's failure to provide appropriate preparation time to secondary teachers who taught in the quarter system. Secondary teachers are entitled to a minimum of 12.5% of total instructional time when averaged over the school year. [Read more](#)

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](#).

NOTE: The District Job Description Committee has revised several job descriptions. [Read more](#)

HEALTH & SAFETY

Workplace Violence

The WorkSafeBC [Help prevent workplace violence in schools](#) webpage is now live. Tools and resources you will find on the landing page include:

- A message from K-12 sector leaders on preventing workplace violence in schools.
- A link to the violence prevention tools developed by the working group.

COVID-19 Booster

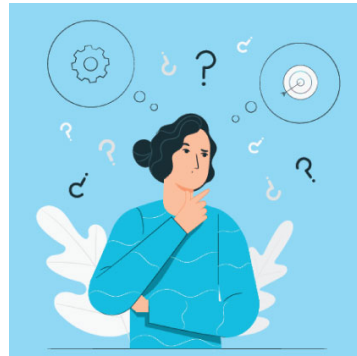
We know many members are now eligible for their COVID-19 booster, and we hope most will get their vaccinations as quickly as possible. **The district is choosing to provide time for school-hours appointments in the form of internal coverage.** If you have a specific circumstance that makes it difficult to attend a vaccination appointment outside school hours, speak to your principal to arrange to try to minimize the impact on colleagues and students in your absence. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if you have any questions or concerns.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pro-D Townhall – January 13, 2022

The STA office will be presenting a Pro-D Townhall on January 13, 2022, from 3:30-5:00 pm via Zoom. This will be an open forum for you to bring forward your concerns, ask questions, and share ideas with other Pro-D Reps. You can submit your Pro-D questions during your registration.

[Register now](#)



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. For more information and a reminder to register, please visit

www.surreyfocusday.ca. [Read more](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black Excellence Day – January 15

Last year's Black Shirt Day has been replaced by Black Excellence Day. Burnaby is organizing an event that is open to everyone on Friday, January 14, 2022. To learn more about the event, visit Blackexcellenceday.ca.



SHOUT OUT!

The winners for the second draw of this school year are: Lisa Weber at David Brankin elementary and Charlotte Austin at Bothwell elementary. Congratulations!

The deadline for submissions for the third draw is 4pm on Friday, February 7.

You too can send 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. Submit your “shout outs” to Lizanne via communications@surreyteachers.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10

Pro-D Committee
Environmental Justice Committee

January 11

Executive committee

January 12

Status of Women Committee

January 13

Indigenous Education Committee
[Pro-D Town Hall](#)

January 14

Young Workers' Committee

January 17

Bargaining Committee
International Solidarity Committee
PA/PR Committee

January 18

Ad Hoc Podcast Committee
Executive Committee

January 19

[Special General Meeting](#)

January 20

Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

January 21

Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee

January 24

Bargaining Committee
Grievance Committee

January 25

Executive Committee

January 26

LSA Council Meeting

January 27

TTOC Advisory Committee