



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), q'icəy (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.



Message from Health & Safety Grievance Officer, Gavin Slade-Kerr

The information given in this video is for vaccinated members. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org for information for unvaccinated members.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

When she was forbidden from speaking her home language, Halq'eméylem, at St. Mary's Residential School, Siyamiyateliyot Elizabeth Phillips used to [think in the language](#) and this helped her to keep the language alive in her mind. Read more about the last fluent speaker of Stó:lō's Indigenous dialect and how she was [honoured by the University of the Fraser Valley](#). You can learn Halq'eméylem [here](#) and also [here](#).



MEMBER SURVEY

There's currently lots of media interest in what's happening in schools. In order to have relevant information and data for media interviews, we're asking members to [complete this survey](#). This should take about 5 minutes and will be very helpful in our advocacy for improvements to health and safety in schools during this pandemic.

SAD NEWS

Naginder Bains

Naginder Bains passed away on December 14, 2021, after spending the morning in a primary classroom at Hazelgrove Elementary. It was his first time working in the school. Naginder was 46 years old and is survived by two daughters (aged 5 and 9) and wife, as well as his mother, father and sister. Naginder had been a TTOC in the Surrey School District from September 2021 after a ten-year career as a high school science teacher in Washington, DC. Naginder grew up in the Lower Mainland and had been living in North Delta since returning to Canada this fall. A memorial service was held for Naginder on December 21, 2021, at Riverside Funeral Home in Delta.

HEALTH & SAFETY

School Safety Plans

Schools developed safety plans last week to prepare for students returning to schools in the context of the Omicron variant. If you have concerns with the plan your school developed, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org.

Icy Parking Lots

If you slipped while traversing icy school parking lots this week, remember to complete [WCB Form 6a](#). Submit the completed form to your Admin who should forward it to the District.

COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NOTES

Know your Collective Agreement: Prep Time

By now you've probably realized how often you lose your prep time due to holidays and professional development days. But how can you recoup that time? There's a clause for that! Read more about [*D.4.10 TIMETABLING FACTORS and why it has an asterisk next to it](#).

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. For more information and a reminder to register, please visit www.surreyfocusday.ca. [Read more](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Black Excellence Day – January 15

Burnaby is organizing an event that is open to everyone on Friday, January 14, 2022. To learn more about the event, visit [Blackexcellenceday.ca](https://blackexcellenceday.ca).



Special General Meeting on January 19

Elections will be held for a new President, a Grievance Officer, a Professional Support Services Officer, and a Secretary-Treasurer. [Read our current candidate statements for each position](#). Candidates are also encouraged to run from the floor.

Elections will also be held 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. [Remember to register to attend the SGM](#).

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](#).

BCTF NEWS

Women's Wellness Virtual Event

The [2022 BCTF Women's Wellness virtual event](#) will be held on the evening of Thursday, March 3, and all day, Friday, March 4, 2022. The goals of the event are to:

- facilitate connection between members who identify as women
- provide opportunities for members who identify as women to share, learn, and nourish their bodies, hearts, and minds to support wellbeing and growth
- create a space to honour women's unique experiences in recognition of the immense challenges we continue to face while celebrating our collective strength

Apply to attend by [completing this form](#). The deadline is **Wednesday, January 19, at 4:30pm**.

Pension Plan

One of the major benefits of being a BCTF member is our jointly trustee pension plan, which provides retirement security through a defined benefit for life. Detailed information about how the plan works can be found at tpp.pensionsbc.ca/how-the-plan-works. A synopsis of these benefits can be found [here](#).

SHOUT OUT!

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 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

January 31

Bargaining Committee

February 1

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

February 2

New Teachers' Conference
Health & Safety Committee

February 3

Rookie BCTF AGM Delegate Training