



## Peló:qes (January - February)

*Fishing with torches on the canoe*

### ELECTION RESULTS



Jatinder Bir



Kelli O'Malley



Pauline Veto

At the January 19 Special General Meeting, **Jatinder Bir** was elected President, **Kelli O'Malley** was elected Grievance Officer and **Pauline Veto** was elected Professional Support Services Officer. Delegates to the BCTF AGM were also elected. Congratulations to all successful candidates!

History has been made with the STA President being the first south Asian president of the biggest school district in the province.

In related news, there will be an election for the 1VP position soon. Stay tuned for details!

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### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Pandemic travel restrictions may be inconvenient but imagine being restricted from leaving your home community without first obtaining a 'pass' just to visit relatives in a nearby town. This was the reality for First Nations between 1885 and 1940 when the [Pass System](#) was in place. Strained family relations and negative economic impacts that lasted for generations are part of the legacy of this 'extra-legal' system. [Watch this documentary](#) to learn about the hidden history of Canadian racial segregation.

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## BARGAINING

The Bargaining Committee has met several times with the Employer. We have tabled all our proposals and the Employer has tabled four proposals. We have sessions planned to continue bargaining locally until February 28.

Provincial bargaining is operating in the background with the Provincial Bargaining Team now released and working on developing the priorities from the October 2021 Bargaining Conference into proposals to be ready for Provincial Bargaining which opens in March 2022.

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## BCTF REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

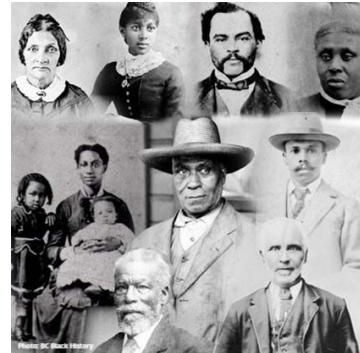
Do you have concerns you would like our local reps to take to the BCTF Rep Assembly being held on January 28 – 29? Your local reps are Thais Cabral, Lizanne Foster, Rick Kumar, Angela Marcakis, Annie Ohana and Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay. Send any questions or concerns to [lr@surreyteachers.org](mailto:lr@surreyteachers.org). For an overview of BCTF governance, please see the "[How the BCTF makes decisions](#)" infographic published in the November/December 2021 issue of the Teacher magazine.

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## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2022

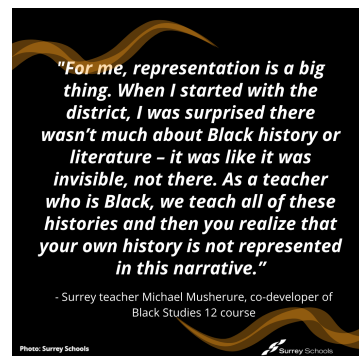
### Lesson Resources

Did you know that Vancouver had a thriving Black community from the early 1900s to the late 1960s? [Black Strathcona](#) is an interactive website that shares the video-stories of ten integral members of the Black Strathcona community. For elementary lessons on Black History see [Kayak](#), Canada's national history magazine for kids. The [BC Black History Awareness Society](#) also has many educational resources. Watch for more information on Black History in the STA Winter Advocate coming out soon!



### Black Studies 12

Congratulations to **Michael Musherure** of Earl Marriott Secondary, **Manvir Mander** of L.A. Matheson, and **Melanie Scheuer** of Frank Hurt Secondary on the approval of your [Black Studies 12](#) course!



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## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Unvaccinated Members

We have been contacted by some members who are concerned that the STA is compiling a list of unvaccinated members. Please be assured that **we are not collecting this information**. We are happy to support you anonymously if you wish.

### Self-Isolation when Covid-19 positive

If you are 18 years of age or older, test positive for COVID-19, and are not fully vaccinated, you need to self-isolate at home for **10 days** AND until you no longer have a fever AND your symptoms improve. You do not need to be re-tested for COVID-19 after your self-isolation period ends to return to normal activities; you can remain test positive for many weeks, even after you are no longer infectious.

### Mask Exemptions

Results from the January Member Survey reveal that 40% of respondents were concerned about mask exemptions at their worksite. Along with the BCTF, we've been advocating for administrators and district management to support teachers in implementing the mask mandate to ensure that everyone is safe in classrooms, including medically vulnerable students and staff. A reminder that mask wearing is mandatory unless there is a [legitimate medical exemption](#).

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Pro-D Update from Professional Development Officer, Erin Coleman

### 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](http://www.surreyfocusday.ca). [Read more](#)



### Interested in Job Share?

The STA is facilitating a Job Share information session on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 4:00 pm via Zoom. Connect with potential job share partners and learn about your rights when it comes to job shares. In addition to the application process, learn about possible denials and what options you have available. [Sign up now](#) for the information session. For more information, check out the [Job Share page](#) on our website.



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## CYBER SECURITY TRAINING

STA members received an email from Surrey School IMS on January 18 or 19 asking them to complete an assignment for Cyber Security Training. The STA's position is that these in-service opportunities should take place during work time such as during a staff meeting, however, this 'assignment' shouldn't take more than 10 minutes or so to complete. We will continue to work with the district to ensure that any further communications about this are clearer. [Read more](#)

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## FROM THE GRIEVANCE OFFICERS

### 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](mailto: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](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### STA Status of Women Committee

The Status of Women Committee has created a comprehensive [Ending Gender-Based Violence Resource List](#) for STA members.

### Bright Beginnings Foundation Fundraisers

On Saturday, February 12, [Bright Beginnings](#) will be holding their first COVID-safe fundraiser: a Community Shred-a-thon at Princess Margaret Secondary from 11:00am to 2:00pm. It is sponsored by Leah Bach, a local Realtor. As well there will be a Fertilizer Sale in March and Sylvia's Annual Plant Sale in April. In May they are planning to host a Pickleball tournament.



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## SHOUT OUT!

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. Submit your "shout outs" to Lizanne via [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 24**

Bargaining Committee  
Grievance Committee

**January 25**

Executive Committee

**January 26**

Bargaining with the Employer  
New West and District Labour Council meets

**January 27**

TTOC Advisory Committee  
Economic Justice Committee  
Bargaining Committee  
Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

**January 28**

Local Reps at Winter Representative  
Assembly

**January 31**

Bargaining Committee

**February 1**

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

**February 2**

Health & Safety Committee  
STARA Steering Committee

**February 3**

Rookie BCTF AGM Delegate Training

**February 4**

Bargaining with the Employer

**February 7**

Bargaining Committee  
Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Labour Affairs Committee  
Pro-D Committee

**February 8**

Bargaining with the Employer  
Executive Committee

**February 9**

Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

**February 10**

Indigenous Education Committee  
Job Share Meeting

**February 11**

Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee

## OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

**January 27**

[International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)

**January 29**

[National Day of Remembrance of the Québec  
City Mosque Attack and Action against  
Islamophobia](#)

**February: Black History Month**

**February 1**

[Lunar New Year – The Year of the Tiger](#)

**February 11**

[International Day of Women and Girls in  
Science](#)

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<sup>w</sup>a:n̓l̓'ən (Kwantlen), q̓ic̓əy (Katzie), q̓iq̓éyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'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.