

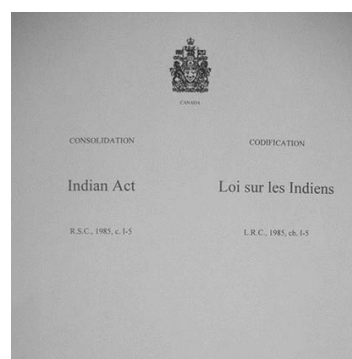


We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples, the q'w'a:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), qícəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'a:mu: (Semiahmoo) who have cared for this land for thousands of years, and who 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

Information

At the start of a new semester or school year, one the most important tasks we have is learning the names of our students. Something to consider is the way the Canadian government in the 19th century forced First Nations to have European names. Consider the impact of that when a name carried great responsibility and was a form of intangible wealth. Learn more about the [Indian Act](#) naming policies [here](#). Note that it was only in June 2021 that Indigenous people could apply to have their [original names on official documents](#).



Action

This Truth and Reconciliation section has been published weekly since the October 11 – 15 STAC. How have you been using the information shared each week? For the June Advocate commemorating National Indigenous Day this year, we'll be seeking submissions on the theme of Truth and Reconciliation. Consider this an early heads-up for sharing with the wider STA audience what you've been doing with the information here. Feedback on this section is most welcome! Send to Lizanne at communications@surreyteachers.org.

ELECTIONS AT FEBRUARY 16 SGM/STARA

There will be elections for a new 1st Vice President and Secretary-Treasurer at the February 16 SGM/STARA Meeting. In addition, we also need to elect an additional 16 STA delegates to attend the virtual BCTF AGM on March 19 - 22. BCTF AGM delegates will need access to a desktop or laptop as you will not be able to access the meeting via a phone or a tablet. All interested candidates should send their name and statement to sta@surreyteachers.org. Please see the [STA Election page](#) for more information. Remember to [register](#) to attend all our STARA/General meetings.

BARGAINING



Bargaining Update from 2nd Vice President, Kevin Amboe

Observation of Collaborative Bargaining Process

We have had observers at two sessions of the Collaborative Bargaining Process with the employer. During this process, both sides suspend their positions to try to arrive at mutual interests. It's a process quite different to traditional bargaining. Manita Gandham was an observer at the CBP session on January 26. [Read her reflection on what she witnessed](#)

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Daily Health Check

Please use the updated [Daily Health Check and What To Do When Sick](#) which was recently released by the Ministry. The [Thrive Self Assessment tool](#) should no longer be used to do a daily health check, but is to be used to determine whether you should seek a COVID-19 test. COVID-19 public health guidance is rapidly changing. Please refer to the [BCCDC COVID-19 page](#) for the most current information.

Rapid Test Kit Distribution

The District will be distributing two Rapid Test Kits to employees in the following priority: Elementary Schools, then Secondary Schools, then Learning Centres, then District sites. Principals will distribute them at schools. District-based staff will receive kits from their departments directly (if they are not included on site lists). Dispatch staff (TTOC and Spare Board) will be emailed directly and asked to pick up their kits from REC (14123 92 Avenue) on a certain day (You will need ID). They anticipate this concluding February 4 including "catch up days". *Practicum teachers and staff that are on a full leave are not included in kit distribution at this time.*

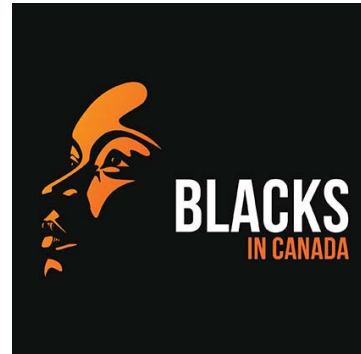
WorkSafeBC claims for COVID-19 infection

Updated guidance now confirms that a positive test (PCR or otherwise) is not required for WorkSafeBC to adjudicate a COVID-19 claim. If you believe you contracted COVID-19 at work, we strongly encourage you to file a claim with WorkSafeBC. Filing a claim is important in the short term to protect your sick leave provisions. It's also important should you experience longer lasting effects related to contracting COVID-19. [Read more](#)

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

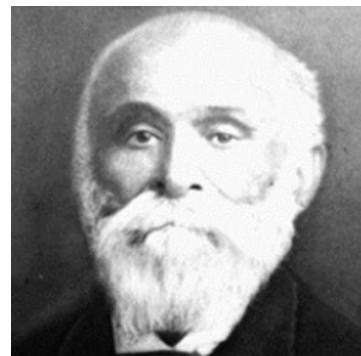
Black Pioneers

Did you know about the former slaves [who settled in Surrey](#) and raised a family? [The family gravesite](#) is in the cemetery at Old McLellan Road in West Cloverdale. Many people know about the connection of guitarist Jimi Hendrix to Vancouver's Black community in the 1960s. You can learn more by clicking on #5 of the [Black Strathcona](#) interactive website that shares the video-stories of ten integral members of the Black Strathcona community. You can also learn more about British Columbia's [Black pioneers here](#). There is also a podcast, [Portraits of Black Canadians](#), that has stories from across Canada.



The First Black ...

We all know that the STA has had their first Black president when Lloyd Edwards was elected in 1973 but did you know that [John Craven Jones](#) was the first Black teacher on Saltspring Island? You can find the rest of the list of "firsts" [here](#).



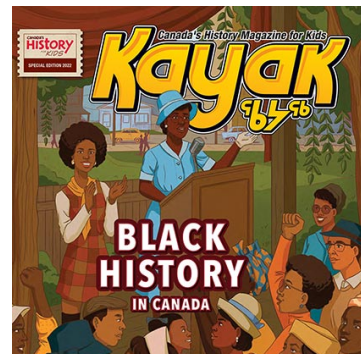
Black History

Many people don't realize that [slavery was practiced in Canada](#) for two centuries leaving a lasting impact that still reverberates today. How many of these [events related to Black Canadian's experiences](#) are you familiar with?



Lesson Plans

For elementary lessons on Black History see [Kayak](#), Canada's national history magazine for kids and also The Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario has an [extensive list of lesson plans on Black History](#). [Facing History and Ourselves](#) also has many resources and lesson plans for all grade levels.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STA Office Update

Carolyn Saxby, the Office Manager, has tendered her resignation with her last day at the office being February 18. Although we are currently seeking a new Office Manager, we are not yet sure when there will be a new person to occupy that position. We are also short-staffed on two fronts: there are two support staff positions unfilled and we also have a vacancy for the 1st VP position. With two new Table Officers, Pauline Veto and Kelli O'Malley, there's a lot of changes happening as well. Although we are still here to provide support for you, we ask for your patience as we navigate through this time of upheaval.

Fresh Grade

Fresh Grade has been sold and it is not possible to use it beyond June 30, 2022. The District plans to have a system in place for September 2022; however, they have not decided what platform that will be. Earlier this year a pilot was offered to teachers using Spaces by myBlueprint. The STA will not be influencing the choice of reporting tools; however, we will continue to be in discussion with the district and will maintain our positions regarding in-service training. [Read more](#)

SAVE THE DATE: School Union Representative Training (SURT)

Save the date for SURTs: April 12, 13, 19, 20, and 21, 2022.

Registration will open close to Spring Break and will be advertised in the STA Connection and on the website.



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 before 4pm on Monday, February 7, 2022.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 14

Ad Hoc Covid Action Committee

February 15

Bargaining Committee
PA/PR Committee

February 16

Bargaining with the Employer
SGM / STARA Meeting

February 17

Bargaining with the Employer
Ad Hoc Podcast Project Committee
BCTF AGM Delegate Training

February 22

Bargaining Committee
Executive Committee

February 23

Bargaining with the Employer
BCTF AGM Delegate Meeting

February 24

Bargaining with the Employer
AD Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee
Grievance Committee

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

February

[Black History Month](#)

February 11

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

February 15

[Anniversary of the 1974 Strike led by Lloyd Edwards, former STA President](#)

February 20

[World Day of Social Justice](#)