



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 q̓'w̓a:ḥł'ən̓ (Kwantlen), q̓íc̓əy̓ (Katzie), q̓iq̓éy̓t (Qayqayt) and səm̓i'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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Message from Communications and Campaigns Coordinator, Lizanne Foster

Racial Segregation in Canadian Schools

Did you know about the history of the segregation of Black students in Canadian schools from the late 19th century until the 1950s and 1960s? [Read about it here](#)

More than a month

[Facing History and Ourselves](#) is a social justice education organization that offers the following thoughts on the inclusion of Black history into the education of all students in Canada throughout the school year.

What deeper Black Inclusion requires:

- *Learning for all students; Black Canadians' contributions are Canadian contributions*
- *Black history and perspectives are fully integrated in curriculum year-round*
- *Representation of Black perspectives, and achievements in all subject areas*
- *Invites community knowledge and needs*
- *Founded on love, respect, visibility and justice for Black students, colleagues and communities*
- *Content is as diverse as the diversity of Black identities in Canada*
- *More than curriculum; it's pedagogy, policy, people*
- *Diverse voices included at the table for decision making.*

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Before residential 'schools', First Nations' children learned about the world through storytelling, experiences and being mentored by elders. Among the learning experiences was [playing games](#).

[Slahal](#) (also called Lahal) is a game that was used to prevent conflict between Nations or to settle an argument or just for fun. Imagine what it was like for children to be uprooted from a way of learning that involved experiences like playing games to a place where they were violently punished for speaking their mother tongue.



STA HISTORY

48th Anniversary of the 1974 Strike for Class Size Limits

Moir Mackenzie, president of the STA from 1982 – 1984, was a young teacher in her 2nd year of teaching when the STA Executive Committee organized a [protest at the Legislature](#) in Victoria on 15 February 1974 to demand class size limits. [Read her reflection about that time](#)



ELECTIONS

There will be elections for a new 1st Vice President and for a Secretary-Treasurer at the February 16 SGM/STARA Meeting. We also need to elect 27 STA delegates to attend the virtual BCTF AGM on March 19 - 22. BCTF AGM delegates will need access to a desktop or laptop as will not be able to access the meeting via a phone or a tablet. Please see the [STA Election page](#) for more information. Remember to [register](#) to attend all our STARA/General meetings.

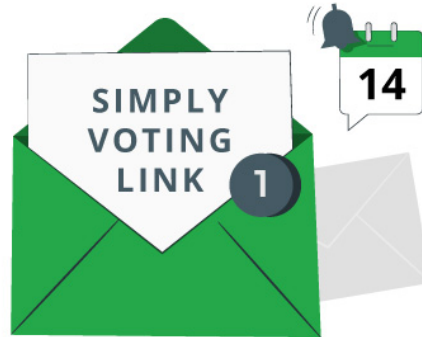
[Duties of First Vice President](#)
[Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer](#)

Steps for voting in election on February 16

Step 1 [Register](#)



Step 2 Get email from Surrey Teachers' Association with Simply Voting Link that will be sent on Monday, February 14, in the afternoon.



Step 3 Have the email with the Simply Voting link open at 4pm on Wednesday, February 16 when the meeting begins.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

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](#)

BC TEACHERS' COUNCIL NEWS

Opportunity to have input into shaping standards for the teaching profession

If you have not already completed the [New Teacher Survey](#), which we launched in October 2021, we encourage you to participate. Your responses will provide us with valuable data. We will learn more about the new teacher experience as you transitioned from your training into teaching in British Columbia, and this will help us as we review and update the standards that will affect the transition for future educators.

Message from Jatinder Bir
Elected Member, Fraser Zone



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SD36/STA VIRTUAL Focus Day FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

A NEW HOPE: Positive solutions for teaching in a changing world.

Workshops include climate change, anti-racism, inclusion, and Indigenous education as well as curriculum supports for Math, Science and Literacy.



*Key note speaker Len
Pierre of the Katzie First
Nation will be presenting
"Decolonizing Education
and Institutionalizing
Cultural Safety."*

Focus Day

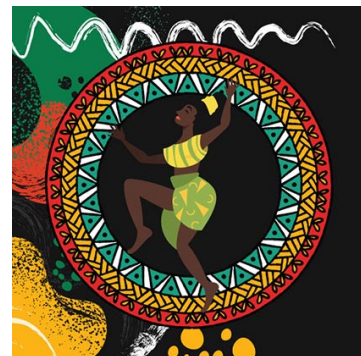
Register at surreyfocusday.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebration of Black Power and Joy

The Members of Colour Committee is excited to host a virtual celebration of Black power, joy and beauty on **Saturday, February 26, 2022 at 10am via Zoom**. STA members are invited to share a piece of art that celebrates and honours Blackness. All participants should be ready to dance, listen and reflect on the ways in which Black excellence shapes our society. [Register now](#) to take part in this event.

If you are interested in presenting or **know students** who may be interested in presenting their poems, speeches, dances and artwork at this event, please email Thais Pimentel Cabral at cabral_t@surreyschools.ca and Amrit Sanghe at sanghe_a@surreyschools.ca.



The Other People

The Other People is an incredible opportunity for educators to hear from a wide range of local luminaries, including Jody Wison-Raybould, who represent a variety of faiths, cultures and heritages in a discussion on what anti-racist futures can look like. While LA Matheson is the first public school to hold the panel in BC, Mustang Justice hopes to help other schools have the panel come to their schools as well. We hope classes from a variety of schools can join us. Interested teachers should contact Annie Ohana at ohana_a@surreyschools.ca.



L.A. MATHESON SECONDARY SCHOOL
FEB 22, 2022 | 1:40 - 3:00 PM

Ending Racism Together

Zumba on Zoom-ba for International Women's Day

March 8th is International Women's Day! At 4:30 pm, the STA Status of Women Committee will be hosting a virtual Zumba Wellness Event for all STA members to celebrate our love and appreciation for each other. Zumba is great for our wellness, both body and mind. After running the world (or at least our classrooms) all day, take an hour out for yourself and just dance! [Register today](#)



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.



Canadian Standard Association (CSA) Group Survey

The CSA Group, an organization the Canadian Labour Congress works closely with on developing occupational health and safety standards, is conducting a research project entitled "[Investigating the Challenges Canadian Women Face Regarding Work Mandated PPE](#)". As part of that research, the CSA is conducting a [direct survey of women workers](#) to better understand how personal protective equipment (PPE) is suited to, and whether it is meeting the needs of, Canadian women.

SHOUT OUT!

Congratulations to January-February Shout Out Draw Winners

Tania Modicamore of Katzie Elementary
Mona Gronnemose of Sunrise Ridge Elementary

Send us your 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 Friday, March 11, 2022.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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 18

Ad Hoc Donations Committee

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

February 26

[Members of Colour Celebration of Black Power and Joy](#)

February 28

Bargaining Committee

March 1

Ad Hoc Social Justice Directory Project Committee
New Teachers' Conference
TTOC Advisory Committee

March 2

Health & Safety Committee
Status of Women Committee

March 3

Indigenous Education Committee
Education Governance Committee
BCTF AGM Training

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](#)