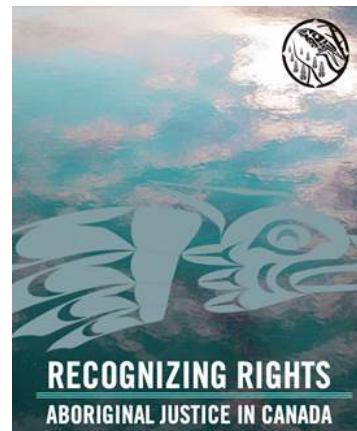




We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that STA members have the privilege of working on the unceded ancestral territory of the Coast Salish peoples, the q<sup>w</sup>a:n̓l'ən (Kwantlen), q̓icəy (Katzie), q̓iqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'ɑ:mu: (Semiahmoo) who have cared for this land for thousands of years, 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.

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

There's currently lots of debate about rights and freedoms in Canada. For those on a personal journey of learning the truth and acting on reconciliation, [this document](#) written in plain language provides a clear explanation of Aboriginal rights and Indigenous legal traditions. In reading the document we are reminded that First Nations had complex governance systems long before colonization and long before the [Indian Act](#) forcefully replaced those.



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## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NOTES

### Bargaining Update

The Bargaining Committee is in the final stretch of meetings with the Employer. The goal is to have local agreements signed by the first week in March. Provincial Bargaining begins officially on March 4. The Provincial team has been working full time on converting the goals of the membership into proposals. There will be an update for members during the BCTF AGM on the status of their work and initial meetings with the employer.

### Reflection on Observing Bargaining by Matthew Kloeble (Betty Huff Elementary)

I had opportunities this year to participate in both the bargaining conference and to sit in as an observer for a local bargaining session. This was my first time doing anything like this, though I've taught through two provincial bargaining rounds during my career. My experiences in bargaining were a little like my first time driving a Go Kart. [Read more](#)

### Remedy

We have an [agreement in place with the employer about alternate forms of remedy](#). In lieu time is only one of the available forms of remedy, subject to the same rules as have applied in previous years. Other options include co-teaching and preparation time. This year, you can also transfer unused remedy to other teachers. If you have accumulated remedy from previous years, please talk to your principal about accessing the option you want now. If you have any questions, contact your Grievance Officers Kelli O'Malley at [grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org) and Joanna Cerazy at [grieve1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org).

## NEW TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Are you new to teaching? Do you have questions about what your union has to offer? Your pay cheque? Your contract? For answers, you can attend our New Teachers' Conference that will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, March 1st, 2022, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Release time is provided for you to attend. Details will be sent after you register. [Register now](#)

Registration is open to teachers in the first 3 (or so) years of teaching, who have not attended before. Teachers Teaching-on-Call who do not have a part-time contract are not eligible to attend this event. We will hold a TTOC event in June.

**NOTE:** Registration for this event will be closed on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 8:30 am. Currently registration is low and if it remains low after the cutoff date, it will be cancelled. In case of cancellation, current registrants will be notified immediately.



## A MESSAGE FROM TABLE OFFICERS

We want to let you know that you are in our thoughts and that we understand the how hard it must be to be working within a system that does not always feel inclusive or safe. We know that the EA shortage is causing many stressors in classrooms, for LST; for IST; and for many of your colleagues. Unfortunately, we have limited ability to affect change in this situation. That inability weighs heavy in our hearts, and we stand with you wanting to make it better. We do not know how to do that yet. [Read more](#)



## HEALTH AND SAFETY



Sick Leave and BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan Information from Accommodations Officer, Dana Neidig

## Resources

- To learn more about sick leave, read the [Collective Agreement](#) from page 139 onwards.
- [BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan](#)
- [BCTF Health and Wellness Program](#)

### If you contract COVID-19

If WorkSafeBC can link your case to an exposure at school, you are entitled to have most of your sick days reimbursed by WorkSafeBC. The exact amount of reimbursement will depend on your salary. The district will use your sick days to cover time not covered by WorkSafe BC such that you do not lose any salary. Most importantly, you need to call WorkSafeBC Claims Call Centre at 604 231 8888. If you don't call, they don't know about your claim. They will give you a claim number to put on your Form 6A. [Read more](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### What is Local Specialist Association (LSA)?

- L.S.A. stands for Local Specialist Association. An L.S.A. is a local organization of teachers or specialists within a school district who teach in a common subject area or grade level (i.e. Secondary English, Primary, Teacher Librarians etc.).
- LSAs differ from a Chapter of a Provincial Specialist Association (PSA). LSAs are governed and managed by the local union in a school district, whereas Chapters are governed by the parent PSA. In some cases, the local organization is both an LSA and a local chapter of a PSA.
- Similar to other committees of the STA, LSAs follow the guidelines, policies, and procedures of the association.

[Read more](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### International Women's Day

Tuesday, March 8 is International Women's Day and the theme this year is "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", which recognizes the role that women and girls around the world in "leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all."



### 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.



## International Solidarity Committee

The International Solidarity Committee has purchased a table for CoDevelopment Canada's winter fundraising event "Spotlight on Cuba: Solidarity Amidst Blockade and Pandemic" which brings together Cuban workers in the areas of education, science, sports, health, and public administration to discuss challenges and possibilities of international solidarity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the six-decade-long embargo against Cuba. This event will take place virtually on Saturday, February 26, 2022, from 2:00-4:00. If you are interested in attending this event, please complete this [form](#).



## New Westminster & District Labour Council Women's Day Event

NWDLC is hosting a webinar with Minister Sheila Malcolmson and members of the BC Health Coalition on women workers and mental health. In recognition of International Women's Day, we will explore the intersection of women, work and mental health, the issues, challenges, and health supports needed for a strong pandemic recovery and future. Everyone welcome! [Register now](#)

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## BC TEACHERS' FEDERATION

### How are BCTF decisions made?

See the full [How the BCTF makes decisions](#) PDF



## 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” with the email subject heading SHOUT OUT to Lizanne via [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) before 4pm on **Friday, March 11, 2022.**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **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 Delegate Training

### **March 7**

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Pro-D Committee  
Labour Affairs Committee

### **March 8**

Ad Hoc Covid Action Committee  
[Zumba on Zoom-Ba for International Women's Day](#)

### **March 9**

Executive Committee

### **March 10**

Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

### **March 19 – March 22**

BCTF AGM

### **March 28**

Anti-Racism Committee

### **March 29**

PA/PR Committee

### **March 30**

Indigenous Education Committee  
International Solidarity Committee

### **March 31**

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2+ Committee  
Post-BCTF AGM meeting