

# STA CONNECTION

## Truth and Reconciliation

Imagine if someone stole your house, and you were forbidden by law to hire a lawyer to get your house back? From March 31, 1927, until September 4, 1951, that was the reality for people whose ancestors had lived here for thousands of years and whose lands were colonized. Read about how the Canadian government [passed a law in 1927](#) that banned Indigenous people from hiring lawyers or to make [land claims](#). For lessons on this topic, visit [Treaties and Land Claims](#).



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## Collective Agreement Notes

To learn more, please visit the [Collective Agreement](#).

### Round 1 Transfers

There are three parts to the transfer process. The first is the online application. Apply for postings using Employee Self-Serve. The other two parts to the transfer process are the interview and a reference check. The STA's position is that the interview should come first, followed by the reference check. The district does not agree. Learn more about the [District's hiring policies](#). [Read More](#)

### IST Transition Agreement

Earlier this year, the District served the STA notice under Section 54 of the Labour Relations Code that they wanted to make some IST positions school-based rather than district-based. The STA held several meetings with the district to discuss a transition plan, and on Monday, March 7th, we reached a settlement with the district with the assistance of a Mediator from the Labour Relations Board. This agreement will impact the post-and-fill/placement process for a wide majority of our current IST teachers. [Read more](#)

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## Health and Safety

### Lifting of mask mandate

Although there are [new guidelines for schools](#) following the lifting of the mask mandate, if you have travelled internationally, you are expected to [wear a mask for 14 days after returning to Canada](#). Please recognize that your colleagues will have different levels of comfort and many may choose to keep wearing a mask. Kindness and tolerance are important as we move forward. Please consider also that there are colleagues and students who have compromised immunity and who may also have relatives at home who are medically vulnerable. When everyone around them indoors is wearing a mask, their risk of infection decreases.

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## Ramadan: April 1/2 – April 30/May 1

Ramadan, the holy month for billions of Muslims around the world, will begin this year on either Friday April 1 or Saturday April 2 depending on the lunar cycle. Many of our Muslim students and colleagues will be fasting for the next 29/30 days. They'll have woken up before dawn to have a meal before beginning their fast. This early awakening will get earlier over the next 29/30 days. They will have their evening meal after sunset called "iftar" and will be up late participating in prayer services. Ramadan is also a time of giving to those in need. Read more about [how teachers can support Muslim students during Ramadan](#).

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## Professional Development

### Summer Pro-D Townhall – April 13, 2022

We will be presenting a **Summer Pro-D Townhall on April 13, 2022**, from 3:30pm - 5:00 pm via Zoom. This will be an open forum for you to bring forward your concerns, ask questions, and share ideas with other Pro-D Reps. You can submit your Pro-D questions during your registration. [Register now](#)



### STA Convention 2022 (Virtual)

Registration for the [STA Convention will open on Tuesday, April 4](#). Registration opens on April 4th. Early Bird prize draw for those who register prior to April 14th. The Convention will be virtual this year again. We are still looking for more presentations for the secondary theme. If you've got a great idea to share with secondary teachers, [submit your workshop proposal](#) before Friday, April 8.



Sara Florence  
Davidson



Dr. Shauneen  
Pete

### Pro-D Funding Draws

Because we did not have Professional Development Funding Draws at our Annual General Meetings in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19, we are going to be drawing 12 applications at our Annual General Meeting in May 2022! To be considered, completed application forms and accompanying documentation must be received by the STA office before 4:00 p.m. on the first school day of May (May 2nd). [Read more](#)

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## STA Awards

The Surrey Teachers' Association would like to formally recognize those members who have rendered exceptional services to our profession and union, whose achievements in their careers and/or whose contributions in our union have earned them distinction and brought honour to our profession and Association. Please submit nominations to Kevin Amboe, 2nd Vice President, Awards Chairperson. Courier no. 000 or [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by Friday, April 12. [Read more](#)

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## Staff Reps

### Staff Rep Training

We are offering Staff Rep Training on **April 12, 13, 19, 20, and 21**. The BCTF portion, "Is it a Grievance? Problem Solving at the School Level Workshop", gives union representatives an understanding of the grievance procedure for solving disputes. The Local portion, "Organizing to Win", is a workshop adapted from the course Organizing 4 Power, by Jane McAlevey and Secrets of a Successful Organizer, by Labor Notes. [Register now](#)



To avoid the big yellow banner that comes up when you get emails from the STA, please add [repsupport@surreyteachers.org](mailto:repsupport@surreyteachers.org) to your Safe Senders list on Outlook. For instructions, follow these [steps on how to add Safe Sender](#).

### Connect with your STARA Steering Committee

We know you're busy doing a million and one things, and it can be hard to remember all the issues that have popped up in between STARA meetings. There's two easy ways to get these items off your mental load!

1. You can submit a school concern anytime via [www.bit.ly/starep1](http://www.bit.ly/starep1) (and either ask for a response or speak to it at the next meeting).
2. You can email the STARA Steering committee ([STARA@surreyteachers.org](mailto:STARA@surreyteachers.org)) with any possible issue or motion that you'd like to address during the meeting (or with your questions/ideas/suggestions!)

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## 2022 BCTF Annual General Meeting News

### Election Results

The 2022/2023 BCTF Executive Committee will include familiar faces and a few new ones. During the elections at the BCTF AGM during spring break, Clint Johnstone was acclaimed as the President-elect, and Carole Gordon was acclaimed as First Vice-President-elect. Winning their elections were: Robin Tosczak (Second Vice President) and the following Members at Large: Katherine Trepanier, Rick Joe, Benula Bunjun, Jelana Bighorn, Winona Waldren, and Lisa LaBoucane.

Jody Polukoshko, Violette Baillargeon and Mariah Franzmann are completing the second year of their two-year terms.



Clint Johnstone  
(Chilliwack)  
President



Carole Gordon  
(Central Okanagan)  
First Vice-President



Robin Tosczak  
(Greater Victoria)  
Second Vice-President



Rick Joe  
(Chilliwack)  
Member at Large  
(Aboriginal)



Benula Bunjun  
(Sooke)  
Member at Large  
(Racialized)



Jelana Bighorn  
(Vancouver)  
Member at Large



Winona Waldren  
(Greater Victoria)  
Member at Large



Lisa LaBoucane  
(Vernon)  
Member at Large



Katherine Trepanier  
(Prince George)  
Member at Large

## Minutes and Decisions

To read about all the events at the AGM, login to the BCTF Member Portal to access [AGM Minutes and Decisions](#).

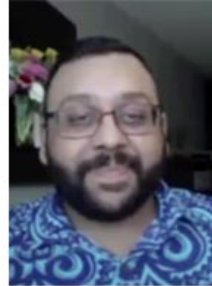
## Surrey Teachers Win BCTF Awards

Moir Mackenzie, a former STA president, won the G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award which is granted to a BCTF member or former member who has made an outstanding contribution to public education.

Rick Kumar, a teacher at Panorama Secondary and co-chair of the Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee, won the Connie Jervis Award which is granted to a BCTF member in the first 10 years of their career who has made an outstanding contribution in the pursuit of the BCTF goals for public education.



Moir Mackenzie



Rick Kumar

## Personal Reflections

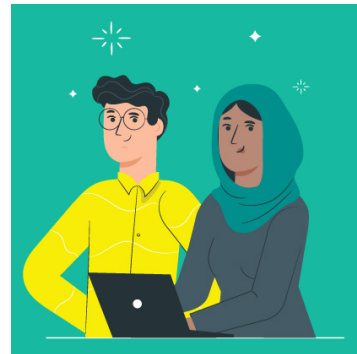
Forty-two Surrey teachers spent 4 days online attending the 2022 BCTF AGM. Read what some of them thought about the experience. [Read more](#)

## Announcements

### New Teachers' Conference

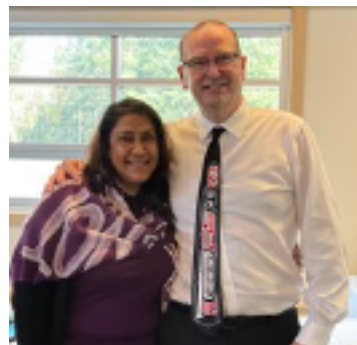
Are you new to teaching? Do you have questions about what your union has to offer? Your pay cheque? Your contract? For answers, you can attend our New Teachers' Conference that will be held via Zoom on May 4, 2022, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Release time is provided for you to attend. Details will be sent after you register. [Register now](#)

**Note:** 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.



### Goodbye to Jordan Tinney

Jordan retired on the last day of school before spring break after sending out one last message about masks and health guidelines. At the union office we appreciated Jordan's respect for the union and for teachers. He did a lot to ensure that our relationship was productive rather than combative. He listened to our serious concerns about the safety of schools for teachers and kids during COVID 19 and always kept the lines of communication open with STA leaders.



## New Superintendent

As a result of Jordan Tinney's retirement, Mark Pearmain is now the new Superintendent of Surrey School District. [Read more](#) about Surrey's new Superintendent.

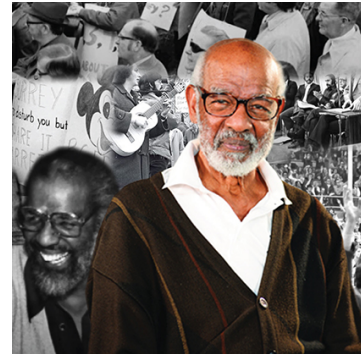


## Lloyd Edwards Building Renaming Celebration

We will be hosting an event to mark the renaming of the STA building from Park Place Building to Lloyd Edwards Building on Saturday, April 30, 2022. You're invited to join us from 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm at Queen Elizabeth Secondary School, 9457 King George Blvd.

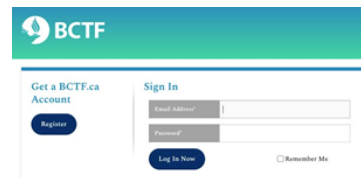
Lloyd Edwards was the first Black President of Surrey Teachers' Association who, on February 15, 1974, led the STA's protest against the Surrey School Board's increase of class sizes.

Please register your attendance here: <https://lloydedwards2022.eventbrite.ca>



## Provincial Bargaining Updates

The BCTF and BCPSEA began meeting in the first week of March with the goal of achieving a new collective agreement to replace the current one that expires on June 30. [Updates](#) on their progress are posted on the BCTF website but is only accessible to BCTF members. To ensure easy access to the information, ensure that your personal email address is registered on the BCTF Member Portal.



## Green Shirt Day on April 7

Green Shirt Day aims to increase awareness about the importance of organ donation. To learn more and to access teaching resources, see [Green Shirt Day](#).



## Shout Out!

### Winners of the February-March Shout Out

Aman Dehal of Jessie Lee Elementary  
Jennifer Sedman of Betty Huff Elementary

### April Shout Out Draw

To be included in the next draw for a \$25 Indigo gift certificate, [submit your "shout outs"](#) before 4pm on Friday, April 29, 2022.





## Upcoming Events

### April 4

Pro-D Committee

### April 5

Executive Committee

### April 6

STARA Steering Committee  
Health & Safety Committee  
Status of Women Committee

### April 7

Education Governance  
Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

### April 8

Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee

### April 11

Grievance Committee

### April 12

Indigenous Education Committee  
[Staff Rep Training](#)

### April 13

[Summer Pro-D Town Hall](#)  
[Staff Rep Training](#)

### April 19

Executive Committee  
[Staff Rep Training](#)

### April 20

[Staff Rep Training](#)  
[Special General Meeting](#)  
[STARA](#)

### April 21

[Staff Rep Training](#)  
TTOC Advisory Committee

### April 22

Ad Hoc Young Workers' Committee

### April 27

PA/PR Committee  
Resolutions Committee

### April 28

LGBTQ2+ Committee  
Indigenous Education Committee

## Other Events

### April 2

World Autism Awareness Day

### April 7

World Health Day

### April 13

International Day of Pink

### April 22

Earth Day

### April 28

National Day of Mourning for Injured Workers

### April 28

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

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:ḥ'əḥ (Kwantlen), q'icəy' (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'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.