

STA CONNECTION

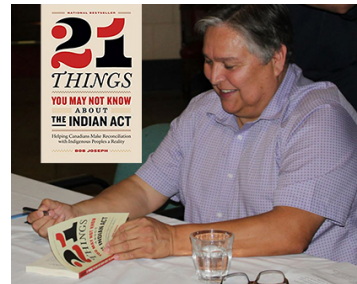


Temkwikwexel

Arrival of baby sockeye salmon

Truth and Reconciliation

When the Canadian government's Indian Act received Royal Assent on 12 April 1876, it defined an Indian as "any male person of Indian blood". The Act extinguished all existing Indigenous self-government structures. In 2015, Bob Joseph, a member of the Gwawaenuk Nation, published [a blog](#) explaining some of the injustices of the Indian Act. The blog became the book, [21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act](#). You'll find teaching resources on the Indian Act [here](#) and also at the [Secret Life of Canada](#) podcast site.



Action Items in this newsletter

For All Members

1. Register for Lloyd Edwards Building Renaming Event
2. Mark your calendar for the Special General Meeting and STARA on Wednesday, April 20

For Staff Reps

1. Staff Rep Training registration
2. Add repsupport@surreyteachers.org to safe senders list



The Staff Reps Section

Staff Rep Training

We are offering Staff Rep Training on April 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](#)



Safe Senders List for Desktop-based Outlook and Web-based Outlook

To avoid the big yellow banner that comes up when you get emails from the STA, please add repsupport@surreyteachers.org to your Safe Senders list on Outlook. For instructions, follow these steps on how to add a safe sender on your [desktop-based Outlook](#) or [web-based Outlook](#).

Health and Safety

As you are aware, the [STA campaigned over several months](#) for the use of masks in schools when masking was not included in public health guidance for schools. Recently, Kasari Govender, BC's Human Rights Commissioner, [made public a letter she had sent to Dr. Bonnie Henry](#) a few days after the lifting of the mask mandate. In it she shared her concerns about the lifting of the mandate and said, "Given the benefits of the mask mandate for thousands of marginalized people and the minimal impact on those being asked to wear one, the balance at this time favours continuing the mask mandate".

While we continue to adjust to the removal of the mask mandate in schools, we encourage everyone to be tolerant of other people's decisions on mask wearing. Please be kind and accepting of everyone's choices in this matter.

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](#)

Professional Development

Speak to your site-based Pro-D rep about how to access funding to attend events on Monday, April 25 in Vancouver

Teachers' Tour of Chinatown

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](#)

Musqueam Stories and Language Pro-D for Educators

Vancouver Heritage Foundation presents Musqueam Stories and Language Pro-D for Educators on Zoom starting at 9:45am. Musqueam Elder and Storyteller, Larry Grant will present a one-hour session on Musqueam stories and language. Please note this event is not being recorded. Cost: \$15 + tax [Register now](#)

STA Convention on Friday, May 6

Over 2300 members have already signed up for Convention! Yay! There are still spaces left in some workshops so be sure to [sign up today](#). As always, Pension workshops were very popular, and the **audience limits set by the presenters** were quickly reached. Even online classes have class size limits! If you'd like to learn more about pensions, the [BC Retired Teachers' Association has regular workshops](#) on pensions and other topics of interest to anyone nearing retirement. Their next workshops are on April 20, May 11 and May 19.



Sara Florence Davidson



Dr. Shauneen Pete

Pro-D Funding Draws

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Announcements

Special General Meeting

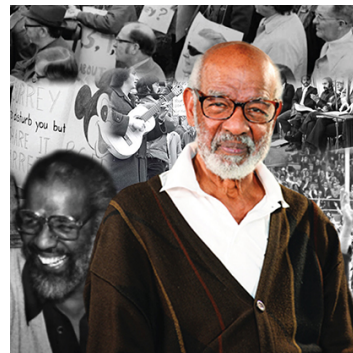
There will be a Special General Meeting on Wednesday, April 20 followed by STARA. If you have previously registered for STARA and General meetings this year, you will receive your meeting package and voting instructions on April 14, 2022. If you have not yet registered to attend these governance meetings, please [register now](#).

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.

Please register by April 20 so that we can confirm numbers for catering:

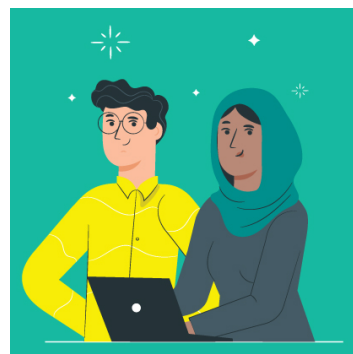
<https://lloydedwards2022.eventbrite.ca>



STA 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.



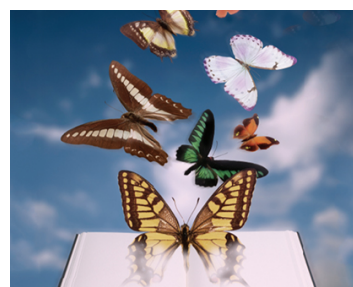
Gurpreet Kaur Bains

Congratulations to Gurpreet Kaur Bains, a teacher at L.A. Matheson Secondary for being recognized in [the latest edition of Drishti magazine](#) for her award-winning community and education work!



Adrienne Gear Webinar

The Surrey Primary Teachers' Association presents an after-school webinar series with educator and author Adrienne Gear who will share ideas from her brand-new *Powerful Poetry* book. This 3-part seminar series will be presented on Zoom on April 20, May 4, and May 18. Register at <http://spta36.weebly.com/powerful-poetry-workshop-series.html>



Saffron Threads

Check out educational resources exploring South Asian Canadian heritage and culture at [Saffron Threads](#). A group of Surrey Teachers worked on the creation of the curriculum resources you'll find at the site. Congratulations on an excellent job go out to Serena Pattar (Guildford Park); Diljeet McDonough (Martha Curie); Navnit Dosanjh (Strawberry Hill); Jasleen Kaur Sidhu (Clayton Heights) and Gurpreet Kaur Bains (LA Matheson).



Red Dress Gathering

CUPE 728 is organizing this event on May 5 at Bear Creek Park, 13750 88th avenue, from 4:30pm – 6:30pm. Donations of red dresses in any size are welcome.



Shout Out!

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 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 26

Anti-racism Committee

May 4

[STA New Teachers' Conference](#)
Health & Safety Committee
Indigenous Education Committee

May 5

International Solidarity Committee

May 6

[STA Convention](#)

May 9

Labour Affairs Committee

May 10

Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee
Status of Women Committee – dinner meeting

April 27
PA/PR Committee
Resolutions Committee

April 28
LGBTQ2+ Committee
Indigenous Education Committee

May 2
Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Ad Hoc Young Workers' Committee
Pro-D Committee

May 3
Executive Committee

May 11
Resolutions Committee

May 16
Ad Hoc Social Justice Committee
Grievance Committee

May 17
Executive Committee

May 18
AGM – Elections

May 25
AGM - Budget

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:h'əh' (Kwantlen), q'ic'əy' (Katzie), qiq'əyt (Qayqayt) and səm'i'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.