

STA CONNECTION

Truth and Reconciliation

On [April 19, 1884](#), the Indian Act was amended to establish the creation of residential 'schools'. The NFB film [We were Children](#) illustrates what it was like to attend these 'schools'. The NFB provides [this lesson guide for the film](#) and Facing History & Ourselves offers [this resource](#).

Visit Surrey Schools One on [How to access films on NFB](#).



Action Items in this newsletter

For All Members

1. Register for STA Convention on Friday, May 6
2. Election candidate statements due May 2 at 8:30am



Collective Agreement Notes

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

An analogy to explain "restored language"

Imagine that after saving hard for many years you bought a good, reliable car in 1993. It was nothing fancy but got you between places in relative comfort and ease. Imagine that in 2002 someone took pieces of the car away: the windshield wipers, the turn signal, the radio, the heater. [Read more](#)

Restored Language

As a result of legislation in 2002 that stripped our collective agreement, [3,500 fewer teachers worked in classrooms in B.C.](#) Those positions have never actually been fully restored despite our 2016 Supreme Court win that forced the restoration of the collective agreement language that existed in 2001. Here we are in 2022 and we do not yet have full restoration of what was stripped from our collective agreement in 2002.

Remedy Agreement

The grievance officers met with the staff representatives from secondary schools to discuss best efforts to comply with the restored language of our collective agreement. It is important that members know that they are getting the remedy they have earned and that the number of minutes they get is correct. [Read more](#)

Getting ready for the AGM in May

STA Annual General Meeting plans

There are two dates for this year's AGM. On Wednesday, May 18, there will be elections for the Executive Committee positions and Resolutions committee for next year. On Wednesday May 25 we will deal with the budget, setting the fee (union dues) for next year, and by-law and policy changes and updates. Please save the dates and see the [Call for Nominations](#) for information about elections, including deadlines for submitting campaign materials.

Election Candidate Statements Deadline May 2, 2022

Statements must be received at STA office by 8:30 am, Monday, May 2, 2022, via email to sta@surreyteachers.org or via fax to 604-594-5176. The maximum length for candidate statements is 500 words, and the maximum length of video is 3 minutes. Both statements and videos will be posted to our website in the order which they are received so the earlier the better. The statements will also be compiled and distributed to the membership electronically two weeks before the election.

Health and Safety

It's important to continue doing [Daily Health Checks](#) which remain a critical step in ensuring the health and safety of staff and students. Anyone who feels unwell should not go to school. If you are unsure whether to get tested, use the BC COVID-19 [Self-Assessment Tool](#). Visit the updated [Daily Health Check guidelines](#).

Professional Development

STA Convention on Friday, May 6

Over 2600 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

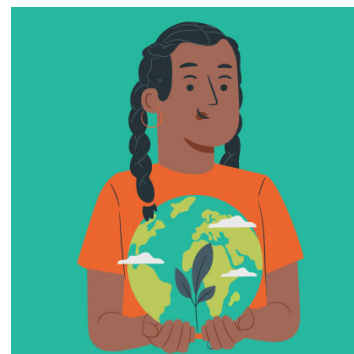
Pro-D Funding Draws

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](#)

Announcements

Dear grade 7-12 teachers!

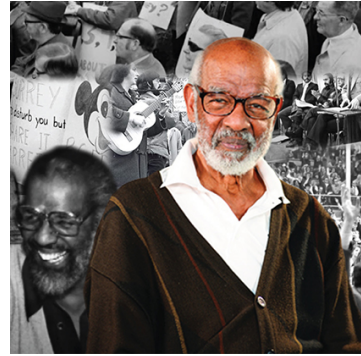
You are invited to register your class to join us at the "Empowered Girls' Conference: Taking Action on Climate and Environmental Justice", on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm. Our goal is to raise awareness of the climate crisis and empower our youth to take action while listening to inspiring and influential young Canadian women such as Raven Lily-Anne Natraoro (Indigi-Queer land defender), Zoha Faisal (Sustainabiliteens), Arshia Uppal (Climate Recentered), and Rochelle Prasad (SPARK Foundation). This event is hosted by the STA Status of Women Committee and inclusive of all genders. You can [register your class](#) to receive the Zoom link. Please contact us if you have any questions at marcakis_a@surreyschools.ca.



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.

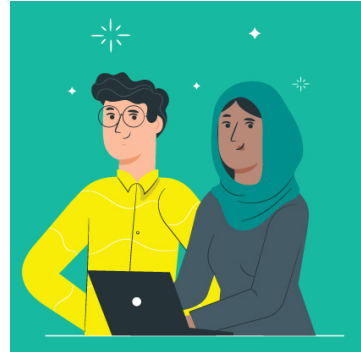
Registration closes on Tuesday, April 27. To register: <https://lloydwards2022.eventbrite.ca>



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.



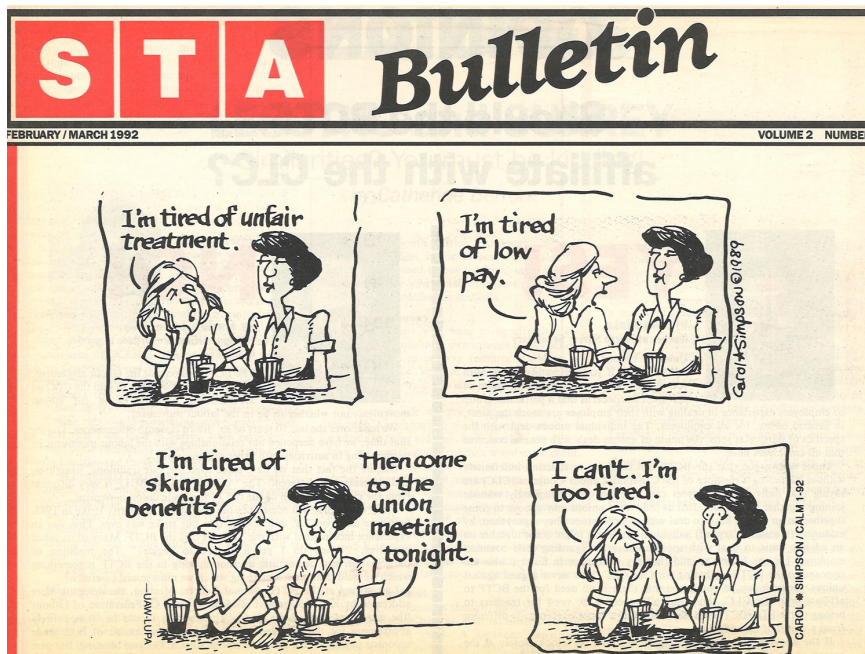
STA Retirement Celebration

Are you retiring this year? Please let Donna Stewart know at accounting@surreyteachers.org to help us keep an accurate list of 2021/2022 retirees for the STA retirement celebration. Invitations to this event will be going out soon so please pass on the message to anyone you know who may be retiring this year.

BC Retired Teachers' Association

If you missed the opportunity to register for the pension workshops at Convention, consider registering for the pre-retirement workshops offered by the [BC Retired Teachers' Association](#).

Blast from the Past



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 26

Anti-racism Committee
Ad Hoc IST Advisory Committee

April 27

PA/PR Committee
Resolutions Committee
STA/Board Liaison meeting

April 28

LGBTQ2+ Committee
Indigenous Education Committee

May 2

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Ad Hoc Young Workers' Committee

May 3

Executive Committee
Pro-D sub-committee

May 4

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

May 5

International Solidarity Committee

May 6

[STA Convention](#)

May 9

Economic Justice Committee
Pro-D Committee

May 10

Status of Women Committee – dinner meeting

May 11

Resolutions Committee
Local Reps meeting

May 12

Labour Affairs Committee

May 16

Cross Committee Meeting
Grievance Committee

May 17

Executive Committee

May 18

Annual General Meeting – Elections

May 19

Indigenous Education

May 24

PA/PR Committee

May 25

Annual General Meeting – 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:á'á'əh' (Kwantlen), q'ícəy' (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.