

STA CONNECTION

Truth and Reconciliation

Education pre-colonization

Last week George Gordon First Nation in Saskatchewan became the [10th community to announce that unmarked graves](#) had been found near a residential 'school'. To gain a deeper understanding of the impact of these 'schools', contrast the 'education' of First Nations children at residential 'schools' with how they were educated before colonization. [From page 7 on in this guide](#), you'll learn that before colonization First Nations educated their children in ways that were grounded in spiritual traditions. Children learned about their world through "storytelling, through example, and by participation in rituals, festivals, and individual coming-of-age ceremonies."

Indigenous Month Edition of The Advocate

Have you been using the lesson resources suggested in the Truth and Reconciliation section of the STAC each week? If so, please consider submitting an article about your experiences for the next Advocate which is scheduled to be published in June 2022 in recognition of National Aboriginal Day. Have you taken a personal pledge to work on truth and reconciliation? Consider writing an article about your experiences fulfilling your pledge. Submit all articles to communications@surreyteachers.org by Monday, May 9.

Action Items in this newsletter

For All Members

1. Awards
2. Call for nominations
3. STA Convention
4. [Register](#) for AGM: May 18 and May 25, 4 pm on Zoom



Awards

STA Awards STA Scholarships and Bursaries

Every Spring, the STA sends \$1,500 to each Secondary school-site and \$500 to each Learning Centre for scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. The STA also grants 4 Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Awards and two Indigenous Students bursaries. **Deadline for applications is May 13, 2022.** [Read More](#)

Getting ready for the AGM in May

Two dates for STA Annual General Meeting

On **Wednesday, May 18**, there will be elections for the Executive Committee positions and Resolutions committee for next year. Six Pro-D funding draws will also occur at this meeting.

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. Six Pro-D funding draws will also occur at this meeting.

[Register](#) to attend the AGM.



Call for Nominations

Annual General Meeting – Elections

Our union is only as strong as members make it! Submit your candidate statement to the STA office by 8:30 am on **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.

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.

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 here. [Read More](#)

Health and Safety

Increase in COVID cases

There's increasing numbers of COVID cases in the Fraser Health Region. The latest data – for April 23 – shows **831 new cases which increased from 580** in the previous reporting period. 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](#).

Fraser Health Latest Data

As of April 16



As of April 23



Professional Development

STA Convention on Friday, May 6

Have you registered yet? There are still spots available in some [excursion workshops!](#)

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

Communications Coordinator Job Opportunity at the STA

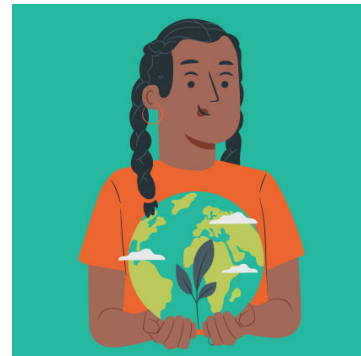
We are seeking an STA member to help us at the office with our communications work for the coming school year. The person will have great writing skills, be adept with social media strategies, and be passionate about public education and union work. This job will be 3 days per week for the 2022-23 school year. Attached to this newsletter is the STA CV form. To apply for this position, please complete the form and submit it, along with some recent original writing in any format on any topic, to sta@surreyteachers.org before **noon on May 20, 2022**.

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.

Empowered Girls Conference

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.



Save the Date: Myrna McCullum

[Register](#) to attend the Myrna McCullum Zoom Session on **June 7, 2022 at 3:15 to 4:30 pm**. Myrna McCallum is a lawyer and the host of “The Trauma-Informed Lawyer” Podcast. Myrna educates on trauma-informed practice, vicarious trauma, cultural humility, and Indigenous intergenerational trauma. This after-school session will be a follow-up to the session held in September 2021.



Sooke Teachers’ Association Pro-D on May 13

[Register](#) to attend the Hope’N’Action Pro-D hosted by the Sooke Teachers’ Association. *Speak to your site-based Pro-D rep about how to access funding to attend this Pro-D event.*



Blast from the Past

At the March 7 1997 STA Convention, Canadian Astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk was the keynote speaker. Convention Chair Peggy Lee poses with him in this picture.

STA BULLETIN

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Convention an astronomical success

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Photo: Karen Kilbride

STAR TREKKING - STA Convention Chair Peggy Lee poses with Canadian astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk, keynote speaker at the March 7 Convention.

Upcoming Events

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

May 26

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

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:ń'əń (Kwantlen), q'ícəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (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.