

STA CONNECTION

Truth and Reconciliation

Lives of Indigenous Women Pre-Colonization

The Indian Act dramatically changed the lives of Indigenous women. Before the Indian Act was implemented, “many Indigenous Peoples came from matrilineal societies meaning that; wealth, power, and inheritance were passed down through their mothers.” Read the article, [Resilient, Strong and Indigenous](#) by Bronte Phillips.



Indigenous Month Edition of The Advocate

Have you changed your teaching practice or integrated First Peoples’ Principles of Learning into classroom activities? Please consider making a submission about your experiences for the next Advocate which is scheduled to be published in June 2022 in recognition of National Aboriginal Day. Poetry, reflections, lesson plans – all welcome! Send submissions to communications@surreyteachers.org by **Tuesday, May 24.**

Action Items in this newsletter

For Staff Reps

- [Request a school visit](#) to discuss provincial bargaining

For All Members

- [Register to attend](#) the AGM on May 18 and May 25



Provincial Bargaining

To read all the proposals that the BCTF and BCPSEA have on the table right now, you need to log in to the [BCTF website](#) with your *personal* email and navigate to Bargaining Updates.



School Visits

We’d like to visit you at your school/worksite to host an in-person and in-committee **bargaining update**. Please [complete this form](#) to let us know when a good time would be. The visit will take 30 to 40 minutes, and there is funding available for snacks!



STA Annual General Meeting

Steps to Shorten the AGMs on May 18 and May 25

Thank you to everyone who responded to our Governance Meetings survey. We appreciate the suggestions and hope the following ensures shorter AGMs this year.

- Please log in to the meeting at **3:45pm** so that technical issues can be sorted out in time.
- If **at least 150 members** are logged in to the meeting by 4pm, the **meeting will start on time**.
- The meeting will be chaired by a **BCTF AGM chairperson**.
- **An Ombudsperson and Technical support** will be available separately from the meeting
- During the AGM for elections there will be **no guest speakers**.

Twenty-One Positions to be Elected

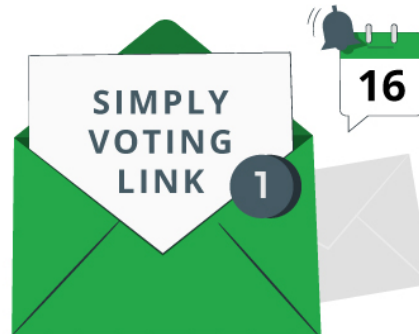
Twenty-one positions on the STA Executive and seven positions on the Resolutions Committee are up for election on Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Attached to this newsletter are the [candidate statements](#) that were received by the deadline. All statements, including those that were submitted after the deadline, are [available to be read](#) on the website. You must be registered to attend and to vote at the AGM. [Register here](#) to have a say in who leads the STA!

Steps for voting in election on May 18, 2022

Step 1 [Register](#)



Step 2 Get email from Surrey Teachers' Association with Simply Voting Link that will be sent on **Monday, May 16**, in the afternoon.



Step 3 Have the email with the Simply Voting link open at 4pm on **Wednesday, May 18**, when the meeting begins.



Collective Agreement Notes

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

Failure to fill Agreement

On May 03, the Association signed an amended agreement with the School District that resolves several grievances related primarily to special education classes, staffing ratios, caseloads, and failures to fill that dated back to 2017. [Read more](#)

LST Cuts

We at the STA are concerned that LST departments are once again facing reductions in staffing. Cuts in LST have significant negative impacts on our most vulnerable learners in our schools, and cause disruption and additional stressors on the rest of the teaching staff. We continue to advocate at all levels of the district to protect and increase LST staffing. Please contact Joanna Cerazy (grieve1@surreyteachers.org) or Kelli O'Malley (grieve2@surreyteachers.org) to discuss any particular staffing issues that the decrease in entitlement may have caused at your school.

Round Two

Round 2 of the Transfer Process will begin on **Tuesday, May 24**. Make sure your personal information page on Employee Self-Serve makes it clear how you are qualified for the position for which you are applying. You have the option on this page to indicate whether or not you agree to have your current principal or vice-principal contacted for a reference. [Read more](#)

Health and Safety

Health & Safety Rep Training CHANGE

We've now opened up these workshops to all STA members of Health and Safety Committees who are now hereby invited to join this workshop on **May 24 or May 25, or May 27, 2022** from 8:45 am to 2:45 pm to review the WCB section on violence protection and learn about the process of refusal of unsafe work in the school context. [Register now](#)



COVID Cases Remain High

Please remember that there may be members on your staff that are immuno-compromised and particularly vulnerable to COVID. If you are organizing an event for staff, please continue to have a virtual option to include those who continue to be concerned about large meetings in person. Although hospitalizations are decreasing, COVID remains very present in our community.



Professional Development

Reflection by Marilyn Carr, Convention Committee member

Convention... that time of year when you get to see all your teacher friends... oops, wait... we're still online. Not to worry, we know how to do this! Wake up, grab a coffee and a little bite to eat, get your tech setup, maybe check in on your kids to make sure they're occupied and we're off. Another virtual adventure. What will I learn today? Who will I see in the chat or participants list? Can I get into my sessions? So many questions, but we can do this, remember? It's year 3. Let's go! [Read more](#)

Summer Pro-D

Meetings to decide on summer Pro-D should happen *after Round Two* so that the staff who will be at the school in September are able to vote. Remember that the meeting can happen at any time as long as staff have one week's notice. The vote must be in person, by *secret ballot*, at a staff meeting with the principal present with no votes by proxy or email. Please note that the STA has asked the district several times to change the rules about summer Pro-D votes without success. [Read more](#)

Announcements

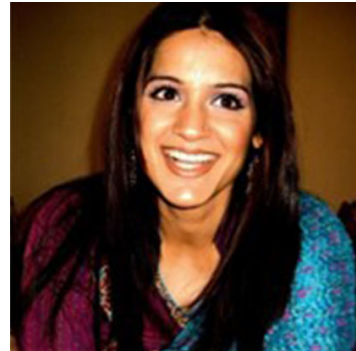
Meeting with the Surrey School Board

When members of the STA executive committee met with the Surrey School Board on Wednesday, April 27, we all agreed that the per-pupil funding formula fails utterly to address the needs of students in the biggest school district in B.C. Our advocacy has a shared goal: funding that fully supports all Surrey students.



Sad News: Hardip Gill Lindner

Hardip Gill Lindner was born September 19, 1970 and passed away unexpectedly on April 19, 2021. She is survived by her parents, brother, husband, and two young children. Fondly remembered by her many friends as a rainbow, she was inspirational, thoughtful, and compassionate. She was most recently a teacher at Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary, and before that Adams Road Elementary. Prior to that, she had been a teacher in Langley for 23 years before transferring to Surrey in September 2021. STA president, Jatinder Bir and Accommodations Officer Dana Neidig attended Hardip's funeral on April 28, 2022. Our sincere condolences go out to all who knew her.

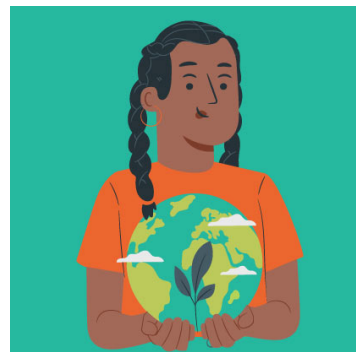


Communications Coordinator Job Opportunity at the STA

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. To apply for this position, please [complete and submit the form](#), along with some recent original writing in any format on any topic, to sta@surreyteachers.org before **noon on May 20, 2022**.

Empowered Girls Conference: May 24

Grade 7-12 teachers are invited to register their 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. [Register](#) to receive the Zoom link. Please contact us if you have any questions at marcakis_a@surreyschools.ca.



Young Worker Pub Night: June 9

Hosted by the STA Young Worker Committee, this event for members aged 35 and under is aimed at connecting with our profession's leaders of tomorrow! Come meet the Young Worker team, socialize in a friendly and supportive environment, and share your ideas on future events! There will be games to play and awesome prizes to be won! [Register now](#)

Please note: The social space at the Dublin Crossing Irish Pub is on the second floor of the venue. There are stairs that may provide difficulty for some participants. Contact reception@surreyteachers.org if you have questions.



STA Retirement Celebration: June 10

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 have been distributed so please pass on the message to anyone you know who may be retiring this year.

BCTF Pensions Seminars

Presented by Sarb Lalli, Assistant Director, Pensions, every Wednesday from May 4 - May 25, 2022, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, the seminar is intended to help members learn about how their pension plan works, factors to consider when planning for retirement, and to become informed about their pension options. Upcoming seminars on May 18 & 25. The content of each session is the same. [Join via Zoom](#)

SHIFT: Action for Pension Wealth and Planet Health

On May 25, join working and retired teachers, healthcare workers, college and university staff and faculty, and municipal and provincial government employees from across BC to learn how you can take action on the climate crisis while protecting your pension savings. [Register now](#)

Shout Out!

To be included in the next draw for a \$25 Indigo gift certificate, [submit your "shout outs"](#) before 4pm on Friday, May 27, 2022.



Upcoming Events

May 16

Cross Committee Meeting
Grievance Committee

May 17

Executive Committee

May 18

[AGM – Elections](#)

May 19

Indigenous Education
Education Governance

May 24

[Empowered Girls' Conference](#)
[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)
PA/PR Committee

May 25

[AGM – Budget](#)
[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)

May 26

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

May 26

BCTF Spring Representative Assembly

May 27

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)

May 31

Executive Committee

June 1

STARA Steering Committee
Health and Safety Committee

June 6

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Pro-D Committee

June 7

Status of Women Committee Dinner Meeting

June 8

Bargaining Committee

June 9

New Teachers Conference (TTOCs)
[Young Worker Pub Night](#)
Indigenous Education Committee at
Milestones

June 10

STA Retirement Celebration

June 15

Year End STARA meeting

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^wa:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), qⁱcáy (Katzie), qⁱqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmí'á: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.