

STA CONNECTION

Action Items

1. Send in Staff Rep Forms to STA Office
2. Register for SGM and STARA on September 21
3. Register for Pro-D Rep Training
4. Register for Staff Rep Training
5. School Visits

1. 2022-2023 Election of School Union Reps

Elected reps should ensure that the [School Information Update Form](#) is completed as soon as possible and forwarded to Sheila Batin at repsupport@surreyteachers.org or by courier to STA #000.

2. Special General Meeting and STARA on: Wednesday, 21 September via Zoom

On Wednesday, September 21 at 4:00 pm, the STA will be holding a Special General Meeting and a Staff Representative Assembly (STARA). [Register to attend](#)

During the SGM we will hear a Bargaining Update. During the STARA there will be an election for the STARA Steering Committee and the TTOC Committee. **The election for delegates to the November 21 – 25 BCFED Convention has been postponed to a SGM on October 19.**

3. Register for Pro-D Rep Training

We have scheduled training for experienced reps on September 22, 28, 29, and October 3 and 6. Rookie rep training is scheduled on September 20. All training will be in-person at the STA office.

Register:

[New to to Role Pro-D Rep Training](#)

[Returning to the Role Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Important note: Pro-D Funds will only be released to your school once you have attended a Pro D training session.

4. Register for Staff Rep Training

New Staff Reps: "Role and Function of the Staff Rep" workshop on **October 4, 5, or November 2**. [Register now](#)

All Staff Reps: "Having Conversations" workshop on **October 18, 19, or 20**. Please watch for registration information closer to the date since it is a first come first serve event.

5. School Visits

We'd like to visit your school! Complete the [School Visit Form](#) to let us know which date you would prefer. We are available for lunch or after school visits.

Truth and Reconciliation

Suggested Resources

Looking for ways to recognize and support student learning centered around Truth and Reconciliation, consider the following resources:

1. [Gladys We Never Knew: The life of a child in a BC Indian Residential School](#) (Grades 4-7, 8-9)
This eBook is intended to be an interactive resource leading educators from the story to the 'back story' utilizing links on each page to offer related resources. Throughout this book you will find Project of Heart tiles with an 'aura' which indicates that this is a link. Click on each of these tiles to find additional resources including films, videos, documents, articles, activities and more.
 2. [Remembering the Children](#) (Grades 5-12)
To guide teachers in their own learning and to help bring truth and reconciliation into their classrooms, this publication will be accompanied by supplementary educational resources available in English and French. The magazine is offered in print and digital formats in both English and French.
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Collective Agreement Notes

Failure to fill Agreement

On May 03, 2022, 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 the amended agreement](#)

If you have any questions regarding the Failure to Fill Agreement, please contact Amrit Sanghe, Grievance officer, at grieve1@surreyteachers.org.

Job Shares

In February of 2021, the employer notified us that it would no longer allow job share partners to "swap days" (trade or swap days outside of their regularly scheduled days of work without accessing leave entitlements). The union subsequently grieved this. [Read more](#)

Did you know...

You can read current and past Negotiated Agreements on our STA website, please visit our [Negotiated Agreements page](#).

Staff Reps

The staff rep is the peer of the principal in matters related to the interpretation and application of the Collective Agreement in the school. The tasks of the staff rep may be shared among reps, and we are always here to help, inform, and support you in this important role. We will also train you. [Read more](#)

Health and Safety

Injured at Work (including COVID)

If you are injured at work, it is important to call the WorkSafeBC Claims Call Centre at 604.231.8888. They will give you a claim number to put on your Form 6a. The Form 6a is the WorkSafeBC form entitled "Worker's Report of Injury or Occupational Disease to Employer". Make sure you fill out a [Form 6A](#) for the time you are sick to be covered by WorkSafeBC. [Read more](#)

COVID Supplies

The District continues to have COVID supplies available. These supplies include hand sanitizer, face shields, and disposable masks (including medical masks for staff required to provide personal care and First Aid Attendants) are available to be ordered by placing a workorder through SchoolDude by selecting the Transportation craft.

Student School Attendance

Students may attend school upon returning from international travel, provided they adhere to the following requirements. [Read more](#)

Peer Support

Volunteer as a Peer Support Consultant

As you continue growing in your teaching career, you may feel the desire to give back to the profession in the same way that others helped you at various points in your career. The STA is currently looking for additional teachers who are interested in volunteering as a Peer Support Consultant. Please return your completed [Peer Support Volunteer Application form](#) to the STA office by Friday, September 30, 2022. [Read more](#)

Professional Development

Pro-D Rep Opportunities

Teaching History this year? There are Two Online Professional Development Series on Historical Thinking – Starting in September! [Read more](#)

- [Virtual Historical Thinking Institute \(VHTI\)](#)
8 sessions for \$175 +GST
- [Historical Thinking Community of Practice \(HTCP\)](#)
6 sessions for \$150 +GST

Monthly Support for Grade 4-7 Teachers Teaching Core French

Tanya Campbell from the [BCATML](#) and Jennifer Slack from MyPita are holding their Core French support sessions again this year. All teachers teaching Grade 4-7 Core French are welcome to these online monthly meetings! If you're looking for resources, don't reinvent the wheel... come see how others have done it! All levels of French knowledge are welcome; discussions will be in English. [Read more](#)

Multi-Cultural Training Tour Opportunity on September 24, 2022

Did you know the changing demographics affect the way we teach? Bridge-building experience has been described as a fascinating, educational, and enriching experience. The day includes a guided visit to a Muslim Mosque, Sikh Temple, and a Hindu Temple. Registration is \$99 per person including a training tour certificate. [Register now](#)

Are you a Chair of an LSA?

To continue our support of Local Specialist Associations, we are asking all LSA Chairs to submit their information as soon as possible via our [LSA Information Google form](#).

Social Justice

Calling all Social Justice Reps and interested members!

Are you or someone at your school doing something to help your community? Are you involved in an action committee that you would like to highlight? Maybe you attended the Surrey Pride parade and would like to submit a picture and/or story. We want to hear from you. Email Marilyn Carr at communications@surreyteachers.org if you would like to submit an announcement, picture and/or story for our weekly STAC.

September 18: Rights, Regularization, Status for All!

On September 18 – one day before Canadian Parliament returns – we will gather in the thousands across the country to demand equal rights and permanent resident status for all undocumented people, migrant workers, students, families and refugees. A historic regularization program is on the horizon, but we need to take to the streets to ensure that no one is left behind. This is the one, ALL OUT! [Find an action near you](#) or organize your own.

Gender Equality Week: September 18-24

The theme this year is [Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities](#).

“It inspires us to continue working together to break down the barriers preventing us from becoming who we aspire to be because of our gender. While we all have the same rights in the eyes of the law, regardless of our gender, we currently don’t all have access to the same opportunities, and this must change. Let’s keep pushing for change so everyone can reach their full potential and live free of discrimination.”

Learn more about ways you can integrate gender equality into you lesson plans using the [Learning Toolkit for Gender Equality Week](#).

Announcements

Call for Nominations for STA Executive Committee

Due to two new vacancies on the STA Executive Committee, there will be elections for the roles of Member-at-Large and Representative of TTOC & Early Career at a SGM preceding the October 19 STARA. Candidate statements should be submitted to Stamata reception@surreyteachers.org by 8:30am on **Thursday, September 29**.

September 19

The **Surrey Teachers’ Association Office will be closed on September 19**. On September 13th, the [Government of BC issued a statement](#) directing all schools (K-12) to close on September 19th in observance of the Queen’s funeral and commemorate her years of service. This means that all of our schools, facilities and district sites will be closed on Monday, September 19, 2022.

September 30

The **Surrey Teachers’ Association Office will be closed on September 30** in observance of National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

ShareEdBC

Members who receive invitations to participate in ShareEdBC are reminded of this note published in the STA Connection in March 2021:

The BCTF has significant concerns about the influence of corporate funding in the development process of ShareEdBC, the collection of teachers’ data when teachers create a profile on this new website, and the ability to rate the work of colleagues. We recommend members use the BCTF resource sharing site, TeachBC, rather than ShareEdBC and advise that BCTF members do not participate in any voluntary opportunities involving the further development of ShareEdBC.

Upcoming Events

September 20

[New to the Role Pro-D Rep Training](#)

September 21

[Special General Meeting and STARA Meeting](#)

September 22

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

International Solidarity Committee Meeting

September 27

Executive Committee Meeting

September 28

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Awards Committee Meeting

September 29

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Tentative Candidates Townhall Meeting

September 30

Orange Shirt Day

National Truth & Reconciliation Day

October 3

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee

Meeting

Pro-D Committee Meeting

October 5

World Teacher Day Event

Other Important Dates

September 18-24

[Gender Equality Week](#)

September 19-25

[National Forest Week](#)

September 21

[UN International Day of Peace](#)

September 23

[The 2022 Global Climate Strike](#)

September 26-30

[Truth and Reconciliation Week](#)

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:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), q'icəy (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.