

STA CONNECTION

Message from the President

Dear friends,

This Friday, September 30, is a sombre day of remembrance and reflection where we pause to consider the many injustices our country has inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples. This day, a result of one of 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report, is a recognition of the tragic legacy of residential schools: the missing children, the families left behind, and the difficult lives of the survivors of those institutions.

Last year, on the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, many teachers observed the day in humility and respect and used the time to increase their learning through reading the TRC report, attending remembrance events, quietly reflecting, and actively considering acts of reconciliation and decolonization.

For our Indigenous colleagues, and members who have indigenous family ties, I know that this is a deeply personal and vulnerable time and please know that I stand with you.

In remembrance, let us, the settlers of Canada, reflect on the history of the residential school system and honour the resilience, dignity and strength of the survivors and remember the children who never came home.

Sincerely,

Jatinder Kaur Bir

Action Items

1. FSA Opt-out Pamphlets
2. World Teachers' Day Celebration
3. Trustee Candidates Town Hall
4. SGM and STARA on October 19 at Bombay Palace
5. BCFED Convention

1. FSA Opt-out Pamphlets

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, there's a delay in getting the FSA Opt-Out pamphlets to schools this year. We anticipate that the materials will arrive at the schools on the **October 6** or **October 12**. Please let Shiela Batin at repsupport@surreyteachers.org know if your school is starting FSAs within the first two weeks of October and we will prioritize your school accordingly. Alternatively, you can download the [digital version](#) and share directly with parents.

Please note: if you send them home with students, they must be in a sealed envelope indicating it is a message for parents from the union.

2. World Teachers' Day Celebration

On World Teachers' Day on October 5, you're invited to an in-person celebration to honour all the hard work and tumultuous times we have been through over the last two

years. There'll be tasty treats and one drink ticket per STA attendee. [RSVP now](#)

The locations this year are: **The Taphouse Guildford** (15330 102a Ave, Surrey, BC), **Dublin Crossing Irish Pub** (18789 Fraser Hwy #101, Surrey, BC), **S+L Kitchen & Bar in South Surrey** (16051 24 Ave, Surrey, BC)



3. Trustee Candidates' Town Hall October 6, 2022

The STA is hosting a virtual town hall for the School Trustee Candidates running in the upcoming Municipal Election. Bring your questions for candidates to the webinar from 6pm -7:30pm. Surrey teachers are Surrey voters – and your vote matters! Come and hear how the candidates will respond to the concerns of Surrey teachers.

[Join the Zoom Webinar](#)

Webinar ID: 832 3695 4868

Passcode: 821423

By Telephone +1 778 907 2071



3. Staff Rep Training

Register for "Having Conversations" workshop on October 18, 19, or 20. This training is for Returning Staff Reps and/or Staff Reps who completed the Rookie Staff Rep Training. We will examine how we can all improve our communication skills by paying attention to our conversations, and in turn help us enhance our work with colleagues, students, and parents. [Register now](#)



4. Special General Meeting and STARA: Wednesday, October 19 at Bombay Palace

On Wednesday, October 19, there will be a Special General Meeting and a Staff Representative Assembly (STARA). During the SGM there will be elections for a Member-at-Large and a TTOC & Early Career Representative as well as an election for delegates to November 21 – 25 BCFED Convention.

5. BCFED Convention

The 60th BCFED Convention will be held on November 21 - 25, 2022. Attendees will be elected at the October 19 SGM. If you would like to attend this year's convention as a delegate, please submit your name to reception@surreyteachers.org before 12 noon on Friday, October 14, 2022. For more information, please visit this year's [BCFED Convention page](#).

Truth and Reconciliation

Professional Standards for BC Educators

There is a [new video](#) on the government's YouTube channel that is meant to encourage BC certified educators in upholding Professional Standard 9 of the [Professional Standards for BC Educators](#). The video shows educators how to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum, and develop respectful relationships with First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities.

9 | Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Share your Truth and Reconciliation Actions

We're gathering stories from members who have been taking action in support of the [TRC's 94 Calls to Action](#). If you have been taking action in your classroom, in your school and/or in your community, let us know. Submit the story of your action/s (and any images that would be okay to share in a future publication) to Marilyn Carr, our Communications Co-Ordinator at communications@surreyteachers.org and we will send a gift your way. Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.

Collective Agreement Notes

Variations

Variance applications will be sent out with next week's STA Connection. Variance applications must be reviewed by your school's Staff Committee and submitted to the STA Office by November 15th at 4pm. Contact Amrit Sanghe at grieve1@surreyteachers.org for any questions about variations.

Bargaining Updates

Check out [bargaining updates on the BCTF portal website](#). If you have forgotten your password, you can click on the "Forgot your password" link, and they will send you a password reset link through your email. If you are logging in for the first time, go to <https://www.bctf.ca/>, click the Get a BCTF Account "Register" button. The email address associated with your BCTF.ca login is the email to which you receive BCTF News communications. For assistance, please use the [Login support request form](#).

Grievance Support

TTOC on Day of Mourning, September 19

TTOCs, did you accept an assignment for Monday, September 19 and then have it cancelled after the Day of Mourning was announced? Please contact our Health and Safety/Grievance Officer Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org so he can support you in pursuing the matter.

Remedy Story

At the heart of the remedy story is the 2002 illegal stripping of the language we had in our contracts in the 1990s. This is the language that was supposed to have been "restored" as a result of our win at the Supreme Court in November 2016. If the language had been restored, there would have been many more teachers hired to ensure that classes were in compliance or even below the size and composition language we had fought for and won through local bargaining before 1994. [Read more](#)

Health and Safety

TTOC Sick Leave

The Employer has informed us they are using the same procedure as last year for TTOCs accessing sick days. If a TTOC has booked an assignment and then becomes sick, they should email dispatch@surreyschools.org on the morning the assignment begins and phone the school to inform them they will be using a sick day.



Summer School Teachers

While you were teaching Summer School, did you need to take time off from teaching because you were sick? Were you paid for the time you were off sick? If not, please contact our Health and Safety/Grievance Officer Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org so he can support you in pursuing the matter.

Professional Development

Pro-D Rep Training

Thank you to reps who have come out to our Pro-D Rep training so far! Your dedication and hard work are vital to our schools and our union, supporting the professional learning and autonomy of our colleagues.

The October 3 and 6 Pro-D Rep training sessions are currently full, but you can email Shiela Batin at repsupport@surreyteachers.org to be added to the waitlist. If you know you can't attend one of these sessions, please remove your name from the list by sending an email to Shiela Batin at repsupport@surreyteachers.org.



Every Teacher needs a PSA #PSAday

Provincial Specialist Associations (PSAs) are a way for members to exchange ideas on research, teaching strategies, curriculum development, and other shared interests. Our October PSA Professional Development Day on Friday, October 21 is fast approaching. You can visit <http://www.psaday.ca/> to find out what conferences are available. You can use either your Individual Professional Development Funds or Consolidated Professional Development Funds to pay for these conferences. [Read more](#)



Upcoming Events

STA Events

October 3

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee Meeting
Pro-D Committee Meeting

October 4

[New to the Role Staff Rep Training](#)

October 5

[New to the Role Staff Rep Training](#)
[World Teachers' Day Celebration](#)

October 6

[Trustee Candidates Town Hall](#)

October 11

Resolutions Committee Full Day Meeting
Executive Committee Meeting

October 12

Indigenous Education Committee

October 13

Convention Committee
Labour Affairs Committee
BCTF Zones

October 17

Finance Committee

October 18

[Returning Staff Rep Training](#)

October 19

[Returning Staff Rep Training](#)

October 18

[Returning Staff Rep Training](#)

Other Important Dates

October

Learning Disability Awareness Month
[Women's History Month](#)

October 1

[International Day of Older Persons](#)
[End Racism, Build Peace Multicultural Festival](#)

October 2

[International Day of Non-Violence](#)

October 3

[World Habitat Day](#)

October 3-9

[National Family Week](#)

October 4

[Sisters in Spirit Day](#)

October 5

[World Teachers' Day | UNESCO](#)

For more, visit [United Nations International awareness dates](#)

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:ḥ'əḥ (Kwantlen), q'icəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'ɑ: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.