

# STA CONNECTION

October 3-7, 2022

## Action Items

1. Vote in Municipal Election 2022
2. Attend SGM and STARA on October 19 at Bombay Banquet Hall
3. Submit name to attend BCFED Convention as a delegate

### 1. Municipal Election: Saturday, October 15, 2022

The Municipal elections on October 15 provide teachers with an opportunity to vote for Trustees who will stand up for better working and learning conditions.

Check out this [list of School Trustee candidates](#) that have either been endorsed or supported by various labour councils and/or locals.



### 2. Special General Meeting and STARA: Wednesday, October 19

On Wednesday, October 19 at 4:00 pm, there will be a Special General Meeting and a Staff Representative Assembly (STARA) at Bombay Banquet Hall (7475 135 Street, Surrey). 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.

Need childcare in order to attend meeting? [Read more](#)

### 3. 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](mailto:reception@surreyteachers.org) **before 12 noon on Friday, October 14, 2022**. For more information, please visit this year's [BCFED Convention page](#).

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## Truth and Reconciliation

### Global Peace Alliance Festival

Teachers Niovi Patsicakis, Raman Sangha-Dhami, Annie Ohana, and retired teacher Karen Kilbride, were involved in the planning and execution of the Global Peace Alliance Festival on October 1. Student volunteers from LA Matheson and from other peace and community organizations in Surrey and Vancouver were amazingly helpful throughout the day. There were exceptional children's multicultural performances, many from Surrey and art and literary contest participants who received awards and prizes for their work. [Read more](#)

### 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](mailto: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

### Job Share Day Swapping

We have heard from some job share partners that their principal is under the impression that day swapping (switching days without using a sick day or personal discretionary day) is discontinued. We have confirmed with the District that the practice of day swapping will continue until the conclusion of provincial bargaining. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) if you have any difficulty day swapping.

### Variance to the Instruction Day

Article D.22.1 of the collective agreement limits the length of a school's instructional day. Some courses involve multi-grade classes that do not fit neatly within a timetable designed to comply with the collective agreement. For years, the Association has approved a limited number of "variances" to the instructional day to accommodate such courses.

The process of looking at possible variances to the school day for the 2023 – 2024 secondary classes has begun. The [variance application form](#) is attached to this week's STAC. The forms need to be completed and returned to the STA office by **November 15, 2022**. [Read more](#)

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## Health and Safety

### Sick Leave

It's that time of year when flu season is ramping up and COVID cases are increasing. We want to remind you that if you are sick, please book a sick day. As teachers, we often feel guilty about taking time off knowing that it might be challenging for your students and/or school staff. It is important that you take care of yourself. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) if you are having any issues regarding sick leave.



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## Professional Development

### 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](#)



## Announcements

### Staff Rep Training: Having Conversations Sessions Waitlist

All sessions are full for October 18, 19, and 20th. If you would like to add your name to waitlist for a possible upcoming session, please email Shiela Batin at [repsupport@surreyteachers.org](mailto:repsupport@surreyteachers.org).

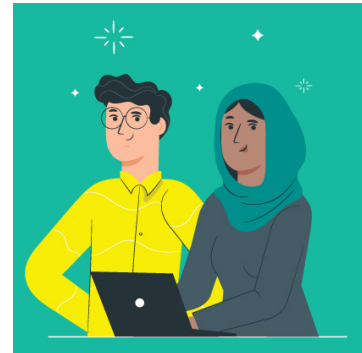
### World Teachers Day Event

Thank you to all who came out to our World Teachers Day event on Wednesday, October 5th. It was a huge success and so lovely to finally see everyone in person. We would love to hear your stories and see your pictures of the event. Please submit any stories (and any images that would be okay to share in a future publication) to Marilyn Carr, our Communications Co-Ordinator at [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org). Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.

### New Teachers' Conference

Are you new to teaching? You can attend our New Teachers' Conference that will be held at the STA on Wednesday, October 26 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](#)

Registration is open to teachers in the first 3 (or so) years of teaching, who have not attended before. Teachers Teachingon-Call who do not have a part-time contract are not eligible to attend this event.



### 20th Annual Community Leader Awards 2022 Seeking Nominations

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized and receive a Community Leader Award for being active, selfless, and giving of their personal time to serve their neighbourhoods and people in Surrey?

Deadline for nominations is Oct 23. The awards ceremony will be held at Eagle Quest Golf and Country Club Nov. 21. For more information, visit the [Surrey Now Leader Coach Contest page](#).

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## Social Justice

### Learning Disability Awareness Month

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month in Canada. It is a month to learn more about the challenges that individuals with learning disabilities face and to consider what kind of support school staff can offer."

[The Inclusion ABCs](#) and [Creating Inclusive Plans](#) can help teachers to embed inclusive practice in their classrooms and/or school.

### Social Justice Classroom Resources

Find K-12 lessons available in English and French on a variety of social justice topics at the [BCTF Social Justice Resource page](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

**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](#)  
SGM/STARA Meeting - Bombay Banquet Hall

**October 20**  
[Returning Staff Rep Training](#)  
International Solidarity Committee

**October 20**  
Professional Development PSA Day

**October 24**  
Local Representatives

### Other Important Dates

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

**October 11**  
[Coming Out Day](#)  
[International Day of the Girl](#)

**October 16**  
[World Food Day](#)  
[Diwali Downtown Surrey Event](#)

**October 17**  
[International Day for The Eradication of Poverty](#)

**October 18**  
[Person's Day](#)

**October 24**  
Diwali/Bandi Chhor Divas  
[World Development Information Day](#)

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'w'a:n'á'ən (Kwantlen), q'ic'əy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'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.