

# STA CONNECTION

October 17-21, 2022

## Action Items

1. Wear Red for Ed on Wednesdays
2. Invite Table Officers to visit your school
3. Register for the Pro-D Rep Training
4. Register for Health & Safety Rep Training

### 1. Red for Ed on Wednesdays

We are reviving our Red for Ed campaign. Wear your Red for Ed T-shirts on Wednesdays to bring attention to the impacts of loss of service to students when there are no TTOCs to cover absences of specialist teachers. Stay tuned for details on how to get more T-shirts for your staff.



### 2. 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.



### 3. Last Day of Pro-D Rep Training Day: Tuesday, October 25th

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. We have added one more session on October 25. If you have not already done so, please [register](#) to secure your spot.

### 4. Health & Safety Rep Training: Friday, October 28 or Tuesday, November 1, 2022

If you are an STA elected school Health and Safety reps this workshop is for you! It is NOT a duplicate of the District training you may have recently completed. Come join us for this important union perspective to help ensure you know your rights around violence in the workplace, harassment, refusal of unsafe work, risk assessments, safety inspections, and more. Please [register](#) to secure your spot.



## Truth and Reconciliation

### 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 created by the artist Carey Newman - Hayalthkin'geme (@blueravenart on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.



### Witness Blanket

Inspired by a woven blanket, [the Witness Blanket](#) is a large-scale work of art. It contains hundreds of items reclaimed from residential schools, churches, government buildings and traditional and cultural structures from across Canada. Here “you are invited to bear witness to the experience and the aftermath of Canada’s residential schools.” The site includes stories, and exploration of the blanket, the background and process of how and why the blanket was created, teacher and resource guides. They also offer a variety of workshops to support educators.

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## Collective Agreement Notes

### Prep Time

If you are an elementary teacher and you are receiving prep time in less than 30-minute increments, please email Amrit Sanghe at [grieve1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org).

### Recent Adult Education Agreement

On October 18, 2022, the Surrey Teachers' Association signed an agreement with the employer to ensure Adult Ed teachers at Invergarry and Queen Elizabeth were paid for the September 19th Day of Mourning for Queen Elizabeth. You can read the [full agreement](#) on the [Negotiated Agreements page](#) of the Surrey Teachers' Association website.

### Settlement Agreement of Overpayment of Remedy

On July 29, 2022, the Surrey Teacher's Association signed a settlement agreement with the employer regarding overpayment of remedy. The employer will return to individual teachers' remedy banks 50% of the remedy they deducted in February 2019 in relation to the 2017-2019 school year. [Read more](#)

### Variance to the Instructional 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

### Violent Incidents in Schools

We have had a number of calls to the office about violent incidents in schools. Some incidents involve students and others do not. WorkSafeBC says, "Violence" means "the attempted or actual exercise by a person, other than a worker, of any physical force so as to cause injury to a worker and includes any threatening statement or behavior which gives a worker reasonable cause to believe that he or she is at risk of injury." It does not have to be intentional to qualify as violence. [Read more](#)

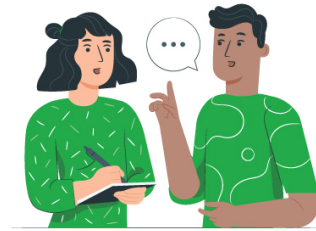
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## Peer Support

### STA Peer Support Program

You may find yourself facing unfamiliar or unexpected challenges at some point during your professional practice. Use this situation as an opportunity for growth through participation in the STA Peer Support Program. Our confidential consultants are all teachers who will support your goals in professional practice.

For more information, please visit our [Peer Support page](#), or you can contact Pauline Veto, Professional Support Services Officer, (604) 592-8392, [services@surreyteachers.org](mailto:services@surreyteachers.org).



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## Professional Development

### Professional Development for TTOCs

TTOCs can apply for ProD funding using the [TTOC Pro-D Funding application form](#). TTOCs can also access the Consolidated funds using the [Consolidated Pro-D Application form](#).

#### Here is the Collective Agreement language related to pay for TTOCs on a Pro D Day:

*B.2.13 PROFESSIONAL DAYS FOR TEACHERS TEACHING ON CALL A Teacher Teaching On Call on assignment may attend the school's professional day with pay on the approval of the school's Principal / Vice Principal providing the Teacher Teaching On Call is on assignment in the school on the day previous and the day after the school's professional day. This approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.*

### Join our Convention Committee

We are looking for some keen teachers to join the Convention Committee. Currently we have 7 vacancies on the committee. Teachers interested in joining should send their [Curriculum Vitae](#) to [reception@surreyteachers.org](mailto:reception@surreyteachers.org) for the Executive Committee to review.

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## Social Justice

### United Nations International Day of the Girl Child

October 11, 2022 was the 10th anniversary of the UN International Day of the Girl Child. It has never been more crucial that we look at the global consequences of the loss of educational opportunities for girls around the world. Nearly 1 in 4 girls aged 15–19 globally are not in education, employment or training, compared to 1 in 10 boys. Recently, we've seen the devastating news of women and girls in Afghanistan and Iran who are unable to attend school by law. If you visit [United Nations' International Day of the Girl Child page](#), there are some suggestions of ways to get involved and promote the education of girls.

### Enough Nutritious Food for Everyone, Everywhere

#WorldFoodDay was on October 16, 2022. As stated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, October's Goal of the Month is Zero Hunger. "It is marked at a time when the world faces profound food security challenges as result of conflicts, economic slowdowns and downturns, the climate emergency, environmental degradation and the knock-on effects of COVID-19. We need to build a sustainable world where everyone, everywhere has regular access to enough nutritious food. No one should be left behind." To learn more, visit United Nations' [Goal of the Month Editorial](#) and [Goal 2: Zero Hunger](#).

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## Announcements

### Congratulations!

At the Special General Meeting on Wednesday, October 19, Regie Plana-Alcuaz was elected as Member at Large and Hallan Mtatiro was elected at TTOC & Early Career Teacher Representative on the STA Executive Committee. Thank you to all candidates who responded to the call for nominations.

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### October 24

Local Representatives

#### October 25

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Executive Committee

#### October 26

[New Teachers' Conference](#)

Anti-Racism Committee

#### October 27

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

#### October 28

Local Representatives

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)

#### November 7

Pro D Committee

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee

#### November 8

Executive Committee

#### November 9

Indigenous Education Committee

#### November 10

Non-Instructional Day

#### November 14

Status of Women Committee

**November 1**  
[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)

**November 2**  
Local Representatives  
Health & Safety Committee

**November 3**  
Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee  
Convention Committee

**November 15**  
Labour Affairs Committee

**November 16**  
Reconvened AGM & Special General Meeting

**November 17**  
International Solidarity Committee

### Other Important Dates

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

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

**October 26**  
[Intersex Awareness Day](#)

**November**  
Antipoverty Month

**November 1**  
[Trans Parent Day](#)

**November 2**  
[I Read Canada Day](#)

**November 5-11**  
[Veterans Week](#)

**November 11**  
[Remembrance Day](#)

**November 16**  
[Louis Riel Day](#)

**November 17-23**  
[BC Multiculturalism Week](#)

**November 20**  
[National Child 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:rúł'əh (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.