

STA CONNECTION

October 24-28, 2022



Tempo:kw' (October 25 - November 22)
Time for Chehalis Spring Salmon



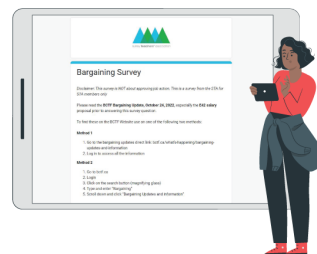
Action Items

1. Complete the Bargaining Survey
2. Wear Red for Ed on Wednesdays
3. Invite Table Officers to visit your school
4. Register for Health & Safety Rep Training
5. Register for Staff Rep Training (SURT)
6. Update contact information for the BCTF Portal

1. Bargaining Survey

Bargaining updates were released on October 24 and October 27 this week. Next week, your six Local

Representatives to the BCT, along with your Presidents will be attending a Representative Assembly. This [Bargaining Survey](#) is intended to provide the Executive Committee with insights into members' perspectives on the current state of bargaining. Please complete the survey at your earliest convenience.



2. 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 as a result of no TTOCs being dispatched to cover absences of specialist teachers. Stay tuned for details on how to get more T-shirts for your staff.

We are looking for stories from non-enrolling teachers who can share the impact of absences due to sick days and/or other leaves that don't get covered for multiple days and having to cover failures to fill in your position and the students you service. Please send them to communications@surreyteachers.org.



2. School Visits

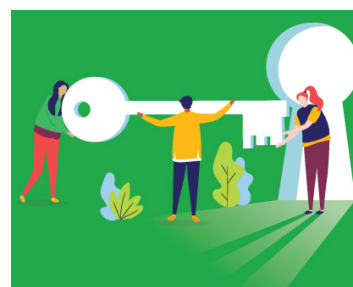
We'd like to visit your school! Complete the [School Visit Form](#) to let us know which date you would prefer. We are available for lunch or after school visits.



4. Staff Rep Training

We have just completed two sets of SURT [School Union Rep Training] sessions which were completely full for all three days. So incredible! As a result of this interest, we have opened a fourth session of "The Role of the Staff Rep" on December 1. [Register now](#)

We are also taking a waitlist for another possible offering of the "Having Conversations" session training. Please email Shiela at repsupport@surreyteachers.org to get your name on the list. If we get enough interest, we will add a future session.



3. BCTF Portal

Please make sure you update your email and mailing address registered at the BCTF website in order to access the latest news and bargaining information. 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](#).

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 to 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.



The Decolonial Atlas – Places with “Fort” in the Name

The Decolonial Atlas is a project that sheds light on colonial mapmaking. The website uses maps to highlight the impacts of colonialism. Have you noticed how many places have “fort” in their names? This image doesn't include all the cities, locals, and townships that have “Fort” in their name, but it's interesting to see this visual representation of how many “Fort” place names there are in North America. For more Indigenous Perspective maps, visit the [Decolonial Atlas page](#).



Collective Agreement Notes

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](#)

Health and Safety

WorkSafeBC and COVID-19

Many members are still contracting COVID-19. If WorkSafeBC can link your case to an exposure at school, you are entitled to have most of your sick days reimbursed by WorkSafeBC. The exact amount of reimbursement will depend on your salary. The district will use your sick days to cover time not covered by WorkSafeBC BC such that you do not lose any salary. [Read more](#)



Professional Development

November 10

The next Pro-D day is November 10. This is a teacher directed Pro-D day. Please read our [Professional Development Information](#) for some guidelines to help you make the most of your professional development.

Individual Professional Development Funds

Each school site is allocated \$97.50 per FTE in the school. Once the Pro-D Rep has attended the training here at the STA, they will hold a vote for staff to choose how that funding will be disbursed to individual members. To access Individual Professional Development Funds, members should fill out an [Individual Pro-D Funding Application](#) and have it approved by the school's Pro-D Rep. Once the event has been attended, members should send the approved form (with original receipts attached) to the STA for reimbursement. [Applications](#) can be downloaded from the STA website.

Consolidated Professional Development Funds

All STA members are entitled to apply for Consolidated Professional Development funds. A maximum of \$500.00 will be available to members on a first come, first serve basis, for a single specific event once every two years. Applications for Consolidated Funds must be pre-approved by the STA Professional Development Officer and applicants are notified by email to let them know if their request has/has not been approved (pending availability of funds at the time). [Applications](#) can be downloaded from the STA website.

A reminder that all applications can be found on the STA website and should be submitted through the courier to the STA office at #000.

Social Justice

Climate Change Resources

Looking for ways to embed climate change into your units, Canadian Geographic has some excellent [infographics](#) to “unravel the complex issue of climate change”.

Anti-Poverty Month

The [Poverty and Vulnerable Groups infographic](#) was developed by the Anti-Poverty Action Group of the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice using data from the BCTF Poverty in Education Survey and the 2015 First Call Child Poverty Report Card. Use the infographic to spark discussion in your classroom or with your colleagues during the first week of Antipoverty month in November. The [resource](#) "Anti-poverty resources: Week 1" provides activities to explore this topic further. You will need to log in to the BCTF website to access this resource.

Announcements

STA Young Workers Committee Presents Coast Salish Art Night

Come join us for a hybrid evening of drawing alongside Ovi-la Mailhot, a Coast Salish artist from the Sto:lo Nation. This event, hosted by the STA Young Workers Committee, is open to all members and aims to bring together members for a night of art, connection, and fun. You may participate through Zoom or come into the STA Office and enjoy some snacks as you draw alongside Ovi on the screen! [Register now](#) as spots are limited!



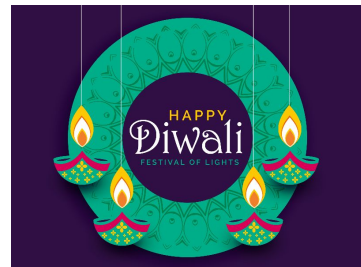
STA Fall 2022 Awards Recipients

We are happy to announce the winners of the Fall STA Awards. This past COVID year presented an extra challenge to the applicants and their families. The Awards Committee had a deep field of strong candidates to consider but found the process inspiring because of the remarkable group they were able to consider. The choice was a difficult one. [Read more](#)



Happy Diwali!

This week, Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and Buddhist communities in Surrey and around the world celebrated the Festival of Lights. Diwali represents the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, right over wrong, and the power of freedom, hope, and knowledge. This is a time for families and friends to come together to pray, exchange gifts, share meals, and light diyas in the spirit of hope. May the brightness of Diyas enlighten your world with endless hopes and inspiration.



Upcoming Events

STA Events

November 2

Local Representatives
Health & Safety Committee

November 3

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee
Convention Committee

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 15

Labour Affairs Committee

November 16

Reconvened AGM & Special General Meeting

November 17

International Solidarity Committee

November 23

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

November 24

Convention Committee

Other Important Dates

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](#)

November 25

[International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#) – 16 days of action begins
Buy Nothing 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'ən(Kwantlen), 'qic'əy (Katzie), qiq'éyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'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.