

## STA CONNECTION

November 21-25, 2022



**Xets'o:westel (November 23 - December 22)**  
*Time to store away paddles for the winter*

### Ratification

#### Former STA President Recommends Voting NO

While the BCTF Executive Committee is recommending a "Yes" vote, former STA President, Gioia Breda, recommends voting "No". She writes:

*As a senior teacher, I stand to benefit greatly from salary increases over the next three years, yet I am compelled to vote NO. With no substantial improvements to our working conditions, and a contract that once again leaves our Adult Education colleagues as "[asterisk educators](#)", I cannot vote in favour. [Read more](#)*



#### Ratification Vote via Simply Voting

On Tuesday, November 22, BCTF emailed all members who have registered a personal email address on their website. The email provides details about the ratification vote. On **Sunday, November 27**, all members will receive an email with their ballot information **from Simply Voting**. Voting runs from **November 28-30**.



### Truth and Reconciliation

#### First Peoples Classroom Resources from FNEsc

Looking for ways to integrate Indigenous content into all curricular subject areas? Visit the FNEsc website where you'll find resources that reflect the *First Peoples Principles of Learning* as well as the *Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission*. Go to to [FNEsc's Learning First Peoples page](#) to discover more.



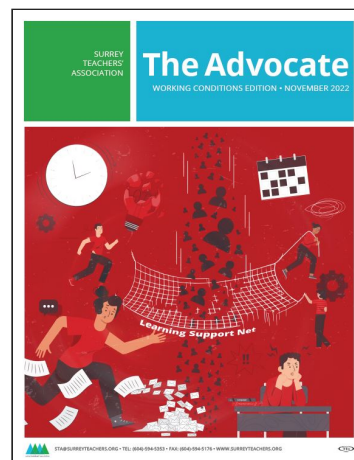
## Collective Agreement Notes

### Clause A.34.5

What role does clause A.34.5 in our Collective Agreement play when a staff member wants a change in their school's policies? Submit your response to this question to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) by 4pm on Friday, 25 November for your name to be entered into a draw for a prize.

### Working Conditions Advocate

Recently we asked members to tell us about their working conditions. The stories we received have been published in a new edition of The Advocate. This Working Conditions Edition illustrates in specific detail the difficult working conditions of many teachers in Surrey. A few print copies have been sent to all schools. [Read the Working Conditions Advocate](#)



## Health and Safety

### School Absences

We are hearing from many schools that there are an extremely high number of absences of both staff and students, largely due to flu, cold, COVID and other respiratory illnesses. Last Thursday, the BCCDC removed the requirement for those diagnosed with COVID to isolate. It is still very important for everyone to follow these guidelines to reduce the transfer of infection in our schools:

- Stay up to date on COVID and flu vaccines.
- If you are sick, stay home.
- Wash your hands.
- Limit close personal contact.
- Wear a mask to help reduce your chances of infection.

Go to the [BCCDC](https://www.bccdc.ca/) website here for more details.

### Research on masking in schools

A recent study by the Harvard T.H Chan school of public health noted the impact of masking requirements in schools. The study shows that "... universal masking is an important strategy to reduce transmission in schools and one that should be considered in mitigation planning to keep students and staff healthier and minimize loss of in-person school days." [Read the study](#)



### Employment Standards Act (ESA) Sick Leave

The Employment Standards Act (ESA) has recently changed as of March 31, 2022 and will affect newer employees such as TTOCs. Employers are now required to provide a minimum of 5 days of paid illness and injury (sick) leave per calendar year, for all employees who have been employed for 90 consecutive calendar days. [Read more](#)

## Full Day Health and Safety Training SURT Training: January 10, 11, or 25

One Health and Safety rep from each school can attend to receive training about health and safety from a union perspective. This is a completely different training course from the one offered! by the School District. [Register now](#)

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## Social Justice

### 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

Violence against women and girls remains the most pervasive violation of human rights in the world. The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that begins on November 25th with the [International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#) and ends December 10th with [Human Rights Day](#).

Learn more about [gender-based violence](#) and check out the [United Nation's 10 ways](#) to end violence against women for action ideas and for [teaching ideas](#) to prevent Gender-Based Violence.

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## Announcements



### Surrey Leader Award

Congratulations to Gurpreet Kaur Bains from LA Matheson Secondary for winning the Surrey Leader Teacher Community Leader award for 2022!

Image Source: [Women of Options](#)



### Surrey Teacher Librarians win award

Teacher-Librarians accepted [The Leading Learning Implementation Award 2022 – Canadian School Libraries Journal](#) at the BCTLA Conference on October 21, 2022. This award recognizes school districts that have developed and/or enhanced their school library learning commons.

Image Source: [Canadian School Libraries Journal](#)



### Tanya Campbell wins Prix Idélo

Tanya Campbell, an Elementary Core French teacher at Mary Jane Shannon and Lena Shaw elementary schools, is this year's recipient of the Prix Idélo in the French as a Second Language Teacher. Congratulations Tanya!



Image Source: [Surrey Schools](#)

### Contract Awareness for TTOCs Workshop

The *Contract Awareness for TTOCs* workshop is on Monday, November 28th from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The workshop is facilitated by Ryan McCarty and is specifically designed to inform TTOC's of their rights as specified in our collective agreement. This will be a chance to get acquainted with your rights as a teacher in Surrey. This will be a hybrid event. In-person registrations are already full but you are still welcome to RSVP virtually via email to [ttocrep@surreyteachers.org](mailto:ttocrep@surreyteachers.org).

### Discounted Canucks Tickets

The Vancouver Canucks is offering all BCTF members and their family and friends the opportunity to attend select games at a very [special BCTF rate](#). Check out the list of which games the offer applies to and to access the offer.

### The Association of French Professionals of Surrey AGM

L'API- Surrey (L'association des professionnels en français de Surrey) est une association qui a pour but d'établir des rapports entre les enseignants.es qui enseignent en français à Surrey (Immersion, français de base et français intensif/enhanced) et d'établir des liens qui vont faciliter la collaboration professionnelle par l'entremise d'activités en présentiel et virtuelles. Venez nous joindre pour choisir les membres du comité exécutif. [Lire la suite](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### November 28

Contract Awareness for TTOCs Workshop

#### November 29

Executive Committee

#### December 1

Staff Rep Training  
International Solidarity Committee

#### December 5

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro D Committee

#### December 6

Status of Women Committee

#### December 7

Health & Safety Committee  
Indigenous Education Committee

#### December 8

Ad Hoc Young Workers Committee –  
Tabletop Game Night

#### December 12

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

#### December 13

Executive Committee

#### December 14

STARA Meeting

## Other Important Dates

**November**  
Antipoverty Month

**November 25-December 10**  
[The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#)  
[White Ribbon Campaign](#)

**December 1**  
[World AIDS Day](#)

**December 2**  
[International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#)

**December 3**  
[International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#)

**December 5**  
[International Volunteer Day](#)

**December 6**  
[National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#)

**December 10**  
[Human Rights Day](#)

**December 18**  
[International Migrants 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:ḥ'əḥ (Kwantlen), q'icəy' (Katzie), qiqéyt (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.

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