

# STA CONNECTION

November 28-December 2, 2022

## Ratified

After three days of voting, the membership of the BC Teachers' Federation has voted to ratify the Memorandum of Agreement reached between the BCTF and the BC Public School Employers' Association.

**The vote was 94% in favour with 35,559 ballots returned.**

- Votes for: 33,246
- Votes against: 2,299

**The total number of eligible voters was approximately 49,684.**

- Voter Turnout: 71%

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## Action Items

1. Register for Virtual LST Focus Group
2. Register for Health & Safety Training
3. Staff Reps: Brief Info Update

### 1. Virtual LST Focus Group: December 8, 2022 @ 4:00 PM on Zoom

The STA is hosting a virtual LST focus group session for LST teachers who were not able to attend the in-person focus group on November 15th. The objective of this focus group is to better understand the workload of LST/ELL teachers and organize effective advocacy strategies. [Register Now](#)



### 2. 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](#)



### 3. Staff Rep Info Update: Brief Zoom Meeting

Table Officers will hold a brief virtual meeting with Staff Reps on Monday, December 5 at 4:00pm. Watch for an email with more information, including Zoom link.

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## Truth and Reconciliation

### Our Living Languages Exhibit at the Surrey Museum

For one of their commitments towards reconciliation, the City of Surrey Museum has a dedicated exhibit called *Our Living Languages* where you can [visit the exhibit](#) for free. The exhibit runs from September 13, 2022, to April 9, 2023. You can also [take a virtual tour](#). [Read more](#)

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## Collective Agreement Notes

### Article G: Leaves

Article G of our Collective Agreement is about leaves available to STA Members. It is critically important that members familiarize themselves with the contract language to ensure that they are accessing appropriate leaves. Given the high number of absences lately, the employer has expressed concerns.

### 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 Monday, December 5 for your name to be entered into a draw for a prize.

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## Health and Safety

### Snow Day Information

Whenever it snows, the STA office receives inquiries from teachers about what processes should be put in place at schools and what to do if it is difficult to travel to work. Here are some important things to keep in mind when the weather is inclement: [Read more](#)

### Icy Parking Lots

If you slipped while traversing icy school parking lots this week, remember to complete [WCB Form 6a](#). Submit the completed form to your Admin who should forward it to the District.

### Shoveling Snow

Reminder shoveling snow is **not** part of a teacher's job and you should not be asked to do so by your administration. If you are directed to shovel snow, please contact STA Health & Safety Officer, Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org).

### Sick Leave

The purpose of sick leave is intended to provide employees with a degree of protection against income loss where the employee is prevented, by illness or injury, from performing the employee's normal employment duties. For a reminder of the variety of medical leaves available to members. [Read more](#)



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## Professional Development

### Save the Date! STA & Surrey Schools Focus Day is Friday, February 24, 2023

Our Focus Day for Surrey Teachers in February 2023 will be virtual. Our keynote speaker is [Sheila Watt-Cloutier](#), an Environmental, Cultural and Human Rights Advocate. Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming professional development day.



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## Social Justice

### International Day for the Abolition of Slavery: Dec. 2, 2022

The theme of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade this year is *Stories of Courage: Resistance to Slavery and Unity against Racism*. Learn about the facts surrounding modern day slavery from the [United Nations](#) and [50 for Freedom](#).

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Dec. 3, 2022

This year's theme is *Not All Disabilities are Visible*. Disabilities come in a variety of forms, and it is important that attention is given to each one of them. Many people live with disabilities like mental health disorders and chronic pain and chronic fatigue, none of which are visible at first glance. This year, you're encouraged to take time to learn more about invisible disabilities. [Check out some lesson plans](#)

### BC Teachers Stand in Solidarity with the People of Iran

As a Social Justice union, it is crucial that we speak up when injustice is occurring. To that end, the BCTF has put out a statement regarding the horrific human rights violations happening in Iran. [Read the complete press release](#)



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## Announcements

### End Violence Against Women 11th Annual Candlelight Vigil

On the 33rd Anniversary of the 1989 Montreal massacre and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, we are holding a candlelight vigil at Holland Park on Tuesday, December 6 at 6:00 to 7:00 pm at Holland Park in Surrey. Please bring an item to donate to local women's organizations.



### TTOC Appreciation

TTOCs and Early Career teachers are invited to this appreciation event. Two hours of bowling (shoe rental included). The menu will include Pizza, Wings and Pop. Other drinks also available. Come and meet other new teachers in your district. See you there! [Register now](#)



### STA To Be a Teacher Podcast – Episode 1 is Live!

*To Be a Teacher* was created by Surrey teachers. Episode 1, *Contract Negotiations and Job Actions Through the Years* features early career teacher Sasha Campbell-Mongeon, and her parents, retired teachers Claude Mongeon and Jude Campbell. Their conversation is about their experiences with contract negotiations and job action throughout their teaching careers. Listen: [To Be a Teacher](#)



### BCFED Convention 2022 Highlights: Submitted by Kevin Amboe (STA Local Representative)

The BC Federation of Labour holds a convention every other year. BCFED conventions are an important opportunity for members to shape and inform the direction of the organization, pass resolutions, set policy, and build campaigns for the coming years. This year, the STA sent a delegation of nine elected people to the 60th Convention of the BC Federation of Labour: Jatinder Bir, Amrit Sanghe, Angela Marcakis, Kevin Amboe, Hallan Mtatiro, Katrina Wisniewski, Andrea Leeks, Brett Salary, and Christy Van Ieperen. [Read more for highlights](#)

### Online Pension Seminars

For the next three Thursdays, from December 1 to 15, 2022, Sarbrinder Singh Lalli the Assistant Director of Pensions and Group Benefits from the BCTF will be presenting online pension seminars to help members learn about their pension plan, their pension options, and factors to consider when planning for retirement. A different topic will be discussed in-depth each week. [Read more](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### December 1

Staff Rep Training  
International Solidarity Committee

#### December 5

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro D Committee

#### December 6

Status of Women Committee  
STARA Steering 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 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](#)

End Violence Against Women 11th Annual  
Candlelight Vigil

### 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'wá:ḥá'əḥ (Kwantlen), qíçəy' (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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