

# STA CONNECTION

December 12-16, 2022

Hello friends,

It's hard to believe we are at the end of 2022! We are once again getting ready to wrap up the calendar year - report cards are finished, our students, for the most part, are thrilled to have two weeks of freedom and now we can have some much-needed rest.

We enter the break knowing that we still have a lot to do to find ways to improve our working conditions but for now, there are small victories to celebrate: an increase in our salary with additional improvements to our extended health benefits, professional development funding, and added prep time for elementary teachers starting in the 2023-2024 school year.



While there is reason to celebrate, we also recognize that many of you are facing health issues, that the cost of living keeps climbing, and so many people are fighting injustice both at home and abroad. Amidst it all, we are reminded by poet Maya Angelou – *"Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope"*. The only way through this is with hope and love for humanity.

My heartfelt wish is that you enjoy your time with loved ones and have a wonderful holiday.

We'll see you in 2023!

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## Action Items

1. Submit your name to be an STA delegate to the BCTF AGM
2. Register for Health & Safety Training from a Union Perspective
3. Register for Virtual B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group
4. Register for Staff Rep Training: Contract Awareness

### 1. Call For 2023 BCTF AGM Delegates

If you would like to attend the in-person BCTF AGM from Saturday, March 17 – Tuesday, March 21, 2023, please email your name and a brief statement (400 words or less) to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by 4pm on Friday, December 16, 2022, to be included in a list of candidates for election at the Special General Meeting on Wednesday, January 18th, 2023. Be aware all elected delegates are expected to attend [preparation meetings](#).



### 2. Health & Safety Training from a Union Perspective: January 10, 11, or 25, 2023

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. Virtual B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group

On Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 4:00 PM, the STA is hosting a virtual BASES focus group session so that Table Officers can better understand the challenges facing BASES teachers and organize effective advocacy strategies. We will be posting a registration link in our next STAC. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) if you have concerns or questions. [Register now](#)



### 4. Staff Rep Training: January 18 or 19, 2023

This is session two for the school year for all Staff Reps (New to the Position and Experienced). The purpose of this session is to explore the Collective Agreement and the new provisions. [Register now](#)



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## Truth and Reconciliation

### Potlatch History Lessons

On [Christmas Day 1921 dozens of Kwakwaka'wakw people were arrested](#) for participating in a potlatch. 20 men and women were imprisoned in Vancouver for months. The Canadian government had banned the ceremony in 1885, only lifting the ban in 1951. [Potlatch as Pedagogy](#) is an excellent resource for teachers who want to learn more about a ceremony that has existed for tens of thousands of years. Here's a [lesson on the kwakwaka'wakw potlatch](#). You can also use this [booklet of lessons on the potlatch ban](#).

### Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Stories

After using the lessons about the potlatch in your classroom, submit a reflection on what you and your students discovered or experienced to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@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.



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## Collective Agreement Notes

### Get to Know your Collective Agreement!

Each week we'll ask a question about the collective agreement and invite you to email an answer to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org).

**This week's question:** Do teachers get paid for being a first aid attendant?

**Congratulations to Kanika Jain from Frost Road Elementary** who provided the correct answer for last week's question. There were two possible answers. [Read more](#)



### January 31 Qualifications Deadline

To be shortlisted for jobs that require certain qualifications in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers need to be listed in the District Qualification Book. Teachers who are interested in changing their assignments to such positions need to apply to the Human Resources Department (courier #481) by January 31, 2023, to have their qualifications evaluated. The evaluation will be completed by March 31, in time for Rounds 1 & 2. (CA, Article E.28.1).

Information regarding job descriptions and evaluation forms can be found on the [Job Description Handbook page](#).

### Job Share Changes to Day Swapping

On December 8, 2022, the employer advised the union that as provincial bargaining has concluded, job share partners will no longer be allowed to "swap days" after December 16, 2022. [Read more](#)

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## Professional Development

### The Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshop Series

[Take Me Outside](#) and our [Outdoor Learning Partners](#) are pleased to present a virtual professional development series. Dates are from January 17 to March 2, 2023, and you can choose which sessions you would like to attend. For more details, visit the [outdoor learning store workshops page](#). [Read more](#)



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## Social Justice

### International Migrants Day: December 18, 2022

Did you know that between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, there were 83,200 [new immigrants](#) to British Columbia? On Sunday, December 18 we recognize [International Migrants Day](#). The United Nations organization acknowledges that "migrants contribute with their knowledge, networks, and skills to build stronger, more resilient communities. The global social and economic landscape can be shaped through impactful decisions to address the challenges and opportunities presented by global mobility and people on the move." [Read more](#)

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## Announcements

### BCTF New Teachers' Zoom Gathering: Tuesday, January 17 at 3:30 pm

Teachers with five or fewer years of teaching experience are invited to join a Zoom gathering with their new teacher colleagues in the new year. This hour-long virtual gathering will focus on land acknowledgments and give participants an opportunity for discussion in both English and French breakout rooms. [Read more](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### January 4

Health & Safety Committee

#### January 5

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee  
Local Representatives

#### January 6

Ad Hoc Young Worker Committee

#### January 9

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro-D Committee

#### January 10

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)  
Executive Committee

#### January 11

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)  
Anti-Racism Committee  
Indigenous Education Committee

#### January 12

International Solidarity Committee

#### January 16

Status of Women Committee

#### January 18

[Staff Rep Training](#)  
Special General Meeting

#### January 19

[Staff Rep Training](#)

### Other Important Dates

#### December 18

[International Migrants Day](#)

#### January 13

[Black Excellence Day](#)

#### January 16

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

#### January 16-20

[No Name Calling Week](#)

#### January 27

[International Holocaust Day](#)

#### January 29

[National Day of Remembrance and Action on Islamophobia](#)

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:n̓'əḥ̓ (Kwantlen), q̓ic̓əy̓ (Katzie), q̓ic̓éyt (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.