

STA CONNECTION

January 3-6, 2023



Meqó:s (December 25 - January 22)
Fallen snow season

Message from Jatinder Bir, STA President

We hope you had a relaxed and recharged winter break where you enjoyed time outdoors and connected with loved ones. May that feeling of rejuvenation carry you all the way to spring break! Please know that you are valued and appreciated for all that you do in your classrooms and your school. Remember that when things get difficult, you are not alone. Your union is always here to support you. If you have questions or concerns, please remember you have various ways to receive support. [Read more](#)



Action Items

1. Register for the Special General Meeting (Online)
2. Register for B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group (Online)
3. Register for Health & Safety Training from a Union Perspective (Online)
4. Register for Staff Rep Training: Contract Awareness (Online)
5. Register for First Year Evaluation Information Session (Online)

1. Special General Virtual Meeting: January 18, 2023

The upcoming SGM is taking place virtually on Zoom. The main purpose is to elect [50-60 STA delegates to the BCTF AGM](#). Statements already received are circulated with the meeting agenda, but you can put your name forward from the floor. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Please [register](#) as soon as possible.

Registration for Simply Voting

Members must be registered to vote. You will receive an email reminder and your voting link on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Please contact repsupport@surreyteachers.org if you do not receive an email.

2. B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group: January 12, 2023

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 if you have concerns or questions. [Register now](#)



3. Health & Safety Training from a Union Perspective: January 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](#)



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

This training is for all Staff Reps whether new to the Position or experienced. The purpose of this session is to explore the Collective Agreement and the new provisions. [Register now](#)



5. First Year Evaluation Information Session: January 19, 2023 at 4pm

If you are a new teacher in your first assignment or are new to teaching in Surrey, or are a teacher in a new assignment, this information session is for you. The session will cover the first-year evaluation process. You will learn about your rights in the evaluation process, what to expect, and what supports are available to you. Please register by 3pm on January 17. [Register now](#)



Truth and Reconciliation

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

Are you finding ways to share Indigenous language learning in your classroom? Submit the story of your action/s (and images) 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.



UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages

Languages play a crucial role in the daily lives of people, not only as a tool for communication, education, social integration, and development, but also as a repository for each person's unique identity, cultural history, traditions, and memory. Despite their immense value, languages around the world continue to disappear at an alarming rate. Learn more about the [United Nations initiative](#).



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages

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 with your response.

This week's question: Are teachers required to perform duties during lunch? Send us the answer and include the collective agreement clause for a chance to win a gift card.

Congratulations to Glenys McFarlane from Hyland Elementary who provided the correct answer for last week's question. [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](#)

Health and Safety

Car Vandalism

Have you had vandalism done to your vehicle while parked at your workplace? This includes damaging the outside of your vehicle, break-in and theft from your vehicle, or the theft of your catalytic converter. If you have, please contact Kelli O'Malley at grieve2@surreyteachers.org.

Snow Day Procedures

Snow in Surrey seems to have become a more common occurrence over the past few years. Board policy 5207.2 defines snow removal procedures. In a nutshell, plowing will occur when there is more than 6 inches of snow. Grounds crew and contractors are dispersed in each zone in a prioritized order. Schools with physically disabled students and/or no daytime janitorial staff are the highest priority. Each school should have de-icer pellets and snow shovels.

If there were concerns with the procedures used at your school during and after the snow fall, be sure to bring them up at your next health and safety committee meeting. [Read more](#)

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](#)



Save the Date! STA & Surrey Schools Focus Day is 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. Registration will open soon at www.focusday.ca.



Social Justice

Black Excellence Day: January 13, 2023

Black Excellence Day is a day to celebrate Black history, educate yourself about Black stories, Black art, and Black people in preparation for Black History Month in February.

Black Excellence Day was established by the [Ninandotoo Society](#) and is celebrated annually on January 15th, or the Friday before if that day falls on a weekend or holiday in honor of the legendary civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was born on January 15, 1929. [Read more](#)



Announcements

First Ever Teacher Taco Tuesday: January 10, 2023

It takes a village to thrive in our complex profession, so the B.C. Early Career Teachers' Association is running community-building events all over B.C. this year. Our intent is to help create the Village that helps teachers - especially New Teachers and TTOCs - thrive. Any Lower Mainland TTOC, preservice teacher, New Teacher, New-ish Teacher, or teacher passionate about providing emotional and pedagogical support for the newest and most vulnerable in our profession are welcome to attend.

[Register now](#) for this early-evening dinner event in the Olympic Village, Tuesday January 10th 5:30-7:30 pm. Please spread the word!



Teacher Taco
Tuesday

BCTF New Teachers' Zoom Gathering: January 17, 2023 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](#)

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

Executive Committee

January 11

Anti-Racism Committee
Indigenous Education Committee

January 12

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)
International Solidarity Committee

January 16

Status of Women Committee

January 18

[Staff Rep Training](#)
[Special General Meeting](#)

January 19

[Staff Rep Training](#)

January 23

Labour Affairs Committee

January 24

Executive Committee

January 25

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)

January 26

Local Representatives
Convention Committee

January 27

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

January 27-28

BCTF Representative Assembly

January 31

Executive Committee

Other Important Dates

January 13

[Black Excellence Day](#)

January 16

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

January 18-22

[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:ḥl'əḥ (Kwantlen), q'icəy (Katzie), q'iqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'a: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.