

STA CONNECTION

January 9-13, 2023

Action Items

1. Register for the Special General Meeting (Online)
2. Forward name to operations@surreyteachers.org to be on the ballot for election of delegates to the BCTF AGM.
3. Register for the First Year Evaluation Information Session (Online)
4. Register for Health & Safety Training from a Union Perspective (Online)
5. Register for Pro-D Townhalls
6. Register to attend BCTF governance meetings

1. Special General Meeting: January 18, 2023

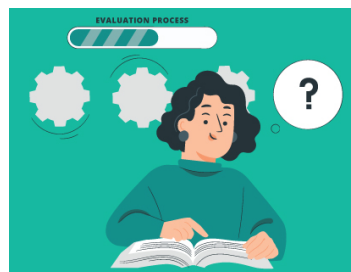
Don't forget to [register](#) to attend the meeting as soon as possible. Members must be registered to vote. You will receive an email reminder and your voting link on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Please contact our office at repsupport@surreyteachers.org if you do not receive an email.

2. Election of delegates to the BCTF AGM: January 18, 2023

The upcoming SGM is taking place virtually on Zoom. The main purpose of this meeting is to elect 50-60 STA delegates to the BCTF AGM. Statements already received are circulated with the meeting agenda, but there is still time to put forth your name to be a possible delegate. We have approximately 25 to 30 spaces still available. Please send your name to operations@surreyteachers.org by January 17 so we can include you on the Simply Voting ballot.

3. 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](#)



4. -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](#)



5. Pro-D Townhalls: February 1 and 7, 2023

Come connect with the Professional Development Committee at one of these in person Pro-D Townhalls. This is a chance to share ideas and ask questions about your role as Pro-D Rep.

Learn more about hosting workshops for your staff and approving funds. Enjoy a complimentary beverage and appetizers.

Register:

[February 1, 2023 at Taphouse Pub](#)

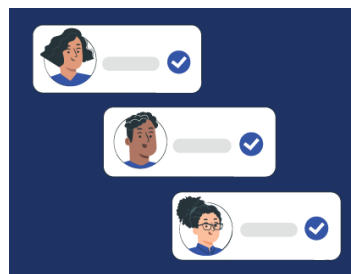
[February 7, 2023 at Hawthorne Beer Market & Bistro](#)



6. BCTF Governance Meetings Attendance

The STA Executive Committee recently passed a motion to provide release time, food and travel expenses for up to 3 members, with a preference for teachers in their first 5 years of teaching or teachers who identify as BIPOC, to attend local (i.e. in the lower mainland) Representative Assemblies or BCTF Executive Committee meetings.

If you are interested in attending upcoming BCTF Governance meetings and you meet the requirements, please complete the [BCTF Governance Meetings Attendance application](#) and indicate the meeting you are interested in attending.



Truth and Reconciliation

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

We want to hear your stories of how you are finding ways to share Indigenous learning resources in your classroom. Submit the story (and any images) to communications@surreyteachers.org and we will send a gift your way created by the artist Carey Newman - Hayalthkin'game (@blueravenart on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.



Decolonizing Indigenous Resources

As part of our commitment to honouring the [Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action](#), Surrey teacher librarians are embarking on an act of reconciliation by decolonizing Indigenous resources in our school libraries and elevating and centering authentic Indigenous authors and illustrators in the library collections. [Read more](#)

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: How is our Professional Development funding changing and when will the changes be effective? You can find out by reading "[What's New in the Collective Agreement?](#)". Send us the answer, including the new clause number, for a chance to win a gift card.

Congratulations to Matt Geisler from Cloverdale Traditional 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](#).

Equity Audit

Ad Hoc Equity Audit Committee

Members are invited to apply to join the Ad Hoc Equity Audit Committee whose work will be to determine next steps to be taken in the Equity Audit of the STA. Preference will be given to members who self-identify as members of an equity-seeking group. Up to 5 members will be appointed.

Submit your completed [Committee CV Form](#) to sta@surreyteachers.org. Please email Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if you have questions or concerns.

Health and Safety

TTOCs and ESA Leaves

TTOCs are entitled to leave under the Employment Standards Act (the "ESA") for all types of leaves listed in Part 6 of the ESA. [Read more](#)

Professional Development

Mission School District Pro-D Conference

STA members are invited to attend the Mission District Professional Development Day on Friday, February 17, 2023, at Mission Secondary School (32939 7th Avenue, Mission BC V2V 2C5). The cost is \$50. See [Mission Pro-D Day document](#) for details. [Read more](#)

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.



Professional Services

Peer Support

New to teaching? Returning after a leave? Feeling overwhelmed? Many teachers experience challenging situations in their practice. Education continually presents new situations, often beyond previous experience. Teachers face unique circumstances all the time – but they don't have to it alone. [Read more](#)



Social Justice

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Resource

From Kids Discover: [MLK Jr. | Kids Discover Online](#)

Understanding the impact and significance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work is crucial for educating students on civil rights and equality. This resource, free for the rest of January, focuses on his life and enduring legacy.



How Climate Change has impacted you, your school, or your community?

We are asking for submissions for our upcoming STA Climate Action Advocate coming out in April 2023. Stories are what move people and we want to share not only the impact of climate change locally (for example the atmospheric floods and wildfires), but also how it impacts families around the world. So many of our members, students, and their families have faced catastrophic climate events in the past few years. We want to hear your story. We also want to hear about climate action initiatives in your school and community.

Please send your stories to communications@surreyteachers.org. The deadline for submissions is Monday, January 30, 2023.

The Hidden Costs of Canada's Fossil Energy Expansion

Learn more about the hidden costs of major Canadian fossil energy projects using the Trans Mountain Expansion project as a case-study, with consideration of work planned and ongoing on Wet'suet'en territory in Northern BC. This free event will take place on Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 6:30 at SFU Downtown Vancouver Campus starting at 8:00 pm. [Register now](#)

Announcements

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](#)

BCTF New Teachers' Conference February 25, 2023

The conference will take place on February 25 at Coast Coal Harbour Vancouver Hotel and is an opportunity to connect with teachers across British Columbia and further your own teaching practice. This conference is designed for those in their first five years of teaching, student teachers, TTOCs, and those who are coming back to teaching after moving or being away from the classroom. [Register now](#)

Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Conference: Saturday, January 21, 2023

Soroptimist International of Surrey/Delta and Soroptimist International of White Rock have partnered to organize and present our annual Dream It, Be It: Career Support for Girls Conference for grades 8 to 12 hosted by Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Surrey Campus, Spruce Atrium) on Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 10:00 am - 3:00pm. [Register now](#) (Registration deadline is January 15). [Read more](#)



Bright Futures for Surrey Youth Banquet: Friday, February 10, 2023

This will feature local performance artists, a delightful dinner, door prizes, raffles, an amazing silent auction, a wine and beer bar. Rae-Anne Le Brun will be the guest speaker. All proceeds fund bursaries for Surrey grads facing financial challenges to attending post-secondary schools and our 4th annual Bright Futures for Surrey Youth banquet! [Read more](#)



Upcoming Events

STA Events

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

February 1

Health & Safety Committee

[Pro-D Townhall](#)

February 2

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

Other Important Dates

January 13

[Black Excellence Day](#)

January 16

[Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)

January 18-22

[No Name Calling Week](#)

January 22

[Lunar New Year](#)

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:ḥ'əḥ (Kwantlen), q'icəy' (Katzie), q'iqéyt (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.