

STA CONNECTION

January 16-20, 2023

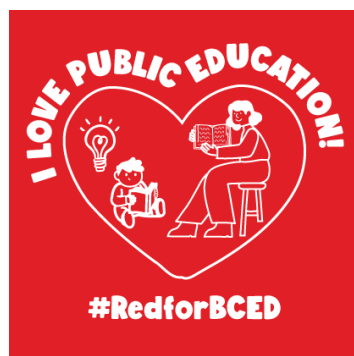
In Memoriam: Fred John

Last month, a legendary Surrey teacher passed away. Fred John was an educational institution unto himself. He started teaching in 1965 at Princess Margaret Secondary. He retired as a full-time classroom teacher in 1998 but continued working as a TTOC until just prior to Covid. All together, that means Fred taught in our district for (what must be) an unprecedented 6 decades! [Read more](#)



Red for BCED Campaign 2023

For this next phase of our RedforBCed campaign, we are inviting members to take a staff picture when everyone is wearing their RedforBCed T-shirts. Submit that picture along with two stories: one story that celebrates public education at your school and another story that explains what your school needs so that it can continue to be a place that supports the learning of all public education students. Each submission will be entered into a draw (one elementary, one secondary) for a pizza lunch for the staff. Submit your picture and stories to communications@surreyteachers.org before noon on **Friday, February 24**. Winners will be announced in the STAC for March 3.



Action Items

1. Register for Health & Safety Training from a Union Perspective (Online)
2. Register for Pro-D Townhalls
3. Register for B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group (Online)
4. Register for Role of the Staff Rep workshop (Online)
5. Register for the Job Share Meeting

1. 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](#)



2. 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](#)



3. B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group: February 2, 2023

On Thursday, February 2, 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](#)



4. Job Share Information Meeting: February 9, 2023 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

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](#)



5. Role of the Staff Rep Workshop: February 10, 2023

This workshop introduces the skills and knowledge of the Staff Rep as a union leader, including the framework and functions of this role including actual pointers and processes.

[Register now](#)



Truth and Reconciliation

Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Stories

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



Truth and Reconciliation Teacher Story

Huy ch q'u (thank you) to a teacher from Enver Creek Secondary for sharing some of the ways they embed Truth and Reconciliation into their teaching practice. A Hands and Heart pin is on its way to Enver Creek. [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 to communications@surreyteachers.org with your response.

This week's question: To whom do you submit a job share application for approval? Send us the answer, including the clause number, for a chance to win a gift card.

Congratulations: Tania Modicamore from Bothwell Elementary provided the correct answer for last week's question. [Read more](#)



Extended Health Care Benefit Update

Effective January 1, 2023, registered counsellors and social workers will be added to the existing Psychologist coverage, and the combined coverage will increase from \$900 to \$1200. Coverage for Dexcom continuous glucose monitors will be added to the plan. The limit for services of chiropractors, massage therapists, physiotherapists, and acupuncturists will increase from \$900 to \$1000 each. [Read about all updated changes](#)

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

COVID-19 Symptoms

The present directions from the BCCDC are that if you have symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19, you can manage your illness similar to how you manage other respiratory infections like influenza (flu). Stay home if you feel sick and take prevention measures to limit the spread of infection.

If you have symptoms of COVID-19:

- Stay home and away from others until your fever is gone (without the use of medicines that reduce fever, like Tylenol) and you feel well enough to participate in daily activities.
- Avoid close contact with others, especially people at higher risk of severe illness or complications from COVID-19.
- If you cannot avoid close contact with others, take other prevention measures such as wearing a mask in indoor spaces and cleaning your hands regularly.

For more details, check out [BCCDC's poster](#).

Sick Leave

Sick leave for members of the STA is governed by G.20.1 of our collective agreement:

G.20.1 PURPOSE

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.



If you have questions around the use of sick leave, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org.

Professional Development

Focus Day on Friday, February 24, 2023

The Theme of Focus Day 2023, a jointly organized Professional Development Conference put on by the STA and SD36, is Opening Pathways. The Keynote Speaker is Sheila Watt-Cloutier (see flyer attached). There will be more than a dozen virtual workshops for teachers to choose from and two in person excursions. Registration for the in-person workshops will go live at FocusDay.ca by **February 1st**. [Read more](#)



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](#)

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

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

We are asking for stories for our upcoming STA Climate Action Advocate coming out in April 2023.

Our focus will be on the effects of climate change on our basic needs such as: food, clothing, housing, transportation, energy, and education. We would like to hear stories of how climate change has impacted your school community and about any initiatives in your school community to help combat climate change.

Please send your submissions to communications@surreyteachers.org by **Monday, January 30, 2023**.

Announcements

Bright Futures for Surrey Youth Banquet: 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](#)



BCTF New Teachers' Conference: February 25, 2023

The conference will take place on Saturday, February 25 in Vancouver at the 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. The STA has funding to cover mileage and registration costs. New Surrey teachers requesting funding are invited to **submit their names to** sta@surreyteachers.org **by noon on Friday, February 3.** Names will be selected by lottery. [Register for the conference](#)



Upcoming Events

STA Events

January 23

Labour Affairs Committee

January 24

Executive Committee

January 25

[Health & Safety Rep Training](#)

January 26

Local Representatives
Convention 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

February 6

Status of Women Committee Event
Pro D Committee
Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Ad Hoc Podcast Project Committee

February 7

[Pro-D Townhall](#)

February 8

Ad Hoc IST Advisory Committee
Ad Hoc Young Worker Committee
Finance Committee
Indigenous Education Committee Rookie
AGM Training

February 9

[Job Share Meeting](#)

February 10

[Staff Rep Training](#)

Other Important Dates

January 22

[Lunar New Year](#)

January 27

[International Holocaust Day](#)

January 29

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

February

Black History Month

February 1

[World Read Aloud Day](#)

February 6

[International Day of Zero Tolerance for
Female Genital Mutilation](#)

February 14

[Women's Memorial March](#)

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' (Katie), q'iqéyt (Qayqayt) and smi'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.