

STA CONNECTION

January 23-27, 2023



Peló:qes (January 23 - February 20)

Torch Season

Peló:qes means torch season. This is a time when torches, peló:qel, are made out of dried sockeye salmon heads and used at night when spearing fish from canoes (torch lighting). The fish can be seen by the light reflecting from their scales when the water is real clear, as it is in the end of January. Today pitch torches or lanterns are used. Extracted from [Abbotsford Indigenous Education](#)

Why fight for a well-funded public education system?

The 2023 Red for BCED Campaign focuses on why it's important to fight for a well-funded public education system if we want to sustain a healthy democracy. One reason is that public schools welcome students from all walks of life and provide common ground to learn about shared values.

Remember to send us a photo of your staff in your Red for BCED gear and include your stories for a chance to win a pizza lunch. [Read the details](#)



Action Items

1. Register for Pro-D Townhalls
2. Register for B.A.S.E.S. Focus Group (Online)
3. Register for the Job Share Meeting
4. Register for Role of the Staff Rep workshop (Online)

1. 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](#)



2. 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. Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at hs@surreyteachers.org if you have concerns or questions. [Register now](#)



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

Join your colleagues at Westfield Country Club to connect with potential job share partners and learn about your rights when it comes to job shares. The STA will facilitate this information session and answer any questions you may have. In addition to taking you through the application process, you will learn about possible denials and what options you have available to you. Bring your questions! Snacks and beverages will be provided! [Register now](#)



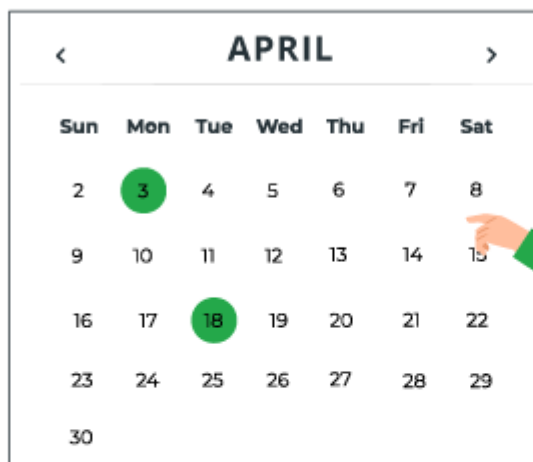
4. Role of the Staff Rep Workshop: February 10, 2023

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](#)



Save the Date!

Don't forget to add the [main events coming up](#) in the next few months to your calendar.



APRIL 3
Job Share Deadline



APRIL 18
Round 1 opens at 4 pm



MAY 17
STA Annual General Meeting

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 any 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.



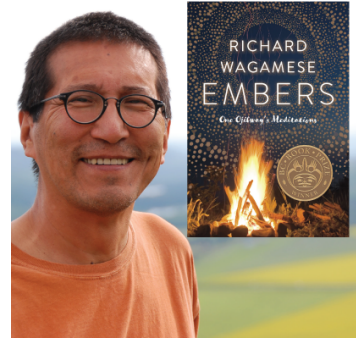
Truth and Reconciliation Teacher Story

Huy ch q'u (thank you) to Nicola Racanelli, a B.A.S.E.S. teacher from North Surrey 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 you. [Read more](#)



Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations by Richard Wagamese

We approach our lives on different trajectories, each of us spinning in our own separate, shining orbits. What gives this life its resonance is when those trajectories cross and we become engaged with each other for as long or as fleetingly as we do. There's a shared energy then, and it can feel as though the whole universe is in the process of coming together. I live for those times. No one is ever "just passing through." Every encounter has within it the power of enchantment, if we're willing to look for it."



Sometimes a passage is shared that comes at just the right moment. Thank you to Sarah Decker, District Helping teacher for sharing this passage. Richard Wagamese's book is available to buy at the [Strong Nations](#) bookstore and it is also available to borrow at the [Aboriginal Resource Centre](#), or the [Surrey Public Library](#).

SD36 and STA Joint Statement on Respectful Workplaces

The Surrey School District and the Surrey Teachers' Association (STA) are committed to supporting teachers by providing a respectful workplace environment that is anti-racist, anti-sexist, and free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying. [Read the full statement](#)

Equity Audit

Ad Hoc Equity Audit Committee

A motion was passed at the November 29, 2022 STA Executive Committee meeting that an Ad Hoc Equity Audit Committee of up to 5 members of the STA, with preference given to those who self-identify as members of an equity-seeking group, be formed to determine next steps to be taken in the Equity Audit of the STA, with a budget of \$2,000.

There are still open positions on this committee. 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.

Collective Agreement Notes

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](#).

Meetings with the District

The STA Table Officers meet monthly with the school District Superintendents and with Human Resources. Some of the topics covered in this month's meetings included projections for next year, cultural and commemorative days aligning with the school calendar, and elementary prep time. Jatinder and Lizanne also met with the new Minister of Education, Rachna Singh, and shared your concerns about workload pressures, mental health impacts, and the ongoing devastating impacts of underfunding.



Get to Know your Collective Agreement!

This week's question: What committee deals with questions relating to salary, allowances, benefits, or indemnities? Send us the answer to communications@surreyteachers.org, including the clause number, for a chance to win a gift card.

Congratulations: Kevin Amboe from David Brankin Elementary provided the correct answer for last week's question. [Read more](#)

Please note: This contest is now postponed until after Spring Break. It's been fantastic hearing about people excited to learn more about our collective agreement. For the month of February our focus will be on Black History Month initiatives. Stay tuned!



Social Justice

STA Climate Action Advocate: How has Climate Change impacted you, your school, or your community?

REMINDER: We are asking for stories to feature in 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, water, 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 **Friday, February 3, 2023**



Improve Support for Climate Change Education in B.C.

Have you done a lesson or unit about Climate Change? The B.C. Environmental Educators' Association has been working with the Ministry of Education along with other partners this year to improve support for climate change education. We're surveying members to gather examples of practice regarding climate change education. Please share a resource or activity you've used to teach about climate change by taking five minutes to fill out this [questionnaire](#).

Stewardship Stories Contest

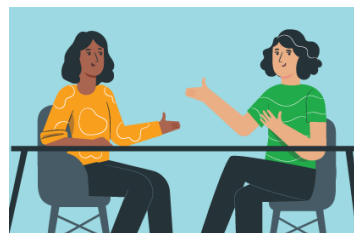
A contest for K-7 teachers. Take your students outside for outdoor learning at least three times during the contest period (Sept. 6 – March 10). In 50 – 100 words and a few photos (1-3), share how your class is connecting with our urban forest. Limit of one entry per class.

See [Stewarding our Urban Forest: Stories by Surrey Schools](#) for more information about the contest and prizes. Several of our SEED36 members participated last year and you can read their stories on the [Virtual Map Tour](#).

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](#)



Professional Development

The Outdoor Learning FREE Virtual Workshop Seasonal Series

Are you looking for ideas for how to embed outdoor education with your students?

[Take Me Outside](#) and our [Outdoor Learning Partners](#) are pleased to present a virtual professional development series from Jan. 17 to March 2, 2023. There are new workshops every week that are also available to view on demand. The next session, Climate Change & Sustainability Education Resources is on January 31 at 4:00 pm. [Find the full list of workshops and register](#)



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. There are more than a dozen virtual workshops for teachers to choose from and two in-person excursions. Registration for the in-person workshops is now live at FocusDay.ca. [Read more](#)



Announcements

Status of Women Committee's Wellness Event: February 6, 2023 at Beecher Place

The STA Status of Women Committee is excited to host an in-person Paint Night Wellness Event with Freda Lombard, a certified Therapeutic Arts Practitioner.

Coffee and tea will be available starting at 3:30 pm, with painting beginning at 4:00 pm. A delicious dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing you there! Please ensure you [register asap](#) as seats are limited.



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](#)



Upcoming Events

STA Events

January 26

Local Representatives
Convention Committee

January 27-28

BCTF Representative Assembly

January 31

Executive Committee

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 1

Health & Safety Committee
[Pro-D Townhall](#)

February 2

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

February 6

[Status of Women Committee Wellness Event](#)

Pro-D Committee

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee

Ad Hoc Podcast Project Committee

February 7

[Pro-D Townhall](#)

February 10

[Staff Rep Training](#)

February 13

Status of Women Committee

February 15

STARA Meeting

February 16

AGM Delegate Training

Convention Committee

International Solidarity Committee

Other Important Dates**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](#)

February 19-25

[Freedom to Read Week](#)

February 20

[United Nations Social Justice Day](#)

February 20-26

[BC Heritage Week](#)

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 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.