

STA CONNECTION

January 30-February 3, 2023

Red For BCed Campaign

This Is Why We Do It!

Because a well-funded public education system can help to ensure that every student can reach their full potential despite their socioeconomic circumstances.

Here is a fantastic story from a Grade 2/3 Surrey Teacher who celebrates what's great about their school and where they could use more support. [Read more](#)



Action Items

1. Register for STARA Meeting (Online)
2. Register for Pro-D Townhall
3. Register for the Job Share Meeting
4. Register for Role of the Staff Rep Workshop (Online)
5. Invite Us to Your School

1. STARA Meeting: February 15, 2023, at 4:00 pm

Our next STARA meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15th via Zoom. Staff Reps and Committee Chairs are encouraged to [register now](#) to attend.

2. Pro-D Townhall: February 7, 2023

Come connect with the Professional Development Committee at this in-person Pro-D Townhall. Here's your chance to share your ideas and ask questions about your role as Pro-D Rep. Learn more about hosting workshops for your staff and approving funds and enjoy a complimentary beverage and some appetizers. [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. If you are new (a rookie) to the Staff Rep role, this is for you!

[Register now](#)



5. School Visits

We'd like to visit you at your school! Complete the [School Visit Form](#) to let us know which date you would prefer. We are available for lunch or after school visits.

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 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.



National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR): Imagine a Canada Applications

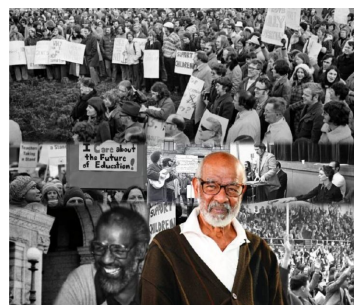
The [Imagine a Canada 2022-2023 program](#) invites Canadian youth to submit their visions for reconciliation in Canada. Youth can share their vision through the [Art and Essay Stream](#) or submit

a project plan for reconciliation in their community or school through the [Project Stream](#). Select projects will be invited to participate in virtual [Leadership Training](#) exercises. A national celebration will be held to honour select projects from both streams. The deadline to apply is February 17, 2023.

Black History Month

STA Black History Advocate

Last year we shared various perspectives, stories, and lesson ideas in our [STA Black History Advocate](#). We would love to hear ideas from you about ways you teach your students about Black History, Black Excellence, and Anti-Racism. Please send your stories and pictures if you have them to communications@surreyteachers.org and we'll treat you with a coffee gift card!



BC Black History Timeline

This BC Black History Timeline covers events in British Columbia as well as some significant events in Canada, the United States and/or globally that had/is having an effect on Black settlement and the experiences of Blacks in BC.

Did you know? The first Black settlers arrived in BC in April 1858, 24 years after the Abolition of Slavery Act; however Black Canadian history dates back to the 1600s. [Read more](#)

African Descent History in BC Virtual Event: Thursday, February 9, 2023

In the spirit of Black History Month, Surrey Archives will host guest speaker Yasin Kiraga Misago, President of the African Descent Society of BC. During the free, virtual, one-hour session, he will highlight BC's early history of African descent, dating back to 1858. [The African Descent Society of BC](#), promoting arts and culture in BC, plays an important role in shaping local and provincial educational resources. Their African Descent History Education program offers numerous ways to engage with the history of the African diaspora in the Lower Mainland, the province and across Canada. [Register now](#)

Collective Agreement Notes

Get to Know your Collective Agreement!

Congratulations to Jisbinder Purewal a Surrey TTOC for submitting the correct response.

Question from January 23-27, 2023: What committee deals with questions relating to salary, allowances, benefits, or indemnities?



Correct Answer: ARTICLE B.20 JOINT SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

B.20.2 INQUIRIES: Questions relating to salary, allowances, benefits or indemnities shall be referred through the Surrey Teachers' Association's Economic Welfare Committee to the Joint Salary Review Committee.

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.

Health & Safety

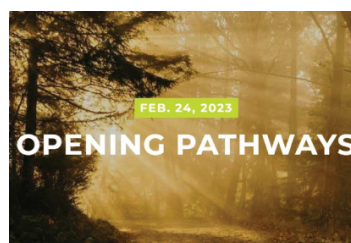
Refusing Unsafe Work

As a worker, you have the right to refuse unsafe work. If you have reasonable cause to believe that teaching in a particular situation puts you or someone else at risk, you must not perform the job or task. You must immediately notify your supervisor or employer, who will then take the appropriate steps to determine if the work is unsafe and to remedy the situation. [Read more](#)

Professional Development

Focus Day on Friday, February 24, 2023

Opening Pathways is the theme of Focus Day 2023, a jointly organized Professional Development Conference put on by the STA and SD36. 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](#).



Faculty of Native Studies at University of Alberta

The Faculty of Native Studies offers continuing education programming for a broad range of professionals and lifelong learners. Courses have been designed to build specialized and enduring skills and competencies for application in a wide array of professions and settings. [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

Mega Rally at Vancouver City Hall: Friday, February 10, 2023

Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) Annual Report will be presented to the new City Council and Mayor on Friday, February 10. This public rally is one way you can let council know how you feel about taking urgent climate action. We need urgent action — the climate emergency needs to be treated like a true emergency.

Rally organized by Fridays for Future Vancouver and allies. [Learn more about the event](#)



Announcements

Fred John Celebration of Life Important Update

If you were planning on attending Fred John's Celebration of Life this Saturday, the family has moved it to February 11th, due to unforeseen circumstances. Apologies for any inconvenience.

A Celebration of Fred's Life will be held on Feb. 11th at 11:00 am at the Steveston Buddhist Temple at 4360 Garry Street in Richmond. Donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

BIPOC Event: Sharing our stories in a space created for us: Wednesday, February 22, 2023 Join us on February 22nd at the STA Office for an evening of sharing, listening, and celebrating BIPOC educators in Surrey. [Register now](#)



Enter to Win a Ticket to the Bright Futures for Surrey Youth Banquet: Friday, February 10, 2023

If you are interested in entering your name into a draw for a ticket to attend this banquet, please email sta@surreyteachers.org by Tuesday, February 7, 2023. The event 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](#).



Upcoming Events

STA Events

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 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](#)

February 13

Status of Women Committee

February 15

[STARA Meeting](#)

February 16

AGM Delegate Training
Convention Committee
International Solidarity Committee

February 17

Labour Affairs Committee

February 21

AGM Delegate Training

February 22

[BIPOC Event - Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee](#)

February 23

AGM Delegate Training
Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

February 24

Non-Instructional Day – [Focus Day](#)

February 28

Executive Committee

Other Important Dates

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

Family Day

[United Nations Social Justice Day](#)

February 22

[Pink Shirt 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:n̓'ən̓ (Kwantlen), 'qicəy̓ (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'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.