

# STA CONNECTION

February 6-10, 2023

## Red For BCed Campaign

### The Fight for Public Education

In honour of Black History Month, here is a statement from W. E. B. DuBois, an American sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, Pan-Africanist, author, and editor as a reminder of the importance of fighting for a well-funded public education.

*"Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental... The freedom to learn... has been bought by bitter sacrifice. And whatever we may think of the curtailment of other civil rights, we should fight to the last ditch to keep open the right to learn..."* The Freedom to Learn, 1949



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## Action Items

1. Register for STARA Meeting (Online)
2. Submit Story for RedforBCed Pizza Lunch Lottery

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

Our next STARA meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15 via Zoom. Staff Reps and Committee Chairs are encouraged to [register now](#) to attend. Please note that **registrations for past STARA meetings have not been retained** and we'll be starting **new registration list for this meeting**.

### 2. Submit Your School Story for Our RedforBCed Campaign Lunch Lottery

Take a staff picture when everyone is wearing their RedforBCed T-shirts. Submit that picture along with a story that has the following aspects:

- Something good about public education at your school
- What your school needs so that it can continue to be a place that supports the learning for all 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](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) before noon on Friday, February 24. Winners will be announced in the STAC for March 3.

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## Truth and Reconciliation

### Transformative Territory Acknowledgements Webinar

Do you ever wonder why we do the Territory Acknowledgement? Do you wonder why some people read from a script and some speak from the heart? Would you like to add more meaning to your own Territory Acknowledgement in your professional practice? You can watch [Len Pierre's webinar](#) which aims to answer all of your questions about territory acknowledgements.

### Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Resources

After watching Len Pierre's [Transformative Territory Acknowledgements Webinar](#), we'd love to hear if you were inspired to change the way you would acknowledge Indigenous territory in the future. Submit your reflection to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto: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.

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## Black History Month

### Significant events in Black history in Canada

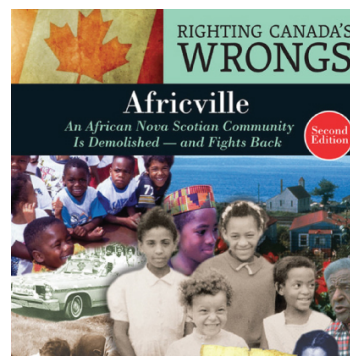
The Government of Canada's annual Black History Month campaign encourages all Canadians to learn more about Black history. Here are some [highlights of significant events](#) in Black communities since well before this land was called Canada.



### Righting Canada's Wrongs: Africville

In the 1960s, after ignoring the Black community's repeated petitions for basic services, the City of Halifax bulldozed Africville in the name of urban renewal.

[Righting Canada's Wrongs: Africville](#) is an excellent LRS (Stock ID 184980) approved resource that is geared for Grades 8 to 12 Social Studies. If you want to see what's inside before you decide to buy/use the resource, you can click on the "Look Inside" red button.



### Teaching Black History

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](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) and we'll treat you with a coffee gift card!

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## Health & Safety

### Asbestos

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fiber, once widely used in building materials for its thermal insulating properties and fire resistance. Although the removal of asbestos from school buildings is an option for schools, many schools and local education agencies have chosen to manage some asbestos-containing building material in place.

Intact, undisturbed asbestos-containing materials generally do not pose a health risk. These materials may become hazardous and pose increased risk if they are damaged, are disturbed in some manner, or deteriorate over time and release asbestos fibers into building air.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org).

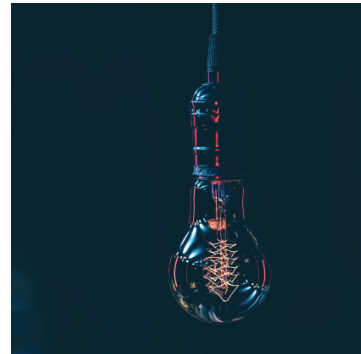
### Power Outages

There have been some power outages at schools in recent weeks. The following article in our Collective Agreement provides guidance in these situations:

#### D.27.6 SCHOOL CLOSURE

When a school has been without water, electrical power, or heating service for two (2) hours or more the Principal / Vice Principal in charge will, if circumstances warrant, order the school or affected part to be closed in accordance with [Board Policy 5207](#) and [Regulation 5207.1](#)

Please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr, Health and Safety/Grievance Officer at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org).



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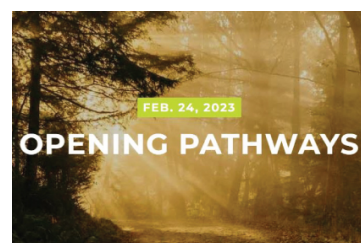
## Professional Development

### Important Updates for Focus Day: 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 FULL.

[Read more](#)



## Social Justice

### Teach BC Social Justice Unit: On A Bicycle Built for Two

This cross curricular [collection of activities](#) is designed to put students in the position of experiencing an ordinary challenge faced by thousands of workers around the world so that they might develop empathy and desire to explore potential options. It also provokes discussion about the concept of foreign aid. This is an updated lesson from the BCTF/CIDA Global Classroom Initiatives.

The BCTF offers several free lesson and unit plans for K-12 classrooms. You can find more lessons at [BCTF's Classroom Resources](#).



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## Announcements

### 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](#)



### UMOJA 20th Anniversary Gala and Dinner

The Social Justice Directory Committee would like to offer tickets to members who are interested in attending the [UMOJA 20th Anniversary Gala and Dinner](#) on February 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm. The event will take place at the Civic Hotel, 13475 Central Avenue Surrey. This is a first come first served basis and registration will be close on **Monday, February 20**. [Reserve a ticket](#)



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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

**February 13**

Status of Women Committee

**February 15**

[STARA Meeting](#)

**February 28**

Executive Committee

**March 1**

Health & Safety Committee

Indigenous Education Committee

**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](#)

**March 2**

AGM Delegate All Day Training  
 Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

**March 6**

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
 Pro D Committee

**March 7**

Executive Committee

**March 8**

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

**March 9**

Convention Committee

**Other Important Dates****February**

[Black History Month](#)

**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](#)

**March 1**

[Disability Day of Mourning](#)  
[Zero Discrimination Day](#)

**March 2-8**

[International Women's Week](#)

**March 8**

[International Women's Day](#)

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:n'ən(Kwantlen), 'qic'əy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi' 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.