

## STA CONNECTION

February 27 – March 3, 2023

### Public Education is where Hope is Possible



### Action Items

1. Respond to the Debate topic
2. Submit a Red for BC Ed story

#### 1. Debate This!

When Lloyd Edwards was editor of the STA Bulletin in the 1970s, he encouraged debate amongst STA members. He said that “conscientious debate is a powerful spur to thought”. So, it’s with this in mind that we are restarting this tradition by encouraging you to submit your written argument (no more than 900 words) for the monthly topic. This month’s topic: *Be it resolved that 2000 minutes of remedy should count as 3 credits toward a master’s degree in education.* Your submission will be published in an upcoming STAC. Submit your response to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org).



## 2. Roses and Thorns: Red for BCED stories

A Red for BC Ed story that is a “rose” is one that shows the good things that happen in our schools and a story that is “thorn” points out what makes working and learning difficult in our schools. Everyone has a “rose and thorn” story so why not share it? In order to give more schools a chance to submit their stories, we are extending the deadline to the end of day Friday, April 28, 2023. Complete the [Red for BCED Stories form](#) to submit your story. [Read this week's stories](#)

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## Truth and Reconciliation



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

Do you have a great resource or unit/lesson idea you'd like to share related to Truth and Reconciliation? Submit your story to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) and we will send a gift your way created by the artist Carey Newman - Hayalthkin'geme ([Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)). Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.



## Advocacy & Protection of Rights

As a member of the Surrey Teachers Association and the BCTF, you are entitled to the rights that have been negotiated by your union. [New rights](#) were added in the 2022 Memorandum of Agreement while the rest, bargained over decades, are contained in the [Collective Agreement](#) document on our website.

The STA has two full-time Grievance Officers: Amrit Sanghe at [grive1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grive1@surreyteachers.org) and Kelli O'Malley at [grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org) and seven STA members are elected to the [Grievance Committee](#), which examines grievance issues, makes recommendations, and receives training in defending the Collective Agreement.

Learn more about your [rights and the grievance process](#).

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## Health & Safety

### Allergic Reactions & Chemical Sensitivities

If you have a documented medical sensitivity to paint, specific chemicals, dust, or other environmental aggravants in the workplace, you should know that the Board keeps a list and will notify people when maintenance or other work is being done at their worksite that may cause them to become ill. The employer will provide you with a safe place to complete your work.

If you believe that your name should be on this list, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org) or call the STA office at (604) 594-5353.

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## Professional Development

### Call for Proposals for STA 2023 Convention

Do you have an idea worth sharing about topics or subjects you teach? There is nothing more useful for colleagues than someone sharing examples from their teaching practice. The STA Convention Committee is now accepting workshop proposals for Convention Day on Friday, May 5, 2023. Registration for Convention will open after spring break. Please submit your proposals to the 2023 STA Convention Committee via the [Workshop Proposal Page](#) by **Friday, March 10, 2023**. The Convention Committee can be reached at [convention@surreyteachers.org](mailto:convention@surreyteachers.org).

### Sooke Teachers' Association/STA Pro-D Conference: April 21, 2023

STA members are invited to attend the [Sooke Teachers' Association upcoming Pro-D Conference](#) on **Friday, April 21, 2023**. There are over 30 workshops – including virtual and in-person options. Surrey teachers are welcome to attend. The cost is free for STA Members. [Read more](#)



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## Social Justice

### Most bosses in the education sector are men

Did you know that amongst thousands of employees in BC's 60 school districts, **only 7** of the the 25 highest- paid workers are women? [Read more](#)

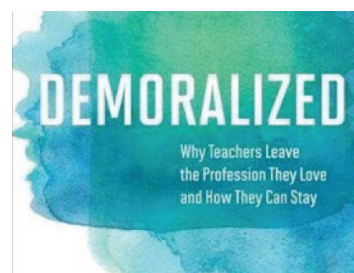
### International Women's Day: March 8, 2023

*Every Women Counts* is the Canadian government's theme for International Women's Day 2023. Visit [Canada's International Women's Day page](#) to find out more about the history of the women's movement, as well as educational materials, advice on how to celebrate the day, a digital toolkit, and recommended hashtags. You can also read about our STA Women in Leadership in the [Status of Women Advocate](#) from 2019.



### Demoralized: Why teachers leave the profession they love and how they can stay

In [this book](#) an argument is made that teachers are leaving the profession not due to burnout but because they feel demoralized. Doris Santoro says that “feminization of teaching impacts the ability of teachers’ moral concerns to be heard as ethical claims, rather than simply self-interested forms of resistance.” Do you agree?



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## Announcements

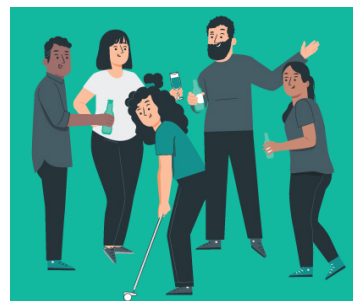
### International Women's Day: Breaking Bread Dinner

On **Monday, March 6, 2023**, the STA Status of Women Committee will be commemorating the upcoming International Women's Day (March 8) by hosting a Breaking Bread dinner. The invited speaker is Dr. Lauryn Oates, the Executive Director of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. [Register now](#)



### TTOC and Early Career Teacher Social Event

We are inviting all TTOCs and Early Career Teachers to come skate, bowl, mini-golf and much more. We will be meeting at Surrey City Fun Park for games and fun on **Wednesday, March 8, 2023** at 4:00 pm. Come and show-off your skills and get to know other Surrey teachers. We have limited capacity, so be sure to [register as soon as possible](#). Pizza and Hot dogs will be provided.



## Surrey Schools Book of the Year

The SSBOY (Surrey Schools Book of the Year) Committee is offering [eight opportunities](#) to meet virtually with SSBOY authors from **April 17 – 20, 2023**. Save the date for these awesome events!



## Call for Grade 7 Empowered Girls Conference Presenters

The STA Status of Women Committee is once again planning our annual Grade 7 Empowered Girls Conference (in-person - finally!) and we would like to ask if you are able to work with us to give the girls a fun and inspiring day this year. [Read more](#)

## BCTF Teacher Magazine BIPOC Edition

The BCTF's Teacher magazine is having a full edition to share the stories and experiences of our BIPOC members. Stories of joy, challenges, victory, power, and solidarity are meant to empower and highlight the unique experiences we have as teachers and individuals.

Please send submissions - opinions, stories, poems, etc. to [teachermag@bctf.ca](mailto:teachermag@bctf.ca). The final deadline is **March 24, 2023**.

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### March 6

[International Women's Day: Breaking Bread Dinner](#)

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro D Committee

#### March 7

Executive Committee

#### March 8

[TTOC and Early Career Teacher Social Event](#)  
Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

#### March 9

Convention Committee

#### March 13 - 24

Spring Break

### Other Important Dates

#### March 2-8

[International Women's Week](#)

#### March 18-21

BCTF AGM

#### March 27

School Reopens

#### March 29

Post AGM Delegate Meeting

#### March 30

Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

#### March 31

Last Day to Apply for Long Term Leave with a September Start Date

#### March 22 – April 21

Ramadan

**March 8**[International Women's Day](#)**March 21**[International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)**March 21-27**[Week of Solidarity with People Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination](#)**March 22**[World Water Day](#)**March 25**[International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#)**March 31**[Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

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'wa:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), qícəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'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.