

## STA CONNECTION

March 6-10, 2023



We've reached our much-needed Spring Break. We hope you will take advantage of this time to rest, relax, and do things that make you happy whether it be spending time with loved ones, going on vacation, reading a book, or getting outside. You've done a lot for your students and now it's time to do something for yourself.

### Reach Out!

Please do not hesitate to contact the STA office whenever you have a question or concern. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting advice from your Union on any employment related issue, even if it's only to confirm information you've received from another source. Send us an email via [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) or give us a call at (604) 594-5353.

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### Action Items

1. Respond to the Debate topic
2. Submit a Red for BC Ed story
3. Book a school visit from a Table Officer
4. Add [repsupport@surreyteachers.org](mailto:repsupport@surreyteachers.org) to safe senders list

## 1. Get Your Debate On!

We have seen some of the lively discussions on our Facebook Virtual Lounge which shows us that Surrey Teachers have a lot to say about a variety of topics. This month we are asking you to debate a very contentious topic: REMEDY. We ask you to submit your written argument (no more than 900 words) using the following prompt: *Be it resolved that 2000 minutes of remedy should count as 3 credits toward a master's degree in education* by March 31, 2023. 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 "rose" story shows the good things that happen in our schools, while a "thorn" story shows what makes working and learning difficult in our schools. Why not share your "rose and thorn" story with others? To allow more schools to submit their stories, we are extending the deadline until the end of the day on Friday, April 28, 2023. You can read some other examples [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#). Submit your response to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org).

## 3. 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. Reminder that we passed a motion that in 2022-2023 Elementary schools and Learning centres have \$160, Elementary schools with over 600 students would have \$200, and Secondary schools would have \$240 to purchase snacks or prizes for union meetings.

## 4. Safe Senders List

To avoid the big yellow banner that comes up when you get emails from the STA, please add [repsupport@surreyteachers.org](mailto:repsupport@surreyteachers.org) to your Safe Senders list on Outlook. For instructions, follow these [steps on how to add Safe Sender](#).

## Important Upcoming Dates



### MARCH 31

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



### APRIL 3

Job Share Deadline

Complete internal re-assignments before Round 1 deadline



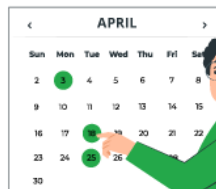
### APRIL 18

Round 1 opens



### APRIL 25

Round 1 closes at 4:30 PM



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## Truth and Reconciliation

### "First Peoples Rookie Cards" Featuring Indigenous NHL Players

There is a long history of the contributions of Indigenous players in hockey including the origins of hockey in Canada. It's long overdue but finally Indigenous NHL players are being honoured with their own set of trading cards called the "First People Rookie Cards". The cards commemorate and promote Indigenous hockey players who have never had a sanctioned trading card. Here are a few eye-opening stories to share with your students:

- [Official New Release](#)
- [CBC Story](#)
- [Documentary: The Game of Hockey: A Mi'kmaq Story](#)

### 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'game ([Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)). Be sure to include your school and courier number in your submission please.



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## Collective Agreement Notes

### Long Term Leave Applications Due

Long Term Leave of Absence applications (under article G.21.8) for the 2023/2024 school year are due to Human Resources by **March 31, 2023**. The LOA forms are available at your school office and can be sent in via Courier #481

### Staff Committee and Staffing

Staff Committees should be organizing meetings to review staffing needs before postings go out this spring. If any job is posted in your school that wasn't posted internally first, please contact Kelli O'Malley at the STA [grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org). Reminder of the powers of Staff Committees in our collective agreement. [Read more](#)

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## Annual General Meeting 2023

### Save the date!

For the upcoming STA elections at the Annual General Meeting on May 10, 2023, we will begin accepting candidate statements, photos and audio/visual materials starting from April 6, 2023, until 4 pm on April 21, 2023.

More details to follow in an email blast to Staff Reps on April 6, 2023.

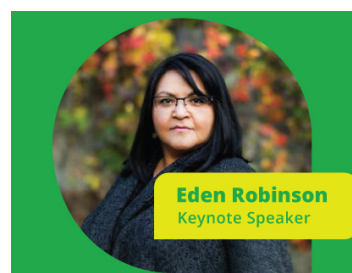
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## Professional Development

### STA Convention: Friday, May 5, 2023

We are pleased to announce Haisla/Heiltsuk author Eden Robinson as our Keynote speaker (see attached poster for more information). We are offering excursions and both virtual and in-person workshops.

Keynote and in-person workshops will be located at Sullivan Heights Secondary (6248 144 Street, Surrey). **Registration opens on April 1st** at [www.staconvention.ca](http://www.staconvention.ca).



### Mission on the Moon – Intro to Space-Themed Coding with Scratch: March 27, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Join [InkSmith](#) & [Laurier's Faculty of Education](#) for this 1 hour free professional learning session on how to integrate space-themed coding education into the classroom. This webinar is designed for educators in grades 6 to 9 who are new to teaching coding. Supported by the [Canadian Space Agency](#). Mission on the Moon is a free bundle of educational programming designed to spark interest in space and introduce Canadian students to coding, robotics and STEM competencies in an engaging and accessible way. [Register now](#)

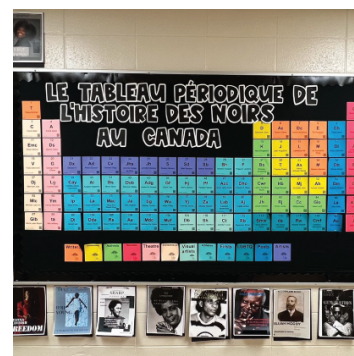
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## Social Justice

### Black History Interactive Bulletin Board en français

Thank you to Jacquie Bascombe from École Laronde Elementary for sharing how they used this resource to highlight the importance of Black Excellence and History in Canada.

From Jacquie: "This bulletin board was designed by Parents for Diversity to spark conversation and curiosity. The students explored important figures in Canadian Black History by scanning the QR codes on this interactive bulletin board. They then conducted research to learn more about the



person's early life, their achievements, and their contributions to Canadian society. Their summative activity was to put together a journalistic essay and create a magazine cover using digital resources.

### Periodic Table of Canadian Black History

Thank you to Annie Ohana from LA Matheson Secondary School who shared how [this resource](#) emphasizes the importance of representation.

From Annie: "With this resource we see an ability to go well beyond stereotypical often forced victimization narratives that White Supremacy likes to contain BIPOC lived experience to. The amazing work done through these periodic tables, amongst countless other resources brings forward, joy, innovation, excellence, resistance, love, and so much more.

A graphic titled "Periodic Table of Canadian Black History" featuring a grid of colored squares, each containing a name of a Black Canadian figure. The grid is organized into rows and columns, similar to a standard periodic table. A legend at the bottom identifies the colors by category: Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQIA+, and others. The names include historical figures like Harriet Tubman and contemporary figures like J. Cole.

### STA Status of Women Celebrates International Women's Week

Our Status of Women Committee held a very successful event on March 6th at the Afghan Chopan Restaurant to honour the struggle that women face around the world to achieve basic Human Rights. Dr. Lauryn Oates of Canadian Women 4 Afghan Women gave a thorough account of the situation for girls in Afghanistan who are being denied the right to education and the women who are denied the right to go to work and the impact this is having on the economic and social life of their country.

Teachers who are interested in learning more about supporting education and human rights in Afghanistan, please visit [cw4wafghan.ca](http://cw4wafghan.ca).

## Announcements

### Mighty Gay Unions! Queer and Trans Labor Histories and Futures Webinar: March 22, 2023

From Labour Notes: "Queer and trans workers have long been at the frontlines of solidarity, bridging identities and social movements. We'll share highlights of LGBTQIA+ labor history (and comics), as well as updates and current dispatches from Howard Brown Health Workers United. We'll connect toward building queer futures and vibrant multiracial unions, in style. This is a reprise and continuation of our very popular Collectively Fabulous panel from the Labor Notes Conference in June 2022."

[Register Now](#) for this free online webinar.



### 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](#)

## STA Scholarships and Bursaries

The STA grants 4 Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Awards and two Indigenous Students bursaries every spring. The STA also sends \$1,500 to each Secondary school-site and \$500 to each Learning Centre for scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. Deadline for applications is May 12, 2023. [Read more](#)

## Communications Coordinator Job Opportunity at the STA

We are seeking an STA member to help us at the office with our communications work for the coming school year. The person will have great writing skills, be adept with social media strategies, and be passionate about public education and union work. This job will be 3 days per week for the 2023-24 school year. Attached to this newsletter is the job description and [STA Application form](#). To apply for this position, please [complete the form](#) and submit it, along with some recent original writing in any format on any topic, to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) before noon on **May 19, 2023**.

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### March 13 - 24

Spring Break

#### 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

#### April 3

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee Pro D Committee  
Status of Women Committee Decolonizing Dinner

#### April 4

Finance Committee  
Executive Committee

#### April 5

Health & Safety Committee  
Ad Hoc LST Advisory Committee  
Indigenous Education Committee

#### April 6

Executive Committee  
Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

#### April 11

Labour Affairs Committee

#### April 12

STARA Steering Committee

#### April 13

International Solidarity Committee  
Ad Hoc Young Worker Committee Tabletop Game Night

### Other Important Dates

#### March 2-8

[International Women's Week](#)

#### April 2

[Autism Awareness Day](#)

**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 22 – April 21**

Ramadan

**March 25**

[International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#)

**March 31**

[Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

**April**

[Sikh Heritage Month](#)

[National Poetry Month](#)

**April 4**

[Refugee Rights Day](#)

**April 7-10**

Easter Weekend

**April 5-9**

[National Wildlife Week](#)

**April 10-16**

[Prevention of Violence Against Women Week](#)

**April 13**

[International Day of Pink](#)

**April 14**

[Day of Silence \(against LGBTQ name calling\)](#)

Vaisakhi

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