

# STA CONNECTION

March 27-31, 2023



**Welék'es (March 23 - April 20)**  
*Little Frog Season*

## Press Conference

On Thursday, March 30, the STA held a press conference to draw community attention to the Surrey School Board's decision to implement the 10 extra minutes of prep time that was collectively bargained and funded in a way that would decrease elementary teacher-librarian services. Read the [Press Release for our full statement on this issue](#).

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## Action Items

- 📖 Book a school visit from a Table Officer
- 🏷️ Tag us on Twitter @SurreyTeachers

### 📅 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.



### 📱 Tag us on Twitter @SurreyTeachers

Are you doing something interesting with your class or hosting an event at your school? We'll retweet it if you tag us on Twitter with the handle [@SurreyTeachers](#). We enjoy hearing about your school experiences and are delighted to share the wonderful things you are accomplishing!

## Important Upcoming Dates



### APRIL 3

Job Share Deadline

Complete internal re-assignments before Round 1 deadline



### APRIL 18

Round 1 opens



### APRIL 19

STARA Meeting via Zoom at 4:00 PM



### APRIL 25

Round 1 closes at 4:30 PM



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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 (@blueravenart

on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)). Be sure to include your school and

courier number in your submission please.



  @blueravenart

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## AGM 2023

### Two AGM Dates: May 10 and May 17

The 2023 STA AGM will occur over two dates: on May 10, at 4pm, we will hold online elections for 21 positions on the STA Executive Committee; and on May 17, at 4pm, we will have an in-person meeting at Bombay Palace to discuss the 2024 budget.

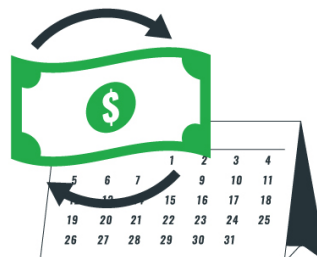
We will begin accepting election candidate statements, photos and audio/visual materials starting from April 6, 2023, until 4 pm on April 21, 2023. More details to follow in an email blast to Staff Reps on April 6, 2023.

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## Collective Agreement Notes

### Retroactive Pay

An issue has come to our attention regarding the application of retroactive pay for members who were on the first step of the local salary grid as of July 1, 2022. Members who were still on the bottom step of the salary grid at the time of implementation, or who were on the second step of the salary grid based on article B.1.6 in our Collective Agreement, should have moved up a step with a retroactive adjustment in pay from July 1, 2022. However, this was not being implemented by payroll in Surrey. [Read more](#)



### Round 1 Transfers

There are three parts to the transfer process. The first is the online application. Apply for postings using Employee Self-Serve. The other two parts to the transfer process are the interview and a reference check. The STA's position is that the interview should come first, followed by the reference check. The district does not agree. Learn more about the District's hiring policies. [Read more](#)

### Staff Committees 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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## Professional Development

### STA Convention: May 5

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 [staconvention.ca](http://staconvention.ca).



### Pro-D Funding Draws

There will be two draws for Pro-D funding at the May 10 STA AGM ( Elections) and two draws at the May 17 AGM (Budget). To be considered, completed application forms and accompanying documentation must be received by the STA office before 4:00 p.m. on the first school day of May (May 1st). If you are interested in applying, please carefully read the [Guidelines and Procedures](#).

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## BCTF AGM News

### Election Results

The 2023/2024 BCTF Executive Committee will include familiar faces and a few new ones. During the elections at the BCTF AGM during spring break, Clint Johnston was re-elected as President, Carole Gordon was acclaimed as First Vice-President, and Robin Toszczak as Second Vice President. Surrey's own Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay and Rick Kumar were elected as Members at Large as were Katherine Trepanier and Mariah Franzmann.

Jelana Bighorn, Bénula Bunjun, Rick Joe, Lisa LaBoucane, and Winona Waldron are completing the second year of their two-year terms.



**Clint Johnston**  
(Chilliwack)  
President



**Carole Gordon**  
(Central Okanagan)  
First Vice-President



**Robin Toszczak**  
(Greater Victoria)  
Second Vice-President



**Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay**  
(Surrey)  
Member at Large



**Rick Kumar**  
(Surrey)  
Member at Large



**Mariah Franzmannr**  
(Prince George)  
Member at Large



**Katherine Trepanier**  
(Prince George)  
Member at Large



**Jelana Bighorn**  
(Vancouver)  
Member at Large



**Benula Bunjun**  
(Sooke)  
Member at Large  
(Racialized)



**Rick Joe**  
(Chilliwack)  
Member at Large  
(Aboriginal)



**Lisa LaBoucane**  
(Vernon)  
Member at Large



**Winona Waldren**  
(Greater Victoria)  
Member at Large

### **Surrey Teacher Wins BCTF Award**

Annie Ohana, a teacher at L.A. Matheson Secondary, won the Bob Rosen Social Justice Award which is granted to a BCTF member who has made an outstanding and sustained contribution in working for systemic change on issues of social justice.



### **BCTF AGM Delegate Reflection**

See next week's STA Connection for the reflections of delegates who attended the BCTF AGM 2023.



## Announcements

### Ramadan: March 22 – April 21

Ramadan, the holy month for billions of Muslims around the world, began on March 22 and will continue until April 21 with Eid celebrations occurring on April 22. Many of our Muslim students and colleagues will be fasting during this time. They'll be waking up before dawn to have a meal before beginning their fast. This early awakening will get earlier over the next few weeks. They will have their evening meal after sunset called "iftar" and will be up late participating in prayer services. Ramadan is also a time of giving to those in need. Read more about [how teachers can support Muslim students during Ramadan](#).

### Connecting to the Land Wellness Event: April 17

The STA Status of Women Committee is excited to host another wellness event after work on **April 17, 2023**. We are honoured to have Karen Gabriel, Kwantlen elder and plant knowledge keeper, teach us about Indigenous uses of plants through a 1-hour presentation (indoors) and a plant walk around the Surrey Nature Centre. Karen has been passing down her knowledge for 27 years, impacting many people with her intriguing presentations and plant walks, where she shows how to identify edible and medicinal wild plant-life. A delicious dinner will also be served. [Register now](#)



### 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](#)

### 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**.

### 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](#)



### 2023 Shakti Society Academic Award of Excellence

We are very proud to announce that STA President, Jatinder Kaur Bir was the recipient of the 2023 Shakti Society Academic Award of Excellence at an International Women's Day Celebration on March 25. Congratulations Jatinder!



## BCTF Portal

Please make sure you update your email and mailing address registered at the BCTF website in order to access the latest news and bargaining information. If you have forgotten your password, you can click on the "Forgot your password" link, and they will send you a password reset link through your email. If you are logging in for the first time, go to <https://www.bctf.ca>, click the Get a BCTF Account "Register" button. The email address associated with your BCTF.ca login is the email to which you receive BCTF News communications. For assistance, please use the Login support request form.

## BCTF Annual Public Education Conference

On May 12–13, the BC Teachers' Federation will be holding its annual Public Education Conference in Surrey at the Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel. This conference is a chance to build bridges between teachers and parent activists from around the province to further a meaningful response on issues key to public education advocacy. [Read more](#)

## BCTF Pension Seminars

Starting April 5 to the end of June 2023, there will be online pension seminars every Wednesday to help members learn about their pension plan, their pension options, and the factors to consider when planning for retirement. All seminars will take place from 4:30–6:00 p.m. PST via [Zoom](#).

Members who cannot attend the live online sessions may watch the recorded pension seminars at their convenience on the BCTF YouTube channel in the [Playlists](#) section.

Call Sarb Lalli at t 604-871-1949 or email them at [slalli@bctf.ca](mailto:slalli@bctf.ca) if you have any questions related to the Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security Benefits.

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### 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

#### April 17

[Status of Women: Connecting to the Land Wellness Event](#)  
PA/PR Committee

#### April 18

Executive Committee

#### April 19

STARA Meeting

## Other Important Dates

**March 31**

[Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

**April**

[Sikh Heritage Month](#)  
[National Poetry Month](#)

**April 2**

[Autism Awareness Day](#)

**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:ḥá'əḥ (Kwantlen), qíçəy' (Katzie), qíqéyt (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.