

STA CONNECTION

April 17-21, 2023

Round 1 Postings Opens: April 18, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Learn more about the process details of [Round 1 Transfers](#)

Virtual STARA Meeting: April 19, 2023

Our next STARA meeting will be on Wednesday, April 19 via Zoom at 4:00 pm. Staff Reps and Committee Chairs are encouraged to [register now](#) to attend our next STARA meeting. Please note that registrations for past STARA meetings have not been retained and we'll be starting a new registration list for this meeting.

Survey: Denial of Leave to Members

If you have applied for SECTION G – LEAVES OF ABSENCE and been denied, please complete this [form](#). Please complete the survey by **Monday, April 24, 2023, by noon**.

STA Annual General Meeting: May 10 and 17, 2023

There are two dates for our Annual General Meeting this year. On May 10, we will hold elections online and on May 17 we will meet in person at Bombay Palace to vote on the budget and consider other motions. There will be [two draws for Pro-D funds](#) at each meeting. Save these dates!

Call for Nominations

Our union's strength is dependent on our members' engagement. Running for election is an excellent opportunity to become more involved with the work of the union. Elections will be held online at the May 10 AGM. Candidate statements are due in the STA office no later than **4:00 pm, Friday, April 21, 2023**, via email to sta@surreyteachers.org. You can read all the [details about the position descriptions and process for running](#).



SURT Workshop: April 20, 25, or 26, 2023

Creating Inclusive Spaces: Applying an Equity and Inclusion Lens to Schools will be held in person at the STA office on April 20, 25, or 26 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm and is open to all School Union Reps (including STARA Reps, Health & Safety Reps, Pro-D Reps, Staff Committee Chairperson and Social Justice Reps). Participants will explore issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion including the notions of privilege, unconscious bias, and microaggressions. [Register now](#)



Elementary Counsellors' Focus Group: April 21, 2023

The STA is hosting a virtual Elementary Counsellors' focus group session on Friday, April 21 at 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm so that Table Officers can better understand the challenges facing elementary counsellors and organize effective advocacy strategies. Please [register now](#). If you have concerns or questions, please contact Pauline Veto at services@surreyteachers.org



Pay Stub Townhall: April 27, 2023

This virtual townhall on Thursday, April 27 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm will focus on answers to questions about your pay stub. We will also provide guidance about maternity leaves. [Register now](#)



STA Convention: May 5, 2023

Registration for the STA Convention on Friday, May 5 is now open. Visit staconvention.ca to check out the available virtual and in-person workshops and register for your sessions.



The Final Stretch

There's 11 weeks left before summer break begins and this is usually the most stressful time of the year for everyone, including the Table Officers (FTTOs) and workers that the STA employs in the office.

This is a gentle request to please be patient in your interactions with them. Everyone is doing the best they can under extremely stressful circumstances so some kindness and grace would make this stretch to summer a lot easier. Remember that we are a union of professionals that also employs workers. What we want for ourselves, we want for all workers: respect. Let's help each other with kindness during the challenging times ahead.

Truth and Reconciliation

Reflection on the Impact of Climate Change on Inuit Life by Cheryl Corrick

In response to the keynote by Sheila Watt-Cloutier on Focus Day, Cheryl Corrick wrote a reflection on the impact of climate on Inuit Life. [Read more](#)



Need Help?

If you have questions or concerns, please remember you have various ways to receive support:

1. Read your [Collective Agreement](#),
 2. Talk to the Staff Rep(s) at your school,
 3. Bring your questions to your school Health and Safety Committee,
 4. Add the issue to the agenda for your next School Staff Committee meeting,
 5. Submit school issues to our [School Concern form](#) for STARA,
 6. Email or call your elected [Full Time Table Officers](#) (FTTOs) who are here to assist you.
 7. Access the [Employee Family Assistance Plan](#) (EFAP) or the [BCTF Health & Wellness Program](#)
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STA Committees Events

TTOC Survey

In order to provide the most effective supports and resources for Teachers Teaching on Call, we're gathering information via a [quick questionnaire](#). By completing the questionnaire, you will be entered in a draw for a chance to win a coveted prize. Winners may collect their prize at the STA Convention on Friday, May 5.

Other Events

Sooke Professional Development Pro-D Conference: April 21, 2023

The Sooke Teachers' Association (also known as the STA) is pleased to offer an invitation to attend their upcoming Pro-D Conference on Friday, April 21. Visit the [Sooke Pro-D Conference page](#) for more details.

Pension Workshops

The BCTF is offering weekly online pension workshops until the end of this school year in June. You can also access the [video versions of these workshops on the BCTF channel](#) on YouTube.

Call Sarb Lalli at 604-871-1949 or email them at slalli@bctf.ca if you have any questions related to the Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, and/or Old Age Security Benefits.

The BC Retired Teachers' Association also offers [online pensions workshops](#). Please visit their [website](#) for more information.

BCTF Earth Day Poster Contest

Earth Day on April 22 every year, is an excellent time to teach about protecting the planet and tackling climate change. Our poster contest theme this year is "What is Your Climate Justice Message to BC's 570 000 Students?" Learn more about the [full contest details](#). Submission deadline is **April 28, 2023**.



Upcoming Events

STA Events

April 17

[Status of Women: Connecting to the Land Wellness Event](#)

PA/PR Committee

April 18

Executive Committee

April 19

[STARA Meeting](#)

April 20

Ad Hoc Social Justice Directory Project Committee

[Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)

April 21

[Elementary Counsellors' Focus Group](#)

April 25

[Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)

Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

April 26

[Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)

Indigenous Education Committee

April 27

[Pay Stub Townhall](#)

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

April 28

Convention Committee

May 1-5

TTOC Appreciation Week

May 1

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Local Representatives

May 2

Executive Committee

May 3

Health & Safety Committee
Ad Hoc LST Committee
Convention Committee

May 4

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

May 5

[STA Convention Day](#)

Other Important Dates

April

[Sikh Heritage Month](#)

[National Poetry Month](#)

May 3

[World Press Freedom Day](#)

April 22

[Earth Day](#)

April 28

[National Day of Mourning](#)

May

[Asian Heritage Month](#)

[Mental Health Awareness Month](#)

[National Jewish Heritage Month in Canada](#)

May 1

[International Worker's Day](#)

May 5

[National Day of Awareness MMIWG2S](#)

May 7

[International Family Equity Day](#)

May 13

[World Fair Trade 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:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), q'icəy' (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.