

STA CONNECTION

April 24-28, 2023

We'd like to visit you at your school!

We are available for lunch or after-school visits. Complete the [School Visit Form](#) to let us know your preferred visit date. There is a snack budget for these school visit union meetings. Elementary schools and Learning Centres have \$160, Elementary schools with over 600 students would have \$200, and Secondary schools would have \$240.

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](#)



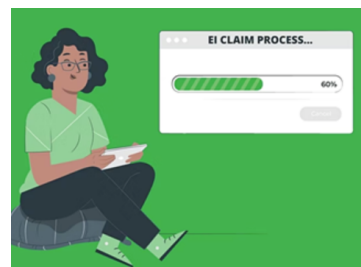
STA Convention: May 5, 2023

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.



TTOC EI Workshop: May 8, 2023

Are you a TTOC? Did you know that you are likely eligible to receive Employment Insurance payments over the summer months? Applying for EI can be a bit of a confusing process, but we are here to help! This virtual workshop on May 8 from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm helps TTOCs understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI benefits. [Register now](#)



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!

School Supplies Poll

Please [complete this poll](#) if you've been having trouble accessing supplies at your school/worksite.

STA Awards STA Scholarships and Bursaries

Every Spring, the STA sends \$1,500 to each Secondary school-site and \$500 to each Learning Centre for scholarships and bursaries for graduating students. The STA also grants four Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Awards and two Indigenous Students bursaries. You can read more about the [criteria and process for applying](#). The deadline for applications is May 12, 2023.

Looking for Support?

You may find yourself in an unfamiliar or unexpected workplace situation. Please know the STA has a number of services to provide support:

1. [Mentorship Program](#) – Mentor36
 2. [Peer Support Services](#)
 3. [STA Mediation Service](#)
 4. [Conflict Coaching](#)
 5. Email or call your elected [Full-Time Table Officers](#) (FTTOs) who are here to assist you.
 6. Access the [Employee Family Assistance Plan](#) (EFAP), the [BCTF Starling Minds Program](#), or the [BCTF Health & Wellness Program](#)
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Truth and Reconciliation

A Tribute to MMIWG2S and Our Planet

Article by Allison Hotti

What do you get when you mix design students, recycled textiles, and a passion for the planet? The Upcycle Design Competition!

I was amazed to see this stunning and powerful display when I visited the library at KPU's Surrey Campus. May 5, 2023, is the [National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#). To help draw attention to this day, KPU Library displayed this amazing red dress by Jennifer Lamont, a Métis artist, and Wilson School of Design graduate. [Read more](#)



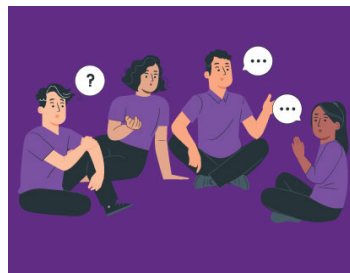
STA Committees Events

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.

Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent Gender-Based Violence: May 11, 2023

The Status of Women Committee invites ALL STA members and genders to this after school workshop, taking place on Moose Hide Campaign Day, May 11 at Beecher Place from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. BCTF Facilitator, Jim Iker, will help deepen your understanding of how socialization contributes to the development of oppressive attitudes and behaviours based on gender. After the BCTF workshop, we will be joined by special guest Carol Todd, creator of the Amanda Todd Legacy Society. Our workshop will conclude with a delicious dinner and resources giveaway. Space is limited, so please be sure to [register as soon as possible](#)!



Other Events

National Day of Mourning: April 28, 2023

April 28, 2023, marks the National Day of Mourning to remember workers who were killed or injured at work. This year's Day of Mourning theme is "Know your rights; Use the tools; Defend our wins." You can learn more about the theme in this [letter from the Canadian Labour Congress](#). More information about the Day of Mourning, including commemoration events across the province and resources, is available on the [Day of Mourning BC website](#).

BCTF New Teachers' Zoom Gathering: May 2, 2023

The next New Teachers' Zoom Gathering will take place on May 2, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Come connect with other teachers in their first five years of teaching from across the province. The gathering will include breakout rooms with opportunities for discussion and a presentation on professional autonomy. For more information and to get the Zoom link, please visit the [BCTF New Teachers' Zoom Gathering page](#).

BCTF News Reminder

Remember to check the personal email you provided to the BCTF when you became a registered BCTF member to get the bi-monthly newsletter filled with information on upcoming events and various other opportunities. It's a good idea to also check your spam or junk mail folder too.

BCTF Neurodivergent Virtual Monthly Meet-ups

These online monthly gatherings, on the last Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm, are for BC public school teachers who identify as being neurodivergent. Join them on [Zoom](#). The first meeting starts on April 25, 2023. Build community and connections with peers throughout the province centered on the unique needs and experiences of neurodivergent teachers. If you are on Facebook, you can watch their [promotional video](#).

Sharing Ideas and Resources

Energizing Things Are Happening at Semiahmoo Secondary!

Shared by Kristy Harrison

A group of student change-makers from the Earthworks Club have been undergoing a food waste reduction journey. Through 5 weeks of a 6-part workshop series, students have made food rescue smoothies, constructed kale seedling planters, and implemented strategies and perspectives within their homes and lives. Workshoppers are gearing up to design their own awareness campaigns to affect positive change in the school community. Using their newfound environmental and social knowledge, students will continue their community engagement through food waste reduction. [Read more](#)



Community News

Sad News: Dedar Singh Sihota

Dedar Sihota passed away peacefully with his family by his side on October 8, 2022 at the impressive age of 98. Dee had a very interesting path to becoming a teacher and he was the first South Asian Canadian teacher in BC. He was the kind of educator who left an indelible mark on his students and colleagues. You can [read more about his legacy](#) and feel free to add your own special stories on the Tribute Wall at the end of the article.



Upcoming Events

STA Events

April 25

Round 1 Closes at 4:30 pm
Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee

April 26

Indigenous Education Committee

May 3

Health & Safety Committee
Ad Hoc LST Committee
Convention Committee

May 4

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

April 27[Pay Stub Townhall](#)

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

April 28

Convention Committee

May 1-5

TTOC Appreciation Week

May 1Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee
Local Representatives**May 2**

Executive Committee

May 5[STA Convention Day](#)**May 8**Deadline to complete internal
reassignments before Round 2 Status
of Women Committee[TTOC EI Workshop](#)**May 10**[STA AGM - Elections](#)**May 11**[Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent
Gender-Based Violence Workshop](#)
International Solidarity Committee**Other Important Dates****April**[Sikh Heritage Month](#)[National Poetry Month](#)**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 3**[World Press Freedom Day](#)**May 5**[National Day of Awareness MMIWG2S](#)**May 7**[International Family Equity Day](#)**May 13**[World Fair Trade
Day](#)**May 15**[International Day of Families](#)**May 17**[International Day Against Homophobia
and Transphobia](#)**May 21**[World Day for Cultural Diversity for
Dialogue and Development](#)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'ən̓ (Kwantlen), 'qicəy̓ (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.