

# STA CONNECTION

May 1-5, 2023



## STA Annual General Meeting

This year, there are **TWO DATES** for our STA Annual General Meeting: **Wednesday, May 10, 2023** (On Zoom) at 4:00 pm and **Wednesday, May 17, 2023** (In-person at the Bombay Banquet Hall (7475 135 St, Surrey) at 4:00 pm. Multiple prizes to be won if you [register](#) before the deadline of **Monday, May 8, 2023 at 12:00 pm**.

- The 15th, 49th, 74th and 82nd person to register will be eligible to win a prize.
- There will also be a gift card draw at a random time for both meetings.
- Usual prizes at both meetings: Pro-D prize draw (1) and STA swag prizes (3)
- International Pro-D Draws (2) will be announced at both meetings.
- You must be at the meeting when the prizes are drawn to win.

## 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.

## STA Convention: May 5, 2023

Remember our STA Convention is this week on Friday, May 5, 2023. Those who have registered should already have their links. **Check that your registration link has not landed in your spam or junk mail.** Registration closes on May 2 at 9:00am. Go to [www.staconvention.ca](http://www.staconvention.ca) to register.



### 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](#)



### Summer Pro-D Townhall: May 18, 2023

We will be presenting a Summer Pro-D Townhall on May 18 from 3:30pm - 5:00 pm via Zoom. This will be an open forum for you to bring forward your concerns, ask questions, and share ideas with other Pro-D Reps. You can submit your Pro-D questions during your registration. [Register now](#)



### TTOCs and Maternity/Parental Leave and other ESA Leaves

All members, including members working as TTOCs, should be receiving experience credit for any time on statutory leave under the Employment Standards Act (ESA). The ESA provides for various statutory leaves but the one with the greatest impact on members' experience credit would be maternity/parental leaves, as they are the longest.

If you took any leaves under the ESA, including a maternity/parental leave, while working as a TTOC, **please contact the grievance officers at our local office:** Amrit Sanghe ([grieve1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org)), Kelli O'Malley ([grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org)), or Gavin Slade-Kerr ([hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org)).

### TTOCs and National Day of Mourning Agreement

We have reached an agreement with the district for half a day's pay for TTOCs who were booked when the District cancelled dispatches on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 for the National Day of Mourning on September 19, 2023. The District has informed us that affected TTOCs should see the pay reflected in their pay statement for May 1 or May 15. If you feel you are entitled to payment and do not see it reflected in your pay on those dates, please contact payroll for clarification. If you are not satisfied with the explanation, please contact Health and Safety/Grievance Officer Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org).

### We'd like to visit you at your school!

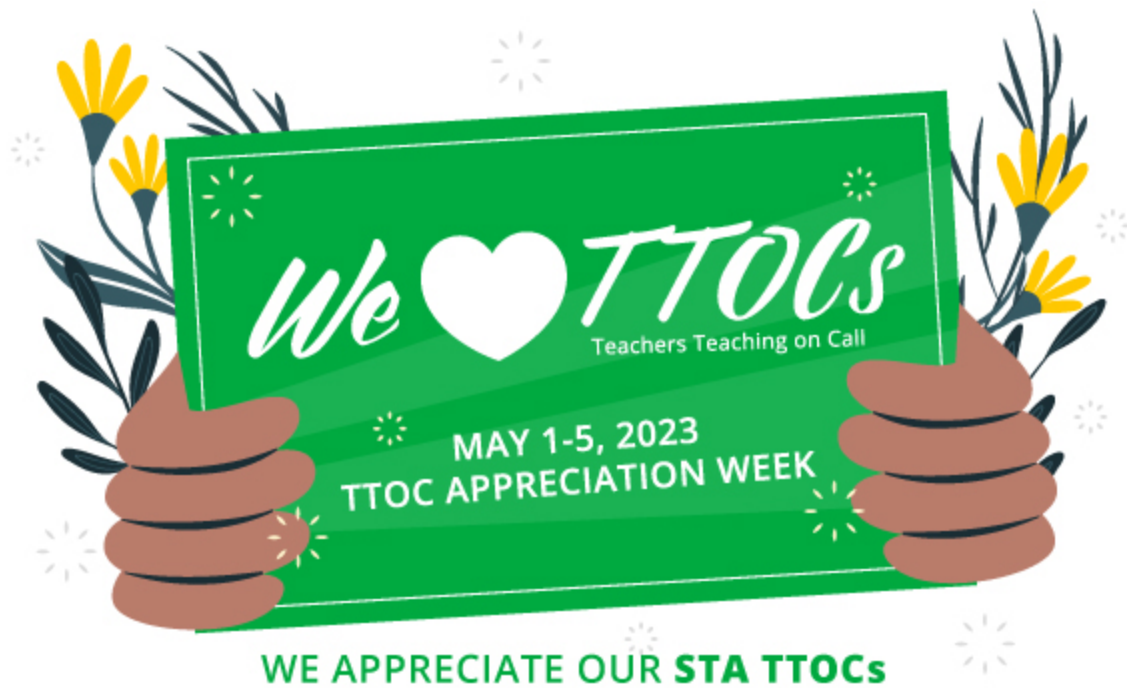
We are available for lunch or after-school visits. Complete the [School Visit Form](#) to let us know your preferred visit date. There is a snack budget for these school visit union meetings. Elementary schools and Learning Centres have \$160, Elementary schools with over 600 students would have \$200,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

### School Supplies Poll

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

### TTOC Appreciation Week: May 1-5, 2023

It's not just during TTOC Appreciation Week that we are grateful for what TTOCs do. Classroom teachers cannot imagine what it was like in the days when there weren't TTOCs! It's especially lovely to return from an absence and have a note from a TTOC that includes an interesting observation or insight or funny story. However, it can be a stressful going from school to school especially this time of year, so we hope TTOCs remember that they are not alone. The [STA](#) and the [BCTF](#) have your back! Thank you TTOCs for all that you do!



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## Truth and Reconciliation

### **Student Indigenous Perspectives Committee: Unique Identities Project**

*Article by Elana Miller, Indigenous Lead Teacher at Fraser Wood Elementary*

Our Student Indigenous Perspectives Committee has been actively engaging in Truth and Reconciliation efforts by exploring different Indigenous issues on a monthly basis. For their latest project, they focused on the unique identities, traditional lands, languages, clothing, and regalia of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit cultures. [Read more](#)

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## In the News this week

1. [‘Mind-blowing’: Surrey parents, teachers concerned about ‘double-decker’ portables](#)
2. [Rising number of portables in Surrey schools](#)
3. [Surrey school district warns of double-decker portables due to student overcrowding](#)
4. [Look at the history of portables in a series of articles](#)
5. [BCTF Spring Campaign](#) (features two Surrey Teacher Librarians)

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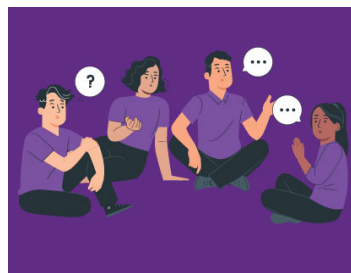
## STA Committees

### **TTOC Survey: Complete by noon on May 3, 2023**

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!](#)



## BIPOC Teacher Summit: May 31, 2023

The STA Ad Hoc Members of Colour committee invites you to join us in a full-day summit of BIPOC educators and activists. Build community with teachers from Surrey and across the lower mainland while learning about how unions can be a force for racial justice.

Spaces for this event are limited so [register as soon as possible](#). For questions about this event, email Amrit Sanghe at [grieve1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org).



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## Other Events

### BCTF Virtual Pension Seminars: April 25 to June 27, 2023

Starting Tuesday, April 25 to June 27, 2023 BCTF is conducting a series of pension seminars that will have a special emphasis on a different topic each week. The [live seminars take place via Zoom](#) on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. [Read more](#)

### Shifting the Story: Challenging Stigma: May 6, 2023

A remarkable and impactful experience is coming! Shifting the Story: Challenging Stigma will take place on Saturday, May 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm at the [Semiahmoo branch](#) of the Surrey Public Library. 15 minutes will be allotted for a one-on-one conversation with a brave community member about their experiences with stigma, including those related to mental health, drug use, disability, 2SLGBTIA+, immigration, living in the wilderness, and other issues. In order to build a strong, inclusive, and healthy community, consider your own values and let's collaborate! [Read the full details](#)

### Implications of Artificial Intelligence in BC Education Virtual Workshop: May 13, 2023

You are invited to join the BC Early Career Teachers' Association for a virtual dialogue panel on the topic of "AI and BC Education" on Saturday, May 13 from 9:00 to 10:30 am.

We have an impressive panel comprised of education faculty, educational podcasters, teachers and admin from BC, Alberta and Australia combined. All proceeds benefit the [BC Early Career Teachers' Association PSA](#), which is a nonprofit grassroots support network for new teachers and TTOCs in British Columbia established in 2015 and run off the side of our proverbial desks. The ticket is eligible for [professional development reimbursement](#) if you have PD funds available! [Register now](#)

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## Sharing Ideas and Resources

### **SEED36 Local Chapter of EEPSA, the Environmental Educators' Provincial Specialist Association**

SEED 36 is a vibrant, inclusive, collaborative group of elementary and secondary teachers looking to promote place-based, outdoor, and environmental learning in Surrey. We are a Local Chapter of EEPSA, the Environmental Educators' Provincial Specialist Association. To find out more information about Ecological Education in Surrey, come join our TEAM (Teams join code: a0kns6u) and become a member of SEED36. [Read more](#)



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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### **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](#)

#### **May 8**

Deadline to complete internal  
reassignments before Round 2  
Status of Women Committee  
[TTOC EI Workshop](#)

#### **May 10**

[STAAGM - Elections](#)

#### **May 11**

[Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent  
Gender-Based Violence Workshop](#)  
International Solidarity Committee

#### **May 15**

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro D Committee

#### **May 16**

Executive Committee

#### **May 17**

[STAAGM – Budget](#)

#### **May 18**

Closed Round 1 Report Available Online  
[Summer Pro D Townhall](#)

## Other Important Dates

### 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'w'a:n'á'ə'n (Kwantlen), q'ícəy (Katzie), q'iqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'á: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.