

# STA CONNECTION

May 15-19, 2023

## STA Annual General Meeting: May 17, 2023

Our next AGM will be held in-person at the Bombay Banquet Hall (7475 135 Street, Surrey) on Wednesday, May 17 at 4:00 pm. Dinner will be provided buffet style with the menu including chana masala, mixed vegetables on tawa and butter chicken! Please note that due to the venue policies, taking leftover food is not permitted. Please [register](#) if you haven't already. We hope to see you there!

The purposes of the in-person AGM is to:

- pass the STA 2023-2024 budget,
- set the fee (union dues) for the 2023-2024 school
- year, deal with Bylaw and policy changes and updates.

Winners of the following prize draws will be announced during the meeting:

- 2 – Pro-D \$2,500 prize draws (entries drawn from approved submissions)
- 1 – Pro-D \$250 prize draw
- 3 – STA swag prizes

**Please note:** If your name is drawn, you must be at the meeting to win.

## STA Election Results

At the May 10 AGM, there was an election for 20 positions on the 2023-2024 Executive Committee and 7 positions on the 2023-2024 Resolutions Committee. Thank you to everyone who put their name forward. Congratulations to all successful candidates!

- **President:** Jatinder Bir
- **First Vice-President:** Lizanne Foster
- **Second Vice-President:** Angela Marcakis
- **Grievance Officer:** Kelli O'Malley
- **Health & Safety/Grievance Officer:** Manjit Dulla
- **Professional Support Services Officer:** Pauline Veto
- **Professional Development Officer:** Erin Coleman
- **Local Representative to the BCTF - designated for Adult Ed:** Violette Baillargeon
- **Local Representative to the BCTF:** Annie Ohana, Marilyn Carr, Priya Moodley, Kevin Amboe, Gavin Hainsworth
- **Secretary-Treasurer:** Anne McNamee
- **TTOC and Early Career Rep:** Cody Skalnik
- **Member-at-Large - designated for a Member of Colour:** Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay
- **Member-at-Large - designated for an Aboriginal Member:** Jacquie King
- **Member-at-Large:** Gioia Breda, Nicole Hurtubise, Regie Plana-Alcuaz
- **Resolutions Committee:** Melanie Miki, Sapna Daniwall, Derek Imai, Lexa Perl, Regie Plana-Alcuaz, Cody Skalnik, Daniel Barton

Dana Neidig (Accommodations Officer) and Amrit Sanghe (Grievance Officer) are completing the second year of their two-year terms.

## Job Share Agreement Update

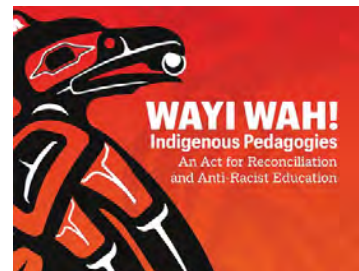
We have reached agreement with the district on a revised Job Share agreement. As you may be aware, the employer withdrew from the Job Share agreement during the arbitration on day swapping. Please note that this agreement does not pertain to day-swapping as the matter of day-swapping is still before the arbitrator. If you have any questions about this revised agreement, please contact Professional Development Officer Erin Coleman at [pd@surreyteachers.org](mailto:pd@surreyteachers.org) or Health and Safety/Grievance Officer Gavin Slade-Kerr at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org). [Read the agreement](#)

## Transfer Round Grievances

There are two main types of transfer grievances. In qualification grievances, a teacher is sometimes not shortlisted for an interview because the principal decided they were not qualified. In suitability grievances, a teacher was interviewed, but the principal considered a junior candidate demonstrably more suitable and offered them the job instead. [Read more](#)

## Professional Resource Raffle

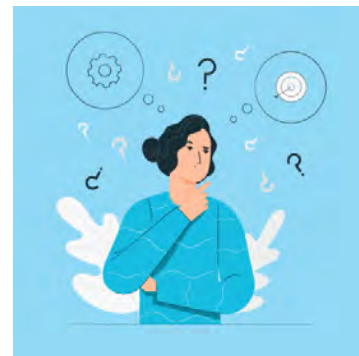
The STA Pro-D Committee is raffling off a copy of Jo Chrona's book, [Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education](#). To enter the draw for this book giveaway, send your name to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org) by May 31, 2023. [Read more](#)



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

The STA will be presenting a Summer Pro-D Townhall on May 18, 2023, 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 and STA Reps. You can submit your Pro-D questions during your registration. [Register now](#).

Most schools will be looking at making Summer Pro D plans in the coming weeks. Please watch for an email from your Pro D or Staff Rep. Here are some things to consider when planning your Summer Pro D. [Read more](#)



## Communications Coordinator Position

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 [STA CV 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**.

## Attention Kindergarten Teachers!

If you are a kindergarten teacher and your class is at 22 with at least one designated student, or at 23 with no designated students, please contact Kelli O'Malley at [grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org).

## Working Conditions 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 union Staff Rep(s) at your school,
3. Bring your questions to your school Health and Safety Committee,
4. Add your school issue to the agenda for your next Staff Committee meeting,
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) or the [BCTF Health & Wellness Program](#)

## Mental Health Matters

Teaching is a highly stressful profession with many layers of complexity. Finding time to replenish ourselves is often difficult when we are working hard in difficult circumstances. Here is a great reminder of the importance of checking in with our own well-being, and some easy-to-use [tools and resources](#).



## Looking for Support?

You may find yourself in an unfamiliar or unexpected workplace situation. Please know the STA has several 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

### STA Convention Indigenous Excursion

Several people participated in the professional development excursion "Learning Local Indigenous Legends, Songs, and Stories While Exploring Burrard Inlet in a Traditional War Canoe" at the STA Convention Day on Friday, May 5, which was also the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People. Here are some reflections on their experiences. [Read more](#)



## Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Resources

If you were inspired or moved by our keynote speaker Eden Robinson, the Red Dress Panel, or one of the many Indigenous Education excursions and workshops at the STA Convention last week, submit a reflection on your learning 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.

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## STA Committees

### LAC Film Night: May 24, 2023

The Labour Affairs Committee of the STA is pleased to announce the return of our ever-popular Film & Dinner Night on Wednesday, May 24 at the STA office from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm! We are excited to bring you Naomi Klein's *This Changes Everything* - a film that deals with the climate crisis, labour & our precious environment.

Seats are limited so [register now](#). Enjoy an evening with discussion and catered dinner (vegetarian options available). Members and their guests are invited to attend. Free for members, a \$20 fee will be charged at the door for non-members. [Watch the trailer](#)



### Grade 7 Empowered Girls Conference: May 29, 2023

The Grade 7 Empowered Girls Conference, organized by the STA Status of Women Committee, is fast approaching! This year's conference will be taking place on Monday, May 29 at L.A. Matheson Secondary. You can check out our [website](#) for more information.

All Grade 7 teachers will receive a package in the coming week with a letter of information and 15 pamphlets to be distributed to all students who identify as girls in your class. If you need more pamphlets, please contact [graphics@surreyteachers.org](mailto:graphics@surreyteachers.org). [Read more](#)



## CODEV Fundraising Dinner Draw

The STA's International Solidarity Committee has purchased a table to [CoDevelopment Canada's Annual Fundraising Dinner](#) on June 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Maritime Labour Centre in Vancouver. As a result, 8 seats are available for the membership to attend. If you are interested and able to commit to attending this event, please [fill out this form](#) before May 26, 2023, to be entered in the draw. Winners will be contacted on May 29, 2023.

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## Community News

### **Sad News: Phyllis Minsky (March 9, 1936 - May 1, 2023)**

*Written by Gavin Hainsworth*

It is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the passing of long-time Surrey Teacher and active member, Phyllis Minsky. She was extremely involved in the life of the Surrey Teachers' Association including the Status of Women Committee, the Labour Affairs Committee, and the Indigenous Education Committee, to name just a few. Throughout her career, Phyllis was an outspoken activist, a mentor for many, and a dear friend with a sharp mind and a compassionate heart. She continued her teaching and involvement well past the time many would have retired and was an exemplary social justice warrior and inspiring teacher. Whenever we had the chance to work together, I always left with the sense that we needed to spend more time together. I wish we had.



Since her passing, we have received some lovely tributes from so many that echo the same sentiments and further show the range of her involvement. The family will be organizing an event to celebrate Phyllis Minsky that will highlight her impact in Surrey and the STA specifically for her grandchildren. We will share details when we have them. In the meanwhile, if you knew her, please send your stories of Phyllis to [2vp@surreyteachers.org](mailto:2vp@surreyteachers.org) and hold her in your hearts and memories.



## Helping the Environment & Our Community

*Written by Sarah Greaux*

At Riverdale we have been working to not only combat the global environmental issue of textile waste, but to help meet our students' needs. The Riverdale Free Market began in fall 2022 after staff-wide discussions on how we can better support our students in need. Alongside our Child and Youth Care Worker, I have been gathering, sorting, and giving out gently used clothing and shoes in all sizes to members of our school community. Each Tuesday, with the help of the wonderful students in my class, we set up the clothing in my classroom by size. Students and families drop by after school to pick up as little or as much as they need, all at no cost. Week by week our market continues to grow, and our hope is to continue to support our community as well as the environment.



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## Other Events

### **BCTF: Neurodivergent Teacher Meet-up on May 25, 2023**

This is an opportunity for neurodivergent members to build community and connection with peers across the province. [Join our next virtual meet-up](#) on Thursday, May 25, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. [Learn more](#) about the meet-ups.

### **BCTF: Salary Indemnity Plan Consultation and Town Halls**

The BCTF will be hosting three virtual town hall meetings in May to answer members' questions and to receive member input on the governance review of the Salary Indemnity Plan (SIP). The town halls will take place at 4:00 p.m. on May 15, 23, and 30. [Register](#) to attend. You can also watch this [20-minute video](#) that provides an overview of the work being done for the SIP review process.

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

**May 15**

Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro D Committee

**May 16**

Executive Committee

**May 17**

[STA AGM – Budget](#)

**May 18**

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

**May 23**

Round 2 Opens at 4:00 pm  
PA/PR Committee

**May 24**

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee  
Labour Affairs Committee

**May 25**

Local Representatives  
Equity Audit Committee  
Awards Committee

**May 26**

Indigenous Education Committee

**June 1**

Ad Hoc Members of Colour Committee

**June 2**

TTOC Advisory Committee

### Other Important Dates

**May**

[Asian Heritage Month](#)  
[Mental Health Awareness Month](#) [National Jewish Heritage Month in Canada](#)

**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](#)

**May 24-27**

[Aboriginal Awareness Week](#)

**May 28-June 3**

[National Accessibility Week](#)

**June**

[2SLGBTQIA+ Pride Month](#)  
[Indigenous History Month](#)

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'w̓a:r̓l'əñ (Kwantlen), q̓ícəy (Katzie), q̓iqéyt (Qayqayt) and semi'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.