

STA CONNECTION

May 23-26, 2023

Great news!

The AGM passed the following motions on May 17, 2023:

- THAT the membership fee for the 2023-24 year be **maintained** at 0.62%.
- THAT there be a **dues holiday** for June 2023



Denial of Personal Leaves

The Union met with HR and with the District Superintendents on Monday, May 15 to share our concerns about Leaves not being approved.

HR has given the direction that employees whose leave request was denied should respond back to HR with additional details of their request, and HR will review and reconsider.

Please direct your email as follows:

- Elementary and non-enrolling assignments – email Peggy Antifaeff at antifaeff_p@surreyschools.ca
- Secondary assignments – email Denton Muir at muir_d@surreyschools.ca

If you have any questions or concerns, please email sta@surreyteachers.org.

Feeling Hot! Hot! Hot?

How to Beat the Heat in your Classroom

We have been hearing from members that the recent heatwave is having a detrimental impact on learning and working conditions. Unfortunately, there are no WorkSafeBC regulations around temperature. However, there are [some things you can do](#).

Survey of Impacts of Heatwave on Learning and Working

We are gathering information about the impacts of the heatwave on working and learning conditions. Please [complete this survey](#) and we will forward the data to the District.

Surrey's Overheated Classrooms Make the News

- [Heat in Surrey school portables prompts concerns](#)
- [Surrey teachers raise concerns over heat in classrooms and portables](#)



Shortlisted Without an Interview?

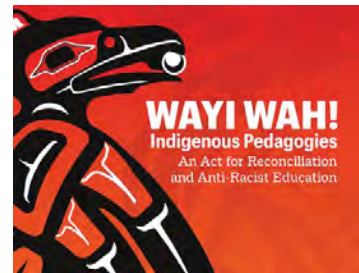
In our school district, the candidate with the most seniority is not always awarded the position. Due to language in our Collective Agreement, the job can be awarded to a less senior, but more suitable candidate. However, candidates with more seniority must be offered an interview. If you applied for a job in Round One, please check the Surrey School's Hub for the **closed report which was published on May 18, 2023**. If the job was awarded to a candidate with less seniority than you, and you were not offered an interview, please contact Gavin Slade-Kerr, Health and Safety/Grievance Officer, at hs@surreyteachers.org.

REMINDER: Round 2 Opens at 4:00 pm on May 23, 2023

You can read about the process and best practices for applying for positions [here](#).

Professional Resource Raffle

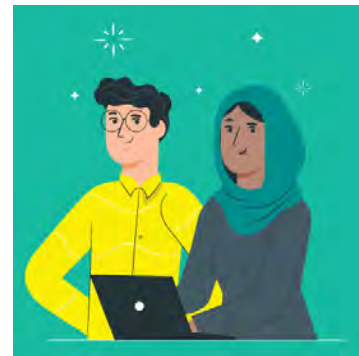
The STA Pro-D Committee is raffling off a copy of Jo Chrona's book, [Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies: An Act for Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Education](#). To enter the draw for this book giveaway, send your name to communications@surreyteachers.org by May 31, 2023. [Read more](#)



New Teachers' Conference for TTOCs: June 7, 2023

Are you new to teaching? Do you have questions about what your union has to offer? Your pay cheque? For answers, you can attend our New Teachers' Conference for TTOCs that will be held on Wednesday, June 7 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the STA Office. Release time is provided for you to attend. [Register now](#)

Note: This event is for Teachers Teaching on-Call who do not have a part-time contract



Truth and Reconciliation

Katzie Longhouse Reflection

Written by Laurel Charnetski

I had the most profound day of learning at the Simon Pierre Longhouse on Katzie First Nation. It centred around learning the BC Song, which was gifted to educators and students by the Honourable Steven Point. Honourable Steven Point and Dr. Gwendolyn Point movingly spoke about the meaning of the song as well as the strength and resilience of Indigenous peoples. Coast Salish drummers played, and we had an opportunity to drum with them and sing the BC Song. I was so grateful to experience learning in the longhouse, warmed by the blazing fires and the teachings. Our wild salmon lunch was a fantastic treat and an opportunity to connect with colleagues and Katzie community members. In the afternoon, Anita McPhee, International Human Rights advocate, gave a powerful talk about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. She expertly wove in her story of vulnerability; being a young girl of 14 needing to move to Vancouver from her Nation up North to go to school. I am so glad to have had this experience as this was a professional day for the heart and mind.

Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation Learning Resources

Is there a way you have embedded [Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Being](#) in either your teaching practice or in your daily life? Please submit a reflection on your learning to 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.



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: Register by May 25, 2023, at 12:00 pm

The Grade 7 Empowered Girls Conference, organized by the STA Status of Women Committee, will be taking place on Monday, May 29, 2023, at L.A. Matheson Secondary. Check [website](#) for more information.

All Grade 7 teachers should have received an information package with 15 pamphlets to be distributed to all students who identify as girls in your class. Check with your administration if you haven't received it yet. If you need more pamphlets, please contact graphics@surreyteachers.org. [Read more](#)



CODEV Fundraising Dinner Draw: Enter Before May 26, 2023

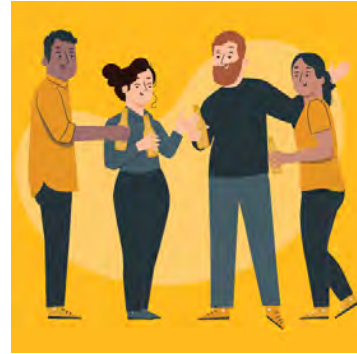
The STA's International Solidarity Committee has purchased a table to [CoDevelopment Canada's Annual Fundraising Dinner](#) on June 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Maritime Labour Centre in Vancouver. As a result, 8 seats are available for the membership to attend. If you are interested and able to commit 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 30, 2023.



Young Worker Pub Night: June 1, 2023

STA Young Workers Committee is hosting an evening of relaxation at the Dublin Crossing Irish Pub (18789 Fraser Hwy #101, Surrey) on Thursday, June 1 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. This event, for members aged 35 and under, is aimed at connecting with our profession's leaders of tomorrow! The first 10 participants to sign up and show up will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card. Your first drink and appies are on us!

Please note: The social space at the Dublin is on the second floor of the venue. There are stairs that may provide difficulty for some participants. [Register now](#)



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.

Sooke Teachers' Association In-Person and Virtual Pro-D Conference: May 29, 2023

[Register to attend](#) a Pro-D in person and virtual conference hosted by the Sooke Teachers' Association. The cost is \$50.00. Speak to your site-based Pro-D rep about how to access funding to attend this Pro-D event.

Community News

BCTF Teacher Magazine: May/June 2023

The latest edition of Teacher magazine is written entirely by and about teachers who identify as Indigenous, Black, or People of Colour (IBPOC/BIPOC). Read about the challenges, joy, victory, solidarity, and power of their experiences: <https://bit.ly/3lbM69N>



Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools Toolkit and Workshops

There is an increase in social groups that promote hatred. Schools have increasingly become arenas for hateful organizing. The Canadian Anti-Hate Network education program, "Confronting and Preventing Hate in Canadian Schools", is specifically focused on responding to hate movements' propaganda aimed at youth. [Find their toolkit](#)

What Are Your Hopes and Dreams for Public Education in BC?

The Institute for Public Education (IPE/BC) has launched the *Hopes and Dreams* community engagement research project, and it plans to issue a report that will help determine education policy and practice in BC. Here is how you can share your thoughts. [Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

STA Events

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

June 5

Pro-D Committee
Ad Hoc Environmental Justice Committee

June 6

STARA Steering Committee

June 7

Health & Safety Committee
Ad Hoc LST Advisory Committee
Indigenous Education Committee: Dinner Meeting

June 9

STA Retirement Dinner

Other Important Dates

May

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

May 24-27

[Aboriginal Awareness Week](#)

May 28-June 3

[National Accessibility Week](#)

June

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

June 1

[Injured Workers' Day](#)

June 5-11

[Canadian Environment Week](#)

June 5

[World Environment Day](#)

June 8

[World Ocean 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:ḥ'á'əḥ (Kwantlen), ḡíçəy' (Katzie), qíqéy't (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.