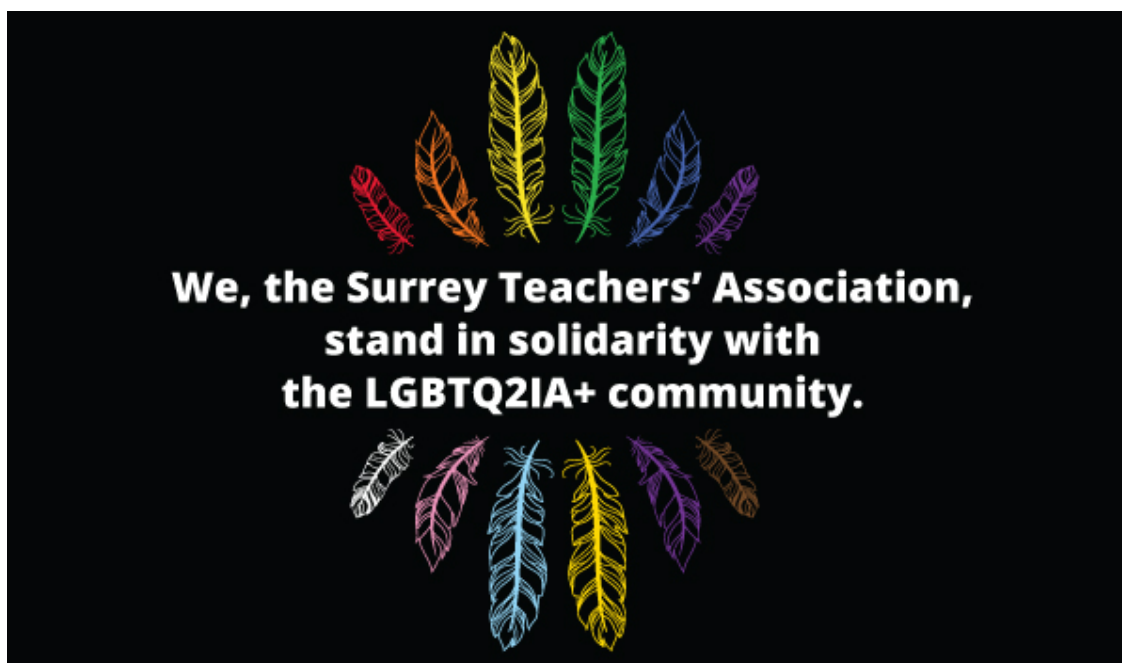


## STA CONNECTION

June 12-16, 2023



We are starting an **URGENT CAMPAIGN** to combat the hateful rhetoric targeting the LGBTQ2IA+ community.

If you speak either Punjabi or Hindi or Arabic or Farsi and have used SOGI resources in your classroom and are interested in helping us to create a positive public campaign in support of members of our LGBTQ2IA+ community in Surrey schools, please contact the STA by emailing [communication@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communication@surreyteachers.org)

Our goal is to counter the harmful messages and misinformation currently being spread in Surrey neighbourhoods.

### Pride Month – June 2023

For those who are interested in learning more about how to better support trans students this Pride month, TransCare BC has free quick [online courses](#) available to any government employee, ranging from a 30-minute intro to the trans community to a 3-hour supporting gender diverse youth course. You can also learn more about the SOGI curriculum by visiting [SOGI123's All Educators page](#).

### STA at Surrey Pride Festival: June 24, 2023

The STA is a proud sponsor of [Surrey Pride 2023](#) and will have a booth at the festival. The 2023 Surrey Pride Festival is being held at the Civic Plaza on Saturday, June 24, from 3:30pm - 9:30pm.

If you're interested in volunteering to staff the STA booth, please email [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org).



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### STARA Meeting: June 14, 2023

Elections for positions on [two STA Committees](#) (Finance and Grievance) will be held during the next STARA (STA Representative Assembly) meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, starting at **4:00 pm at Westfield Country Club** (7778 152 St, Surrey, BC). **Elections will be held through Simply Voting. You will need a mobile device to vote in these elections.**

If you haven't already, please [register to attend STARA](#). If you'd like to be considered for a committee complete and [submit this form](#) **no later than 4:00 pm on June 13, 2023**. Should you miss the deadline, you will be able to run from the floor at the STARA meeting.

### Virtual Special General Meeting: June 20, 2023

There will be a Special General Meeting on Tuesday, June 20 at **4:00 pm via Zoom**. Agenda items include elections for [17 STA committees](#), budget adjustments, and amendments to By-Laws and Standing Rules of Order (see attached).

We will be using the Simply Voting platform to vote so please [register](#) as soon as possible. You will receive an email reminder and your voting link on **Monday, June 19th**. Please contact [operations@surreyteachers.org](mailto:operations@surreyteachers.org) if you did not receive an email.



**Communications Coordinator Position: EXTENDED Deadline – June 15, 2023** 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 **June 15, 2023**.

### Shortlisted Without an Interview?

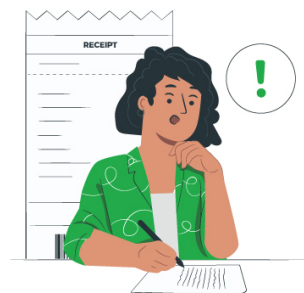
In our school district, the candidate with the most seniority is not always awarded the position. Due to language in our Collective Agreement, the job can be awarded to a less senior, but more suitable candidate. However, candidates with more seniority must be offered an interview. If you applied for a job in Round Two, please check the Surrey School's Hub for the closed report which will be published on June 22, 2023. If the job was awarded to a candidate with less seniority than you, and you were not offered an interview, please contact grievance officers Gavin Slade-Kerr, at [hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org), Kelli O'Malley, at [grieve2@surreyschools.ca](mailto:grieve2@surreyschools.ca), or Amrit Sanghe, at [grieve1@surreyschools.ca](mailto:grieve1@surreyschools.ca).

### 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](#)

## STA Expense Forms for the 2022-2023 School Year

We're down to the last few days for submitting STA expense claims for 2022-23. Please submit your forms **as soon as possible** so that our accounting clerk Donna is not overwhelmed by hundreds of claims to process at the last minute! The [expense form](#) is available on our website.



## Deadlines for Transferring TTOC credits

If you work as a teacher teaching on call (TTOC), you will accumulate your experience credit in your TTOC silo. If you also work in a contract, temporary, or continuing position, you will also earn experience credit in your contract silo. You can move your TTOC experience credit into your contract silo two times a year. You must make the request to move the experience credit by **June 30** to be effective by August 31, or by November 15 to be effective by December 31. Visit the BCTF's page to [learn more about how to move your TTOC credit](#) to your contract silo, when it is best to move your TTOC credit, or when to keep your TTOC credit in your TTOC silo.

## Professional Development Reimbursement for the 2022-2023 School Year

It's the time of year when some schools start allowing top-ups on Pro-D applications that were not fully reimbursed earlier in this school year. Please submit any claims for reimbursement **as soon as possible** so that Navneet is not inundated with these at the last minute. Here are some handy tips to make sure your forms are complete and submitted on time. [Read more](#)

## Shout Outs to School Union Reps

A big shout-out to the Union Reps in our schools! As a union representative you play a critical role at worksites ensuring that provisions in our Collective Agreement are protected and our members' voices are heard and respected. We deeply appreciate all that you do for staff at your school.

STA members, *please send a message about the ways you appreciate your Health & Safety Rep, Pro-D Rep, and/or Staff Rep(s) to [communications@surreyteachers.org](mailto:communications@surreyteachers.org)* and we will enter both your names into a draw for a reward every week for the month of June.

This week's winners are Joanna Shniad from Bonaccord Elementary and Sherry Starr from McLeod Road Elementary. Congratulations!

[Read all the Shout Outs](#) we received over for this past week.

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## Truth and Reconciliation

### June is both Pride Month and Indigenous Peoples' History Month

Read this article from [Trans Care BC](#) to learn more about the history and resources related to the Indigenous understandings of gender and spirituality. Here's an extract: *"The role of Two-Spirit people in Indigenous communities is now being reclaimed, and it is becoming*

*increasingly recognized that homophobia and transphobia are in direct contradiction with most traditional Indigenous values. Reclaiming the traditional roles and value placed on Two-Spirit people's gifts, is part of a larger healing process taking place within Indigenous communities."*

## Reconciliation in your Community Reflection

Thank you to Regie Marie Plana-Alcuaz for sharing the impact of watching the [TEDx presentation](#) by Carolyn Roberts who explains how reconciliation can happen in your community.

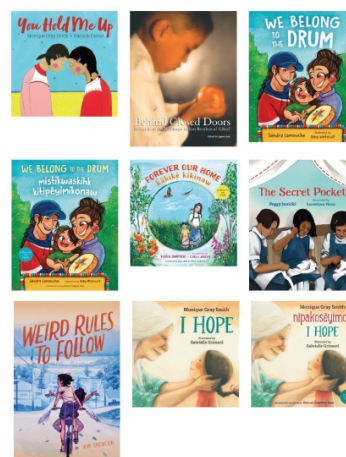
Regie writes: "*Carolyn Roberts is an effective storyteller, and I will remember the coyote and the bone needle story as it relates to how we should work towards reconciliation and the many pieces of this puzzle.*" [Read more](#)

## Indigenous Language Books

Language plays a critical role in any culture. Using books that include Indigenous languages in your school will help your students to learn more about the cultures of the original stewards of this land. You can find a [list of dual language books](#). Check with your teacher librarian to see if you have these books in your school.

Ideas for using these books in your classroom:

- Read the same book in multiple languages with dual-language books.
- Research the Indigenous languages spoken where you live and across Turtle Island; where do they overlap?
- Use online resources to learn how to say new words out loud.
- Listen to a recording or watch a video of a speaker telling a story or singing a song in the language spoken where you live.



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

June is Indigenous History Month and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples' Day. We would love to hear how you are embedding Truth and Reconciliation in your classroom and/or school. 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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## Other Events

### **Additional attendees to the BCTF Summer Leadership Conference**

In an effort to foster broader member engagement, the BCTF Summer Leadership Conference invites 10 attendees who are members in their first five years of teaching, and 20 attendees who are members identifying as Aboriginal or Indigenous, Black, and people of colour. The conference will take place from August 22 to 25, 2023. [Learn more about the conference and to apply to attend](#)

### **Sher Vancouver Bollywood Banquet Hall: July 8, 2023**

Join Sher Vancouver as they mark their 15th anniversary at the Bollywood Banquet Hall. [Sher Vancouver](#) is a registered charity for LGBTQ+ South Asians and their friends, families, and allies. The event includes South Asian and fusion arts and cultural performances, classical music, delicious food, colorful cupcakes with rainbow icing, and the highlights of our 15-year history in Surrey and Metro Vancouver. [Register and buy tickets](#)

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## Community News

### **Surrey To Raise Rainbow Flag at City Hall for Pride Month in Historic First**

Although the City of Surrey has had a Pride organization for 24 years, 2023 marks the first time the Pride flag will be raised outside City Hall in Surrey. Martin Rooney, the president of Surrey Pride commented in a recent article from BC CTV, “As the second largest city in the province it shows diversity, inclusion and acceptance,” Mooney (misspelled name) said, adding the symbolic gesture carries economic benefits as well. “It will give the perspective that the City of Surrey is open to rainbow community businesses being in operation,” he explained.

[Read the full article](#)



### **Minister's Statement for Pride 2023 in K-12 Education**

In honour of Pride month, the following statement was made by Rachna Singh, Minister of school and Child Care, to celebrate the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in B.C.'s education system. “We know that each child expresses themselves in their own unique way and that 2SLGBTQIA+ students, staff and families still face discrimination in our education system. Our hard work continues so we can ensure every school is a place where all students, staff and families feel safe and like they belong.” [Read the full statement](#)

## Surrey's National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration & Wellness Event: June 21, 2023

Hosted by the Semiahmoo, Kwantlen and Katzie First Nations, the City of Surrey invites you to The National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration & Wellness Event from 3:00 to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, live at the Bill Reid Millennium Amphitheatre in Cloverdale.

This event is an opportunity to honour Indigenous Peoples past, present and future; to share cultural history; and to share spirit, experiences, stories, song, art and dance with the community.

## Pride Events Happening in Surrey

Check out events happening throughout the month by visiting [City of Surrey's Pride Month page](#). You can also learn about the history of LGBTQ2IA+ Rights in Canada.

## Nourish Kids Now Postcard/Letter Campaign

*Nourish Kids Now* is a grassroots campaign calling on the federal government to invest in healthy, universal school food programs. The new campaign invites students and teachers to fill out postcards sharing why healthy food at school matters. You can either send these postcards to your local [Member of Parliament](#) or email them to [Nourish Kids Now](#) to have them forwarded to the federal government. To learn more, visit the [Nourish Kids Now campaign](#) and find resources to get involved.

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## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

#### June 13

Executive Committee

#### June 14

[STARA Meeting](#)

#### June 15

Deadline for Changing to/from 12 Month Pay Scheme

#### June 19

Status of Women Committee

#### June 20

[Special General Meeting](#)

#### June 22

International Solidarity Committee

#### June 27

Executive Committee

#### June 29

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

#### June 30

Deadline for Converting TTOC Experiences for Contract Teachers



## Other Important Dates

### June

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

### June 12

[World Day Against Child Labour](#)

### June 18

[Autistic Pride Day](#)

### June 19

[Juneteenth](#)

### June 20

[World Refugee Day](#)

### June 21

[National Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

### June 24

[Surrey Pride Festival](#)

### June 27

[Canadian Multiculturalism 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'wá:ḥł'ən̓ (Kwantlen), qíçəy̓ (Katzie), qíqéyt (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.