

STA CONNECTION

June 19-23, 2023

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 if you did not receive an email.



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.



Important Pro-D End of Year Information

It's top-up time! Some schools are ready to start allowing top-ups on Pro-D applications that were not fully reimbursed the first time. For Pro-D Reps; if you would like to check your Pro-D balance, e-mail Navneet Basra at accounting2@surreyteachers.org to request an update on the Pro-D funds for your school. She can also provide you with information on how to submit top-up requests at that time. [Read more](#)

Changes to Pro-D Funding Guidelines Coming Next School Year

At the February STARA meeting, the meeting passed motions related to the Pro-D funding guidelines. Beginning in the 2023/2024 school year the changes are as follows:

- Consolidated funds will increase to \$700.
- Professional Resources can be reimbursed up \$100 for up to two resources per school year per member.
- Snacks for Whole Staff Pro-D up to \$7.00 per STA member in attendance.

Hearing Tests

The district is offering hearing tests to those who **missed their hearing test** in the past year: Tech Ed., Band, P.E.; and select Facilities staff. This is specifically for employees who are exposed to a combination of high sound levels and extended periods of exposure to sound levels of above 85 dBA. This testing has been organized to be at the District Facilities Centre at 6700 144 Street, Surrey on **June 29, 2023**.

Eligible employees will need to book their appointment by June 23, 2023. To book your appointment, please contact Human Resources Reception at 604-595-6150. Facilities staff, please contact your office for bookings. The appointments are scheduled based on 'first to call – first to fill'. You will be asked for your legal name as well as your employee number. For more information, please view the [Hearing Conservation Memo 2023](#).

Fans

We have heard from members who have been unable to get a fan for their workspace and brought the issue to the district health and safety committee. If you have been denied a fan due to school financial reasons, you are encouraged to speak to your administration again. If your admin has a concern that there is no money in the school account to cover the cost of fans, encourage them to talk to their [area superintendent](#) who may be able to help.

Medical Leave While Pregnant

On the Staff Portal under *Teacher Medical Leaves*, the District directs teachers who are pregnant to a different form when they are applying for medical leave. We have grieved this practice and are preparing for arbitration. If you have been denied a medical leave after completing this form, please contact grievance officer Amrit Sanghe at grieve1@surreyteachers.org.

Cash Those Cheques

If you receive a cheque from the STA, please deposit it ASAP. Hanging on to cheques can either result in the cheque being lost or going stale-dated. Also, if you deposit it via the picture method, please make a note of having deposited it on the cheque so you don't accidentally do it twice. This will really help lighten the workload of the STA accounting clerks.

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 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.

Transfer Rounds

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, Kelli O'Malley, at grieve2@surreyschools.ca, or Amrit Sanghe, at 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](#)

Mentorship Program

Site-Based Mentorship for 2023-2024

“Our mentorship program has created a community of teachers open to listening and learning with and from one another. A support system. A landing place for new teachers where they feel valued and seen and included.” - a Teacher in Surrey Schools

Mentor36 would like to continue to support our Elementary Schools, Secondary Schools and Learning Centres by co-creating a culture of mentorship at your site. We envision schools and mentorship as complex systems such as a forest, where teams of people come together to learn and grow. [Read more](#)

Mentorship Cohorts for 2023 -2024

Thank you to all the mentors and mentees for learning and supporting each other this past year!

Mentor36 would like to continue to support teachers who teach a specialized area, such as Core French, Core Music, Counselling, Teacher-Librarian, IST, LST and Montessori. We know that you want to collaborate and learn with colleagues who understand your work. If you are interested in being part of a mentorship cohort for the 2023-2024 school year, please [Express Your Interest](#) to this opportunity via the link. Feel free to forward this email to other specialist teachers in our district. We will connect with you by mid-September to share more information about our Mentorship Orientation and Professional Learning Opportunities for the year.

Call for Mentors 2023-2024

Thank you to all Mentors this year! You have graciously offered your time and expertise to our early-career teachers. They appreciate you in so many ways, these are their words:

- My mentor's endless patience and gift of time. I value the conversations spent sharing ideas, resources, experiences and knowledge.
- My mentor's kindness, compassion and understanding, feeling like I've been heard and acknowledged.
- My mentor's care and commitment to learning both from and with my students as we journey through new experiences together.

Please consider being a mentor to an early-career teacher in the next school year. The expression of interest for Mentors in a 1:1 partnership will be open this fall - watch for notices in the STA Connection. Contact Pauline Veto, Professional Support Services, at 604-592-8392 if you have questions.

Truth and Reconciliation

Indigenous History Month Story

This month I have been introducing our ELL students to the vast reading materials we have at our Frank Hurt Secondary library. Our wonderful librarian Mrs. Jeanette Mclean has selected a wide range of reading materials to meet the needs of all our students. Alongside the library's Indigenous reading contest, I have created an independent book report, where students (who are learning English and the concept of a book report) to select a book. They are given 15 mins of silent reading each day followed by a vocabulary and reading log. They also need to indicate the genre, author, plot etc. After they complete the assignment, they are to present their book in a small seminar where their group members can practice asking questions about the book.

Some of the books we are using are:

"[If I go Missing](#)" by [Brianna Jonnie](#)

"[We Are Water Protectors](#)" by [Carole Lindstrom](#)

"[The Chief](#)" and "[The Poet](#)" By [David Alexander Robertson](#)

"[The Two Sisters](#)" by [Emily Pauline Johnson](#)

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 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 Awards

Honourary Life Membership Award

The STA posthumously presented an Honourary Life Membership to Phyllis Minsky, a long-time Surrey Teacher and an exemplary member of our association. Pictured with the award is Phyllis's husband Leonard.



Award Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the STA's Indigenous Student Bursary and the Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Award! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Bursaries for Indigenous Students

Zacharyyah Khalif, Frank Hurt Secondary
Noah Pflanz, Semiahmoo Secondary

Jennifer Wadge Memorial Social Justice Award

Kade Dayton, Clayton Heights Secondary
Hannah Gebert, Clayton Heights Secondary



Did Your Child Just Graduate from High School This Year?

Did you know they may also be eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship, bursary, or award?

The Surrey Teachers' Association annually awards fourteen \$2,000 to graduating children of STA members active during the applicants' graduating school year. **The deadline for applications is 4:00 pm, Friday, September 15, 2023.** The awards will be presented at the October 18, 2023 General Meeting. [Read more](#)



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

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.



SOGI Resources

We are fortunate to have a SOGI and Anti-Racism Team Lead/Helping Teacher in our District. If you are looking for resources for your school, please feel free to join the following Teams using the codes provided:

- [SOGI Resources for Surrey Staff](#) (code: ad2cm01)
- [Anti-Racism Resources for Surrey Staff](#) (code: bxdxgj3)
- [Surrey Schools One - SOGI Support](#)

If you are looking for resources to send to parents and caregivers, SOGI 123 has [helpful videos](#) for Elementary and Secondary schools that are also available in Mandarin, Punjabi, and French. You can find more information about gender identity for families from [Caring for kids \(cps.ca\)](#), [Gender Creative Kids](#), [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#), and the Ministry Document: [SOGI-Inclusive Myth Busting](#).

Board Statement

“Our board is united in promoting respect, empathy, and understanding for all individuals,” said Larsen. “We will not tolerate any form of hate speech, discrimination or attempts to spread misinformation that undermines the rights and well-being of all members of our school communities, including members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community.” [Read more](#)

Community News

BC Demographic Survey

If you're a B.C. resident aged 13 or over, you're invited to participate. Parents or legal guardians may complete the survey on behalf of children under 13. The BC Demographic Survey includes questions about ethnicity, gender, education, income, and other aspects of identity. All survey responses will be kept confidential. The survey is available in 15 languages. The anti-racism information collected will help identify inequities in government services to ensure programs meet the needs of more people in British Columbia.

Please consider filling the [BC Demographic Survey](#).

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.

Upcoming Events

STA Events

June 19

Status of Women Committee

June 29

Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

June 20

[Special General Meeting](#)

June 30

Deadline for Converting TTOC
Experiences for Contract Teachers

June 22

International Solidarity Committee

June 27

Executive Committee

Other Important Dates

June

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

June 24

[Surrey Pride Festival](#)

June 19

[Juneteenth](#)

June 27

[Canadian Multiculturalism Day](#)

June 20

[World Refugee Day](#)

For more, visit [United Nations International awareness dates](#)

June 21

[National Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)

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'ən'(Kwantlen), 'qic'əy (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.