

STA CONNECTION

June 26-30, 2023

President's Message

Hello friends!

Over the past year, we have been meeting with a few former STA Presidents (pictured below) who have shared their wisdom and advice with us. We are very grateful for their guidance.



Left to right in the front row: David Chudnovsky (1986 – 1988); Peter Thomson (1978 – 1980); Peter Ellis (1980 – 1982; 1996 – 1999); Moira Mackenzie (1982 – 1984); Kelly Shields (1993 – 1996)

Continuing the gratitude, I want to thank you for the extraordinary lengths to which you have gone to ensure the well-being and achievements of your students in these challenging times.

Our year started with expectations of a better contract given that we had an "education friendly" political party in power. The salary increases in the Collective Agreement that was ratified by a 94% vote in November 2022 have essentially evaporated given that food

inflation [for the past two year was 18%](#). Small wins were the increases in elementary prep time and the improvements in health benefits. In the new school year, we'll be talking to members about preparations for the next round of bargaining and how your workload and working conditions are determined by what's in the collective agreement, not by the "kindness" of the employer. [Read more](#)

Reconvened Virtual Special General Meeting: June 28, 2023

We will be having a **Reconvened** Special General Meeting on Wednesday, June 28th at 4:00 pm via Zoom which will begin where the June 20 Special General Meeting ended at item number 7: Motions to Amend General Meeting Standing Rules of Order.

2023-2024 Round 3 postings

- Opens June 22, 2023 - Closes June 26, 2023
- Opens July 27, 2023 - Closes August 21, 2023
- Starting August 24, 2023, postings will open Mondays & Close Thursdays at 4pm
- AND open Thursdays & close Mondays until October 9, 2023 (Thanksgiving) at 4pm.
- After October 9, 2023 (Thanksgiving) postings will open Thursdays and close Mondays.

Note: All postings open and close at 4pm on the day of.

STA Fees for June and 2023-2024

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

Prep Time Rollover

Do you have a lot of missed Prep Time from this school year due to Failures to Fill? As per Article D.4.9 in the Working Conditions section on page 95 of the [Collective Agreement](#) you are entitled to carry over your missed prep from this 2022-2023 school year to the next school year 2023-2024 even if you are moving to a new school. Check with your Admin to verify that all your missed prep is recorded. Pro Tip: Keep a tracking document that records and calculates your missed and recovered prep.

Remedy Rollover

From the District: "Teachers with classes in remedy should have received notices for May minutes. Teachers with classes in remedy in June will receive emails in mid-June. Please check with your principals to see what your total remaining minutes are for the year and try to use minutes up by end of June. You can use minutes up to and including June 30. Minutes that are not used will be carried over to next year. We appreciate that it can be a challenge to take your remedy time and thank everyone for working to use the time this year."

Summer School Teachers and Sick Leave

If you are denied leave for paid sick leave under the ESA while working as a summer school teacher in the summer of 2023, please contact the Health and Safety Grievance Officer at hs@surreyteachers.org.

The district has communicated that the following memo applies to summer school teachers: [Read more](#)

Dual Dental Coverage Available Effective July 1, 2023

As a result of bargaining, the provincial parties have agreed to remove the collective agreement dual dental restrictions that were in place for teachers. There will no longer be a restriction preventing teachers from enrolling in the district's dental plan if they are currently ensured under a secondary dental plan. If you have previously waived your dental coverage due to a dual dental restriction, you can apply during the open enrolment period from July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023. Applications received after September 30th will be subject to [late applicants rules and restrictions](#). [Read more](#)

CPAP Coverage for Members on the Provincial EHB Plan

During recent negotiations with BCPSEA to improve our provincial Extended Health Benefits (EHB) Plan, the BCTF requested clarification on the coverage for CPAP machines required by members who experience sleep apnea. The BCPSEA benefits consultant assured us that our provincial EHB plan provides more than one CPAP machine per lifetime if the member has moderate to severe sleep apnea. See attached FAQ that lists the change in eligibility as of October 2018. [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.

Please note we published a duplicated winner's list from 2 weeks ago in last week's STA Connection. Here were the winners from June 12-16, 2023: Susan Soo from Chantrel Creek Elementary and Alex Heistad from James Ardiel Elementary. Congratulations!

This week's winners are Jennifer Brooks from the South Surrey/White Rock Learning Centre and Rhiann Leung from Surrey Traditional Elementary. Congratulations!

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

Truth and Reconciliation

Survivors' Flag

The Governor General of Canada, Mary Simon, joined residential school Survivors and the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) on National Indigenous Peoples Day to re-raise the Survivors' Flag on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. The commemorative flag was developed through consultation and collaboration with Inuit, Mi'kmaq, Atikamekw, Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, Mohawk, Dene, Nuu-chah-nulth, Secwepemc, and Métis



Nation Survivors and created by Survivors to honour all Survivors, families, and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada, and to share their expression of remembrance across the nation. [Read more about this story](#)

Hearts and Hands Pins for Truth and Reconciliation

We want to thank everyone who submitted stories this past year about your journey towards Truth and Reconciliation. We still have many Hearts and Hands pins, so starting in the new school year, we will be looking for more ways to share your stories. Thank you and enjoy your well-deserved break!



Save the Date! Truth And Reconciliation Week September 25-28, 2023: Honouring the Survivors

Truth and Reconciliation Week is a national week-long program open to all schools across Canada brought to you by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR). This year, the theme is Honouring the Survivors. [Register](#) for a 6-day series of educational programming that's aligned with Canadian education curriculums.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

Elevator Pitch for SOGI

Don't know what to say when a parent asks you what SOGI is? Here's an elevator pitch:

*The SOGI curriculum is a set of lesson plans that teach children that there is **diversity** amongst human beings and that everyone should be **included** in all aspects of being human because everyone has **inalienable human rights**. That's what the lesson plans teach, overall. The lessons from K-12 are just different approaches to the same theme: **diversity, equality, inclusion**.*

Students Sharing Their Pride "In the Spirit of Kindness"

Written by Manjit Dulla

Walnut Road Elementary kindergarten students show their support for the LGBTQ2S+ community by holding a pride walk with their intermediate buddy classes. In the spirit of kindness and appreciating our differences these students wholeheartedly model open minds and acceptance. Children always say it best!



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.

BCTF News

The BCTF Newsletter was sent out on June 21st to your personal email address. Here are some items we think you might be interested in:

- **Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference**
The BCTF is offering an opportunity for two members who identify as Aboriginal and/or Indigenous to attend the Healing Our Spirit Worldwide Conference in Vancouver from September 11–15, 2023. [Learn more](#)
- **Call for participants to the IDEA Indigenous Educators' Network—Fifth continental encounter of Indigenous educators**
The BCTF invites Indigenous teachers to apply to participate in a continental encounter of Indigenous educators from October 12–14, 2023, in Ecuador. [Learn more](#)
- **K–12 Reporting Policy Revision**
The Ministry of Education and Child Care has added a new teacher and school leaders [K–12 reporting resource page](#) to their curriculum website.
- **Pension Information Video**
If you noticed your lifetime pension has increased very little or decreased on your latest pension statement compared to the lifetime pension on last year's pension statement, you may be interested in learning more about the [Year's Maximum Pensionable Earnings](#) (YMPE) and how it affects your pension.

Upcoming Events

STA Events

June 27
Executive Committee

June 29
Ad Hoc LGBTQ2S+ Committee

June 28
Reconvened Special General Meeting

June 30
Deadline for Converting TTOC Experiences for Contract Teachers

Other Important Dates

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

August 5/6
[Vancouver Pride Festival](#)

June 27
[Canadian Multiculturalism Day](#)

August 9
[International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)

July 1
[Land Back Day](#)

August 12
[International Youth Day](#)

July 15
[Canada Parks Day](#)

August 19
[World Humanitarian Day](#)

July 18
[Nelson Mandela International Day](#)

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

July 30
[World Day Against Trafficking in Persons](#)



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'wa:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), qíćəy (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and smi'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.