

STA CONNECTION

September 11-15, 2023

School Union Reps

To be effective as a union, we need to ensure all members are informed about their rights through upholding the collective agreement. This is why it's important to have School Union Reps in every school and worksite within the Surrey School District.

Elected Staff Reps, Pro-D Reps, Health & Safety Reps, Staff Committee Chair, and Social Justice Reps should ensure that the [School Information Update form](#) is completed as soon as possible and forwarded to Shiela Batin at repsupport@surreyteachers.org. Reps whose names have been submitted by **4:00 pm on Friday, September 15, 2023**, will have their names entered for a prize at the first STARA of the 2023 – 2024 school year.



STA Awards – Deadline for Applications: Friday, September 15, 2023

The STA is offering 6 Academic Scholarships, 6 Bursaries, and 2 Jennifer Wadge Social Justice Awards. These awards are available to students who graduated during the 2022-2023 Academic Year and are children of active STA members. For more information and applications, please visit our [Scholarships & Bursaries page](#).



Did your employer hire you for less than your full FTE (full-time equivalent)?

We are looking for teachers that wanted to work their entire contractual entitlement but were not given an assignment for the full FTE. For instance: You had a 1.0 FTE but only received an offer for a 0.8 FTE, or you had a 0.6 FTE but only received an offer for a 0.4 FTE position. If you accepted the smaller assignment, you might have been informed that it would be up to you to cover the remaining hours of your workweek by participating in Round 3 hiring or working as a TTOC. If this sort of thing happened to you, please send an email with details to Kelli O' Malley, Grievance Officer, at grieve2@surreyteachers.org.

Special General Meeting and STARA on Wednesday, September 27, 2023

On Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 4:00 pm, the STA will be holding a Special General Meeting and a Staff Representative Assembly (STARA) via Zoom. During the STARA there will be elections for STARA Steering Committee. Registration information to follow.

Volunteer as a Peer Support Consultant – Deadline: Friday, September 29, 2023

The STA is currently looking for additional teachers, both elementary and secondary, who are interested in volunteering as a Peer Support Consultant. At present we have a higher need for Secondary teachers in all curricular areas.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing direct support to teachers
- Participating in the development of plans-of-assistance
- Training for peer consultants

Release time for work and training will be provided. Please return your completed [Peer Support Volunteer Application form](#) to the STA office by **Friday, September 29, 2023**. For more information, contact Pauline Veto, Professional Support Services Officer, at services@surreyteachers.org or phone (604) 592-8392.

Call for Resolutions for the BCTF AGM (Annual General Meeting) 2024 – Deadline for Applications: Friday, October 13, 2023

Do you have a burning idea to improve the way things are done in the BCTF? Did you know that all policies in the BCTF Members Guide started with an idea a member had? You too can [submit your ideas](#) in the form of resolutions to be considered by the STA Resolutions Committee for forwarding to the BCTF Annual General Meeting in March 2024. [Read more](#)

Staff Reps

Time to Register for Staff Rep Training!

These training days are completely free for staff reps – the STA will cover your Leave of Absence, as well as provide breakfast snacks, coffee, and lunch. This is a great way to connect and learn with other staff reps!

Register from these options (new staff reps can select "Role of the Staff Rep" plus another):

- [Role of the Staff Rep](#) (October 3, 6)
- [Education for Truth and Reconciliation: Using the Aboriginal Lens](#) (September 18, October 23)
- [Investigations and Discipline: Knowledge is Power](#) (October 11, 12)
- [Creating Inclusive Spaces: Applying an Equity and Inclusion Lens to Your Local, Schools, and Classrooms](#) (October 17, 19)



VIP Meet and Greet Pub Event – Save the Date!

This year, staff reps will be invited to a special VIP meet and greet pub event on **Tuesday, September 19!** We will send you more info once you get the [School Information Update form](#) in with your contact information to Shiela Batin at repsupport@surreyteachers.org.

Professional Development

Deadline for Pro-D Funding Applications for the 2022-2023 School Year

All applications, along with original receipts, must be received at the STA by the deadline of **September 15, 2023**. Please get them into the courier on or before Thursday, September 7. We cannot receive emailed applications. Please note that Navneet Basra, the Pro-D accounting clerk, can be emailed at accounting2@surreyteachers.org.

Professional Development Representative Training

Register now for [Rookie Pro-D Rep Training](#) (September 19) or [Experienced Pro-D Rep Training](#) (September 20, 26, 28 and October 4, 5, 10, 16). All training will be in-person at the STA office from 8:30 to 3:00 pm and lunch will be provided.



Professional Development Dates for 2023-2024

- **September 25:** Possible admin day (admin can choose ONE day for the year).
- **October 20:** PSA Day. A list of conferences can be found on the [BCTF website](#).
- **November 10:** STA Indigenous Committee holds their annual conference. Info on this will be coming soon to the STA website and the STAC.
- **February 23:** Focus Day and is planned jointly between the STA and SD36.
- **May 3:** STA Convention Day. Watch for registration information closer to the date.
- **May 27:** Possible admin day (admin can choose ONE day for the year).

Truth and Reconciliation

Voices from the Land: Indigenous Peoples Talk Language Revitalization

Learn about [Indigenous Language Revitalization](#) efforts across Canada in a podcast series on your commute to work or listen with your students.



Decolonization: Orange Shirt Purchase Edition

There are many reputable and Indigenous owned brands/stores that sell orange shirts created by Indigenous communities. Ensuring that you purchase from organizations that are Indigenous owned with Indigenous designers and workers is one step towards decolonization. If you are still confused or have families asking, one resource you can share is [Legacy of Hope Foundation](#), where all the proceeds go directly to Indigenous survivors, communities, researchers, and educators to develop resources to increase public awareness and education on the history and dark legacy of residential schools.

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 grade 1-12 educational programming that is aligned with Canadian education curriculums.

Collective Agreement Notes

Remedy 2023

Please do not book any remedy time or book TTOCs for remedy. Currently there is no Remedy Agreement between the district and STA. We are negotiating the Carry-over Agreement and will send updates once this process is completed. As a result, teachers are not able to access historical remedy, which is any remedy accrued until the end of June 2023. As a reminder, Remedy is not accrued by any teachers in September. Data is gathered at the end of October and then information will arrive to impacted teachers in November.

Read last year's [Carry-over Agreement](#). Questions? Contact our Grievance Officers, Kelli O'Malley at grieve2@surreyteachers.org or Amrit Sanghe at grieve1@surreyteachers.org.

Failure to Fills

Please make sure your school has a rotation set up through Staff Committee to ensure an equitable rotation of teachers who may be called on to cover a teacher absence. **It is important that Staff Committee/Staff Rep monitors the frequency of non-enrolling staff being pulled for failure to fill coverage.** This data must be reported to the District as it generates additional teacher staffing for the following school year. [Read more](#)

Department Head Release Days

Department Head Release Days are provided for leadership and organization in a secondary school department or program.

**B.29.7 LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL TIME*

**a. Each school year, leadership and organizational time shall be provided to each department or program according to the following formula:*

10-20 Teaching Blocks = 7 days
21-34 Teaching Blocks = 11 days
35 or more Teaching Blocks = 15 days

**b. The use of this time shall be jointly determined by the Principal / Vice Principal and the Department Head.*

**c. This time may be assigned, for specific purposes, to other members of the department.*

Please make sure you are getting the appropriate number of teaching blocks. If you have any questions, please contact our Grievance Officers, Kelli O'Malley at grieve2@surreyteachers.org, or Amrit Sanghe at grieve1@surreyteachers.org.

Support Information

STA Peer Support Program

Are you an early career teacher that feels overwhelmed? Are you facing an unfamiliar or unexpected challenge in your classroom? Are you teaching a new grade and need help knowing where to start? Are you a returning teacher who has been away from the classroom for a while?

Use this situation as an opportunity for growth through participation in the STA Peer Support Program. Our confidential consultants are all teachers who will support your goals in professional practice. [Peer Support Information](#) is available on the STA Website, or you can contact Pauline Veto, Professional Support Services Officer, at 604-592-8392 and/or services@surreyteachers.org.



Mentor36 – Applications Open Throughout 2023-24 School Year!

- The [Mentor36 Site-Based Mentorship Program](#) will support your school team to co-create learning opportunities for professional growth and foster a sense of belonging among teachers, especially early-career, new-to-role, and new-to-school teachers.
- The [Mentorship Cohorts](#) support teachers in specialized areas, such as core music, to collaborate and connect with other specialists.
- The One: One Mentorship partnerships are for early career or new-to-role teachers who are interested in learning alongside a mentor.



BCTF Teacher Inquiry Program – Deadline to STA: Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Teacher inquiry has become a well-established model of self-directed professional development throughout the province, and the BCTF is pleased to offer teachers the opportunity to be part of one of 18 joint local/district inquiry projects. For more information about what the program is and how to apply, visit [BCTF Teacher Inquiry Program](#).

Please submit program applications to the STA Office, attention: Erin Coleman, by **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**. Applications are due to the BCTF by Monday, October 16, 2023, and we need time to secure funding. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Erin Coleman, Professional Development Officer, at pd@surreyteachers.org.

Upcoming Events

STA Events

September 11
Pro-D Committee

September 12
Executive Committee

September 13
Health & Safety Committee

September 18
[Staff Rep Training: Education for Truth and Reconciliation](#)
Awards Committee

September 19
[Rookie Pro-D Rep Training](#)
Staff Reps VIP Event

September 20
[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

September 22
International Solidarity Committee

September 25
Non-Instructional Day

September 26
[Pro-D Rep Training](#)
Executive Committee

September 27
SGM/STARA Meeting

September 28
[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

September 30
Orange Shirt Day
National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Other Important Dates

September 15
[International Day of Democracy](#)

September 18-24
[Gender Equality Week](#)

September 19-25
[National Forest Week](#)

September 21
[UN International Day of Peace](#)

September 24-25
[Yom Kippur](#)

September 25-29
[Truth and Reconciliation Week](#)

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:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), q'icəy' (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'a: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.