

STA CONNECTION

October 3-6, 2023



The Surrey Teachers' Association is wholeheartedly committed to upholding the fundamental principle of "Every Child Matters". We are resolutely dedicated to advancing justice for Indigenous communities by actively working to dismantle systemic racism and colonial oppression within our school communities.

[READ OUR COMMITMENT TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION](#)

Attention: Grade 4 & 7 Teachers

We are aware that the District has distributed a letter to parents stating that the BCTF withdrawal letter is invalid. The Surrey Teachers' Association's position is that the withdrawal letter is in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines that state that administrators may excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, lengthy illness, or other **extenuating circumstances** and therefore the withdrawal letter **is** valid. Please proceed to send the letters home in the provided sealed envelopes.



FSAs are a waste of time and resources.

World Teachers' Day Event – October 5

We will be hosting events for STA members at THREE venues in the city: Dublin Crossing Irish Pub in Cloverdale, Brown Social House Grandview Corners, and Jolly Mac's in Guildford.

Grab some STA teacher-friends, and come by after school to socialize and be merry! Kick-off is 3pm. Appetizers and a drink will be provided by the STA until 6pm. There will be multiple prize-draws for a wide variety of swag! [RSVP now](#)



Surrey Schools Open House

Come visit the STA tables, learn about the services from your union, and maybe win STA merch!

Time: October 4, 3:30-5:30pm
Location: REC 304



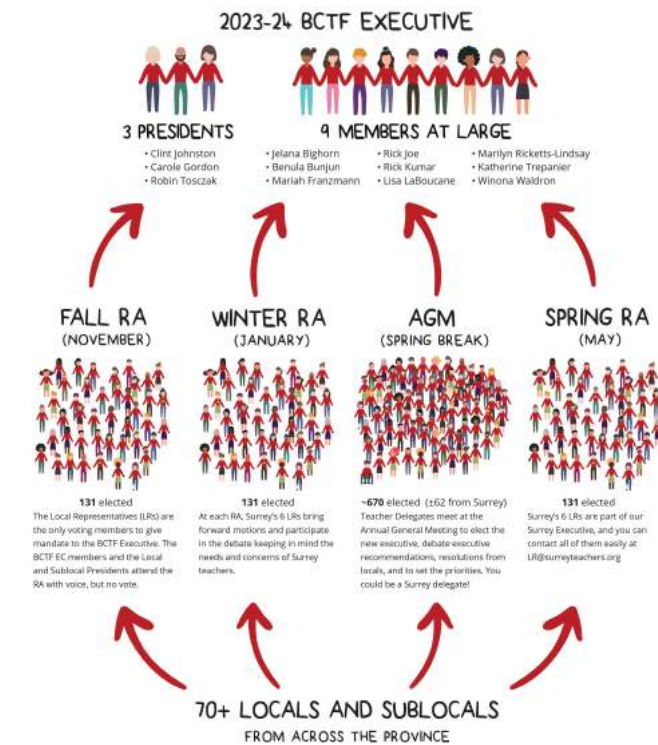
Call for BCTF AGM Resolutions!

Attached to this email, you will find the "[Call for Resolutions](#)" form. This document is a crucial starting point for shaping resolutions for this year's BCTF Annual General Meeting (AGM). Encourage your colleagues to share their ideas; these resolutions represent our members' priorities and concerns. Your insights and contributions are vital as we advocate for our members' best interests. After the submission deadline, the STA Resolutions Committee will review and refine submitted resolution ideas.

Deadline: **Friday, October 13**

Contact: Angela Marcakis (2vp@surreyteachers.org)

HOW DOES THE BCTF DEMOCRACY WORK?



YOUR 2023-24 ELECTED LR's <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kevin Amboe• Violette Baillargeon• Marilyn Carr• Gavin Hainyworth• Priya Moodley• Annie Ohana CONTACT YOUR LR's AT LR@SURREYTEACHERS.ORG	BCTF REP ASSEMBLY (RA) *ALL MEMBERS WELCOME Dates: November 3-4, 2023 Location: Victoria Convention Centre February 2-3, 2024 Location: TBA May 24-25, 2024 Location: TBA BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) Date: March 16-19, 2024 Interested? Send your name to sta@surreyteachers.org by December 22 or show up at the January 17 STA General Meeting. We send approximately 62 teachers each year!
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REVISED SEPTEMBER 2023
WELTRES-1 CTELO

To view the full version, please check out our [BCTF Structure Infographic](#).

Truth and Reconciliation

Sisters in Spirit Day – October 4

[Sisters in Spirit day](#) is on October 4, a day to reflect on the fact that, despite the “[No more stolen sisters](#),” campaign, Indigenous women and girls are still at least three times more likely to be murdered than any other woman or girl in Canada. Manitoba’s Premier Heather Stefanson has [refused to search two landfills](#) for the remains of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki’iwe, three Indigenous women believed to be buried in the landfills. Learn more about this atrocity and share what you learn with others.



NIMMIWG: Their Voices Will Guide Us Resource

“As Education Leaders, it is incumbent upon us to model courage and integrity in our own learning and to provide comprehensive and accurate professional development for our teachers as they educate our future leaders and decision-makers. It is essential that teachers be supported in acquiring and developing the [necessary resources, knowledge](#), and skills as they teach students how to take action for transformative social justice and societal change that will allow Indigenous women and girls to thrive.”



“Ally Bill of Responsibilities”

“Lynn Gehl identifies as Algonquin Anishinaabe-kwe. Lynn is an author, advocate, artist, and public speaker. Her work encompasses both anti-colonial work and the celebration of Indigenous knowledge.” Read about her [Ally Bill of Responsibilities](#) to reassess your positionality and leverage your privileges to elevate Indigenous voices.

Read: J4IW Teacher’s Resource Guide

“The intention of [this guide](#) is to support you on your social justice journey as an educator/facilitator. After doing the first 4 steps of Project of Heart (learning about the legacy of Indian Residential Schools, taking a closer look at a specific Indian Residential School, creating a gesture of reconciliation and Survivor visit) you are tasked with Step 5, which is the Social Justice Action.”

Staff Reps

Contact: Angela Marcakis (2vp@surreyteachers.org)

Register Now! – Staff Rep Training

Training days are completely free for staff reps – the STA will cover your Leave of Absence and 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)
- [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)
- [Education for Truth and Reconciliation: Using the Aboriginal Lens](#) (October 23)



What's new in the 2022 – 2025 Collective Agreement

Information about [what's new in the 2022 - 2025 Collective Agreement](#) and the [new salary grids](#) can be found on the BCTF website. The process to meld our Surrey local language with the provincial language is ongoing. We will let you know as soon as we know that it's been completed.

Support Information

Contact: Pauline Veto (services@surreyteachers.org)

Overwhelmed? Join STA Peer Support Program

Early career teacher? Facing unfamiliar or unexpected challenges? Teaching a new grade? Returning teacher after a long hiatus? 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.



Find a Mentor with Mentor36 (Open All Year)

New teachers, new to Surrey teachers, and new to position teachers - there is support and learning available through [Mentor36](#).

If you are interested in being mentored, and/or enjoy being part of a network of supportive professionals:

- For one-on-one mentorship as a classroom teacher
- To join a mentorship cohort if you are in the areas of [Core French, Core Music, Counselling, Teacher-Librarian, IST, LST or Montessori](#)

Professional Development

Contact: Erin Coleman (pd@surreyteachers.org)

Priority Registry! - Provincial Specialist Association (PSA) Day

Register now for workshops on [PSA Day](#), Friday, October 13! Talk to your Pro-D Reps if you have any questions. Each member can access funding for professional development through the STA by filling out [Individual Pro-D Application Form](#).



Register Now! - Professional Development Representative Training

Register now for [Rookie Pro-D Rep Training](#) (October 5) or [Experienced Pro-D Rep Training](#) (October 4, 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 Retreat: Walking with the Squamish

On October 13, join in on interactive and engaging seminars in Squamish Nation history, language, ethnobotany, culture, stories, and stewardship in a welcoming, encouraging outdoor-education setting. Open to all backgrounds and grade levels. More information and registration on [Camp Fircom website](#).



Collective Agreement Notes

Concerned About Class Size and Composition?

As of September 5, if you still have concerns about your class size and composition, contact Kelli O'Malley (grieve2@surreyteachers.org)

Check Your School's Bell Schedule!

Check your school's bell schedule, especially if your schedule includes **collaboration time**. The collective agreement and the School Act have specific language about the school day, the instructional day, and the instructional week. [Read more](#)

Contact: Kelli O'Malley (grieve2@surreyteachers.org)



Failure to Fill?

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](#)



Social Justice

2SLGBTQIA+ Solidarity: "Compassion Over Comprehension"

"Do you know who you are outside of who you have been told you should be? In a [conversation \[on The Man Enough Podcast\]](#), filled with wisdom, historical insight, and radical mercy, ALOK challenges us to value compassion over comprehension, to try harder for each other in the name of love, and reminds us that learning is a sign of being alive."



“Intersectionality” = More Egalitarian Society

“Now more than ever, it’s important to look boldly at the reality of race and gender bias – and understand how the two can combine to create even more harm. Kimberlé Crenshaw uses the term “intersectionality” to describe this phenomenon; as she says, if you’re standing in the path of multiple forms of exclusion, you’re likely to get hit by both. In [this moving talk](#), she calls on us to bear witness to this reality and speak up for victims of prejudice.”



2SLGBTQIA+ Solidarity: Finding Community

“We all seem to be in the same boat regarding the difficulties in meeting other like-minded folks. If only we were also in the same room! But [Community peer groups](#) are a good place to start—check out how we can help you meet, share your experiences, or just have fun with other.”



Source: qmunity.ca

BCTF Information

What is ShareEdBC?

“ShareEdBC was initially developed for the Ministry with corporate funding provided by TELUS,” and BCTF has concerns over collection of teachers’ data and other issues and withdrew from taking part in 2018. The STA suggests members to use BCTF’s [TeachBC site](#) and to not participate in activities related to ShareEdBC, and requests PSAs and BCTF Locals to not promote ShareEdBC in any way.

Upcoming Events

STA Events

October 3

[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)

Environmental Justice Committee

October 4

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Members of the Global Majority Committee

October 5

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

[World Teachers’ Day Event](#)

October 6

[Rookie Staff Rep Training](#)

October 10

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Executive Committee

October 11

[Staff Rep Training – Investigations and Discipline](#)

October 12

[SURT Training – Investigations and Discipline](#)

October 13

BCTF Zonal Meeting

Other Important Dates

October

[Women’s History Month](#)

[Learning Disability Awareness Month](#)

October 16

[World Food Day](#)

October 1

[International Day of Older Persons](#)

October 17

[International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)

October 4
[Sisters in Spirit Day](#)
[World Habitat Day](#)

October 9
Thanksgiving

October 11
[Coming Out Day](#)
[International Day of the Girl Child](#)

October 18
[Persons Day](#)

October 26
[Intersex Awareness Day](#)

For more, please 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:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), q'ícəy' (Katzie), qiqéyt (Qayqayt) and səmi'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.