

STA CONNECTION

October 10-13, 2023

October Opportunities

Action Item	Time / Deadline	Contact
Submit Call for Resolutions Form	October 13	Angela Marcakis
Complete BCTF Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) survey	October 13	BCTF TPP
Register for Workshop: Anti-Racism & Human Rights for Workers	October 14	ACLA
Register for Pro-D Rep Training	October 16	Erin Coleman
Register for Provincial Specialist Association (PSA) Day	October 20	Erin Coleman
Register for Staff Rep Training (see Staff Rep section below to choose from the different workshops)	Various Dates	Angela Marcakis
Explore STA Mediation Service to restore working relationships	All Year	Pauline Veto

Save the Date! - Special General Meeting

The upcoming Special General Meeting (SGM) will be held via Zoom on **Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 3:45 pm**. Zoom information to follow. All STA members are encouraged to attend! Please note that we will consider motions to amend the Constitution in this meeting.



Last 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.

Contact: Angela Marcakis (2vp@surreyteachers.org)
 Deadline: **Friday, October 13**

Joint Statement: Surrey School District and STA

"The Surrey School District and the Surrey Teachers' Association (STA) are committed to supporting teachers by providing a respectful workplace environment that is anti-racist, anti-sexist and free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying. On October 3rd, [the district and the union issued a joint letter](#) outlining their shared commitment for a safe and respectful workplace and encouraging staff to familiarize themselves with their rights and responsibilities regarding these issues under the [BC Human Rights Code](#), [WorkSafeBC regulations](#), [Collective Agreement](#), and district policies ([policy 7210](#) and [policy reg 7210.1](#))."
[Read the letter](#)

Congratulations to QE Teachers

A big congratulations to Tavis Bowie, Shawn Klein, Sukh Badwal, Frederique Muirhead, and Danielle Calbick for [winning the \\$10,000 prize for their school on Family Feud!](#) They can tell you what the ideal number of people for a group project is among many other interesting things 😊!



Happy Women's History Month in Canada!

October is [Women's History Month](#) in Canada. This year's theme, *Through Her Lens: Celebrating the Diversity of Women*, emphasizes the contributions of women from diverse backgrounds, their unique perspectives, experiences, and challenges. This month let's uplift women in vulnerable communities including Indigenous women; women from 2SLGBTQI+ communities; women with disabilities; and newcomer, racialized, and migrant women.



Truth and Reconciliation

Learn & Teach: AFN Education Toolkit

[It's Our Time First Nations Tool Kit](#) is a resource is designed by the The Assembly of First Nations to bring together First Nations and non-First Nations people and to foster a spirit of cooperation, understanding, and action.



Read: Ongoing *Indian Act* Inequity Issues – Enfranchisement

“The Native Women’s Association of Canada is currently seeking input on the implications of Bill S-3 and opinions on how best to reach and inform affected Indigenous persons of the new entitlements. [This project](#) is an opportunity to explore and organize existing documentation relating to the *Indian Act*, band membership, and to speak to those affected by enfranchisement policies and their plans moving forward.”



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 as well):



- [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)

Snacks and Prizes for School Union Meetings!

To enhance your school union meetings, the following budgets have been approved for purchasing snacks or prizes over this school year:

- Elementary schools and Learning centres: \$160
- Elementary schools with over 600 students: \$200
- Secondary schools: \$240

*Prizes cannot be in the form of cash or gift cards.

For reimbursement, please email your receipts to Donna Stewart (accounting@surreyteachers.org) along with your completed [Expense Voucher](#).

Support Information

Contact: Pauline Veto (services@surreyteachers.org)

Experiencing Challenges in Resolving a Professional Conflict?

Assistance is available! The [STA Mediation Service](#) assists members to confidentially resolve professional issues that sometimes arise. The aim is to restore professional working relationships.



Professional Development

Contact: Erin Coleman (pd@surreyteachers.org)

Register Now! - Professional Development Representative Training

Register now for [Experienced Pro-D Rep Training](#) (October 16). Training will be in-person at the STA office from 8:30 to 3:00 pm and lunch will be provided.



What's PSA Day on October 20?

PSA Day is a day of professional development conferences organized by BCTF Provincial Specialist Associations. This year, it will be on **Friday, October 20**. [Register](#) early to secure your spots.

Contact: Erin Coleman (pd@surreyteachers.org)



Collective Agreement Notes

Can I attend Pro-D as a TTOC?

TTOCs are entitled to attend Professional Development days and can get paid in specific instances.

B.2.13 PROFESSIONAL DAYS FOR TEACHERS TEACHING ON CALL

A Teacher Teaching On Call on assignment may attend the school's professional day with pay on the approval of the school's Principal / Vice Principal providing the Teacher Teaching On Call is on assignment in the school on the day previous and the day after the school's professional day. This approval shall not be arbitrarily denied.

Questions & concerns? Contact: [Kelli O'Malley \(grieve2@surreyteachers.org\)](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org)

Social Justice

Attend Workshop: Anti-Racism & Human Rights for Workers

Asian Canadian Labour Alliance (ACLA), in partnership with the BC Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHRC), is hosting a [FREE workshop](#) about human rights for racialized workers.

Date: **Saturday October 14, 10am-1:30pm**

Location: Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 1325 Axa Pacific Conference Room



Ted Talk: The Work That Makes All Other Work Possible

In [this sensational talk](#), activist Ai-Jen Poo shares her efforts to secure equal rights and fair wages for domestic workers and explains how we can all be inspired by them. She says, "Domestic workers are entrusted with the most precious aspects of people's lives ... that makes all other work possible."



Solidarity: What is Gendered Poverty?

"Women and gender-diverse people face high risks of poverty due to systemic barriers to work and the realities of low-paying, precarious jobs. Poverty, economic instability, and income insecurity has a direct impact on quality of life, safety, well-being, and access to basic human needs like food, housing, and healthcare, as well as the ability to care for dependents." – [Canadian Women's Foundation: The Facts about Women and Poverty in Canada](#)

BCTF Information

Retired & Active Member of Pension Plan?

Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) is inviting all retired and active members of the pension plan, who are within five years of retirement, to complete an online [survey](#) about retirement health coverage.

Upcoming Events

STA Events

October 10

[Pro-D Rep Training](#)

Executive Committee

October 11

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

Health & Safety Committee

Indigenous Education Committee

October 12

[SURT Training – Investigations and Discipline](#)

LGBTQ2S+ Committee

October 13

BCTF Zonal Meeting

October 17

[SURT Training – Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)

October 16

Pro-D Committee

Resolutions Committee

October 17

Environmental Justice Committee

Local Reps

October 18

Special General Meeting

October 19

[SURT Training – Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)

Indigenization Committee

Finance Committee

October 20

PSA Day

October 23

[SURT Training – Education for Truth and Reconciliation](#)

Bargaining Committee

October 24

Committee Chair Liaison

Executive Committee

October 26

Resolutions Committee

Executive Committee Truth &

Reconciliation Workshop

Other Important Dates

October

[Women's History Month](#)

[Learning Disability Awareness Month](#)

October 11

[Coming Out Day](#)

[International Day of the Girl Child](#)

October 16

[World Food Day](#)

October 17

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

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'w'a:ńł'əń (Kwantlen), q'icəy' (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.