

STA CONNECTION

October 16-20, 2023

October Opportunities

Action Item	Date
Register for Surrey Primary Teachers' Association (SPTA) workshop	October 17
Register for Special General Meeting	October 18
Register for Provincial Specialist Association (PSA) Day	October 20
Register for Staff Rep Training (see Staff Rep section below to choose from the different workshops)	Various Dates
Register for New Teachers' Conference	October 30

Special General Meeting – October 18, 2023

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



New Teachers' Conference – October 30, 2023

Are you new to teaching? [Registration is open](#) to teachers in the first 3 (or so) years of teaching, who have not attended before. Release time is provided for you to attend. Teachers Teaching on-Call who do not have a part-time contract are not eligible to attend this event.

Contacts: Lizanne Foster (1vp@surreyteachers.org)
Time: **Monday, October 30**
Location: STA Office



Message for Parents regarding the FSAs

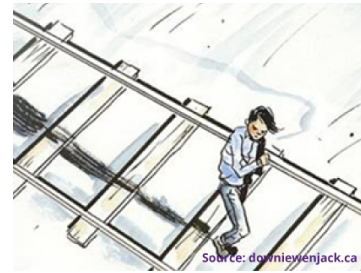
In response to several calls from parents to our office, we have created [a message for parents page](#) on our website which may assist them in navigating discussions around FSAs.



Truth and Reconciliation

Learn & Teach: Secret Path Week

[Secret Path Week](#) is a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack. October 17th and 22nd respectively mark the dates that Gord and Chanie joined the spirit world. We invite all people in Canada to use Secret Path Week to answer Gord Downie's call to action, to #DoSomething to move reconciliation forward.



Read: Whose Land Is It Anyway?

["Whose Land Is It Anyway? A Manual for Decolonization"](#) is inspired by a 2016 speaking tour by Arthur Manuel. The book contains two essays from Manuel, described as the Nelson Mandela of Canada, and essays from renowned Indigenous writers Taiaiake Alfred, Glen Coulthard, Russell Diabo, Beverly Jacobs, Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Kanahus Manuel, Jeffrey McNeil-Seymour, Pamela Palmater, Shiri Pasternak, Nicole Schabus, Senator Murray Sinclair, and Sharon Venne."



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):

- [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)



September 20

As you many know, 1500 anti-SOGI protesters laid siege to the STA building on Wednesday, September 20. The last protestor left at 12:54am on Thursday, September 21. The day was an extremely traumatic experience for many counter-protesters. You can read more about that day in [this news article](#) and also in [this one](#). The STA has a meeting with the Commissioner of the Surrey RCMP on October 17 to discuss events that occurred on September 20 outside our office. We will update members about the results of those discussions. We also have a motion on the agenda for the [October 18 Special General meeting](#) regarding our response to the ongoing attacks against our ethical and professional obligation to provide a safe, caring and inclusive learning experience for all our students.



Professional Development

Contact: Erin Coleman (pd@surreyteachers.org)

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)



SPTA Workshop – Outdoor Learning

The Surrey Primary Teachers' Association (SPTA) invites you to its first workshop of the year – [Outdoor Learning: Extensions for the Primary Classroom](#) with Michelle Hidika. The workshop is free for SPTA members and student teachers, and \$20 for non-members.

Time: **Tuesday, October 17, 3:30-5:30 pm**

Location: Sunnyside Elementary School (2828 159 Street)

Committees

Status of Women Committee – Paint Night Wellness Event

[Register and join us](#) for a night of painting and community building with dinner and prizes!

Contacts: Regie Plana-Alcuaz; Lexa Perl

Time: **Wednesday, October 25**

Location: Beecher Place (12160 Beecher Street)



Social Justice

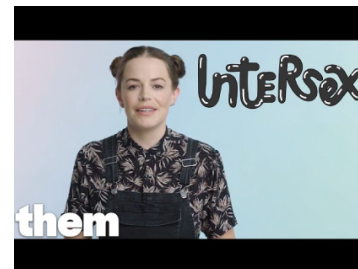
Watch: The Immigrant Settler is Not an Oxymoron

"Settler" is not a bad word. As settlers, it is our responsibility to engage in self-reflection and collective consideration of our roles in perpetuating colonial violence. Watch Anubha Momin share their story on how [The Immigrant Settler is not an Oxymoron](#).



Teach: What is the "I" in 2SLGBTQIA+?

How much do you really know about the history of the word "Intersex"? Find out on [this episode of InQueery](#) hosted by them's own Maria Tridas.



Solidarity: 7 Things About Transgender People That You Didn't Know

Did you know that there is recorded history of the existence of transgender people dating from 5000 BC? [Learn more about that history](#) and then share what you learn with others so that we can collectively spread more understanding of diversity amongst human beings.

BCTF Information

Ministry Supports for New K-12 Reporting Policy

The Ministry of Education and Childcare released resources to support the new K-12 Reporting Policy. These materials, available on the [Ministry's Curriculum website](#), include the [K-12 Student Reporting Policy – Educator Summary Guide](#), as requested by the Federation. Other resources comprise a 40-minute [video presentation](#), [webinars](#), [guidelines](#), informational sheets, and [information for parents and caregivers](#). The policy is reinforced by updated Ministerial Orders, and the Federation will maintain communication with Local Presidents, addressing concerns with the Ministry throughout the school year. [Read more](#)

TTOC Extended Health Benefits Changes

Arbitrator Peltz's decision on July 20, 2023, determined that the separate Provincial Extended Health Benefits plan for Teachers Teaching on Call (TTOCs) violates Article B.11.3, which grants TTOCs access to the main plan. As per the ruling, TTOCs will now enroll in the same Provincial Extended Health Plan as contract teachers in their respective school districts and pay 100% of the premium costs for access. [Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

STA Events

October 16

Pro-D Rep Training
Pro-D Committee
Resolutions Committee

October 23

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

October 17

[SURT Training – Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)
Environmental Justice Committee
Local Reps

October 24

Committee Chair Liaison
Executive Committee

October 18

[Special General Meeting](#)

October 25

[Status of Women Committee – Paint Night Wellness Event](#)

October 19

[SURT Training – Creating Inclusive Spaces](#)
Indigenization Committee
Finance Committee

October 26

Resolutions Committee
Executive Committee Truth & Reconciliation Workshop

October 20

[PSA Day](#)

Other Important Dates

October

[Women's History Month](#)
[Learning Disability Awareness Month](#)

October 18

[Persons Day](#)

October 16

[World Food Day](#)

October 26

[Intersex Awareness Day](#)

October 17

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

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:n̓'ə́n̓ (Kwantlen), q'íçə́y̓ (Katzie), q'íqéy̓t (Qayqayt) and səmí'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.