

STA CONNECTION

October 23-27, 2023

October Opportunities

| Action Item | Date |
|---|------------|
| Register for Status of Women Wellness Event: Paint Night Wellness Event | October 25 |
| Register for New Teachers' Conference | October 30 |
| Join the STA Ad Hoc Accessibility Committee | |
| Apply for Pro-D funding | |
| Access Mediation Services | |

Call for Nominations

A vacancy exists on the Executive Committee for the position of TTOC and Early Career Rep. An election will be held at the Reconvened Annual General Meeting on **November 15**. Please submit your candidate statement to sta@surreyteachers.org no later than **4 pm on November 8, 2023**. You can read all the [details about the position descriptions and process for running](#).



STA New Teachers' Conference – October 30, 2023

Are you new to teaching in Surrey? [Registration is open](#) for teachers in the first 3-5 years of teaching in Surrey, who have not attended before. Release time is provided for you to attend. Please note that Teachers Teaching on-Call who do not have a part-time contract are **not** eligible to attend this event. There will be an event for TTOCs later this year.



Contacts: Lizanne Foster (1vp@surreyteachers.org)
Time: **Monday, October 30, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm**
Location: STA Office

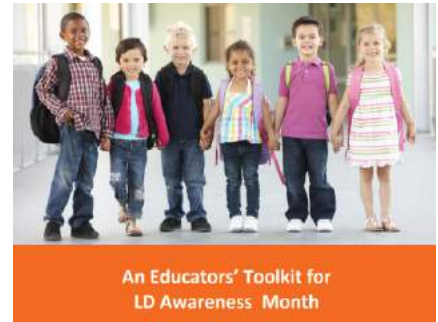
FSA: Message for Parents

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.



Learning Disabilities Awareness Month

October is Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. Learning disabilities are very common and affect approximately 10% of Canadians, which means that 1 in 10 students in your classroom may have learning disabilities. To learn more, access [An Educators' Toolkit for LD Awareness Month](#) from the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario. Together, we can help stop the stigma and realize the abilities of all our students.



Courtesy

Please remain kind and respectful to our Support Staff and Table Officers when contacting the STA even in situations of distress. They are here to support you in resolving your issues. Kindness will go a long way! As a union that has employees, we take seriously our legal and ethical obligation to ensure that our Support Staff and Table Officers experience a safe workplace. If members have concerns about any messages from the Surrey Teachers' Association, they may direct their concerns to the presidents:

President: Jatinder Bir (pres@surreyteachers.org)
1st Vice President: Lizanne Foster (1vp@surreyteachers.org)
2nd Vice President: Angela Marcakis (2vp@surreyteachers.org)

Statement on the War in Palestine and Israel

The Surrey Teachers' Association stands in solidarity with all Palestinians and Israelis who are innocent casualties in the ongoing violence. We won't pretend to understand everything there is to know about what has happened and continues to happen, but as a union that supports social justice initiatives, we are vehemently against violence of any kind, especially violent actions based on racist, colonial, and discriminatory ideologies. [Read more](#)

Support Information

Contact: Pauline Veto (services@surreyteachers.org)

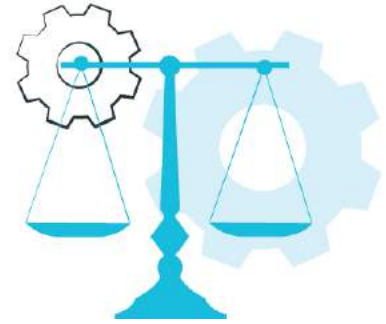
Reporting to Parents

Schools may be scheduling Informal Learning Updates this month. The new provincial Learning Update Order (formerly called the "Reporting Order") is clear that Informal Learning Updates may be provided in a variety of formats, including conferences, in-person or virtual discussions, telephone calls, emails, portfolio entries, and written summaries. Teachers in Surrey have the autonomy to choose the format that best suits their needs.

The [Educator Summary Guide](#) is available for educators from the [Ministry of Education website on reporting](#).

Experiencing Challenges in Resolving a Professional Conflict?

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



Professional Development

Contact: Erin Coleman (pd@surreyteachers.org)

Pro-D Funds Application Forms

Did you know that you can apply for funding for professional development? On the [STA website](#), we have some forms to use to request funding:

- [Individual Pro-D Application Form](#)
- [Consolidated Pro-D Application Form](#)



Collective Agreement Notes

Variance Application Package

Article D.22.1 of the collective agreement limits the length of a school's instructional day. Some courses involve multi-grade classes that do not fit neatly within a timetable designed to comply with the collective agreement. For years, the Association has approved a limited number of "variances" to the instructional day in order to accommodate such courses. Please find out the details of variances and submit [Variance Application form](#) to the STA office. [Read more](#)

Deadline: **Tuesday, November 14**

Contact: Amrit Sanghe (grieve1@surreyteachers.org)

Committees

Wellness Event – Status of Women Committee

[Join us](#) for a night of painting and community building with dinner and prizes! [Registration](#) is set to close on **October 25 at 12 pm** and we have a maximum capacity of 30 people.

Contacts: Regie Plana-Alcuaz; Lexa Perl
Time: **Wednesday, October 25 at 3:30 pm - 8:00 pm**
Location: Beecher Place (12160 Beecher Street)



Join the STA Ad Hoc Accessibility Committee!

We invite you to be part of our newly formed STA Accessibility Committee. The STA Accessibility Committee is dedicated to breaking down barriers and ensuring that all members have equal access to STA activities and services, regardless of their abilities or disabilities.

Objectives:

1. Identify and address accessibility barriers.
2. Develop strategies, policies, and initiatives for inclusivity.
3. Integrate accessibility into decision-making processes.

Let's work together to make the STA an inclusive and accessible environment for all. Join us on this important journey!

Submit: [CV form](#) to sta@surreyteachers.org

Truth and Reconciliation

Watch: Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair

Watch this Alanis Obomsawin documentary, [Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair](#), which includes his acceptance speech as the recipient of the WFM-Canada World Peace Award. As the Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Senator Murray Sinclair was a key figure in raising global awareness of the atrocities of Canada's residential school system.



Attend: UNDRIP Explored through the Lens of Reconciliation

"The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) is a comprehensive international framework that outlines the collective and individual rights of Indigenous peoples around the world.... [Join us](#) in a presentation about UNDRIP explored through the lens of Reconciliation.

Time: **Thursday, October 26 at 1:00pm ET**
Presented by: [Nikola Huska](#)

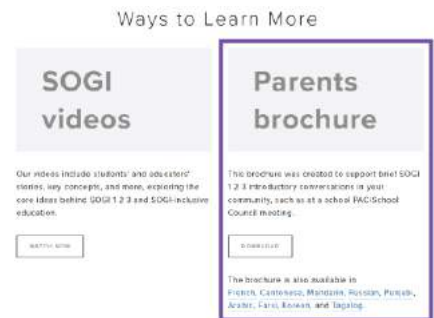
Read: Canada and Israel – Partners in the “Settler Colonial Contract”

“From [Canada to Palestine](#), Indigenous people have risked their safety, freedom, and lives time and time again, to expose the injustices and inhumanities of colonial rule and to show the beautiful possibilities of a world organized differently.”

Social Justice

Share: SOGI 123 Parents Brochure and Website

If members from your communities are asking question about SOGI, or if you have any questions about SOGI yourself, the Ministry website has [parent/caregiver resources](#) in different languages that were produced in collaboration with BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC).



Read: The “Parental Rights” Movement and How to Challenge it

“These are [the tools \[from Anti-Hate Canada\]](#) you need to understand where the “parental rights” movement comes from, what its goals are, and what you can do to challenge it.”

BC’s Human Rights Commissioner: What Do We Do about Hate?

“An inquiry is an official study. The Commissioner can use an inquiry to help promote or protect human rights in B.C. Rules for inquiries are found in the [Human Rights Code](#) and in the [Human Rights Commissioner’s Inquiry Regulation](#).”

The Commissioner’s [Inquiry into Hate](#) looked at the reported rise of hate during the pandemic [and] explores why hate increased during the pandemic, where hate comes from, and what action we can take to stop hate now and in future times of crisis.”

Upcoming Events

STA Events

October 23

SURT Training – Education for Truth and Reconciliation
Bargaining Committee

October 24

Committee Chair Liaison
Executive Committee

October 25

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

October 27

Pro-D Rep Training

October 30

New Teachers’ Conference

October 31

Local Reps

October 26
Resolutions Committee
Executive Committee Truth &
Reconciliation Workshop

Other Important Dates

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

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:n'á'ə́n (Kwantlen), q'í'c'á'y (Katzie), q'í'q'éyt (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.