

# STA CONNECTION

October 30-November 3, 2023

## October & November Opportunities

Action Item	Date/Deadline
<a href="#">Submit</a> your TTOC and Early Career Rep candidate statement	November 8
<a href="#">Register</a> for Townhall on Violence, Portables, and Washrooms	November 8
Register for Pro-D Opportunities (see below)	November 10
<a href="#">Fill out</a> Variance Application Package	November 14
<a href="#">Register</a> for Staff Committee Training	November 16
<a href="#">Join</a> the STA Ad Hoc Accessibility Committee	
Read information on new Provincial Learning Updates (see below)	

### Call for Nominations

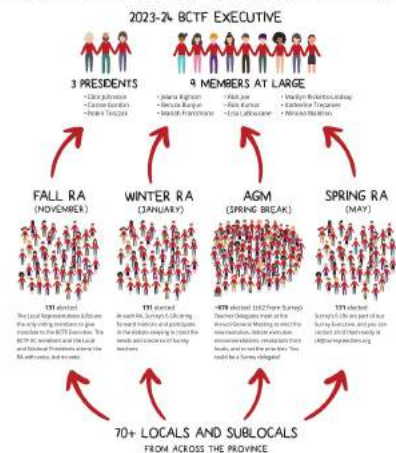
A vacancy exists on the Executive Committee for the position of TTOC and Early Career Rep. An election will be held at the Reconvened Annual General Meeting on **November 15**. Please submit your candidate statement to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) no later than **4 pm on November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



### What is a Rep Assembly (RA) and Who are the Local Reps (LR)?

STA members are represented by 6 Local Reps (LRs) at the BCTF Representative Assembly (RA) that meets three times a year (fall, winter, spring) to debate and vote on issues of concern to members. The first meeting of this year will take place in Victoria on November 3 and 4. Are there any issues or concerns you'd like LR's to be aware of? Email [lr@surreyteachers.org](mailto:lr@surreyteachers.org) to let them know! [Read more](#)

#### HOW DOES THE BCTF DEMOCRACY WORK?



## What did Staff Committee say?

This is most often the first question that the district asks whenever we draw their attention to school-wide issues. Do you know why they ask that? Come find out at [Staff Committee Training](#) on **November 16, 2023** from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm via Zoom open to all STA members interested in working with their staff committee to improve school organization.



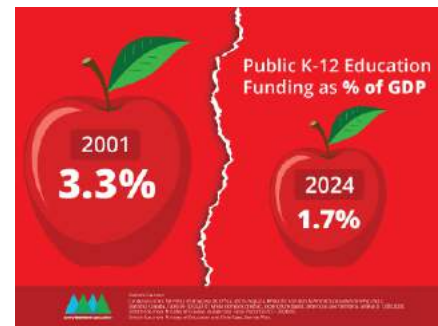
## Townhall on Violence, Portables, and Washrooms

[Join us](#) at the Town Hall meeting on **November 8, 2023** from 4:30 to 6:00 pm at Fleetwood Park Secondary library. Let's collaborate to address common concerns such as increased violence in schools, portable issues, and lack of access to working washrooms. Let's learn, support, and work together as a team to advocate for better working conditions! (Snacks and beverages will be provided)



## School Visit

This year we are focusing on visiting schools that fall within MLA ridings. First up is Rachna Singh's Surrey Green Timber's riding. We would love to come and visit [schools in this riding](#) with our brand new post cards. Look for a request to visit you starting mid-November.



## Congratulations to Annie Ohana!

"L.A. Matheson Secondary teacher Annie Ohana has been selected as one of the top 10 finalists for the prestigious Global Teacher Prize, a \$1-million prize awarded annually to an exceptional educator from anywhere in the world. After making the [top 50 shortlist in September](#), Ohana was announced as one of the top 10 this week with an unveiling video [hosted by British actor Stephen Fry](#)." We and our students are so lucky to have you, Annie!



## Support Information

Contact: Pauline Veto ([services@surreyteachers.org](mailto: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](#).

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## Professional Development

Contact: Erin Coleman ([pd@surreyteachers.org](mailto:pd@surreyteachers.org))

### Pro-D Opportunity: Drum Making Workshop

The STA's Indigenous Education Committee will be offering a [3-day drum making workshop](#) on: November 10th, February, 23rd and May 3rd. Participants are asked to commit to all 3 sessions to complete their drum. Surrey Teachers Cheryl Corrick, Allison Hotti, Jess Kyle and Mykola Misiak will be facilitating this learning journey. For further information, please reach out to Allison Hotti at [hotti\\_a@surreyschools.ca](mailto:hotti_a@surreyschools.ca).

### Are you interested in doing something out of the ordinary for your professional development on November 10th?

[Registration is now open](#) for those wanting to explore the land through an Indigenous lens.... You can choose one out of the three nature walking tours through Stanley Park: Talking Trees Tour, Spoken Treasures Tour, Talking Totems Tour.

All guided walks run from 60-90 minutes, taking place rain or shine. You will be responsible for making your own arrangements for travel and lunch.



### International Pro-D Draw Winner: Anu Gill's Reflection

"In July 2023, I had the privilege of attending the Innovative Schools Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada. Surrounded by thousands of educators from around North America. This summit was one of the highlights of my career thus far! I focused my professional development in the area of social-emotional learning. I attended informative sessions on topics such as building resilience in students, well-being for educators, self-regulation, and many more." [Read more](#)



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## Collective Agreement Notes

Contact:

Amrit Sanghe ([grieve1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org))  
Kelli O'Malley ([grieve2@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve2@surreyteachers.org))

### 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](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org))

## Know Your Rights as a Witness!

If you find yourself called upon as a witness during an investigation, it's essential to understand your rights and responsibilities. You are highly encouraged to have an **STA table officer present** as a union representative during your interview to provide you with crucial support. Knowing and exercising your rights as a witness helps ensure a fair and just investigative process. Your union is here to support you.

## But seriously though... Let's invite the Superintendents and District Principals to cover!

The impacts of a global shortage of professional educators are felt acutely by Surrey teachers. Teachers are experiencing higher levels of stress and burnout as workload increases due to daily failures to fill. We know that the root cause of this crisis is poor working and learning conditions, and perhaps having management experience our working conditions – namely exploding class sizes/caseloads, violence, lack of supplies and resources – might be what it takes to collectively build a public education system that students and teachers deserve. [Read more](#)



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## Committees

### 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](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org)

### Livestreams Task Force

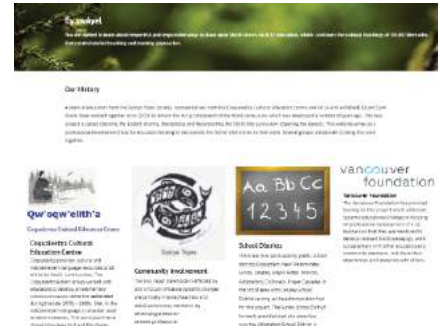
We encourage all staff reps, STARA steering committee members, and Executive Committee members to apply for the Livestreams Task Force. This task force will focus on the development of policies and procedures for online meetings, as well as accessibility through hybrid options. If you are interested in this, kindly send your CV to [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) by **November 2, 2023**.



# Truth and Reconciliation

## Opening the Basket: Sharing, Revitalizing and Reconnecting the Stó:lō Sitel Curriculum

“This [website](#) serves as a professional development tool for educators looking to incorporate the Stó:lō Sitel stories in their work. Several groups collaborate to bring this work together.”



## Explore: Indigenous Storywork

“The purpose of this [website](#) is to help educators learn about Indigenous cultures and ways of knowing, predominantly through Indigenous traditional and life-experience stories.”



# Social Justice

## Trans Parent Day – Nov 5th (First Sunday of the Month)

“Transgender Parent Day is a special day celebrated annually to honour and recognize [transgender](#) parents and parents of transgender children. This day is opposed to the more traditional Mothers’ or Fathers’ Days. Transgender Parent Day is especially important for transgender parents who may feel isolated or invisible in their communities. It’s a reminder that they are supported, appreciated, and accepted for who they are. It’s an opportunity to create a community of support and understanding for transgender parents and their loved ones.” – [Heckin’ Unicorn](#)

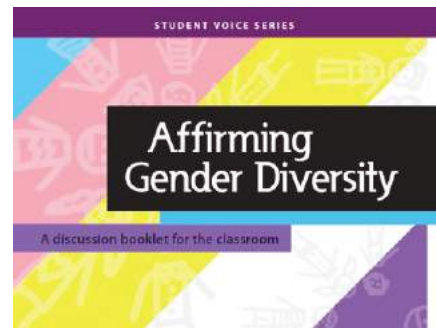
## Organize: Pride Defence Guide

“Pride defence is the act of going to any Pride event to protect the 2SLGBTQ+community from far-right activists who show up.... While [this guide](#) specifically refers to Pride events and defences, the information can be used to prepare you for many kinds of defences or counters against the far-right.”



## Teach: Affirming Gender Diversity

“The Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF/FCE) is pleased to provide this classroom resource, [Affirming Gender Diversity](#), as part of our ongoing commitment to social justice, quality inclusive publicly funded public education, and the teaching profession.”



## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

**October 31**

Local Reps

**November 1**

Members of the Global Majority  
Staff Committee Training

**November 3**

BCTF Fall RA

**November 6**

Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro-D Committee  
Resolutions Committee

**November 7**

Mediation Training  
Executive Committee

**November 8**

Health & Safety Townhall

**November 9**

Ad Hoc LST Advisory Committee

**November 10**

Non-Instructional Day  
[Drum Making Workshop](#)  
[Talaysay Tours](#)

**November 14**

Status of Women Committee

**November 15**

Reconvened AGM

**November 16**

Rookie Peer Support Consultant Training  
Health & Safety Committee  
[Staff Committee Training](#)

**November 20**

District Health & Safety Committee

**November 21**

Executive Committee

**November 22**

International Solidarity Committee  
Special General Meeting

**November 23**

Peer Support Consultant Training  
Executive Committee (Optional)

**November 30 – December 2**

BCTF Federation Leadership Institute

### Other Important Dates

**November**

[Antipoverty Month](#)

**November 5**

[Trans Parent Day](#)

**November 16**

[Louis Riel Day](#)

**November 20**

[World National Child Day](#)

**November 8**  
[Indigenous Veterans Day](#)

**November 12**  
[Diwali](#)

**November 13**  
[Remembrance Day](#)

[Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)

**November 25**  
[International Day of the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)  
[Buy Nothing 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'əń (Kwantlen), q'ícəy' (Katzie), q'iqéyt (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.