

STA CONNECTION

November 20-24, 2023



Did you receive Mark Pearmain's email this morning with the subject: "Share your thoughts on strategies to address school capacity"?

In the email, there is a critically important survey that we strongly encourage all members to participate in, as many of the strategies being considered could **significantly impact our working conditions**.

This survey will gather your opinions on:

- teaching in a hybrid or fully online format
- teaching from 7:30 am – 8:00 pm
- teaching all year round (tri-semester year)
- teaching in a corporate or community building (such as a shopping mall)
- extended instructional days

Should the province provide more funding so that the district does not have to implement these actions?

The deadline to complete the survey is **Wednesday, November 29**.

November Opportunities	Date
------------------------	------

Register for Special General Meeting	November 22 at 4:00 pm
Submit your name to join the STA at the CCPA-BC's Annual Gala	November 23 at 5:30 pm
Submit your name to join the STA at FRAFCA's 6th Guiding Youth Home Fundraising Gala	November 24 at 6:30 pm
Meet other elementary counsellors for support and strategies	November 23 at 4:00 pm
Register for town hall on the New Learning Update Order	November 29 at 3:30 pm
Watch CLIFF movies with Labour Affairs Committee	November 29 at 4:00 pm
Venez socializer avec le comité API-Surrey (Association des Professionnels en Immersion de Surrey)	le jeudi 30 novembre

Special General Meeting (SGM)

[Register](#) for the upcoming SGM on **Wednesday, November 22** at 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm via Zoom. Double check your spam folder as well as your main inbox folder!



Congratulations to our STA Awards Recipients!

Every October, the Surrey Teachers' Association awards 6 scholarships and 6 bursaries of \$2,000 each for children of STA members. Through their hard work and determination, the [following students](#) have proven themselves worthy of acknowledgment. On behalf of the Awards Committee and the Surrey Teachers' Association, we recognize your achievement and wish you continued success in your academic and professional pursuits. Congratulations to:

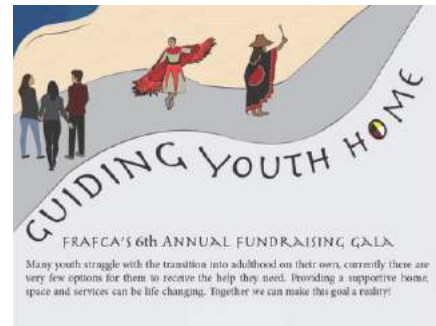


- Marley Bridger
- Nolan Cheng
- Elise Dalzell
- Mia Deol
- Connor Flynn
- Makenna Frew
- Elyse Lochrie
- Kai O'Donnell
- Brendan Tong
- Jack Peters
- Hannah Quan
- Ronan Sexton

Last Chance to get your free tickets the Guiding Youth Home Gala! (\$100 value)

We've secured 2 tables to the Fraser Regional Aboriginal Friendship Centre Association's (FRAFCA) 6th Guiding Youth Home Fundraising Gala happening on Friday, November 24th, from 6:30 pm - 11:30 pm. The gala supports unhoused Indigenous youth by raising funds for transitional housing and offering crucial support.

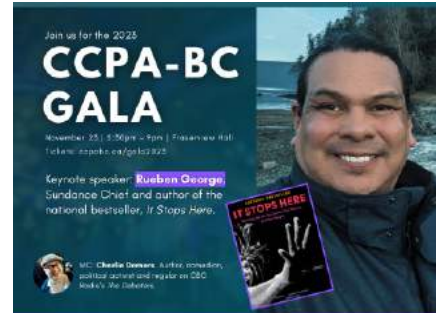
Tickets are now available on a first-come, first-served basis. Submit your name to sta@surreyteachers.org ASAP.



2 seats still available for the CCPA-BC's Annual Gala! (\$150 value)

When? Thursday, November 23, 2023 at 5:30 pm
Where? Fraserview Hall, 8240 Fraser St, Vancouver

Keynote speaker Rueben George, Sundance Chief and author of 'It Stops Here,' shares a remarkable legacy with the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. This will be an inspiring evening of justice and equity and we invite you to be a part of it!



These two seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis by emailing sta@surreyteachers.org by **November 21, 2023 at 12:00 pm.**

Collective Agreement Notes

Contact:

Amrit Sanghe (grieve1@surreyteachers.org)
Kelli O'Malley (grieve2@surreyteachers.org)

Remedy for 2023-2024

The STA and the Employer are still in discussion about the Remedy Carry-Over Agreement. Teachers can only access remedy time accrued during this 2023-2024 school year. Outstanding remedy from previous years will be released as soon as we have a Carry-Over Agreement with the Employer.

Your options for remedy are:

- Prep time
- Co-teaching
- LST support

Teachers who have any questions or concerns about their minutes should communicate with their principals.

Support Information

Contact: Pauline Veto (services@surreyteachers.org)

Reporting and the New Learning Update Order

The STA has heard concerns from both elementary and secondary teachers regarding the Ministry of Education's new Learning Update Order and the changes to reporting.

We are holding a **Virtual Town Hall on November 29, 2023** at 3:30 pm via Zoom. The BCTF has asked for feedback from teachers on the changes and the implementation. [Register now](#)



Experiencing Challenges in Resolving a Professional Conflict?

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



Counsellors Supporting Counsellors

Interested in meeting others, looking for support and/or sharing strategies? The Elementary Counsellor Local Specialist Association meeting will be held again.

Date: **Thursday, November 23 at 4:00 pm**

Location: Cloverdale

Contact: Melanie Miki (miki_m@surreyschools.ca)



Committees

Watch Movies with STA Labour Affairs Committee!

Join the STA Labour Affairs Committee for an [evening of short films](#) about work and workers as part of the Canadian Labour International Film Festival (CLIFF). We will be showing a package of 7 films produced by independent filmmakers. Free for STA members, pizza & pop will be served! Seats are limited so register early to avoid disappointment!

Deadline: **November 29 at 4:00 pm**

Date: Thursday, November 30 at 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: STA room 2



Community Information

Venez socialiser, rencontrer vos collègues et vous amuser ...en français!

Le comité API-Surrey (Association des Professionnels en Immersion de Surrey) souhaite réunir de façon conviviale les enseignants en immersion de Surrey (et les anciens!) Des prix de présence seront tirés lors de la rencontre. Venez décrocher, vous détendre, vous divertir et célébrer la fin de l'année 2023! SVP [vous inscrire](#) sur le lien suivant avant le 15 novembre afin de nous aider à mieux planifier notre rencontre.

Date: **le jeudi 30 novembre**

Heure: 15h45 à 18h30

Lieu: The Roadhouse Grill (1781 King George Blvd, South Surrey)

Coût: 10\$ (frais d'adhésion à l'API-Surrey) - gratuit pour les membres de l'APPIPC



Truth and Reconciliation

Listen: Indigenous Youth Says, "We Matter."

"[We Matter](#) is an Indigenous youth-led and nationally registered organization dedicated to Indigenous youth support, hope and life promotion. Community members from across Canada submit short videos, written and artistic messages sharing their own experiences of overcoming hardships, and communicating with Indigenous youth that no matter how hopeless life can feel, there is always a way forward."



Read: The Red Deal

"One-part visionary platform, one-part practical toolkit, [The Red Deal](#) is a platform that encompasses everyone, including non-Indigenous comrades and relatives who live on Indigenous land.... It is time to reclaim the life and destiny that has been stolen from us and rise up together to confront this challenge and build a world where all life can thrive."



Social Justice

Response to Feedback

In response to recent feedback on our Statement regarding the war in Gaza, we encourage everyone to critically research the profound and lasting effects of current and historical injustices worldwide, particularly to children. As educators, our role is to introduce our students to the complexities of the world. Despite our desire for a world defined by peace and justice, the reality they may inherit is at risk due to ongoing inhumane injustices. Our hearts break for all the children born into communities ravaged by imperialist wars and various oppressions, including settler-colonialism. Recognizing that many of us, and our friends and family, are personally impacted by such injustices, we are deeply sorry for the losses and pain you have endured or are currently experiencing.

As you may or may not know, on October 18, 2023, the STA General Meeting carried an amendment to add the following to our Constitution and Bylaws:

To foster and promote the dignity of all persons regardless of age, ancestry, citizenship, colour, creed, disability, ethnic origin, family status, gender expression, gender identity, marital status, physical appearance, place of origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender), sexual orientation or socioeconomic status as stated in the B.C. Human Rights Code.

Furthermore, the BCTF Fall Rep Assembly also voted to “[donate \\$50,000 to the UNRWA and \[join\] international calls for an immediate ceasefire as well as a release of all hostages.](#)”

We echo the sentiment of our provincial union, BCTF, that “kids matter, teachers care.” As such, we unequivocally stand for the human rights of all our collective children around the world.

Did You Know?

“Premier David Eby and the B.C. government committed to make [Holocaust education mandatory for high school students in British Columbia](#) at an event at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver.”

Teach: BCTF Resource – Searching for a Just Peace

“The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the most controversial issues in our contemporary world. [This unit](#) approaches the conflict through the vehicle of narrative constructed through the judicious use of facts and perspectives. The unit, which was initiated by the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation (BCTF) Representative Assembly, closes with a critical thinking exercise that asks students to identify the obstacles to peace and write their own narrative about the conflict.”



Teach: Transgender Day of Remembrance

“This statement is about [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#) which is marked annually on November 20th. Several BC based videos are included which delve into the issues and struggles faced by transgender people on a daily basis.”



Workshop Opportunity: Lessons from the Holocaust

“[Suzanne’s talk](#) draws on her experiences surviving the Holocaust as a child in Vichy France and lessons from her lifetime of social justice activism to explore how we can fight racism in our present time. In relating her powerful story, she provides listeners with both a history which we must remember and the inspiration to make a difference in our world.”



Upcoming Events

STA Events

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 29
[Town Hall on Reporting and the New Learning Update Order](#)

November 30 – December 2
BCTF Federation Leadership Institute

Other Important Dates

November
[Antipoverty Month](#)

November 25
[International Day of the Elimination of](#)

November 20
[World National Child Day](#)
[Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)

[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'ən' (Kwantlen), q'íc'á'y' (Katzie), q'iq'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.

www.surreyteachers.org
Telephone: (604) 594-5353
201-9030 King George Blvd., Surrey, BC