

# STA CONNECTION

## December 4-8, 2023

December Opportunities	Date/Deadline
Attend Candlelight Vigil: End Violence Against Women	December 6 at 6:00 pm
<a href="#">Register</a> for Young Worker Committee's Board Games and Brews	December 14 at 12:00 pm
<a href="#">Become</a> a BCTF AGM Delegate	January 7
<a href="#">Register</a> for BCTF New Teachers' Conference (Vancouver)	January 27
Get qualified for the Qualification Books	January 31

### Final STARA of 2023!

The last STARA Meeting for 2023 will be conducted virtually on Zoom, scheduled for **Wednesday, December 13**, commencing at 3:45 pm. Registration will be available starting from December 6.



### Dive in at the BCTF Annual General Meeting (AGM)!

The BCTF AGM is set to take place from March 16 to March 19, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Vancouver. It's an incredible opportunity to dive into the workings of the BCTF, gain fresh perspectives on critical issues, connect with colleagues from across the province, and have your voice heard in shaping union decisions. The BCTF covers hotel accommodations and expenses, and childcare arrangements are available. If you're interested in becoming a delegate, please complete the [Call for BCTF AGM Delegates form](#) by **Sunday, January 7, 2024**. Questions? Reach out to Angela Marcakis at [2vp@surreyteachers.org](mailto:2vp@surreyteachers.org).



## Collective Agreement Information

Contact:

Amrit Sanghe ([grieve1@surreyteachers.org](mailto:grieve1@surreyteachers.org))

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

## Get Yourself Qualified!

Qualified Book applications are due **Jan 31, 2024**. To apply for specialized positions in Rounds 1 and 2, teachers must submit qualifications for HR review. Those completing minimum academic requirements by July 31, 2024, can apply for conditional qualification. Teachers seeking assessment for equivalent qualifications should follow instructions on the [District website](#). Avoid delays in application approval. [Read more](#)



## Message for TTOCs

The STA and the District have reached an agreement for the remainder of this school year regarding the eligibility of using a sick day for TTOCs. To qualify, you must:

1. Accept a dispatch no later than 9:00 pm the calendar day before the assignment.
2. Provide notification by e-mail of illness or injury to both dispatch ([dispatch@surreyschools.ca](mailto:dispatch@surreyschools.ca)) and the school principal where the assignment is taking place (you may need to look this up on the school website).
3. Send this notification no later than 7:00 am on the day of the assignment.



If you become ill while working during the day and need to leave, Article G.20.5(c) from our Collective Agreement still applies.

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## Health & Safety Information

Contact: Manjit Dulla ([hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org))

### To Crosswalk or Not Crosswalk?

The STA would like to inform all teachers that the district has advised that teachers should NOT be doing crosswalk duty off school property. Please contact Manjit Dulla ([hs@surreyteachers.org](mailto:hs@surreyteachers.org)) if your school assigns teachers to this task.

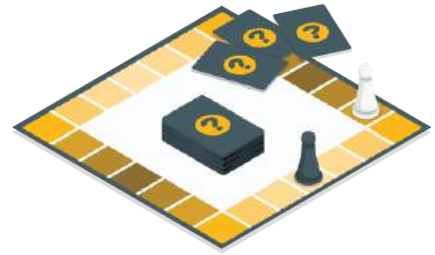


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## Committees

## Young Workers Committee: Board Games Social

[Enjoy](#) a thrilling atmosphere, win fabulous prizes, and make lasting memories by diving into a night of friendly competition with an array of board games. Your first drink is on us and paired with some great bites, this is the place to be. This event for members aged 35 and under is aimed at connecting with our profession's leaders of tomorrow! Let the games begin!



Registration deadline: Thursday, December 14 at 12:00 pm

Date: **Thursday, December 14, 4:00 – 6:00 pm**

Location: [Dublin Crossing Dublin Crossing Irish Pub](#)

## The STA Status of Women Committee invites you to attend Candlelight Vigil: End Violence Against Women

This vigil will happen on the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Montreal massacre and the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Free and open to all. Wheelchair accessible. Organized by Public Service Alliance of Canada West Fraser Valley Area Council and Vancouver Regional Women's Committee, and New Westminster & District Labour Council.



Please join the STA Status of Women Committee at the vigil in commemoration.

Contact: [psacbc-ac-westfraservalley@psac-afpc.com](mailto:psacbc-ac-westfraservalley@psac-afpc.com) or [admin@nwdlc.ca](mailto:admin@nwdlc.ca)

Date: **Wednesday, December 6 at 6:00-7:00 pm**

Location: Holland Park, Surrey

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## BCTF Information

### BCTF Award Nominations!

BCTF award nominations are now open. Each year at the Annual General Meeting, the BCTF recognizes outstanding members for their commitment and dedication to the union and/or profession. Nominations for the following awards are now open:

- [Stewart Schon Health and Safety Award](#)
- [Honorary Life Membership](#)
- [Bob Rosen Social Justice Award](#)
- [G.A. Fergusson Memorial Award](#)
- [Connie Jervis Early Career Teaching Award](#)

### BC Teachers' Council Vacancy

The BC Teachers' Council has four BCTF appointed members who work to establish standards for teacher certificate applicants' education and conduct. The current vacancy is

for a three-year term on the BC Teachers' Council. For more information and to apply, visit the [online posting](#).

### **Ministry of Education and Childcare Scholarship Committee**

The BCTF is seeking 10 members to participate as BCTF representatives to two Ministry of Education and Childcare committees tasked with selecting graduating student provincial scholarship winners for the 2023–24 school year. Visit the [BCTF page](#) for more information and to apply.

### **Join the BCTF Executive Committee**

There will be a by-election to fill a Member-at-Large vacancy designated for an Aboriginal identifying member in the upcoming BCTF Winter Representative Assembly. The term spans until June 30, 2024, and although not fully released, it regularly involves days on leave for union business and working on evenings and weekends to attend EC meetings, committee meetings, and Federation events.

Interested? Submit the [BCTF nomination form](#) by **January 19, 2024**, to [nominatingchair@bctf.ca](mailto:nominatingchair@bctf.ca). You will also need to provide a 200-word statement, a 35-word bio, and a high-resolution headshot to [rovergaard@bctf.ca](mailto:rovergaard@bctf.ca) by the same date, which will be published through BCTF communications.

Any questions? Connect with Nominating Chair Andy Closkey ([nominatingchair@bctf.ca](mailto:nominatingchair@bctf.ca)) or Executive Director Amber Mitchell ([amitchell@bctf.ca](mailto:amitchell@bctf.ca)).

### **Attend *Refracting the Light: AI and Technology in Education* Conference**

The BCTF's New Teachers' Conference 2024 (NTC): *Refracting the Light: AI and Technology in Education* will take place on January 27 (Vancouver) and on May 11 (Prince George). This conference is a place to connect with teachers across BC and further your own teaching practice. It is designed for teachers in their first five years of teaching, student teachers, TTOCs, and those returning to teaching after some time away. Participants can register for just one conference or both.



[Register](#) for the NTC in Vancouver (Saturday, January 27, 2024 at Coast Coal Harbour Vancouver Hotel)

[Register](#) for the NTC in Prince George (Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Coast Prince George Hotel)

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## **Community Information**

**Volunteer with Bright Beginnings Foundation!**  
Bright Beginnings Foundation helps some of Surrey's most vulnerable graduating students pursue their dreams of higher education. The foundation provides full tuition, student fees (including medical benefits), and educational materials to enable students to attend the post-secondary institution and program of their choosing. We are looking for volunteers to help us to wrap gifts during mall hours between 9:45 am and 9:00 pm, especially between 10:00 am and 6:00 pm.



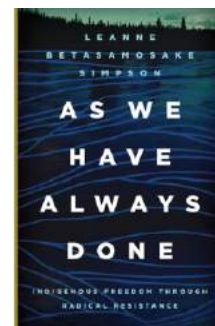
Dates: **Saturday, December 9; Friday December 15; Tuesday, December 19; Friday, December 22**  
Contact: Tammy ([tnrneuman@gmail.com](mailto:tnrneuman@gmail.com))

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## Truth and Reconciliation

**Read: *As We Have Always Done* – Leanne Betasamosake Simpson**

"Details many of the ways that Indigenous resistance has stopped natural resource extraction. From tar sands to pipelines, Indigenous resistance has pushed against colonization and the dispossession of land. [This book](#) not only examines the relationship between Indigenous peoples and natural resources, but ways to push back against settler-colonialism as a whole." – UBC



**Watch: *You ain't a leftist if you haven't left yet w/ Mohammed El-Kurd***

"Jen, Demetrius, and Kiley sit down with Mohammed El-Kurd (@m7mdkurd) [on [The Red Nation channel](#)] to discuss what is happening in El-Kurd's hometown, Al Quds, settler colonialism, and the Palestinian/Native connection."



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## Social Justice

## Learn: International Volunteer Day

"[This year](#), we mark [International Volunteer Day \(IVD\)](#) by recognizing the power of collective action...

Volunteerism is an enormous renewable resource for social, economic, and environmental problem-solving throughout the world. As the world faces mounting challenges, volunteers are often the first to help.

Volunteers are at the fore in crises and emergencies, often in very testing and dire situations." - UN



## Explore: Handle with Care: Supporting Young People During Crises

"People are continuously struggling to respond when traumatizing events occur in our communities, across the country and around the world. For families, educators and community members who must respond to the needs of children as a traumatizing event unfolds, we've gathered [recommendations and resources](#) to support you." – Learning for Justice



## Teach: Teaching Controversial Issues Framework

"[This page](#) features a research-based framework for reflective practice that embodies the grounded theory of contained risk-taking explained in the book, *Hard Questions: Learning to Teach Controversial Issues*. Click on each element of the framework below for a curated set of teaching strategies and resources."



## Upcoming Events

### STA Events

**December 4**  
Environmental Justice Committee  
Pro-D Committee

**December 5**  
Executive Committee

**December 6**  
Status of Women Committee

**December 7**  
Health & Safety Committee

**December 13**  
STARA Meeting

**December 14**  
[Young Worker Committee's Board Games and Brews](#)

**December 15**  
Executive Committee Training

**December 18**  
Bargaining Committee

**December 19**  
Executive Committee

**December 20**  
International Solidarity Committee

## Other Important Dates

**December 5**

[International Volunteer Day](#)

**December 6**

[National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#)

**December 7-15**

[Hanukkah](#)

**December 10**

[Human Rights Day](#)

**December 26-January 1**

[Kwanza](#)

For more, please visit [United Nations International awareness dates](#).

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### **PLEASE NOTE: Fax Machine out of service**

Our fax machine has been out of service for the past few weeks as it undergoes repairs. In the meantime, we kindly request that you send any items via courier to #000 or email us at [sta@surreyteachers.org](mailto:sta@surreyteachers.org) for prompt assistance. Thank you for your understanding!



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](http://www.surreyteachers.org)  
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