

STA CONNECTION

December 11-15, 2023

December & January Opportunities	Date/Deadline
Join the last STARA meeting of 2023	December 13 at 4:00 pm
Register for Young Worker Committee's Board Games and Brews	December 14 at 12:00 pm
Connect with your IST teachers	
Become a BCTF AGM Delegate	January 7
Join the STA Bargaining Committee	January 12
Apply for STA funding to attend the BCTF New Teachers' Conference	January 27
Get qualified for the Qualification Books	January 31
Nominate/Apply for BCTF Awards	January 31 – February 9

Attend: BCTF New Teachers' Conference on Us!

On a first come first serve basis, the STA will cover registration fees, mileage/transportation, and parking for 50 STA teachers to attend the [BCTF New Teachers' Conference](#) on Saturday, January 27, 2024, in Vancouver. This conference is open to new teachers: people in their first five years of teaching, student teachers, TTOCs, and those returning to teaching after some time away. This year's theme is *Refracting the Light: AI and Technology in Education*.



Submit your name: reception@surreyteachers.org

Registration closes: January 15, 2024

Date: Saturday, January 27, 2024

Location: [Coast Coal Harbour Hotel](#)

Join: Have Your Voice Represented During Bargaining!

For our 2024 Special General Meeting on Wednesday, January 17, we will be electing representatives for the following vacancies on our STA Bargaining Committee:

- Indigenous (1)
- Racialized (1)
- 2SLGBTQ+ (1)
- Non-enrolling (1)



- Additional (1)

If you are interested in joining the committee and having a say in our local bargaining, please email your name and the seat(s) you would like to run for to sta@surreyteachers.org by Friday, January 12. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

Attend: BCTF Annual General Meeting (AGM)!

The BCTF AGM will 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.



Staff Representatives

Contact: Angela Marcakis (2vp@surreyteachers.org)

Attend: Final STARA of 2023!

The last STARA Meeting for 2023 will be conducted virtually on Zoom, scheduled for **Wednesday, December 13**, commencing at 4:00 pm. Register now



Connect: Teachers Toileting Students?

Staff Reps, we kindly request that you connect with IST teachers at your school to gather information on whether the admin has ever asked them to:

- toilet a student
- write a safety plan
- cover an IESW's break
- creating the IESW schedule



Please [report back](#) on their experiences and any concerns they may have. Thank you staff reps for your ongoing efforts on behalf of members!

Save the Date: Winter Staff Rep Training

Registration information will be provided soon, so stay tuned. Here's a glimpse of the sessions scheduled:

- Role of the Staff Rep (*for NEW staff reps*): January 11
- Is it a Grievance? Problem-solving at the School Level: January 18 and 19
- BCTF Code of Ethics - Understanding the Professional Relationship: January 30 and 31
- Advancing Equity and Inclusion in Our Schools and Communities: February 1 and 2



Collective Agreement Information

Contact:

Amrit Sanghe (grieve1@surreyteachers.org)

Kelli O'Malley (grieve2@surreyteachers.org)

Submit: Get Yourself Qualified!

Qualified Book applications are due **January 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](#)



Committees

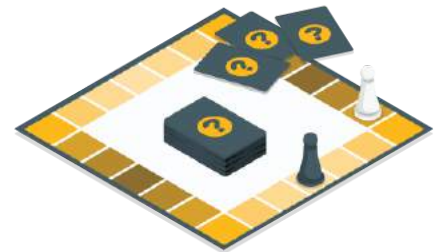
Attend: Young Workers Committee Board Games Social

[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](#)



BCTF Information

Read: BCTF actions on the conflict and crisis in Israel and Palestine

The BCTF Representative Assembly and Executive Committee have both approved motions to contribute a total of \$50,000 to the emergency appeal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). This donation aims to provide lifesaving supplies to refugees in Gaza. The Federation's representatives have also supported international calls for an immediate ceasefire, the release of all hostages, and an end to occupations. Your BCTF president, Clint Johnston, has issued a [full statement](#) expressing that, "As teachers, we stand in solidarity with children and young people, their teachers, and other educators across Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories who are suffering. They deserve to live lives of dignity, in peace and safety."

Read: Marilyn Tells It Like It Is to Politicians!

On Wednesday, November 29, 2023, a group of 6 BCTF members travelled to Victoria to meet with various MLAs and the Premier as part of the BCTF Lobby Day. Teachers from Abbotsford, Burnaby, Vancouver, Fernie, Sooke, and Surrey were asked to share a five-minute personal write-up to illuminate the very real experiences they face on a day-to-day basis. One of Surrey's BCTF Local Representatives, Marilyn Carr, has shared her story here. [Read more](#)

Nominate: BCTF Awards

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](#)

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. You will also need to provide a 200-word statement, a 35-word bio, and a high-resolution headshot to 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) or Executive Director Amber Mitchell (amitchell@bctf.ca).

Community Information

Donate and/or Volunteer: BC Labour Community Events

Each year we come together to celebrate the holidays by sharing with those in need. Over 2,000 people and families take part in this annual tradition. We are excited to announce that this year we will be having a full turkey dinner, food hampers, clothing boutique and toys in two separate locations and evenings, hosted by the BC labour community.

Organize in your workplace, neighbourhood, friends, and family:

- Toy drive: unwrapped gifts children aged 0-18, also gift cards, movie passes,
- Food drive: non-perishable items for food hampers
- Clothing drive: clean, almost new clothing
- Financial donations: E-transfer to acctg@bcfed.ca
- Volunteer for the following dates:
- Hamper stuffing, sorting toys & clothes at the Maritime Labour Centre:
 - Tuesday Dec 19 from 9am-4pm; Wednesday Dec 20 from 9am-4pm
 - Aria Banquet Hall 12350 Pattullo Pl, Surrey: Thursday Dec 21st set up at 1pm, doors open at 5pm

Contact: Marisha (labourholidayevent@bcfed.ca) or (604) 308 - 7474

Sign: Let's Sue Big Oil!

Given recent UN Climate Change Conference known as [COP 28](#), you are encouraged to sign the [Let's Sue Big Oil declaration](#) that states: "For decades, oil and gas corporations have known that burning fossil fuels would cause the heat waves, wildfires, drought and flooding that we're now experiencing in BC. [...] It's not right that CEOs and investors continue to pocket the profits while we pay the skyrocketing costs of climate damages." Read more below about how an Indigenous climate action organization also participated in the conference.



Truth and Reconciliation

Shop At: Indigenous Owned Massy Books

"[Massy Books](#) is a funky retail destination in Vancouver's Chinatown neighbourhood – made all the more vibrant by the book lovers who walk through its doors. It's a place people feel welcome to explore and ask questions, and to browse in ways that give pause to the day... Massy Books is 100% Indigenous owned and operated and a member of Stó:lō Business Association."



Explore: Indigenous Climate Action: COP28

“Follow along with [our team](#) at the 28th [Conference of the Parties](#) at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP28) in Dubai, UAE from November 30 to December 12, 2023.” Read about topics like climate justice is gender justice, fossil fuel phase out, Indigenous water protectors defending their livelihoods, lands, and territories, and more.



Social Justice

Learn: Challenging the Myths about Gaza-Israel

Amnesty International’s [article](#) lists 9 myths about Gaza and Israel. Read it to learn how to fight misinformation.



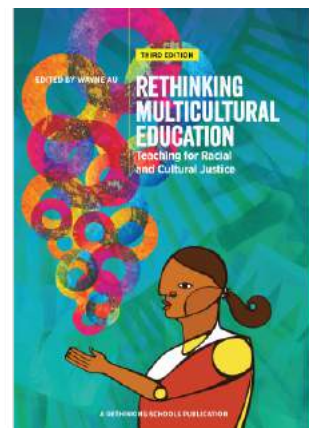
Celebrate: Hannukah

Learn about [Hanukkah](#) and its history. Equip yourselves with knowledge about [antisemitism](#) from Independent Jewish Voices Canada (IJV). Looking to get involved with local Jewish communities? IJV has [local chapters](#) nearby.



Attend: Rethinking Multicultural Education Book Launch & Celebration

“[Join](#) *Rethinking Multicultural Education* editor Wayne Au and Rethinking Schools editors and contributors Jesse Hagopian, Dyan Watson, Bill Bigelow, Linda Christensen, Ursula Wolfe-Rocca, Moé Yonamine, and Cierra Kaler-Jones for a launch and celebration of the third edition of this new Rethinking Schools book on bringing racial and cultural justice to the classroom. From book bans to teacher firings, to racist content standards, the politics of teaching race and culture in schools have shifted dramatically in recent years.”



Date: Wednesday, December 13 at 4:00 pm PT

Upcoming Events

STA Events

December 13
STARA

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 7-15
[Hanukkah](#)

December 26-January 1
[Kwanza](#)

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:ná'á'n (Kwantlen), qí'cá'y (Katzie), qíqéyt (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.

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