

STA CONNECTION

December 18-22, 2023

December & January Opportunities	Date/Deadline
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
Register for Staff Rep Training (see workshops below)	January 11 – February 2
Nominate/Apply for BCTF Awards	January 31 – February 9

Warmest season's greetings to our dear friends in the Surrey Teachers' Association

May this holiday season bring you abundant joy and delightful moments with your loved ones. We wish you a safe, joyful festive break and hope you receive the rejuvenation you deserve during this break.

During this season, we are mindful that it can be challenging for some. To those facing difficulties, please know that you are in our thoughts and hearts, and we extend our heartfelt wishes for peace and strength. May the days ahead bring comfort and brighter moments. Take care and remember that you are not alone.

As we anticipate your return in the new year, know that our shared dedication to advocating for improved working conditions, intricately linked to our students' learning environments, remains unwavering. Let's continue our collective fight for the betterment of public education. Recognizing that our working conditions profoundly matter, we move forward with a common aim of ensuring the thriving success of our union.

Together, we are stronger - Happy holidays and cheers to a bright New Year, looking forward to the work ahead!

Jatinder Bir



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)

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!

Register: Winter Staff Rep Training

Registration is now available! Given the high demand for our workshops last term, we recommend registering early to secure your spot in the workshop of your choice.

- [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)

Stay Informed: PTOC Prep Time Grievance

In 2019, the Union filed a grievance about PTOC prep time. The Grievance was referred to arbitration. The parties were able to reach an agreement before going to a hearing. Due to the complexity of the issue, the parties were unable to agree on remedies for affected teachers. The [settlement agreement](#) can be found under [Negotiated Agreements](#) on our website. [Read more](#)

Contact: Kelli O'Malley at grieve2@surreyteachers.org

Celebrate Your Win: Day Swapping Grievance

Recently, the Employer unilaterally discontinued day swapping between job share partners. The STA filed a grievance on April 13, 2022. We are pleased to announce that at arbitration our grievance was upheld. The arbitrator declared that the Employer breached the collective agreement by prohibiting day swapping. We will be meeting with the Employer on the process for job share teachers to Day Swap. Thank you to all our job-sharing members, past and present, for their work in supporting this grievance. For more information about this grievance win, please contact Erin Coleman at pd@surreyteachers.org or Kelli O'Malley at grieve1@surreyteachers.org.



Submit: Qualified Book Deadline

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](#)



BCTF Information

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, the BC labour community comes 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.

Volunteer for the following dates:

- Hamper stuffing, sorting toys & clothes at the Maritime Labour Centre: *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

Truth and Reconciliation

Stay Informed: Provincial Changes for K-12 Indigenous Students

“The Province is [proposing amendments to the School Act](#) to fulfil commitments in the Declaration Act Action Plan and the BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA). The changes are intended to support better education outcomes for First Nations and other Indigenous students attending provincial public schools, and more effective relationships between boards of education and First Nations. The proposed changes take a distinctions-based approach and were developed collaboratively with the First Nations Education Steering Committee and reflect consultation with First Nations and Indigenous people throughout B.C.”

Explore: BC First Peoples 12 Teacher Resource Guide

“This Teacher Resource [Guide BC First Peoples 12 Teacher Resource Guide](#) (2022) (Revised in Sep 2023) is intended to support students and teachers of BC First Peoples 12. It is one in a series of teacher resources developed by the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the First Nations School Association to bring relevant and appropriate learning materials to teachers in all BC schools, including First Nations, public and independent schools.”



Upcoming Events

STA Events

December 18
Bargaining Committee

December 19
Executive Committee

December 20
International Solidarity Committee

Other Important Dates

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'əh (Kwantlen), qíçá'y (Katzie), qiqéyt (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