



# Annual General Meeting 2025-2026 Elections May 13-14, 2025

## CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT (1 TO BE ELECTED)

### **ANGELA MARCAKIS**

Solidarity is our strength.

As your current 1st Vice President, I'm running for President with a commitment to building a stronger, more responsive union one that is member-driven, transparent, and united. At this critical moment in bargaining, we need solidarity and strategy to move forward together.

My leadership is relational, transparent, and solution-oriented. I lead with empathy, creativity, and a strong drive to act with integrity and fairness. What sets me apart is my ability to bring people together. I've built strong relationships with members, locals, and unions because collaboration and connection are how we build power. These partnerships amplify our campaigns for better working and learning conditions, and are essential as we continue pushing for the gains we deserve.

#### As 1st Vice President

Much of what I do isn't always visible but it's vital. I've represented members in investigations, advocated with HR and superintendents, organized events, and led communications and political actions. These duties align directly with the responsibilities of the President and I've already been doing the work with care, commitment, and drive.

Every decision I make is guided by one question: What will best support our members?

#### As 2nd Vice President

I led with innovation and action revamping how we organize our BCTF AGM delegation, updating venues, offering diverse workshops for staff reps, and improving communications with members. Each change made our union more accessible, connected, and member-driven.

#### Provincial Leadership Experience

I've earned the trust of colleagues and leaders through years of participation and training. I've collaborated with local presidents, served on BCTF and BCFED committees, and consistently advocated for the enforcement not just the remedy of our collective agreement.

I've attended BCTF Bargaining Conferences, completed a course on Provincial Labour Law, and served as a BCTF facilitator trained in collective agreements and grievances. I was invited to the BCTF Federation Leadership Institute as a panelist on How to Be an Effective Leader and received training in media relations and equity in the workplace.

This work reflects not only my knowledge of the Collective Agreement, but also my commitment to representing and empowering members in every space from school sites to provincial tables to public platforms.

#### What I Will Do as President

- Defend and enforce our collective agreement.
- Mobilize members for a strong bargaining outcome, in collaboration with locals, CUPE and DPAC.
- Lead with transparency and integrity, keeping members informed and involved in decision-making, communicating consistently, and ensuring our processes are member-driven.
- Strengthen relationships with unions and the broader community to support public education.
- Foster a culture of care and connection where every member feels heard, valued, and supported.
- Advance equity and reconciliation by embedding Indigenous teachings throughout our work.

With seven years of leadership experience, strong relationships, and a vision for a more connected union, I'm ready to lead Surrey into the next chapter.

Our strength lies in each other and in the power of a union that listens, acts, and leads with heart.

Let's keep building that future together.

In solidarity,  
Angela Marcakis  
[marcakis.weebly.com](http://marcakis.weebly.com)

### **AMRIT SANGHE**

Dear Colleagues,

I have served STA members as Grievance Officer and Vice President for the past three years. You have placed your trust in me to enforce our Collective Agreement and build union power. In these roles, I have defended members' rights against the ongoing erosion of the public education system while strengthening our union's capacity through mentorship, school visits, teach-ins and supporting staff reps. I have successfully negotiated grievance settlements on various issues such as leave denials, post and fill, professional autonomy, prep time, and discrimination. My expertise in analyzing and navigating the intersections of legislation, labour relations, and our Collective Agreement has had a direct and meaningful impact on the working lives of Surrey teachers.

As President, I will continue to build a framework for unionism that centers on principles of organizing and is rooted in our collective vision for a public education system that meets the needs of every child without burning teachers out. The current state of public education is unsustainable, and we must build the capacity to challenge the structures of power that continually download more work onto teachers without providing proper support. Building a labour movement that can challenge the status quo is not quick or easy; it requires strengthening union power one school site at a time and engaging in difficult conversations. I have dedicated the past three years in the STA office to this critical work and will continue to do so.

With provincial bargaining underway, Surrey teachers deserve a President who is outspoken on the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis, performative inclusion and the erosion of class size and composition language through remedy. The current iteration of neoliberal policies and practices in public education system may not be a direct assault as teachers experienced in recent years, but rather an insidious death by a thousand cuts. We see this manifesting in increasing leave denials, eroding local superior contract provisions and new employer interpretations to long-established provisions of our Collective Agreement. I have a proven track record of protecting and enforcing hard-won contract provisions while being an ardent advocate for more support at the provincial level.

The future feels uncertain for many of us, but I remain steadfast in my belief that our continued advocacy will result in positive change. As President, I will continue to build and harness our greatest tools as organized labour - unity, strength and people power. Every union meeting, every campaign, every grievance, and every chance to listen to members is an opportunity to build our power and fight for the public schools our communities deserve. I look forward to serving Surrey teachers as your President.

#### Selected Experience

- STA Executive Committee (2nd Vice President, Grievance Officer, Local Rep, Member-at-Large, TTOC and Early Career Rep)
- PSA Vice President - Anti-Oppression Educators Collective
- BCTF Working and Learning / Bargaining Advisory Committee
- STA Bargaining Committee
- STA Grievance Committee Chair
- STA Resolutions Committee Chair
- STA Members of the Global Majority Committee Chair
- CLC Winter School

<b>CANDIDATES FOR FIRST VICE PRESIDENT (1 TO BE ELECTED)</b>
--

(No submissions at the time of publication)

## CANDIDATES FOR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (1 TO BE ELECTED)

### **VIOLETTE BAILLARGEON**

I'm seeking your support to serve as STA's 2nd Vice President. I bring over 20 years of classroom experience, union activism, and a deep commitment to equity and collective power.

#### Proven Experience That Aligns with the Role:

- **School Staff Representative: 20+ Years**  
I've been a trusted advocate in my schools for over two decades - supporting members when meeting with admin, advocating over workload issues, and identifying contract violations. I know the work, I understand the responsibilities and can attest to the impact of a strong Staff Rep network.
- **BCTF Executive Committee Member (2019-2022)**  
I helped lead the Federation through the COVID-19 pandemic, defending teacher safety, workload, and rights. We bargained a provincial collective agreement - without the leverage of job action - and consistently pushed for more funding, autonomy, and decision-making to be returned to locals.
- **Local Representative to the BCTF (2014-2024)**  
Over the past 10 years, I've spoken and debated at the mic in major assemblies more than 50 times. I've run for the BCTF Executive three times and been elected twice. I've also visited over 30 Surrey school sites to give updates on Bargaining, Health & Safety, and Remedy - ensuring transparency and connection between the union office and members.
- **BCTF Workshop Facilitator (2012-2019)**  
Fluently facilitating in both French and English, I've led workshops on Bargaining, The Code of Ethics, The Role of the Staff Reps, Boundaries, and the Curriculum Rewrite. My sessions are interactive, grounded in real experience, and focused on building member confidence and understanding.
- **BCTF Internal Mediator (2017-2019)**  
As a mediator, I helped colleagues navigate conflict through restorative processes. I bring those same values to union leadership - resolving issues without creating division.
- **BCTF Peer Support Consultant (2017-2019)**  
I've supported colleagues facing professional difficulties with compassion and discretion. I helped members navigate growth plans with dignity and support.
- **International Solidarity Committee Member (2015-present)**  
I've worked on campaigns for global justice and teacher solidarity and represented the BCTF in Peru, Chicago, and Mexico. I believe education is both local and global.

#### What I Will Bring to the Role:

- **Strong Staff Rep Training**  
I'll plan and offer training that prepares Staff Reps to manage employer-staff relations, resolve conflict, and interpret our contract with confidence.
- **Equity-Focused Awards & Scholarships**  
I'll ensure our awards and scholarships reflect and honour the full diversity of Surrey.
- **Empowered and Engaged AGM Delegation**  
I'll help ensure our AGM delegation is well-prepared, representative, and bold in advancing Surrey's priorities.
- **Labour Solidarity**  
I'll continue to build deep connections with labour allies and BCTF locals. Our power grows in solidarity.

Platform Principles:

- Member-Driven Unionism  
Union leadership should listen, share openly, and act with accountability.
- Transparent and Collaborative Bargaining  
We must win real improvements in wages and workload and make improvements to remedy.
- Mentorship & Capacity-Building  
When we support each other to lead, our movement grows stronger.

Let's build a stronger, more united STA. Together.

<https://violettebaillargeon.weebly.com/>  
[violette.baillargeon@gmail.com](mailto:violette.baillargeon@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/VioletteBaillargeonBCTF/>

**PRIYA MOODLEY**

My name is Priya Moodley and I'm honoured to put my name forward for Second Vice President of the Surrey Teachers' Association.

My journey into education - and later, union work - began with a personal experience. I moved to Canada from South Africa at the age of 16 and was told by a teacher on my very first day of high school in South Surrey to change the way I spoke. That moment of racism stuck with me and shaped my purpose: to be the kind of safe and supportive teacher that every student deserves.

Now in my eighth year of teaching, I've continued that commitment in the classroom and through my union involvement. I currently serve as the Staff Representative at Forsyth Road Elementary, and I'm in my second year as a Local Representative to the BCTF. I've supported colleagues through challenging conversations and advocated for fair, respectful treatment across roles and unions.

I'm Chair of the Members of the Global Majority committee, a participant in the District Anti-Racism Pilot Program, and involved in the District Responding to Racism initiative. Both programs aim to create more equitable and supportive learning environments for our students and staff. My first steps into union work began with the BCTF Issues on Racism project - a space where I found solidarity, strength, and purpose alongside other BIPOC educators.

I've had the privilege of attending three BCTF AGMs. At this year's BCTF AGM, I witnessed firsthand the collective power Surrey holds. After a racist incident occurred on the floor, our local made the powerful decision to walk out in protest. That moment showed me the strength of our local and the responsibility we carry to lead with integrity and stand up against injustices.

I believe that if we want to see more engagement in our union, we must create spaces where all members feel welcomed, valued, and heard. As Second Vice President, I will continue to advocate for equity, uplift underrepresented voices, and work to ensure that our local reflects the diversity, strength, and values of its members.

Thank you for your consideration.

**CANDIDATES FOR GRIEVANCE OFFICER (2 TO BE ELECTED)**

**GAVIN HAINSWORTH**

I am excited to run again for the position of Grievance Officer. I have recently served as 2nd Vice-president on behalf of all our members. During my times in the office, I represented members throughout the grievance and investigation process and have done so at the school level my whole career.

As a school staff representative for over 33 years, I have served on many of the STA's relevant committees, including Labour Affairs, STARA Steering, Health & Safety, Awards & Scholarships.

I have been deeply involved in our Association and in the development of our current structures for over 30 years. I have been involved in the development of a more inclusive and representative STA, and I would continue to provide a wealth of experience and institutional knowledge. Most recently, I have served on the Workflow Audit Committee, and the Strategic Planning Committee looking at the next five years of the STA's evolutionary growth.

I have a deep and long-time record of provincial involvement and leadership as well in multiple committees and as a Local Representative and long serving AGM Delegate. I have led our delegation on occasion, and twice attended the BCTF Bargaining Conference.

The next few years will see explosive growth in both our district and our membership. This requires strategic planning to meet evolving needs, while pushing back at attempts to erode our collective agreement and working conditions. We need to improve and make real gains on wages and benefits.

I am as deeply committed now as ever. I am a keen observer, reflective thinker, and a hard worker; always willing to listen and learn as well as teach.

I am a proven mentor, experienced networker, and passionate ally to those whose voices have been excluded.

My deep experience is an asset. Thank you for your consideration and I ask for your support.

#### STA Experience:

- 2nd Vice President (3 years, most recently, 2022-2023)
- Local Association Representative (LR) (6 years)
- BCTF AGM Delegation Co-Coordinator (1 year)
- Member-At-Large (1 year)
- Executive Committee (10 years)
- Finance Committee (2 years)
- PA/PR Committee (7 years)
- Provincial Election Coordinator (1991)
- District #36 Public Relations Committee (2 years)
- Resolutions Committee (15 years)
- Educational Governance Committee (2 years)
- TIME Committee (2 years)
- Labour Affairs Committee (16 years)
- Convention Committee (5 years)
- Indigenous Education Committee (7 years)
- Ad Hoc Indigenization Committee (2 years)
- Environmental Justice Committee (3 year)
- Staff Representative (33 years)
- STARA Steering Committee (9 years)
- Workflow Audit Subcommittee
- Awards Committee (4 years)
- Health & Safety Committee (4 years)
- Donations Subcommittee
- Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

#### BCTF & Other Experience:

- AGM delegate (33 years)
- Bargaining Conference (2 years)
- WR Long International Solidarity Committee (5 years)
- Teacher Newsmagazine Editorial Advisory Committee (4 years)
- BC Federation of Labour Convention (7 years)
- Tri-National Conference in Defense of Education (4 years)
- Anti-Racism/Human Rights Training Facilitator (3 years)

- 12 Published teacher resource guides (member or team leader), BCTF and other
- Secondary Teacher (Special Education, LST, ELL, SS, English, Math) (35 years)
- Writer, Historian, Journalist, Poet

## **ISAAC LOUIE**

Dear Colleagues,

I'm running for the role of Grievance Officer because I want to serve our membership with integrity, dedication, and the experience I've built through years of union and classroom work.

I've participated in three rounds of local bargaining (once as co-chair), served for multiple years as Staff Rep, and previously held the role of Local Representative during a bargaining year. These experiences have deepened my understanding of the Collective Agreement and sharpened my ability to defend it. Sitting across from the employer in three consecutive bargaining rounds has given me insight into how they operate and how we must respond - with clarity, consistency, and strength.

Our Collective Agreement, and any gains we fight for, are only as meaningful as our ability to enforce and protect the language we already have. Bargaining is more than just the formal rounds, it encompasses the day-to-day negotiations within the term of our contract, too. If elected, I will be committed to holding the line with the employer while bringing creative problem-solving to the table in service of the best interests of our membership.

Beyond formal union roles, I've worked as a TTOC, taught intermediate prep, and have been a full-time elementary classroom teacher since 2016. I know the joys and challenges of the classroom before, during, and after the restoration of our contract. I still remember sitting outside Lena Shaw as a pre-service classroom volunteer during the lockout - learning early on what tactics the government will employ to try to get us to cede hard-won ground.

I've taught in a diversity of school communities - Hall's Prairie in the South, Frost Road in Fleetwood, and Betty Huff in the inner-city context of the North. These experiences have shaped my understanding of the complexity and inequities within our system and how they impact students and staff alike. Like you, I want more than an end to remedy; I want a truly restored and flourishing public education system - one that allows us to thrive both inside and outside the classroom. I want us to have lifeforce at the end of the day to enjoy our time off the clock and to retain the fulfilling reasons we chose teaching in the first place.

If you place your trust in me, I will work hard to protect our rights, honour our collectively-won achievements, and bring a thoughtful, principled voice to the Executive Committee.

- Local Rep to BCTF during Bargaining Year (2019-20)
- BCTF AGM Delegate (2019, 2020)
- BCTF Facilitator and Workshop Co-writer
- Bargaining Committee (3 rounds; 1 as co-chair)
- Grievance Committee
- PA/PR Committee
- Leader of rally chants outside MLA offices (2019)
- Past Co-chair and Chair of Ad Hoc Committee for Members of Colour
- Scrutineer for numerous virtual STA elections
- Staff Rep: Hall's Prairie, Betty Huff
- Staff Committee Chair: Betty Huff

## **HOWARD LUNG**

- Worked with a student without being told there's an Employee Safety Plan?
- Didn't get scheduled with a prep block?
- Asked to work as an EA to toilet students and perform nursing tasks while covering their breaks?
- Experienced threatening communication at work?
- Staff not informed of WorkSafe BC order to fix infraction?

These are just a few topics in which I have supported and advocated for my colleagues. With 9 years in BASES (2 as Dept. Head), 4 years as STARA & H&S rep (overseeing size & composition audit 3 years in a row), I've had an insider view to Best Effort every May/June and closely monitored the impact on teachers and students the following year.

Every year since 2016, I've seen how worker safety (both physical and psychological) depends on respect for boundaries; frequent deviation from labour codes and Health & Safety regulations are key factors of high worker attrition and poor wellbeing.

My school rep work has inspired me to run for fulltime office: I want to serve many more Surrey Teachers. As an Autistic educator, I bring unique qualities with me in advocating for you:

- A strong sense of justice and fairness is a fundamental aspect of autistic identity - I have a deep sense of fulfillment when advocating for you.
- My communication preference focuses on shared interests - your rights and wellbeing as a worker. I will enjoy listening to you!
- Enhanced ability to identify systemic issues: integral to grievance matters is focus on patterns and details in labour and health & safety codes.

In union work, we stand on the shoulders of giants: tireless members of the EC and the many committees I've been involved in have shown me that Surrey teachers over the years have fought for the terms we've come to expect. Being a delegate to the BCTF AGM and the Bargaining Conference further cemented my conviction on the vital importance of local union work: parts (superior local language) of the SD36/STA collective agreement are the envy of teachers in other districts.

The reality is that such rights need constant, vigilant assertion: use it or lose it. Grievance Officers have a vital role in assisting members exercising our rights. I realize that Grievance Officers often work with the fruit of their predecessors - labour that took years to prepare; it will be a pleasure and honour for me to represent you in the next leg of this race to protect our bargained rights whenever the need arises, while also laying the groundwork for improved conditions in the future.

<https://howardlung.weebly.com/>

### Experience

- BASES, Visual Art & English Language Arts teacher
- STARA rep & Joint Occupational H&S Committee rep since 2021 / 22
- Overseen the Best Effort audit at school site for 3 consecutive years.
- Delegate, BCTF AGM, March 2024
- Delegate, BCTF Bargaining Conference, May 2024
- Chair, BASES ad hoc committee
- Mentor, BASES Mentorship Cohort
- Delegate, BCTF Public Education Conference, 2025

### **HALLAN MTATIRO**

The Inner-City Perspective. I am all the way fired up about our working conditions. With budget shortfalls, and an all-time high teacher shortage, equating to more stress for us in classrooms, we need determined advocates in our district. The truth is that in 2025/26, Surrey Teachers will, yet again, experience stressors on our workload, and there will be less student support. This will be more acute in schools that cater to our most vulnerable students. In addition, and because of these precarious conditions, the consequence will be more members being wrongfully disciplined. We need strong and assertive officers working for us.

Public Education is at a tipping point. I'm four years in and I feel it. I came into this profession determined to make impact; however, there are insurmountable challenges put on us year after year. Early this year, I was actually told by admin that the district is moving towards less IESWs, and that teachers need to be more creative around supporting students with severe and complex learning needs. What?!

At the provincial table. I'm already doing the work of advocating for all members. I care deeply for teachers and for our union. I am asking questions and speaking up for, and amplifying, the teacher in the classroom. My focus in all conversations is our members. Solidarity will always be the cornerstone of the labour movement; this means we need an informed and engaged membership. I represent, and will continue to, all people.

A vote for me. I'm thinking about you. I'm an active listener and will keep them honest. Believe me, I will make sure that your voice and rights are heard and respected. It will be the highest honor to work for you. My door will always be open (figuratively, because I actually work better with my door physically closed), working with determination and fervor like you have never seen!

#### Experience:

- Provincial:
  - EC (2024-present),
  - BCFED Delegate (2022/2024),
  - TTOC Advisory Committee (2022-24),
  - CLC Winter School (2025), FLI (2024),
  - Summer Leadership Conference (2023/24)
  - AGM Delegate (2023-25)
  
- Local:
  - Bargaining Committee (2024/25)
  - TTOC Chair (2022-23)
  
- Teaching:
  - 8/9 Sciences (2019-2021),
  - Elementary 4/5 (Present)

#### **KRYSTAL NG**

I acknowledge that I am an uninvited settler on the stolen and unceded territories of the Kwantlen, Katzie, Semiahmoo, and other Coast Salish Peoples who have been the stewards of this land since time immemorial. I am grateful and feel privileged to be able to work and learn on these lands every day.

My name is Krystal Hazel Tsun-Ying Ng and I'm a Grade 3 teacher at A. H. P. Matthew Elementary. My pronouns are she/her and I identify as a Chinese-Canadian and a woman of colour. I am humbly putting my name forward and asking for your support as I run for the Grievance Officer position on the S.T.A. Executive Committee.

With over 12 years of teaching experience in classrooms ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 7, I would like to bring my experience to the S.T.A. Executive Committee to advocate for Surrey teachers. As a classroom teacher, I have learned that safe spaces need to be created for everyone to feel seen, heard, and valued.

As the Anti-Racism lead and SOGI Lead at my school for the last few years, I aimed to create an inclusive and safe environment for all students that I encounter daily. This led me to create our school's first Social Justice Club where students are given the opportunity to be authentically themselves without fear of judgment. As the host teacher of the Social Justice Club, my students and I strongly advocated for creating a mural in a public space that served as a reminder of our values of inclusion and equity. Through working together with my school's Aboriginal Child and Youth Care worker at the time and the use of an Aboriginal Learning Special Project grant in 2022, we painted a rainbow staircase and an Indigenous mural on the sidewalk that highlighted the message of Every Child Matters and the 7 Anishinaabe teachings to continue to remind our school community of our core values.

As the Staff Rep at my school, I presented an Anti-Racism Workshop during one of our summer Professional Development days because I believe that education can bring about awareness and action. With this firm belief, I also participated in a media campaign for the S.T.A. this year to raise awareness on topics like safety in classrooms, chronic underfunding, and our deteriorating working conditions in schools that affect our daily lives in hopes that the public can get a glimpse into our reality.



As your Grievance Officer, I will work tirelessly to fight for your rights to ensure your voice is heard, respected, and valued. I humbly and respectfully ask for your support and thank you for your consideration.

### Experience

- Members of the Global Majority Committee (2020-present)
- BCTF AGM Delegate (2023)
- Fall Representative Assembly Observer (2023)
- Chair to the Ad Hoc District Racial Equity Response Committee (2023-2025)
- Grievance Committee (2024-2025)
- Member-at-Large on S.T.A. Executive Committee (2024-2025)

### **KELLI O'MALLEY**

I would like to thank the membership for allowing me to serve as Grievance Officer. This position requires experience and knowledge of the Collective Agreement and its application to the work teachers do every day. In the 2 terms I have worked in this position, my understanding of labour law and the Collective Agreement has expanded through training and experience; this has improved my performance to better serve the membership. I would like to continue in this position and ask the membership to re-elect me to the position of Grievance Officer for the Surrey Teachers' Association.

A thorough understanding the Collective Agreement and the associated Memorandums of Agreement, Letters of Understanding, Settlement Agreements, and arbitrations are paramount to the successful carriage of a grievance. In this time of teacher shortages and the Employers constant mining of the Collective Agreement to save money and restrict employee rights, empowering teachers with knowledge and understanding of our Collective Agreement is more important than ever.

As a Grievance Officer, I have:

- worked on the Job Description, Adult Education, Transfer Timelines, Calendar, Extended Day, Best Efforts and Remedy and Failure to Fill portfolios
- filed and negotiated the settlement of grievances in meetings with Human Resources
- referred grievances to arbitration and monitored the status of referrals
- successfully negotiated mediations and arbitrations
- represented members in investigations and harassment complaints
- prepared to represent members at Board Hearings
- authored grievance communications and reported out to members at STARA meetings
- represented member concerns at the Joint Salary Committee
- responded to member concerns and provided timely advice via email, phone, and in person

The knowledge and experience I use to support this role include:

- training in grievance handling, investigations, arbitrations, mediations, and labour law
- local bargaining with the employer and TFEU staff
- serving on the STA's Health and Safety, Bargaining, Grievance and Resolutions Committees
- serving as Staff Rep for 18 years
- serving as chair and co-chair of my school's Staff Committee for 15 years
- serving as chair and co-chair of my school's Professional Development Committee for 15 years
- serving as the Staff Rep member on the Health and Safety Committee
- serving as a Local Representative and Member at Large for the STA Executive Committee for two years in each position
- serving as a member, chair, and co-chair of the STA Professional Development Committee for the past 12 years
- being a trained BCTF SURT Facilitator for 7 years, giving workshops on Professional Development, Professional Issues, Grievance, Assessment, Capacity Building, Having Conversations and Teacher Inquiry
- attending multiple BCTF AGMs to participate in shaping our union
- working with the Surrey School District on various initiatives, including Assessment and Reporting, Mediation, and Mentor 36.

I believe my training and experience have made me an assertive, efficient, and effective Grievance Officer. I ask for your endorsement to continue this important work.

### **CORRIE SHAW**

Hello colleagues, my name is Corrie Shaw and I am running for a Grievance Officer position with our Surrey Teachers Association. I have been teaching in Surrey for 27 years and have taught at the secondary and elementary levels in both enrolling and non-enrolling positions. I have also served as a Staff Rep at both levels. The last couple of years I have become further involved with our Surrey Teachers Union and the BCTF. I have represented Surrey as a delegate at the last two BCTF AGMs, as well as at the BCTF bargaining conference. I also served as a Surrey representative to the BCTF as a Social Justice Representative this school year and met with teachers from all over our province to discuss challenges facing teachers including violence, intolerance, discrimination, lack of resources and supports, and workloads that are unmanageable.

My career as a Surrey teacher and my Union activism has led me to want to become more involved in protecting the rights of teachers in Surrey. I believe in the power of public education as the true equalizer in our society, giving every child the right to a quality education and opportunities to pursue their dreams. I also believe every teacher has the right to feel safe, supported, and able to reach all the students in their classes. However, in my 27 years, I believe the challenges facing teachers is at an all time high. I believe that public education is under attack. Lack of adequate funding has teachers dealing with less support for students with diverse needs. With the complexities in our classrooms and schools we need more supports, however our schools continue to face cuts that make teaching and learning conditions untenable. Teachers are feeling burned out, the stress is affecting our mental health, and many are considering leaving the profession. We need to continue to fight against the erosion of our public education system and protect teacher's rights.

I would be honoured to serve as a Grievance Officer for the Surrey Teachers Association. I would dedicate myself to fighting to ensure our collective agreement is being respected for Surrey Teachers. The collective agreement represents many years of hard-fought wins by past and present colleagues, and I take the document very seriously. I would continue to work with colleagues at the union, teachers in our district and from across the province to fight for further improvements to our collective agreement. This will ensure that we retain current teachers and increase the number of new teachers entering the profession. Please consider voting for me, and in turn I will pledge to listen to my teacher colleagues who require support, fight for their right to do an amazing job, and advocate for Teachers' rights with the employer.

In solidarity, with humility and respect. Thanks for your time and consideration.  
Corrie Shaw

## **CANDIDATES FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY/GRIEVANCE OFFICER (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

### **MANJIT DULLA**

In my time serving as your Grievance Officer, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that a safe and healthy workplace has on our ability to teach, support, and inspire our students. Every concern raised - whether about physical safety, mental health, or working conditions - matters deeply to me. I have made it my mission to listen with empathy, act with diligence, and advocate fiercely for every member's right to a safe and respectful environment.

One of the most urgent and heartbreaking issues we face is the rise in student-on-teacher violence. Too many of our colleagues have suffered physical and psychological harm due to violent incidents in our schools, often as a result of chronic underfunding and a shortage of inclusive education support workers. I have worked to ensure that every report of violence is taken seriously, advocating for stronger preventative measures, timely interventions, and meaningful supports for affected staff. I am committed to continuing this fight - pressing for increased resources, comprehensive training, and a district-wide culture that refuses to accept violence as part of our job.

I also recognize that real change happens at the ground level, which is why I am passionate about supporting and strengthening our site-based Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees (JOHSCs). These committees are the foundation of workplace safety in our schools. I am dedicated to ensuring that every JOHSC is equipped with the training, resources, and support they need to be truly effective. This means providing ongoing education, access to up-to-date information, and clear channels for raising and resolving concerns. By empowering our JOHSCs, we can identify hazards early, foster a proactive safety culture, and ensure that every member's voice is heard and respected at their worksite.

This role is not just about resolving grievances, it is about building a culture of trust, solidarity, and continuous improvement. I believe that when we stand together, we are stronger and safer. I am dedicated to ongoing education, open communication, and empowering all members to know their rights and exercise them confidently.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I ask for your support to continue this important work advocating for your safety, your dignity, and your right to a healthy workplace. Together, we can ensure that every Surrey teacher returns home safely each day, knowing their well-being is valued and protected.

**GAVIN HAINSWORTH**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

**CANDIDATES FOR ACCOMMODATIONS SUPPORT OFFICER (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

**KEVIN AMBOE**

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I'm Kevin Amboe, asking for your vote for Accommodations Officer.

I bring to the STA office 25 years' experience as a union activist including Second Vice President, Professional Support Officer, Mediator, PSA President, Staff Representative, Local Representative, AGM Delegate, and BCTF Working and Learning Advisory Committee.

My actions demonstrate that You the members are a priority. While often behind the scenes, I am there when needed. I have supported our annual STA Convention for 20 years, and been on our local bargaining team for 16 years.

As a 30-year teacher in Surrey, I have a firm foundation of the workings for the STA Office and the School District. We need a knowledgeable, hardworking and strong Accommodations Officer as we deal with the challenges in the district with HR, Administrators, increasing complexity and workload. I will be that person for you as members.

Here are 6 reasons why:

1. **Collective Agreement Knowledge:** With Bargaining and Local Rep experience, I possess the depth of understanding necessary to fight for your rights. I'll fight for your needs with the keen understanding of the impact of their decisions on members and students.
2. **I have Insight into your Working Conditions:** With diverse experience across Elementary, Secondary, Non-Enrolling, Helping Teacher and Summer School, I do understand your challenges with workload, remedy, failure to fill, reduced staffing, and workplace violence.
3. **I am a leader:** I bring integrity, experience, intuition, dedication and a commitment to achieve results.
4. **I hold the knowledge and skills:** I have taken the Canadian Labour Congress Accommodations/ Return to Work weeklong course. Additionally, I am trained as a Mediator and Conflict Coach. With experience as a released officer, I have worked with the district navigating complex situations with evaluations, investigations and harassment complaints.
5. **Committed to the STA.** I know that this role has a key portfolio; however, I am also aware that this position is also part of the larger Table Officer and Executive Officer teams.
6. **You are the priority.** Foundationally, I see everyone as a person first. I firmly believe all members are created equal deserving of dignity and respect. We need to support you more as members in the schools. The Accommodations Officer needs to be there to support our members who have been injured, dealing with illness or disabilities. I know first-hand the increasing physical and psychological violence that is unfortunately continuing to rise.

My goals if elected will be to:

- Acknowledge you as a member within 24 hours of your request wherever possible.
- Support members navigating the BCTF Short-Term, Long-Term SIP, and the Teacher Wellness program.
- I will continue to support fighting back on the decisions that are creating the declining working conditions due to escalating injuries and violence.

As members you are the STA. Your vote for Kevin Amboe means choosing a leader dedicated to putting members and member issues first.

Thank you for your trust and support.

### **GAVIN HAINSWORTH**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

### **SEAN MOORES**

I am running for Accommodation Support Officer because I believe all members deserve equitable, compassionate support when navigating leave processes, workplace accommodations, and return-to-work planning. My commitment to inclusive advocacy, policy clarity, and trauma-informed care is grounded in years of experience within both the classroom and our union.

I have been a Surrey teacher since 2017, bringing experience as both a classroom teacher and Integration Support Teacher. Prior to that, I served as Vice President of the West Vancouver Teachers' Association, where I supported members through grievances and investigations and collaborated with the district on accommodations-related matters. I also led the district mentorship program, building sustainable supports for early-career teachers.

Across roles, I have consistently advocated for members navigating complex accommodations, particularly those impacted by systemic barriers.

With the STA, I have served as a STARA representative and attended the BCTF Annual General Meeting, contributing to provincial-level policy and decision-making. I currently sit on the STA 2SLGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee and previously served on the BCTF's Committee for Action on Social Justice 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Group.

As a former BCTF workshop facilitator, I delivered social justice-focused professional development across the province, centering topics such as anti-racism, sexual health education, and equity for 2SLGBTQIA+ learners and educators. This work extends into my school communities, where I have served as both a SOGI Lead and Indigenous Education Lead, working to ensure inclusive and culturally responsive practices are embedded at the school level.

My advocacy is rooted in the understanding that our members do not experience challenges in isolation. Identity, mental health, family responsibilities, and systemic inequities often intersect with workplace barriers, and our union support must reflect that complexity.

If elected, I will:

- Support members with dignity and empathy throughout medical and non-medical leave processes.
- Collaborate with the district and BCTF to ensure clear, equitable application of accommodation policies.
- Advocate for trauma-informed, intersectional approaches to member support.
- Be a creative, progressive voice at the Executive Committee table shaped by lived experience, collective joy, and a deep belief that equity is both a practice and a promise.

This role isn't just about paperwork and policy - it's about people. I understand how isolating and overwhelming the accommodations process can be, and I am committed to making sure no member feels like they have to navigate it alone.

I would be honoured to bring my experience, my advocacy, and my heart to this role in service of our members.

**CHRISTOPHER ROLLE**

Experience. Dedication. Advocacy.

My name is Christopher Rolle, and I am seeking your support as I run for the Accommodations Support Officer (2-year term) with the Surrey Teachers' Union.

With over 25 years of teaching experience in both the Bahamas and Canada, I bring a deep understanding of the classroom, our profession, and the challenges educators face - both personally and professionally. Currently, I teach at James Ardiel Elementary, and prior to this, I spent six years teaching at Zeballos Elementary Secondary School.

My union journey has been just as rich as my teaching one. I've proudly served in various positions within my local union in SD84, and at the provincial level with the BC Teachers' Federation. My work includes roles as a CASJ member, a BCTF facilitator, and participation on several ad hoc committees. This work has allowed me to advocate for equity, inclusion, and systemic change.

Over the past few years, I've taken on a personal and professional role supporting colleagues through medical and workplace accommodation challenges. Whether it's navigating sick leaves, Work Safe BC claims, or gradual return-to-work plans, I've worked hard to ensure members feel heard, supported, and treated fairly. I've liaised with districts, external agencies, the BCTF, and health service providers to help ensure that our members get the help they need.

As Accommodations Support Officer, I will:

- Support members through both medical and non-medical leaves.
- Advocate for fair, consistent, and equitable accommodations across the district.
- Collaborate closely with the Health & Safety Officer, attend Health Services and BCTF Health & Wellness meetings, and represent you at the BCTF Summer Conference and FLI.

Union work isn't just something I do - it's part of who I am. I believe every teacher deserves a strong advocate in their corner. I would be honoured to serve and support you in this role.

Let's continue to build a culture of care, fairness, and support together.

Vote Christopher Rolle for Accommodations Support Officer.

**CANDIDATES FOR PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICER (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

**PRIYA MOODLEY**

(Please see submission for Second Vice President)

**PAULINE VETO**

Hello colleagues,

I am seeking your support to continue serving in the role of Professional Support Services Officer for Surrey members of the STA.

I believe the work supporting members and addressing their needs should be at the forefront of the services the STA provides. The STA membership is diverse and the needs of our members continue to change and evolve, so the services of our union need to grow with them. I am committed to stewarding changes in the services and delivery to meet members' needs. I will continue to listen empathetically, with care and curiosity, as I assist members to find the services and processes that will work for them.

The challenges and complexity of teaching continue to increase, and the requests for member to member support programs continue to grow. I have worked to support Teachers' professional practice through the development of the Peer Support and Mentorship programs. I have continually stressed the importance of providing support to new-to-role teachers, new to district teachers, and new teachers. I have collaborated with the district on mentorship, and will continue

to strongly advocate for increased funding for mentorship programs. I will continue to advocate with the district for increased time for members to work on supporting each other.

I hear the concerns our teachers have about ever-expanding workloads, and will commit to safeguarding our collective agreement rights. Members are expressing concern that factors beyond their control, such as budget cuts, create real impacts in their work. Professional rights, professional autonomy, and fair and transparent processes are top priorities for me to advocate for members in all stages of their careers.

I enjoy working directly for teachers, and in working to support them in their professional goals. I am grateful for the dedication, passion and time that so many members give to assist their colleagues and to make our local stronger.

In solidarity,  
Pauline Veto

#### STA and BCTF Experience

- STA Professional Support Services Officer (2022 - present)
- STA Finance Committee (2017 - present)
- STA Bargaining Committee (2020 - present)
- STA Status of Women Committee (2019 - 2024)
- STA Grievance Committee (2020 - 2024)
- STA Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Committee (2017 - 2019)
- STA Political Action/Public Relations Committee Member (2015 - 2023)
- STARA Steering Committee (2020 - 2022)
- STA Resolutions Committee
- STA School Staff Representative
- School Staff Committee Chair & Member
- School Health & Safety Committee Member
- BCTF Finance Committee Member
- BCTF Workshop Facilitator - Professional & Social Issues
- BCTF Political Action Contact
- Local Representative to the BCTF
- Local delegate to the BCTF AGM

### **CANDIDATES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

#### **NICOLE HURTUBISE**

With over fifteen years of experience in elementary education, I have developed a strong understanding of the challenges and needs of teachers, particularly in the areas of professional development, advocacy and working conditions. I am a lifelong learner with a formal education that includes a Master of Education in Justice, Law, and Ethics in Education from SFU and a Teacher-Librarian diploma from UBC. My experience as a classroom teacher, Teacher-Librarian, school representative, and executive member of the STA has provided me with the skills necessary to support you as the next Professional Development Officer.

My commitment to professional development is evident in my ongoing involvement in various committees and initiatives. As a current Local Representative to the BCTF on the STA Executive, President of the Surrey Chapter of the BC Teacher-Librarian Association (BCTLA), and an active participant in the both the Professional Development Committee and Convention Committee, I have worked to ensure that teachers have access to meaningful and equitable professional learning opportunities. I have been involved in organizing STA Conventions, Focus Day, BCTLA conferences, helping to facilitate Pro-D School Rep Training, and supporting teacher inquiry initiatives like the BCTF TIP. These experiences have allowed me to collaborate with colleagues, advocate for improved learning opportunities, and contribute to strengthening professional development structures within our local.

In addition to organizing professional development initiatives, I have actively engaged in broader union advocacy. I have participated in committees addressing issues such as accessibility within the union, Teacher-Librarian working conditions,

and anti-SOGI rhetoric. Through this work, I have gained a deeper understanding of the balance between social activism and the need to address the increasing pressures placed on all teachers.

A key component of my approach to professional development is ensuring that it is inclusive, responsive, and accessible to all educators. I am committed to advancing anti-racism and anti-oppression training, developing and reviewing Truth and Reconciliation action plans, and fostering safe and supportive spaces for professional learning. As a leader, I strive to amplify diverse voices and create opportunities for teachers to engage in meaningful dialogue and growth.

If elected as Professional Development Officer, I will continue to advocate for high-quality, teacher-led professional development. My experience in organizing, facilitating, and advocating for professional learning, combined with my understanding of the structural challenges within our education system, positions me well to serve in this role. I look forward to the opportunity to support Surrey teachers in their ongoing professional growth and development.

#### Select Experience

- Professional Development Committee since 2018
- Focus Day sub-committee since 2018
- Surrey delegate to the BCTF AGM since 2020
- Surrey Chapter of the BCTLA executive since 2020; President since 2021
- BCTLA Executive Member since 2023
- STA Executive, Member at Large 2023/2024
- STA Convention Committee since 2024
- STA Executive, Local Representative to the BCTF 2024/2025
- STA Local Bargaining Committee 2024/2025

<b>CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BCTF (ADULT EDUCATION) (1 TO BE ELECTED)</b>
--

(No submissions at the time of publication)

<b>CANDIDATES FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BCTF (5 TO BE ELECTED)</b>
---

#### **MARILYN CARR**

My name is Marilyn Carr and I'm seeking re-election as your STA Local Representative to the BCTF. Over the past 17 years, I've taught across the K-12 spectrum in a variety of roles - classroom teacher, FSL specialist for Grades 5-7, Learning Support and ELL teacher for Grades 8-12, and Teacher-Librarian in a dual-track elementary school.

In the last five years, I've been honoured to serve Surrey teachers as a Member-at-Large, a Resolutions Committee member, and as a Local Rep to the BCTF. This past year, I joined our Local Bargaining Team to better understand negotiations in Surrey and to advocate directly for the supports we urgently need. I've also worked on committees focused on professional growth and teacher wellbeing, and represented Surrey teachers at BC Federation of Labour conferences to speak out on funding and staffing issues in public education.

As a Local Rep, I've collaborated with colleagues across the province to address shared challenges: the climate crisis, Indigenous representation and training, strengthening PSAs, and ensuring members are fully informed ahead of bargaining votes.

I've been proud to represent Surrey teachers in several key ways:

- As STA Communications Coordinator (2022-2023), amplifying member voices and concerns
- In a BCTF media campaign on teacher shortages and chronic underfunding
- At Lobby Days in Victoria and Surrey, meeting with MLAs and the Premier
- At Board of Education meetings, where I've spoken on urgent local issues: overcrowded classrooms, loss of programs like Band, the closure of learning centres, and reduced access to technology

My experience in inner-city schools has shown me how vital real, tangible support is when teachers are stretched thin. We have schools running out of paper, staff using outdated or no devices, and cuts to Helping Teacher roles, Peer Support, and IESW hours - all direct results of inadequate provincial funding.

We need sustainable conditions in our classrooms: smaller class sizes, adequate prep time, updated tools and technology, dedicated specialists, and access to mental health supports. These aren't luxuries, they're the basics we need to do our jobs well.

I'm committed to continuing this work and ensuring Surrey Teachers' voices are heard, both locally and provincially. I'd be honoured to have your support. Together, we can keep pushing for the real change our schools and students deserve.

**NICOLE HURTUBISE**

(Please see submission for Professional Development Officer)

**DUSTIN JOHNSON**

My name is Dustin Johnson, and I am seeking your support in my bid to represent Surrey teachers as a Local Representative to the BCTF. I am passionate about union work and come from a family with a long history of union work. My mother left Poland in 1980 as a teenager to escape the imposition of martial law during the anti-communist/labor movement called the Orange Alternative and has been a Shop Stewart with CUPE local 116 for over 30 years. I have vivid memories of standing on picket lines and attending CUPE meetings as a child.

As an early career teacher who has worked with some of our most vulnerable youth as a Learning Support Teacher, and Alternate Education Teacher in a Learning Centre, I bring a unique perspective to our profession. I also have the opportunity to TTOC on Friday afternoons and am well acquainted with the realities of the teacher shortage, class size and composition issues, and the struggles facing our TTOC colleagues. Throughout my 6 years as a teacher, I have attended 5 BCTF AGMs and have been a STA Staff Rep for 5 years. I have been a member of the resolutions committee and have helped to craft successful motions to be sent to the BCTF AGM.

I am ready to take my union work and activism to the next level and am seeking your support to continue my fight and allyship. I am here to listen to member issues, and bring them to the table to make progress and change for the better.

**ISAAC LOUIE**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

**PRIYA MOODLEY**

(Please see submission for Second Vice President)

**SEAN MOORES**

(Please see submission for Accommodations Support Officer)

**ANNIE OHANA**

Hello colleagues. I'm Annie Ohana a settler on the time immemorial and Unceded Coast Salish Territories identifying as a White-passing Sephardic Jewish Queer Woman.

Surrey teachers have a powerful voice and are continuing to work in conditions from district budgets to policies that are nowhere near where they need to be, and rapidly declining, forever asked to do more than less. From Adult Education to students with diverse needs, Teacher-Librarians, to all non enrolling caseloads, our incredible Learning Centers, to the countless hours of extra curricular work taken on, I hear you drowning yet valiantly holding your head above water, demanding for a safer, better resourced, and healthier public education system for yourselves, your colleagues, students, and wider school communities. I am in that struggle with you, feeling the impact at every turn as someone who has a non enrolling caseload that has seen budget cuts that leave our Indigenous students with less support, and other worsening conditions facing our BASES programming.

I can show you the receipts of the fighter I have been for every single member, at every turn, even in the public eye. I welcome the tough conversations but always with open dialogue with members, district, governmental authorities and other educational stakeholders at all levels. I refuse to bend or accept a rigid structure which impose managerial rights in ways that are destructive, harmful, and recklessly ignorant of member needs.



I believe a strong union that can take on an employer and empower and amplify our members must be diverse in ways that truly operate in a manner that is anti-colonial, focuses on our status as labourers and working-class people, that understands just how much violence happens in our everyday lives, physically, mentally, and emotionally. I believe a union should validate, elevate, and be the vanguard against a system that seeks to discredit teacher voices.

Some of my union roles:

- 2017-2025 Local Representative
- 11 AGMS as elected delegate
- 13-year STA Rep/ SJ Rep at LA Matheson Secondary
- Numerous years on Cmtes: Indigenous Education, Ad-hoc Indigenization, Economic Justice,, Environmental Justice, Status of Women, International Solidarity, Resolutions, Convention, and currently chair of 2SLGBTQ+
- Maximum 6 year term on BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice and in year 4 of 6 of WR Long International Solidarity Comte.
- Professional Development Workshop Developer from school wide, union wide, nationally and internationally.
- Anti-Oppression Curriculum Specialist - Masters in Equity Studies
- Community Builder working with Anti-Oppression Activist Groups
- Curriculums Specialist on several projects to include International Humanitarian Law with Red Cross, Erasure of IBPOC voices from historical narratives, Film Discussion Guides, action organizer, media spokesperson for various boards and more.

I humbly put my name forward as a candidate for LR with a wide breadth and depth of experience and anti oppressions lenses that represent our membership and form a strong track record of my priorities and the merit which qualifies me for the role once again.

Any questions email me at [ohana\\_a@surreyschools.ca](mailto:ohana_a@surreyschools.ca)

**ALEXANDRA (LEXA) PERL**

I am putting my name forward for the position of Local Representative to the BCTF and the STA Resolutions Committee. I have been teaching in BC for the past six years and have been a unionized worker for most of my adult life. Surrey teachers are on the forefront of a fight to save a public education system constantly on edge of oblivion. As a fellow Surrey teacher, I know what that feels like, and I know the toll it takes. I believe public education is the great equalizer, and I have a proven track record of being a passionate advocate for public education, for our rights as workers, and for marginalized members of our union.

Over a decade of involvement in union governance has shown me the importance of listening, speaking up when it matters, and facilitating spaces where members can feel heard.

In this bargaining year, we need voices at the BCTF who understand the depth of challenges Surrey teachers face, including remedy, increased workload, and space shortages. As a current member of the STA Bargaining Committee and a delegate to the 2024 BCTF Bargaining Conference, I bring knowledge of the issues and a commitment to representing Surrey's needs with purpose and integrity.

The protests outside our local office made one thing clear. Our members face transphobia, homophobia, racism and ableism and these experiences are a threat, a threat that will drive talented and diverse voices out of our profession.

My experiences as a delegate to the BC Federation of Labour, attending multiple BCTF AGMs, and observing the Winter Representative Assembly have given me valuable insight into the complexities of BCTF policy and politics. More importantly, they've cemented my belief in the power of collective action.

As a Local Representative, I will:

- Represent and communicate with Surrey teachers with clarity, consistency, and accountability
- Demonstrate leadership that is both principled and collaborative
- Uplift concerns about working conditions while maintaining a strong equity lens
- Help the BCTF maintain its commitment as a union that represents teachers who are workers.

What I bring:

- Deep knowledge of BCTF policy, its member guide, and rules of order
- Familiarity with the STA Collective agreement, constitution, and policies
- Experience writing and debating motions that reflect member priorities
- A commitment to advocacy that is passionate, responsive, and relationship-driven
- A steadfast belief in both collective action and collective care

Union Experience:

- STARA Rep (Earl Marriott), 2023-24 STA Executive (Early Career and TTOC Rep)
- Member, STA Bargaining Committee and Resolutions Committee
- Co-Chair, STA 2SLGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee
- Chair, STA Accessibility Committee
- BCTF AGM Delegate (4 years), Founding Member of BC Teachers' Queer Caucus
- Past Member, BCTF CASJ 2SLGBTQ Action Group (2020 to 2024)
- Delegate to 2024 BC Federation of Labour Convention

I care deeply about this work. That's why I believe in doing it with courage, passion, and with the kind of leadership that invites others to build something stronger, together.

**GURINDER SAROYA**

I'm honoured to seek your support for the position of Local Representative.

Over the past year and a half, I've served on the STA Executive Committee as a Member at Large. This role has allowed me to participate in many key aspects of our union work, including chairing the Finance Committee and contributing to various other committees such as the Members of Global Majority. I have had the opportunity to attend multiple AGMs as a delegate. These experiences have deepened my understanding of both local and provincial structures and strengthened my commitment to union advocacy.

I'm seeking the LR position because I believe strongly in the importance of representative leadership. My approach centers on listening - genuinely and actively - to the concerns, ideas, and experiences of our members. I believe that by hearing directly from members across the district, I can bring their voices forward to the BCTF Representative Assemblies. I've had countless conversations with educators across the district, and I'm ready to use my voice to raise the issues I hear most often: remedy, class size and composition, and the need for real gains at the bargaining table. These are not just policy discussions, they're lived realities for Surrey teachers, and I'm committed to advocating for meaningful change.

I'm also deeply committed to equity and inclusion. I have experience working alongside and advocating for marginalized communities, and I believe our union must continue to center these voices in all of our work.

If elected as Local Representative, I will bring the same dedication, compassion, and action-focused mindset I've brought to my work as a teacher, coach, and executive committee member.

Thank you for your consideration and for all the work you do.

In solidarity,  
Gurinder

**CORRIE SHAW**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

**CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

(No submissions at the time of publication)

**CANDIDATES FOR TTOC AND EARLY CAREER REPRESENTATIVE (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

**DAVE MCCORMICK**

I've been a TTOC in Surrey for a couple years now and I love it. I believe TTOCs are a foundational and integral part of our schools and I want to empower all TTOCs as we support the classes we are in.

**CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER AT LARGE (DESIGNATED FOR A MEMBER OF COLOUR)  
(1 TO BE ELECTED)**

**KRYSTAL NG**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

**GURINDER SAROYA**

(Please see submission for Local Representative to the BCTF)

**JONATHAN WRIGHT**

My name is Jonathan Wright, and I am privileged to put my name forward for the position of Member at Large (designated for a member of colour). As a second-year teacher at Forsyth Road Elementary in Surrey, I am passionate about fostering inclusive, supportive, and engaging learning environments for both students and staff. I believe that every member of our school community deserves to feel seen, heard, and valued, and I am committed to working toward that vision.

In my role as a sixth-grade teacher, I have seen firsthand the importance of representation, equity, and community in our schools. As educators, we must wear many hats to advocate for the voices of staff and students, ensuring that our stories and experiences are reflected. My educational journey has been shaped by a variety of experiences that have deepened my awareness of the diverse needs within our schools. From 2020 to 2023, I worked as an Education Assistant for the Burnaby School District, where I learned the importance of advocating for our neurodivergent students and supporting their unique learning journeys. Prior to that, I spent 13 years teaching in Seoul, South Korea, where I gained invaluable insights into cross-cultural understanding and the importance of building bridges between communities. Additionally, I worked as an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher in Wisconsin in the United States for three years, further broadening my perspective on the challenges and opportunities faced by students and educators from diverse backgrounds.

As the 2025 BCTF AGM Surrey Snack Chair, I have had the privilege of building connections across British Columbia and listening to our members to learn more about their needs and aspirations. This experience has strengthened my organizational skills and deepened my appreciation for the power of collaboration and community engagement. I have seen how even small acts of care and connection - like sharing a snack or a conversation - can help build trust and foster a sense of belonging among colleagues.

If elected, I will work to:

- Advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion in our schools
- Support and empower new and experienced teachers, especially those from underrepresented backgrounds
- Foster open communication and meaningful engagement between members, leadership, and the broader community

I am excited about the opportunity to serve, learn, and grow alongside you.

Thank you for your consideration and for all that you do to make our schools welcoming and inspiring places for everyone. Lastly, it takes a village to raise a child, so let's work together to build a better tomorrow.

**CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER AT LARGE (DESIGNATED FOR AN ABORIGINAL MEMBER)  
(1 TO BE ELECTED)**

**JACQUIE KING**

It has been my privilege to hold the position of Member at Large designated for an Aboriginal Member this last year. I intend to put my name forward once again for this role with the intention of serving all our members in furthering Truth and Reconciliation within our Association. I have keen insight into the depth and breadth of this position from past experience and hope to continue the good work I have started. I believe the Executive will benefit from my voice at the table. Thank you for all your support past and present.

**CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER AT LARGE (DESIGNATED FOR A 2SLGBTQIA+ MEMBER) (1 TO BE ELECTED)**

**REGIE PLANA-ALCUAZ**

Hello everyone!

éy swáyel!

Bonjour tout le monde!

Binabati ko po kayong lahat!

I am asking for your support to be elected as Member-at-Large (designated for a 2SLGBTQ+ Member) & Resolutions Committee member in the Surrey Teachers' Association. As an Integration Support Teacher at Forsyth Road Elementary where I have been SOGI, Indigenous, & Social Justice Lead, I am very much immersed in many member-related concerns. As an IST, I am also well-versed in helping people do the job they need to do.

I'm fortunate to have plenty of experience in showing up and putting in the necessary work since I wear many hats as a Surrey Schools teacher, whether as a member of district advisory teams, of various committees in the STA, especially the Status of Women Committee where I am Co-Chair, and on the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice and Women in Leadership. I am a SURT Facilitator as well for the BCTF. I have been on the AGM Resolutions Committee for the past three years as its racialized member and I am also an active participant in the provincewide Queer Caucus.

As an IBPOC member of the STA Resolutions Committee in past years, I have had the privilege of putting forward resolutions that addressed issues of equity and justice during my participation in previous BCTF AGMs, where I also spoke in favour of relevant recommendations. My involvement in the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice in the past 7 years has also informed my contributions in committees where I belong in the STA. I've co-authored resolutions put forward to the BCTF EC with the collaboration of members on other advisory groups, 2SLGBTQIA+, Anti-Racism, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, etc. Whilst participating in all of these, I'm finding that there is much intersection amongst most, if not all, of them.

I am considered friendly and easily approachable; I've been called a connector, capacity builder, and a cheerleader by my union siblings. I have a wide network of people not only in education, but also other industries through my activities with the BCFED where I am the BCTF Representative to the Women and Gender Rights Committee; I have connections across the country via the Canadian Teachers' Federation, where I was previously Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women. I've been a delegate in the Education International World Women's Conference, the UN Commission on the Status of Women Conference, and the Women's Symposium, to name a few.

As an STA member whose intersectionality resonates with other STA members, I have a good understanding of issues that matter to most if not all of us. I would be honoured to continue working towards the betterment of teachers' living and working conditions, as well as social justice issues that affect us, but this time in the role of Member-at-Large designated for a 2SLGBTQ+ Member & Resolutions Committee member.

Thank you for your consideration!

Yálh yew kw'a's hó:y!

Merci beaucoup!

Maraming salamat po!

## CANDIDATES FOR MEMBER AT LARGE (3 TO BE ELECTED)

### **JATINDER BIR**

Dear Friends,

I'm putting my name forward for the position of Member-at-Large because I care deeply about our union and the people in it. I've had the privilege of serving in many roles within the STA over the years - as President, Vice President, Local Rep, Staff Rep, and as a member of almost every committee. Each experience has taught me the importance of showing up with care, humility, and a commitment to serve the collective.

I've been a teacher in Surrey for over 17 years, working across K-12 in diverse roles, primarily in special education. Like many of you, I know what it means to support students in challenging circumstances, to advocate for resources, and to lean on colleagues when things feel heavy. I also know how vital our union is in ensuring we are protected, informed, and empowered in our work.

These are complex times for public education. Big political decisions are being made that impact our classrooms and our profession. Provincially, we're entering a critical phase of bargaining. Locally, we're navigating changes in leadership, upcoming building renovations, and increasing demands on our collective. Now more than ever, experienced voices are needed at the Executive Committee table - voices that understand our history, our challenges, and our strength as a union.

I bring institutional knowledge and a steady, informed perspective to help guide our work through this next chapter. I also bring humility and a genuine desire to support and uplift others. My approach has always been rooted in selfless service and in being present when it matters most. I've made it a priority to be available to members in every role I've held, whether answering late-night calls or helping colleagues navigate tough situations.

Currently, I also serve provincially on the BC Teachers' Council and the Pacific Blue Cross Board. These roles have given me valuable governance experience and a broader understanding of how provincial systems impact us locally. I see them as complementary to my work within the STA - tools I can bring back to better support and represent our members.

The STA gave me my first opportunity to lead, and for that, I remain deeply grateful. If elected, I would be honoured to continue serving you - our colleagues - with care, accountability, and a firm belief in the power of our collective voice.

In solidarity,  
Jatinder Kaur Bir

### **NICOLE HURTUBISE**

(Please see submission for Professional Development Officer)

### **DUSTIN JOHNSON**

(Please see submission for Local Representative to the BCTF)

### **KRYSTAL NG**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

### **REGIE PLANA-ALCUAZ**

(Please see submission for Member-at-Large (Designated for a 2SLGBTQIA+ Member))

### **GURINDER SAROYA**

(Please see submission for Local Representative to the BCTF)

### **ROSLYN SUNDSET**

I'm running for Member-at-Large and the Resolutions Committee because our union deserves leaders who are collaborative, equity-focused, and ready to do the work that actually supports members, not just talk about it.

I've been teaching in Surrey since 2016 and have worked as a Teacher Librarian for the past six years, building strong relationships across staff and schools while creating inclusive, responsive learning spaces.

Union and Advocacy Experience:

- STARA Representative
- Member of the STA Mediation Team (5 years)
- Member of the BCTF 2SLGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee
- SOGI School Lead
- Involved in various STA special projects
- Regular workshop presenter at district and provincial conferences, sharing strategies on inclusive practice, executive function, and more

I am also applying for the Resolutions Committee, where I bring a strong understanding of policy and procedural language, along with a deep belief in the power of clear, member-driven resolutions to advance equity, amplify voice, and support sustainable working conditions.

District Leadership and Innovation:

- Digital Lead for the Surrey School District
- Member of an AI working group alongside IMS and helping teachers, focused on practical, teacher-centered uses of AI to reduce workload and support classroom needs

This work reflects my ongoing commitment to innovation that serves teachers, rather than adding to their workload.

What I Bring:

- Strong communication and facilitation skills
- Experience working collaboratively across roles, sites, and departments
- Policy-minded with attention to detail and a focus on action
- Committed to helping members feel heard, supported, and connected

My facilitation style is grounded in respect, curiosity, and a little bit of humour. I know how to make things both effective and enjoyable.

I'm not here for performative positions. I'm here to do the work that matters, even when it's messy, complicated, or long overdue.

I bring a mix of joyful defiance, collaborative spirit, and the kind of strategic stubbornness that gets policies moved, meetings refocused, and member voices heard.

Whether it's untangling bureaucracy, drafting resolutions, or connecting with colleagues across the district, I show up fully with humour, heart, and determination to make meaningful change.

**CANDIDATES FOR RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE (7 TO BE ELECTED)**

**JATINDER BIR**

(Please see submission for Member-at-Large)

**WAH GEE**

As I approach the final stages of my teaching career, I feel that my increased involvement in the membership is very important because of my experience in the classroom and with the STA.

I just recently attended the past two BCTF AGMs, and I came away with a new understanding and an awakening of how the union works for its members.

It is my hope to become an elected member of resolutions committee for the next school year. I can be a part of a team contributing to positive changes for our members such as:

- Workplace Conditions (e.g., advocating for better wages, benefits, or safety measures)
- Collective Bargaining Strategies (e.g., setting priorities for contract negotiations)

- Political and Social Issues (e.g., supporting legislation that benefits workers)
- Union Governance (e.g., internal rules, leadership decisions, or structural changes)
- Strike Actions or Protests (e.g., authorizing a strike or demonstration)

Please consider my request, and I will do my best to be an active contributing member in the resolutions committee.

Thank you.

Wah Gee  
Grade 4/5 Teacher  
Bothwell Elementary School

**GAVIN HAINSWORTH**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

**NICOLE HURTUBISE**

(Please see submission for Professional Development Officer)

**DUSTIN JOHNSON**

(Please see submission for Local Representative of the BCTF)

**RENEE MCFARLANE**

I really enjoyed being a part of the Resolutions Committee for the 2025 BCTF AGM and I learned a lot. I also wrote, with support, a resolution that was passed! I would appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this committee again next year.

Thank you.  
Renee McFarlane

**MELANIE MIKI**

(No statement provided at the time of publication)

**OLIVIA PADDACK**

I am putting my name forward to be on the Resolutions Committee with the Surrey Teachers Association. I believe that my experience as a school psychologist, union advocate, trans woman, and published writer will enable me to effectively put words to motions that represent the needs and interests of the Surrey Teachers Association membership.

As a school psychologist, it is my fifth year in Surrey and I have had the privilege of working with a variety of school teams in elementary, secondary, and alternative learning settings. This perspective gives me a systems-level view of the issues faced by STA members. These issues include the lack of supports for classroom teachers to accommodate their diverse student body, the high number of sites held by floating staff who (like myself) feel torn between too many schools, and the overgrown caseloads faced by LST, IST, and other specialized support staff.

With the STA, it is my second year as a department staff representative. A related honour attending the BCTF's Annual General Meeting for the past two years. At the 2024 AGM, I successfully moved a motion for the Federation to advocate for the reinstatement of provisional designations in the hope that teachers may more easily access resources that would support undiagnosed learners. At the 2025 AGM, I co-founded the BC Teachers Queer Caucus with three trans teachers from districts across the lower mainland.

As a white trans woman, I sit at an intersection of privilege and oppression that has allowed me many lessons. One lesson has been to learn ways that I can unpack internalized biases ingrained in our systems, as well as support others in doing so. Another lesson has been to learn the diverse ways in which we communicate so that gaps between perspectives can be bridged and stories can be shared. The last lesson: the authenticity of connections provided by being who I am. It is through this clarity that I have been able to connect with and learn about the unique challenges faced by our members of colour, disabled and neurodivergent members, larger-bodied members, queer and trans members, and many more.

In addition to these lessons, who I am has allowed me to contribute to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in Surrey by providing workshops to our staff on queer affirmative practice in education and supporting pride clubs in our alternative education settings. Outside of the district, I also sit on the STA's 2SLGBTQIA+ Ad Hoc Committee, am twice published in Vancouver's SAD Magazine, co-wrote a short film that premiered at the 2024 Chilliwack Independent Film Festival, and published a position statement with the BC Association of School Psychologists on supporting affirmative practice with 2SLGBTQ+ clients.

In summation, I provide a unique perspective that would allow me to powerfully represent the needs, goals, and desires of the STA membership on the Resolutions Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

**ALEXANDRA (LEXA) PERL**

(Please see submission for Local Representative of the BCTF)

**REGIE PLANA-ALCUAZ**

(Please see submission for Member-at-Large (Designated for a 2SLGBTQIA+ Member)

**CORRIE SHAW**

(Please see submission for Grievance Officer)

**ROSYLN SUNSET**

(Please see submission for Member-at-Large)

**VALERIE VENEMA**

Hello, I am an LST teacher in elementary. I am hoping you will allow me to represent Surrey teachers on the Resolutions Committee for 2025/26. I am passionate about teacher workloads, helping teachers uphold our current collective agreement by passing resolutions to clarify our current positions and request additional support for teachers trying to do their jobs.

I've been a delegate for the past two AGMs, currently I'm serving on the STARA committee and the grievance committee. I am hoping to help bring resolutions to the AGM that support challenges Surrey teachers face: overcrowding in schools and teachers workload and workspace, failure to fills, classes being proposed with many already in remedy before the new school year begins, lack of additional academic support for refugee students, higher academic needs while there are cuts to support, not enough Psych Ed testing that creates less staffing in schools, holding the government to their promise to put an IESW in each primary classroom, and many more concerns facing Surrey teachers daily).

As our challenges increase our district is facing budget shortfalls and looking to save, I hoping to bring resolutions to the AGM that help uphold our collective agreement even in challenging situations.

/sm:tfeu-2

