

# STAFF REP WEEKLY



## Dates to Remember:

*Meetings at VESTA Office, 4 PM unless otherwise noted.*

### February 25

Anti-Poverty Committee

### February 28

Professional Issues Committee

### March 7

Status of Women Committee

### March 12

VESTA General Meeting / Staff Rep Assembly, Tupper Cafeteria

### March 14

Sustainability Committee

### March 16-19

BCTF AGM, Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver

## Satisfaction Survey

Please refrain from completing the online satisfaction surveys for teachers.

The BCTF Representative Assembly adopted a position in 2008 that “teachers no longer participate in the government’s satisfaction survey.” The Ministry of Education survey is voluntary for teachers, but is designed to get the “right” answers. It avoids dealing with the real issues facing our schools, students, and teachers. There have been no educational benefits from these surveys.

It is through the democratic processes of VESTA and the BCTF that Vancouver elementary teachers have our individual and collective voices heard. We will continue to advocate for our needs and those of our students through open discussions and not by predetermined restrictive questions such as those found in this survey.

## March Pay Periods

Please note that since March 15 is the last teaching day before Spring Break, the Board has agreed that this year VESTA members will receive their March pay on March 15 and March 28.

## Reports and Resolutions Booklets

All schools will have received Reports and Resolutions booklets for the 2013 BCTF AGM. Every year a general meeting is scheduled in early March so that VESTA’s AGM delegation can get advice from members on the recommendations and resolutions found in the booklet.

Members are encouraged to read through the booklets and come with any questions or comments to the March 12 general meeting. It may be useful to have discussions about AGM issues at a school-based VESTA meeting. VESTA’s 36 AGM delegates will benefit from member input that helps inform their decisions at the BCTF AGM, which runs from March 16–19.

## Living with Balance Workshops

VESTA will be hosting a 6-week course on Wednesdays after school, starting April 3. This group program will provide opportunities for learning practical skills and strategies to attain goals toward work-life balance. It will help participants in building long lasting resiliency and defining healthy boundaries. Topics include the importance of diet and exercise, resolving conflict through non-defensive communication skills, as well as the benefits of employee-assistance providers and community resources. Sessions held at the VESTA office, 4-6pm, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8. Register online at <https://bctf.ca/forms/LWB-registration.aspx>

## International Women’s Day Event

The Vancouver and District Labour Council Women’s Committee is presenting an International Women’s Day Dinner on Friday, March 8, 2013 at the Fraserview Hall, 8240 Fraser Street (5:30 doors, 6pm appetizers, 6:30 dinner), tickets \$40

*An Intergenerational Discussion on Feminism and Labour.* Contact the VDLC office, 604.254.0703 / [office@vdlc.ca](mailto:office@vdlc.ca)

## EMAIL



Gerry Kent, President  
[gerry@vesta.ca](mailto:gerry@vesta.ca)

Dan Graves, 1st VP  
[dan@vesta.ca](mailto:dan@vesta.ca)

Heather Allison, 2nd VP  
[heather@vesta.ca](mailto:heather@vesta.ca)

Jack MacDermot, 3rd VP  
[jack@vesta.ca](mailto:jack@vesta.ca)

Jody Polukoshko, Co-Grievance Officer  
[jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca)

Sasha Wiley-Shaw, AE President  
[sasha@vesta.ca](mailto:sasha@vesta.ca)