



*Stronger Together*

2013 December 11

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office  
4pm unless otherwise  
indicated.*

### December 16

Anti-Poverty  
Committee

### December 19

Adult Educators'  
Executive Committee  
10- 12:00pm

### December 20

VESTA office closes  
until 2014 January 6

**E-mail!**

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## Staff Reps are a Principal's EQUAL

Our VESTA staff representatives are the crucial advocates for public education in our schools. Staff reps act to ensure that the collective agreement is respected, and members' rights are upheld.

VESTA members appreciate the volunteer work done by their staff reps, and recognize that acting on behalf of members' needs with their principal can be difficult. Staff representatives are equivalent in power to the school principal in terms of interpreting the collective agreement's provisions and enforcing its language, which means that what your admin dictates should not be considered the final word.

As equals to principals, staff reps are our members' first means of advocating for their rights in the workplace. If the situation requires intervention by VESTA in house table officers (IHTO's), the staff reps will consult with them. It is useful to note that IHTO's do not usually contact principals when seeking to resolve an issue. Instead, VESTA IHTO's deal directly with the VSB's District management in order to achieve resolution.

## School Calendar Changes

In 2010, the Vancouver School Board changed the school calendar by adding mandatory school closures and adding another week of closure to Spring Break for the 2010-2011 school year. Since that time, VESTA has insisted that these calendar changes are covered under the Collective Agreement, which protects our members rights "to the full extent legally possible, its original intent."

We are all in this fight to defend our rights as teachers together, insisting that our collective agreement's provisions be respected.

## Film: *Inequality for All*

This film won the **Special Jury Prize, Sundance Film Festival**, for its depiction by economist Robert Reich of the failures of the free market, and how modern day capitalism has run off the rails. The rich keep getting richer while the rest of us work longer hours for less. This film is playing at the Vancity Theatre on **Thursday, Dec. 12 at 8:30pm**. Tickets are available by following this link: <http://www.viff.org/theatre/films/fc7992-inequality-for-all>

## Coming Labour Events

**Holiday Food Bank Drive** until December 13. Drop off non-perishable food items at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph at Victoria Dr. OR send a donation to this cause c/o Vancouver District Labour Council.

### **Annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner— NEEDS HELP!**

Volunteers needed for dinner on Dec. 24 from 5:00 pm -8:00 pm, as well as unwrapped toys, non-perishable food, new and gently used washed clothing, cash or cheque donations (Christmas Dinner c/o BC Federation of Labour, 200-5118 Joyce St. Vancouver, V5R 4H1). Contact Marisha at [labourxmasdinner@hotmail.com](mailto:labourxmasdinner@hotmail.com) for pick up of any items.

