



*Stronger Together*

2013 December 18

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

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

### December 19

Adult Educators'  
Executive Committee  
10- 12:00pm

### December 20

VESTA office closes  
until 2014 January 6

### January 7

TTOC Committee

**Email!**

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## Examining Charity Under a Social Justice Lens

As the holiday season approaches, so too does the call for charitable donations. Many people believe that donation drives help teach children the value of sharing with the less fortunate. But by modeling charity without simultaneously modeling solidarity, are we teaching children to be content with the status quo? This year, let's teach our kids that while it is important to share, it is also important to examine the root causes of inequality and work towards a world in which all students experience equity within the public school system.

Now is a great time to raise awareness about poverty in BC. Everyone feels compassionate towards children living in poverty and act on this by giving to charity. In fact, BC is one of the most generous provinces in Canada in terms of how much we give to charity. Yet, BC has had the highest poverty rate for the last 13 years.

It is clearly time for a different approach, so the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition would like to invite you to take part in a holiday activity to shift people's thinking from charity to include justice. They have developed a simple lesson plan called [How to Make Your Food Bank Drive Better: Add Upstream Action](#). It provides easy step-by-step instructions for your students to engage in a fun, democratic exercise that can strengthen your school's food bank drive in the future. Please contact Trish for support in running this in your school at [trish@bcpovertyreduction.ca](mailto:trish@bcpovertyreduction.ca)

*A message from VESTA's Anti-Poverty Committee*

## Don't Shop at IKEA for Gifts!

A reminder to all of us to show solidarity with the locked out union workers at IKEA in Richmond. Please don't shop this holiday season at either the Richmond or Coquitlam IKEA stores. THANK YOU!

## BCTF Social Justice Resources for Classrooms

There are many posters, booklets, and bookmarks available free of charge for teachers. Flyer was distributed with this SRW to all staff reps. Contact Jeannine Albert, email [jalbert@bctf.ca](mailto:jalbert@bctf.ca) or phone 604.871.1801 to place your order.

## Coming Labour Events

**Jack Munro Tribute**– Celebrating the Life of a Labour Movement Icon. Saturday Jan. 4, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the Vancouver Convention Centre West in the Summit Rooms 301-305. All are welcome.

**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.

*Happy  
Holidays*