



Stronger Together

2013 November 27

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

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

November 28

First day of Hannukkah

November 30

Sat 12:30pm

Adult Educators`GM

December 2

Anti-Poverty Committee

December 4

Technology Committee

December 9

Staff Rep Workshop—
Freedom of Expression



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IKEA — Incredible Avarice

IKEA began a lockout on May 13 when IKEA Richmond tried to obtain major contract concessions from its 300 workers, who were seeking only a continuation of their current contract. Under the old contract, which expired at the end of 2012, an employee could reach the top rate after four years. Under the new contract, tabled by IKEA, it could take an employee as long as 20 years to reach the top rate—they can get there earlier only if they met various requirements, including year store sales and productivity goals. Additionally, where a worker can now obtain benefits with 20 hours of work per week, IKEA want to raise this to 24, thereby cutting benefits since most workers are part-time.

IKEA has locked out workers and illegally hired replacements (scabs), while also using a private security firm with hidden surveillance tactics to try to intimidate and undermine their workers. The LRB did rule that IDEA must “cease and desist” from hiring replacement workers. IKEA is clearly trying to break the workers’ union—Teamster Local 213.

IKEA is a household name with \$37 billion in worldwide sales and is a privately-owned company held by the Swedish Kamprad family, one of the 100 richest families on Earth.

We’re asking IKEA to respect the rights, fair treatment and dignity of the people they are supposed to value the most—their employees. All of us are asked to boycott both IKEA locations, in Richmond and Coquitlam.

Please support our union brothers and sisters and don’t shop at IKEA!

Child Poverty — the shame of BC

The 2013 BC Child Poverty Report Card, by First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, contains a list of shameful “highest rates” for our wealthy province compared to the rest of Canada:

- Highest child poverty rate (18.6%);
- Highest under-age-six poverty rate (21%)
- Highest two-parent family poverty rate (14%)
- Highest single-mother family poverty rate (50%)

Yes, that’s correct — one in every two children in single-mother families live in poverty.

What’s driving high child-poverty rates? Contrary to common beliefs, most children in poverty in BC live with parents who work; almost a third of them have at least one parent working full time.

Try activities in your classroom that can educate students on this vital issue. See this website www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/b-c-has-highest-child-poverty-rate-in-canada-report-1.2440909 for links to more information.



Buy Nothing Day

This Friday, November 29, try to buy **NOTHING!** This is an international day of protest against consumerism celebrated annually. See web for info.