



Stronger Together

2014 January 29

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

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

January 31

Pro-D Day
Workshop at VESTA
Global Education

February 3

Anti-Poverty
Committee

February 4

VTF General Meeting
Tupper Secondary

February 5

TTOC Committee

E-mail!

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VICTORY! BC Supreme Court slams Government

Revel in this news – 12 years to the day since the BC Liberal government began to destroy public education with Bill 28, the BC Supreme Court has issued a 149-page ruling vindicating the BCTF's arguments about our collective agreement and bargaining rights. Yes, it was unconstitutional!

Celebrate this positive news. It is a great day for public education. Make sure you tell your neighbours, the cashier when you pay for groceries, your hair stylist – whomever – that a generation of students were denied by this government the quality of education that they legally should have had, and that it would have been far worse if not for the many sacrifices of teachers, who struggled daily to do more with less.

“This hopefully means that we will have class size limits restored in our contract, and minimum levels of specialist support for our students restored,” says Jim Iker, BCTF President. “This was illegally stripped from our collective agreement and led to 12 years of our students going through classrooms with higher class sizes and less support.”

VESTA president Gerry Kent stated: “This Supreme Court decision resets the clock back to 2002, when we lost so much that protected the quality of public education. The “Families First” pledge of Christy Clark proved to be a hollow promise meant to deceive the public. I am thrilled that the manipulative and dishonest intentions of this government are now in the public record.”

BCTF Members Portal – How to access

Especially now, all of us need to take the time to inform ourselves about what is going on at the bargaining table. One great way to do this is by going to the BCTF Members' Portal on our BCTF website: www.bctf.ca The link to the portal is in the upper left corner.

If you have forgotten your BCTF identification number, there is a link in blue to the right of the logon that allows you to retrieve it. You just need your VSB employee number. There you will find updates on bargaining, details of our bargaining plan, and new information including video clips. Check out this site regularly, so you stay in the loop!



Coming Events

VTF General Meeting – On Tuesday, February 4 at 4pm, Tupper Secondary Auditorium. 419 E. 24th Ave. Provincial and local bargaining discussion!!

SURT—Staff Union Rep Training, Tuesday February 4, 9am to 3pm, with sign in at 8:30 am, one staff rep per school. Pre-registration is required.

Topics include: advocacy for public education, provincial bargaining, etc.