



Stronger Together

2014 February 12

# Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

## Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office  
4pm unless otherwise  
indicated.

### February 13

Sustainability  
Professional Issues

### February 17

Status of Women

### February 18

General Meeting  
& Staff Rep Assembly  
Tupper Cafeteria

### February 20

Health & Safety



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## A Fair Deal.ca

The BCTF has created a very useful mini website, [www.afairdeal.ca](http://www.afairdeal.ca) for all members to use. This site has great graphs and visual information to support you in talking to parents, your community and your neighbours about the need for better supports for kids in our schools, and a fair negotiated contract for teachers.

Also, to challenge the statements found in Minister Fassbender's email of Feb. 7, here is the BCTF's rebuttal: [www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/BargainingContracts/2014CourtDecision/GetTheFactsStraight.pdf](http://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/BargainingContracts/2014CourtDecision/GetTheFactsStraight.pdf)

## Restored 2002 Language in our CA

We are looking for members to share with our union their anecdotes of what their teaching and working conditions were like before 2002. All members need to know what to expect with our restored language on class size and composition. Please share your story with [janek@vesta.ca](mailto:janek@vesta.ca).

## Online Satisfaction Survey – No Thanks!

Members may have been "invited" to take part in this Ministry of Education "Satisfaction Survey." VESTA's Executive Committee is encouraging members to boycott this survey, as it undermines our solidarity by circumventing our elected union as the collective voice of teachers. Say, no thanks!

## 23rd Annual Women's Memorial March – February 14

The first Women's Memorial March was held in 1991 in response to the murder of a Coast Salish woman on Powell Street in Vancouver. From this sense of hopelessness and anger came an annual march on Valentine's Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, unceded Coast Salish Territories. Twenty-three years later, the Women's Memorial March continues to honour the lives of missing and murdered women. The march starts at noon on February 14 from Carnegie Community Center Theatre (Main & Hastings).

## Pink Shirt Day – February 26

The original event was organized by David Shepherd, and Travis Price of Berwick, Nova Scotia, who in 2007 bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a male Grade 9 student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. See website [www.pinkshirtday.ca](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca) for classroom ideas.

## Coming Events

**VESTA General Meeting** – Tuesday, February 18, 4pm at Tupper Cafeteria, 419 E. 24th Ave. Provincial and local bargaining discussion.

**JUSTFilm Festival** – CoDevelopment Canada announces their annual film festival on environmental justice, taking place at Langara College from Feb. 28 to Mar. 2. Check website [www.justfilm.org](http://www.justfilm.org) and see many great films.

