



Stronger Together

2015 April 1

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

April 7

TTOC Committee
WLC/B Committee

Adult Education General Meeting

5—6:30pm

April 13

Anti-Poverty
Status of Women

Email!

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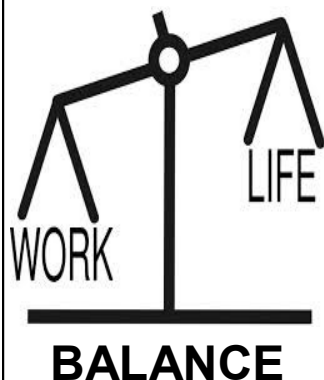
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VSBC Budget Cuts Deployed by VESTA Executive

On March 31, the VSBC released its preliminary budget for 2015-16 containing \$8.52 million in cuts to programs and services throughout the district.

The VESTA Executive Committee, at its meeting that same evening, voiced its strong opposition to proposed budget cuts that directly impact students and teachers. These include the closure of two adult education schools at Hastings and Downtown Eastside, youth programs at Kiwassa and Collingwood House, the loss of 3.8 FTE for Band and Strings music teachers, and further layoffs of 27 FTE among adult education members. There were no K-12 layoffs announced.

VESTA will present its comprehensive response to this preliminary budget on behalf of all members at the stakeholder consultation on Monday, April 13 at 5:30pm at the Board office. Members are encouraged to attend this public meeting.

A further lamentable aspect to this year's budget is Minister Fassbender's March 20 order appointing Special Advisors. The implications of this report on the VSBC by Ernst & Young Accounting to the Minister of Education are unclear but likely to be negative. This Ministerial Order to the VSBC specifies that this report "must be relied upon" by the trustees. Ernst & Young will release their report on May 31, so the VSBC budget will not be finalized until June 29th, after stakeholder input on June 10.

Bulk Ordering Supplies from Mills

Again this year, the VSBC has decided that classroom supplies will be provided by Mills Office Productivity, and ordered online. However, doing an online order is time consuming for members as they need to create a login account, add each item to a shopping cart, etc. VESTA suggests that members can choose to inform their school principal or vice-principal to order the same items as was done last year during the job action, if a member doesn't wish to spend the time to do an individual order.

BCTF AGM Posthumously Honours Val Hamilton

At the BCTF AGM, recently deceased VESTA member Val Hamilton was posthumously honoured with the *Stewart Schon Health and Safety Award* for her many years of contributions that improved members' working conditions in Vancouver and throughout BC. Maureen MacDonald, retired honorary VESTA member and a former president, accepted this award on behalf of Val Hamilton's family, and spoke of the unceasing devotion to health and safety concerns exemplified by Val. Val Hamilton has left an enduring legacy in BC by her life-long work.

Upcoming Events - Thursday, April 23

Staying Well at Teaching - A workshop to help you out!

In this FREE workshop, hosted by VESTA Professional Issues Committee, you will learn how to recognize and start reducing stress, as well as improve your work to-life balance. Light snacks will be provided. **Thursday, April 23 from 4 to 7 pm** at VESTA. Send an email with your name, non-VSB email and school to vilnam@vesta.ca by **Friday, April 3**. Register NOW!