



Stronger Together

2014 March 5

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

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

March 6

Strike Vote at VESTA
office 8am to 4:00pm

March 6

Intern'l Women's Day
Dinner, 5pm, Flamingo
Restaurant

March 11

General Meeting/SRA
Tupper Cafeteria

March 13

Sustainability Committee

March 15

Deadline for Spring
Transfer Process



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**International
Women's Day**

Strike Vote – Results announced on Thursday, March 6!

VESTA members cast their vote yesterday in schools to assert their democratic rights, to support our bargaining objectives, and to voice concern about deteriorating BC government support for public education. BCTF will announce the results of our strike vote on Thursday, March 6 by 9:30 pm. Visit <http://new.livestream.com/BCTF> to see results live.

Restored 2002 Language in our Collective Agreement (CA)

We have another story to share about a past victory in regards to our CA's language on class size and composition. In July 2000, we resolved a grievance with the VSB for 4 teachers who had a third student with special needs identified in their classes, and each teacher was allocated a half-time SSW to their class. In this same grievance, there were an additional 10 class size violations resolved that each received a half-time SSW. While adding half-time SSW to a class was a common remedy, other classes were awarded a 0.4 resource teacher position.

International Women's Day – Saturday, March 8

On Saturday, March 8, join with other VESTA members in celebrating International Women's Day!

This year's theme is "Inspiring Change." "Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action." (cited in www.internationalwomensday.com)

The world's first International Women's Day was held in 1911, and each year women and their allies around the world seek to find ways to continue to advance equality and women's rights everywhere. If you would like resources for your class, try this link: www.internationalwomensday.com

The State of Public Finance and Democracy

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives is hosting a fundraising gala at the Fraserview Hall on Thursday, March 13 at 5:30 pm. Tickets cost \$90 each and are available online at: policyalternatives.ca/kevinpagebc.

The guest speaker is the former parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page, who scrutinized the fiscal spending of the federal government and famously exposed the true costs of the Afghanistan war and the proposed F-35 fighter jet procurement.

Coming Events – IKEA and Solidarity, Sunday, March 16 at 12pm Richmond Ikea 3320 Jacombs Rd.

The lockout of Teamsters Local 213 members at IKEA in Richmond continues. As the lockout approaches its tenth month, the union continues to fight for a fair deal for its members and against concessions and a two-tier agreement. On Sunday, March 16, at noon, the Vancouver District Labour Council (VDLC) will send a delegation to visit the picket line and bring coffee and snacks to the picketer as a gesture of ongoing solidarity. **Please join the VDLC at IKEA!**