



Stronger Together

2014 May 21

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

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

May 21

VTF Info Meeting 4:00
Tupper Auditorium

May 22

Sustainability

May 28

Health and Safety

June 1

Adult Ed AGM 11:00

June 4

Aboriginal Ed



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Our Job Action Continues Forward – Week 5

As members heard last Thursday May 15, our solidarity has yielded its first, albeit miniscule, change in government position. Minister of Education Fassbender stated that the government has abandoned its 16-month long aim for a 10-year contract. However, their new 6-year position was already on the table, as their salary proposal only went for six years! Still on the government table is nefarious language for a 7.5 hour workday, principal driven evaluation, all without any class size and composition improvements. Added to this now is their threat to rollback our wages by 10% once we go on a rotating walkout. Such actions only reveal the BC Liberal government's derisive attitude towards public education and teachers.

The BCTF executive has determined that increasing pressure on BCPSEA is the only means to securing movement at the bargaining table. Accordingly, VESTA members will begin a rotating walkout on Monday, May 26; action which was approved by our 89% strike vote in March. Keep up to date with developments by visiting the BCTF's Member Portal at bctf.ca and strike updates at vesta.ca.

Farewell to Gerry Kent – VESTA President 2012–2014

At the VESTA AGM, held yesterday on May 20 members in attendance gave outgoing VESTA president Gerry Kent a fond farewell. Gerry has been VESTA's president since August 2012, was a vice-president in 2011–2012, served many years on the VESTA executive before that, as well as years of service as a staff rep for Kitchener Elementary.

Gerry is a dedicated and hard working union activist, who consistently advocates on our members' behalf, and ardently defends public education. His ready smile and wit made anyone who met him an instant friend. VESTA is grateful for his many years of devoted work for our union. You will be missed, Gerry!

Summer Studies for You? Work towards your 5+ category

UBC's Faculty of Education is offering summer professional development opportunities. See their website for **more courses** offered at UBC this summer. pdce.educ.ubc.ca/summer2014courses. Similarly, SFU offers a wide range of courses and graduate diploma programs for teachers. Follow this link: <http://www.sfu.ca/education/newsevents/info-sessions/information-sessions--graduate-diploma-in-education.html>.

Coming Events

Vancouver Labour History Walking Tour– Launch Party Thursday, May 22

The Vancouver District Labour Council, BC Labour Heritage Centre, SFU Labour Studies and the Pacific Northwest Labour History Association are holding this event at 5:00 pm at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph St. Light snacks, cash bar, and a short presentation at 5:30pm.

Deadline: Retirement and the ERIP (Early Retirement Incentive Plan)

Thinking about retiring this year? You can still retire now and receive a payment if you are between 55 and 64 years of age. Deadline: May 31 by sending notice to Human Resources for ERIP with name, school, and intent to retire on June 30.