



Stronger Together

2014 October 2

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated.

October 6

Civic Elections Committee

All members welcome! Help elect trustees that advocate for public education.

October 7

TTOC Committee

October 8

New Staff Rep Training, 1–3 pm

October 14

Adult Ed Executive, 2pm

E-mail!

Dan Graves, President
dan@vesta.ca

Heather Allison, 1st VP
heather@vesta.ca

Chloë McKnight 2nd VP
chloe@vesta.ca

Janek Kuchmistrz, 3rd VP
janek@vesta.ca

Chris Murphy,
AE Sublocal President
murphy@vesta.ca

Office: 604-873-8378

Fax: 604-873-2652

www.vesta.ca



Thank You for Your Solidarity!

Thanks to each of you walking on the picket line, engaging in relentless advocacy for public education via emails, phone calls, and social media such as *Twitter*. Our members stood solid and united for public education, and stopped the many concessions demanded by government at the bargaining table.

Again, our strength comes from each other, and standing together for our students and our colleagues through the longest strike in BCTF history. It is a testament to our collective will to halt the erosion of public services in BC. We have begun a movement to change the direction of BC political priorities that will, inexorably, lead to a better funded public education system.

October 24 Professional Development – PSA Day

Normally, the first priority is to spend School Based Staff and Professional Development Fund for Pro-D at your school. Please be aware that any of this fund from 2013–14 still remaining will be carried over and may be used to financially assist teachers in attending professional development sessions on the **October Provincial PSA Day**, which is held on Friday, October 24.

*If you are attending a PSA event that day, please apply **as soon as possible** to your school's Professional Development committee for funds to pay your registration fees for this PSA activity.*

Preparation Time and You

The collective agreement provides for every teacher to receive their full amount of prep time each week. Administration must ensure that this is provided in a useful way. Teachers know that regular prep time is essential to support planning and assessment—the right to **weekly** prep time is a right we fought for and won. Banking time is not permitted under the collective agreement as it leads to erosion of prep time.

VESTA's firm position is that allocation of prep time be given in a meaningful block, so real prep work can be done- not a 10 minute bathroom break!

Schools need not follow the suggested block schedule provided by administrators, so if your prep needs to go beyond the regularly scheduled period that is an additional option. Staff Committee meetings are to “be involved with the timetabling and organization of the school” (Art. A.5.c.ii.g) so use this for prep planning. All members are entitled to their full prep in the same week in which there is a holiday or Pro-D day. Ensure your administrator books the extra TTOCs needed well in advance of these known dates.