



*Stronger Together*

2014 November 6

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

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

### November 10

School Closure Day

Election Phone Canvass  
Join up. Email [amy@vesta.ca](mailto:amy@vesta.ca)

### November 11

Remembrance Day  
Office Closed

### November 12

Professional Issues  
Committee

### November 13

Anti-Poverty Committee



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**Get out and vote!**  
**November 15**



## In Memoria

Long-serving VESTA activist Valerie (Val) Hamilton passed away on Friday, October 31. Val was a stalwart advocate for our members, and is best known for her leading role in Health and Safety issues at VESTA for many years. Her desire to help others was only matched by her personal charm and warmth. Val was appointed an Honorary Life Member of VESTA in 2006. When Val retired, the BC Teacher-Librarian Association created the *Val Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award* in her honour. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held this summer.

## News about Grievance Settlement Payment – \$105 million

Yesterday, BCTF sent emails explaining how some school boards have caused the delay in allocating the money from our grievance settlement. The BCTF needs to collect employment data from all school districts before the “grievance fund” can be allocated to members. Some school boards are very slow in providing this needed data, with only about a third finished to date. No money can be distributed until all districts report since this is necessary for calculations to divide the funds. BCTF is striving very hard to distribute the settlement monies via cheques to members before the winter holidays.

See BCTF Members’ Portal for a FAQ sheet: [www.bctf.ca/myBCTF/content.aspx?id=35452](http://www.bctf.ca/myBCTF/content.aspx?id=35452)

## Report Cards and our Professional Autonomy

A reminder to members that things may be different for report cards this term. Remember that as a teacher you have professional autonomy about how you report, within Ministry requirements. Keep in mind that you’ve only had your students for five (5) weeks and may have less data and class work to report on. Therefore, a commensurate reduction in workload should result. Please check with your staff representative if you have questions about reporting. *A message from your VESTA Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee*

## Upcoming Events

### Final week for CIVIC ELECTION – VOTE on November 15!!

NOW is the time to volunteer to help elect our endorsed progressive school trustee candidates in Vancouver. You can do phone canvassing next week after work at VESTA – contact [amy@vesta.ca](mailto:amy@vesta.ca) or phone 604.873.8378.

Get out and volunteer at the campaign office of Public Education Project at 2280 East Hastings or call 604.362.5313 or volunteer with Vision Vancouver at 326 W. 5th Ave. or phone 604.568.6913. **THANKS!**