



*Stronger Together*

2014 November 19

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated*

### November 20

Protein for People  
A Community BBQ, 3-6pm  
Queen Alex auditorium

### November 28

TTOC Workshop  
9am—noon, VESTA

### December 1

Anti-Poverty Committee  
Communications Ctte

### December 2

WLC/B Committee  
TTOC Committee

### December 3

Professional Issues  
Committee

### December 5

Status of Women Ctte  
Day of Remembrance—  
Violence Against Women  
4pm @ Thornton Park

**E-mail!**

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## Rally at Mexican consulate to denounce the murder and disappearance of student teachers

Teachers and friends across the Lower Mainland are encouraged to support a rally being organized by members of the local Mexican community to denounce their government's complicity in human rights abuses, and to demand the safe return of 43 rural student teachers who went missing at the hands of police in September 2014.

**WHEN:** From 5pm on 2014 November 20

**WHERE:** Rally on the steps of the **Vancouver Art Gallery** before marching to the Mexican Consulate at 411-1177 W. Hastings. **Participants are asked to wear black and to bring candles or glow sticks.**

BCTF President Jim Iker will join with other teachers, students and representatives of Mexicans living in Vancouver.

On September 26, teacher training college students clashed with local police in the town of Iguala, in Guerrero state. Following the confrontation, six students were killed and 43 were taken by police, apparently following an order from the local mayor. Federal authorities believe the police then handed the students over to a local drug cartel who allegedly murdered them and incinerated the bodies. During the search for their bodies mass graves were found, but the government hasn't been able to prove whether the bodies are those of the missing students.

## Collaborative Inquiry and Professional Autonomy

As teachers across the District begin planning for Teacher Inquiry Projects, please remember participation in ALL Inquiry Projects, whether initiated at your school or through the hold-back funds located at the District level, is voluntary. No one can 'sign you up'—your professional autonomy and your professional needs will help you decide your involvement.

## School Board Elections — 4 Vision, 1 Green, 4 NPA

As final results came in on Saturday last week, we saw that Vancouverites had, for the first time since 2002, increased voter turnout—up to 44%. From our endorsed list of candidates, 4 were successfully elected. VESTA thanks outgoing trustees Rob Wynen, Cherie Payne and Ken Clement for their past service to Vancouver schools and their strong advocacy for a fully funded public education system. We also thank Jane Bouey and Gwen Giesbrecht for their dedication and record vote tally for a brand new party. VESTA welcomes the new trustees to the board, and we look forward to working with all trustees to improve the funding of public education to ensure that teachers have the resources required to meet their learning needs of their students.

## Upcoming Events

### Pro-D Workshop “The Basics of Classroom Management”

This Pro-D opportunity is open for all members and is organized by the VESTA TTOC Committee for **Friday, November 28, 9-12pm at the VESTA office.** There is no fee; however, please register no later than Wednesday, November 26. To register, email [vilmam@vesta.ca](mailto:vilmam@vesta.ca) or call 604.873.8378.