



Stronger Together

2014 November 26

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

November 28
TTOC Workshop
9am—noon

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
4pm @ Thornton Park



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100th Anniversary of Vancouver Teachers' Association

The founding meeting to form the Vancouver Teachers' Association was held 1914 November 27. VESTA is officially 100 years old this Thursday! Congratulations to all of us! We are planning a celebration and will keep you informed.

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women – December 6

Your VESTA Status of Women Committee has begun planning events and providing materials aimed at improving opportunities for girls and women, challenging sexism, and eliminating gender discrimination in our public schools and communities. Our first event, A Day of Remembrance, honours the victims of the Montreal Massacre.

WHEN: 4pm, Friday, December 5

WHERE: *Marker of Change* Monument — Thornton Park, Main St. & Terminal Ave. Teachers, with their students, are encouraged to observe a minute of silence in memory of the 14 women murdered at Montreal Polytechnique in 1989 and all women and girls who are victims of violence. A resource package can be found on our committee's webpage: vesta.ca. Please join us to commemorate this devastating event at the *Marker of Change* monument at Thornton Park.

Today in Labour History – 2012 November 23

Workers employed at Walmart—the US's largest private-sector employer—went on strike nationwide for better wages and working conditions. Walmart, whose net sales in 2011 were \$443.9 billion, pays its 1.4 million workers in the U.S. an average of \$8.81/hour. A third of Walmart's employees work less than 28 hours a week and don't qualify for benefits. Consider this next time you're shopping?

Teamsters Local 213 vs. IKEA Richmond – Strike finally ends

Our 350 union brothers and sisters at IKEA in Richmond were locked out in May 2013. A new 10-year contract was reached with the Teamsters representing 300 striking IKEA workers at its Richmond store, ending what was a reprehensible 17-month-long labour dispute.

The agreement reached with the union on matters of wages, benefits and operations flexibility was concluded through binding recommendations issued by mediator Vince Ready. Union member Marc Caron stated that "the IKEA leadership and management team that fundamentally created the problems at this store are still in place."

Upcoming Events

Retirement Security for Everyone

The Canadian Labour Congress is holding a Town Hall Meeting at the West End Community Centre, 870 Denman St. on Thursday, December 4 from 2– 3:30 pm. The issue at hand is the threat by government to convert "defined benefits" pension plans into weaker "targeted benefits." Try to attend if you are able.