



*Stronger Together*

2014 December 10

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated*

### December 16

Executive Committee

### January 5

Anti-Poverty Committee

### January 6

WLC/B Committee

TTOC Committee

### January 12

Communications Ctte

Status of Women Ctte

CPEA Cohort Info Session

### January 13

Executive Committee

**E-mail!**

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**TeachBC**

Your go-to site for BC teaching resources

## Ministry of Ed cuts Funding to Vulnerable Adult Ed Students

On December 4, the Minister of Education Peter Fassbender announced that BC will no longer provide funding to school districts for tuition-free upgrading courses for adults already holding a high school diploma. This goes against the promise made to British Columbians in 2008, allowing graduated adults to take tuition-free academic courses.

Chris Murphy, president of VESTA's adult educator sublocal laments, "With this announcement, the ministry is sending a message that they are not investing in public education for British Columbians. Denying tuition-free courses affects our most marginalized and vulnerable citizens who just want an opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their families and have access to well-paying jobs. This government does not seem to understand or care about the long term benefits of an educated society." Our Adult Ed members fear more layoffs are looming. Please email VSB trustees, Minister Fassbender and your MLA's!

## TeachBC – Online Resources for you from the BCTF!

What is TeachBC? It's an online resource of teaching materials, lessons, and research relevant to the K–12 BC curriculum.

- Allows users to download, upload, and share resources.
- Search by subject, grade, resource type, title, description, language etc. Who can use it? Everyone! The website is public. How can teachers contribute?
- Upload your favourite lesson plans, unit plans, activities, resources, or research and make TeachBC the go-to site for K–12 BC resources.
- Tell your colleagues about TeachBC and help us build the site– [teachbc.bctf.ca](http://teachbc.bctf.ca)

## New Canucks Players Save Taxes Moving to Vancouver

Here is news you might never have believed — NHL hockey players see their personal taxes lowered moving from USA to Vancouver. For example, new goalie Ryan Miller will save \$169,656 in taxes moving here from St. Louis; defenceman Luca Sbisa saves \$203,465 from Anaheim Ducks. Pity poor centre Ryan Kesler: being traded to Anaheim from Vancouver equals an extra \$430,265 in taxes!

When did Vancouver become a low tax haven for multimillionaires? It is no surprise then that the BC Liberals running our provincial government won't spend more on public education — they are giving better tax breaks than America to the ultra-rich! What shame for us as a nation that the BC government cares more about tax breaks for millionaires than properly funding our kids' education. (Source: *Business in Vancouver*, Nov.25 2014)

## Upcoming Events

### Labour Community 20<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner – Dec. 24, 5 to 8pm

Volunteers needed December 22 and 23 to help prepare for dinner, as well as volunteers December 24 to serve. Location is Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph St. Contact: Marisha Zuckerman at the BC Federation of Labour, [mzuckerman@bcfed.ca](mailto:mzuckerman@bcfed.ca) or 604.430.1421. Toys, non-perishable food, and cash donations are welcome too. Please help.