



Stronger Together

2014 December 17

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

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

January 14
VTF General Meeting
Re: benefits @ John Oliver Secondary

E-mail!

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Happy Holidays to All VESTA Members!

As we approach our winter break, all your VESTA table officers wish each member a wonderful winter holiday! Enjoy the well-deserved respite from your busy professional lives, relax with friends and family and enjoy some holiday cheer!

Our best wishes for a Happy New Year too!

Dan Graves

Heather Allison

Chloe McKnight

Janek Kuchmistrz

Express Your Professional Concerns About the FSA

Members are reminded to meet at a VESTA meeting on the FSA letters that will be sent home to parents. Members are encouraged to draft an individual or staff letter regarding their professional concerns about the BC government's Foundation Skills Assessment taking place from January 12–February 20, 2015.

The VSB has traditionally sent an opt out letter to parents about the FSA, and we are waiting for confirmation about when this will be done.

Harper's Conservatives Pass Anti-Labour Bill C-525

Again from the department of news hard to believe: On Tuesday, the anti-labour [Bill C-525](#), intended to create barriers for unions to organize and represent workers, was passed by the Senate. See link www.pressprogress.ca/en/post/stephen-harper-loves-them-not-union-organization-curbed-anti-labour-bill

While in Canada the Conservatives push ahead with their anti-labour Bill C-525, new rules in the US are making it easier for workers to organize there. The US National Labor Relations Board is reforming the federal regulations for union elections to allow use of email and other provisions to simplify and speed up union certification. Employers have long resisted updating the rules, because when certification is slowed down they can try to intimidate workers who've already signed up and otherwise bust unions from forming. See link:

www.buffingtonpost.com/2014/12/12/union-election-reforms_n_6312100.html?ncid=fbkInkushpmg00000013

Upcoming Events

Labour Community 20th 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@befed.ca or 604.430.1421. Toys, non-perishable food, and cash donations are welcome too. Please help out!