



*Stronger Together*

2015 January 7

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated*

### January 12

Communications Ctte  
Status of Women Ctte  
CPEA Cohort Info Session

### January 13

Executive Committee

### January 14

Professional Issues Ctte

### January 14

**VTF General Meeting**  
John Oliver Secondary  
Agenda—EH Benefits

**E-mail!**

Dan Graves, President  
[dan@vesta.ca](mailto:dan@vesta.ca)

Heather Allison, 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
[heather@vesta.ca](mailto:heather@vesta.ca)

Chloë McKnight, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
[chloe@vesta.ca](mailto:chloe@vesta.ca)

Janek Kuchmistrz, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP  
[janek@vesta.ca](mailto:janek@vesta.ca)

Chris Murphy,  
AE Sublocal President  
[murphy@vesta.ca](mailto:murphy@vesta.ca)

Office: 604-873-8378

Fax: 604-873-2652

[www.vesta.ca](http://www.vesta.ca)



## BCTF AGM Delegates Wanted!

The BCTF AGM is coming, and is a superb opportunity for VESTA members to participate in the most democratic decision making body of our union. The AGM begins on Saturday evening, 2015 March 14 and ends on Tuesday, 2015 March 17 at the Victoria Conference Centre in Victoria. VESTA is entitled to send 31 delegates, which will be elected at our General Meeting on January 20.

Delegates are expected to attend a VESTA meeting on 2015 February 23 and attend all AGM sessions in Victoria. Your expenses will be reimbursed as a delegate, and daycare is provided for any children.

Being a delegate is a terrific and memorable experience — please consider putting in your application! Follow this link for the nomination form on the VESTA website: <http://vesta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Nomination-Form-20151.pdf>

## UBC Courses on First Nations Curriculum

UBC's Faculty of Education is offering a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on "Reconciliation through Indigenous Education" which begins on January 25. In this **free** 6-week course, participants will become better equipped in how teaching practices can be modified in order to meaningfully integrate indigenous knowledge, world views and pedagogies in classrooms, schools and communities.

Register Now [ets.educ.ubc.ca/IndEdu200x](http://ets.educ.ubc.ca/IndEdu200x)

Registration code IndEdu200x

Course duration January 27—March 10, 2015

## BC Retired Teachers' Association Awards Available

Five (5) BCRTA Golden Star Awards have been established to recognize, reward and celebrate school programs in the public system that have, as their salient feature, the interaction of BC students with seniors.

Each award comes with \$1,000 for the program, so please consider applying. If you have any questions, please email Carolyn Prellwitz, [carolyn@prellwitz.ca](mailto:carolyn@prellwitz.ca)

## Wealth Inequality in Canada – It's Worse than You Think!

Many of us still believe that Canada is a more egalitarian society with a greater emphasis on community and helping the less fortunate than our American neighbours. However, this former more caring state has disappeared under successive federal governments, Liberal and Conservative.

This video is worth watching to learn the current reality of glaring inequality:

[http://thetyee.ca/Video/2015/01/03/Wealth-Inequality/?utm\\_source=editor-tweet&utm\\_medium=twitter&utm\\_campaign=050115](http://thetyee.ca/Video/2015/01/03/Wealth-Inequality/?utm_source=editor-tweet&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=050115)

## Upcoming Events

### Fight for \$15– Join the campaign to raise the minimum wage!

The BC Fed of Labour launched a campaign in November to boost the minimum wage, which has remained at \$10.25 since 2012. BC has the highest cost of living in Canada, and these workers need our help. See <http://www.fightfor15bc.ca/> to sign the petition and get more involved.