



Stronger Together

2015 January 14

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

January 15

Fight for 15 rallies
Commercial & Broadway, Broadway & Cambie. 7:30am to 5 pm

January 21

Health & Safety Committee
Aboriginal Ed Committee

January 28

Communications Committee



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Our Extended Health Benefits Plan – You Vote to Choose

VESTA members will be voting at their schools on Thursday, January 22 to either retain their current EHB plan or, by voting no, move to the provincial one. The VESTA office will be open for voting on January 21 and 22 for TTOCs and members on leave. The ballot question is: “Are you in favour of retaining the VTF’s current Extended Health Benefits Plan?” A VTF General Meeting is being held today, January 14 at John Oliver Secondary at 4 pm to discuss the two plans, VTF and provincial, and answer questions. Your staff rep has been given a comparison chart of the two plans. Here is a direct link: <http://vesta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Benefit-Comparison.pdf>

At the January 13 VESTA Executive meeting, the following motion passed unanimously: *THAT the VESTA Executive recommend to VESTA members that the current Extended Health Benefits (EHB) Plan be retained until we are certain that the Provincial EHB plan is more beneficial.* The VESTA Executive strongly believes that the current plan, and the language in our collective agreement on its joint ownership, should not be abandoned until we have further investigated this legal concept.

Anti-Poverty Postcard Campaign – Send Them In Now

If you or your colleagues participated in filling in a postcard for the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition during or after the December General Meeting, please send them to the VESTA office using the blue bag system and we will mail them out for you to Premier Clark. Thank you!

BC has had Canada’s highest poverty rate for 13 years in a row. This must end. Long term solutions are needed, not the continuing band aid of food banks. If you would like some extra postcards, follow this link: http://bcpovertyreduction.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2013_prc-food-bank-card_bw.pdf

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

The BC Fed of Labour launched a campaign to boost the minimum wage, which has remained at \$10.25 since 2012. Petition signing blitzes are being held at locations in the Lower Mainland on Thursday, January 15, 2015. Commercial & Broadway and Cambie & Broadway are two Vancouver locations, with leafletting, petition signature gathering happening from 7:30 am to 8:30 am, or 3 pm to 5 pm. Visit this site for info and to RSVP <http://www.fightfor15bc.ca/calendar> Help in this important cause to fight poverty in BC. Raise the minimum wage to \$15! Check out the fightfor15bc.ca website for facts about the minimum wage, excellent videos, and wallet cards to share with friends. Let’s make this happen!

Upcoming Events

VESTA General Meeting and Staff Rep Assembly

Please attend your VESTA General Meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at 4 pm in Tupper Secondary cafeteria, 419 East 24th Avenue between Main and Fraser. Items of business include electing BCTF AGM delegates, presentation on the “Ride Don’t Hide” mental health awareness, and supporting the “Fight for 15.”