



Stronger Together

2015 January 21

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

January 21

Health & Safety Committee
Aboriginal Ed Committee

January 28

Communications Committee

February 2

Anti-Poverty Committee

February 3, 4, 5

SURT
Croatian Cultural Ctr



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EHB PLAN



JAN 21 & 22

Vote YES to Our Extended Health Benefits Plan!

Your staff rep will be conducting a vote at your school on Thursday, January 22 to keep our current EHB plan with a yes vote or, by voting no, change this year to the provincial plan. Vote at the VESTA office on January 21 and 22 from 8:15 am to 4:30 pm if you are a TTOC not at work, or a member on leave. Please visit the VESTA website for information on both plans. <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 encourages members to vote YES.

Fight for \$15 – VESTA Joins the Campaign

At the VESTA General Meeting 2015 January 20, members approved this motion: *THAT VESTA members support the BC Federation of Labour's campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour.*

How can you get involved?

- Visit this site to sign the online petition: <http://www.fightfor15bc.ca/sign-the-petition>
- Spread the news via Twitter and Facebook to your colleagues and friends. Lend a hand to this vital effort to fight poverty in BC.
- Check out the fightfor15bc.ca website for facts about the minimum wage, excellent videos, and wallet cards to share with friends.

Ride Don't Hide – Mental Health Awareness in Your School

Michael Schratte, a VESTA member teaching at Oppenheimer, spoke about the campaign he initiated — “Ride Don't Hide” — for improving awareness about mental illness at the VESTA General Meeting 2015 January 20. His 2010 bicycle ride around the world, visiting 33 countries on 6 continents, has now mushroomed into a grassroots annual campaign by the Canadian Mental Health Association.

The General Meeting adopted this motion:
THAT VESTA endorse the Ride Don't Hide program.

Members are encouraged to become more informed, and get involved this June 22. <http://ridedonthide.com/bc/join-the-movement/register/>

Upcoming Events

NEW LOCATION SURT – Training for Union Reps on February 3, 4 and 5

SURT will be held at the **Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive** (2 blocks from VESTA office) due to a recent fire at the Maritime Labour Centre. **Registration deadline: Wednesday, January 28**