



Stronger Together

2015 February 6

# Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

## Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

**February 9** Family Day  
VESTA Office Closed

**February 10**  
VESTA Executive

**February 18**  
Health and Safety

**February 23**  
VESTA AGM Delegates  
8:30 am to 3:00



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Long-term  
Disability  
Coverage

## Withdrawal from BCTF's Long Term Disability Plan

Please remind members about the importance of withdrawing from the long-term portion of the salary indemnity plan if they individually have 100 sick days, and either condition applies: **They are 64 years old, OR their age and service equal "Factor 88"**

All contract teachers may apply for Short-Term Disability. Combining Short-Term Disability and their 100 sick days will be sufficient to carry them through until they are either 65 years old or have reached "factor 90." At that point, they will be ineligible for long-term disability.

Please remind them that there is **no retroactive reimbursement for late withdrawals**. Members are eligible only if they meet these criteria and apply to the BCTF. It is the member's responsibility to make application for withdrawal, and should do so as soon as they are eligible. The form used to withdraw can be downloaded at:

<http://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SalaryBenefits/SIP/LT-WithdrawalForm.pdf>

## BCTF Reveals Government Waste in Anti-Teacher Campaign

The BCTF has learned that the BC Liberal government wasted \$352,644 of taxpayer money on their online anti-teacher campaign and the website BCParentInfo.ca during our strike last year. The company that received this government contract was Kimbo Design Inc, a Vancouver firm that also did work on Christy Clark's campaign for the BC Liberal leadership! You can read the full article here: <https://www.facebook.com/BCTeachersFederation/photos/a.155733539654.113793.154450024654/10153050375134655/?type=1&theater>

## Pro-D Workshop from BCTF- Gender Inclusion

BCTF has a new workshop- **Creating a Gender Inclusive School Culture**. It develops an understanding of the risks facing trans\* students, as well as the protective factors, provides increased familiarity with terminology, and increased awareness of gender identity and gender expression. Best practices for supporting a student through gender transition will be covered. Although the focus is on trans\* students, gender inclusive schools help all students to feel safe at school. Contact Susan Ruzic at the BCTF for information at [604-871-1850](tel:604-871-1850)

## BC Teachers' Council Elections- BCTF Endorsed Candidates

On Feb. 13, the TRB (Teacher Regulation Branch) will mail ballots to teachers, and they must be returned before March 20th for this Council election. It is important to vote for our BCTF endorsed candidates as the Council is responsible for setting standards for teacher education, certification, conduct and competence. It also forms the Disciplinary and Professional Conduct Board.

Here are our BCTF endorsed candidates:

- Vancouver Coastal Zone- **John Hall** (incumbent from 2012)
- Fraser Zone- **Laurence Greef** (incumbent from 2012)

## Upcoming Events

**VTF General Meeting - Tuesday February 24 at 4 pm**

**Location: Tupper Secondary School Auditorium**

We are inviting all members to attend this VTF General Meeting, where we will discuss and make decisions about the VSB's proposal for the school calendar.