



*Stronger Together*

2015 March 25

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated*

### March 25

Professional Issues

### March 30

Communications

### March 31

Executive Committee

**Email!**

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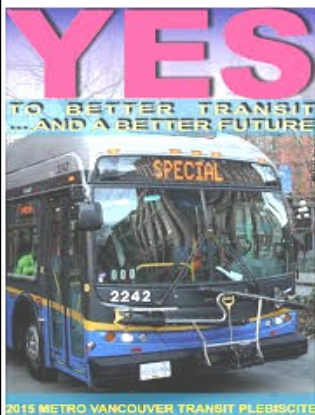
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## BC Citizens' Recall Campaign Endorsed by VESTA Executive

On March 3, the VESTA Executive Committee passed a motion to advise members to support this recall campaign in Burnaby North.

This is a grassroots initiative that started last fall, with the efforts of a single individual. So far, they have identified 12 ridings where a recall campaign may be successful. These ridings were chosen because the Liberal MLA won by a small margin only, or the split votes between opposition parties add up to more than the Liberal candidate received.

**Join the BC Recall campaign in Burnaby North and let the citizens' voice be heard in Victoria.** Check out this website for more information on how to get involved: <http://bccitizensrecall.com/> Sign up on the green link!

## New ID Numbers for Pacific Blue Cross Benefits

VSBC was told by Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) that members will receive their new ID cards in the mail beginning 2015 March 23. Members need to destroy their old ID cards and start using their new PBC benefit cards immediately. You will also need to update your ID number with your dental office, pharmacy and other paramedical service providers who may offer direct billing to PBC. Pacific Blue Cross has stated that they will continue to honour claims using old or new IDs for 3 months post conversion.

## Support Better Transit in Metro Vancouver – Vote Yes!

The VESTA General Meeting held on Tuesday, March 24 adopted a motion to encourage our membership to vote “yes” in the Metro Vancouver Transportation and Transit Plebiscite.

Many members recognize that approving the 0.5% increase in the provincial sales tax is essential in order to avoid the type of urban sprawl and consequent decline in quality of life seen in many American cities without decent public transit.

Find out more information about this crucial plebiscite by checking this website: <http://mayorscouncil.ca/>

## New! M.Ed. at UBC in Critical Pedagogy – Your Path Forward

Good news! UBC has rescheduled the Critical Pedagogy & Education Activism M.Ed. cohort to begin July 2016. This will give VESTA members time to fully consider participation in this 30-credit, part-time M.Ed. program. Watch for after school information sessions at VESTA in May, Sept. and Oct. Bring your questions and meet the professors supporting this new program. This could be the exciting M.Ed. cohort you are seeking.

## Upcoming Events

### Spring Transfer Process – Important DEADLINES this week!

#### Increasing FTE from Part-time Continuing to Full-time

Request in writing by March 31 (Article C.20.3.c) that you wish to apply for full-time continuing assignment if you are now part-time continuing. Obtain the VSB form from your school's office to ask for this increase in teaching assignment. This request is dependent on no layoffs occurring in the school district for K–12.