



*Stronger Together*

2015 November 25

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA  
office 4pm unless  
otherwise indicated*

### November 25

There's More To It Than  
Money Pension Seminar  
4-6 pm

### November 30

Committee Meetings

- Professional Issues
- Health/Safety
- Communications
- WLC /Bargaining

### December 1

- Additional Pension Plan  
Consultation Meeting,  
4pm @ Tupper

### December 8

General Meeting/  
Staff Rep Assembly



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

Chloë McKnight, 1st VP  
[chloe@vesta.ca](mailto:chloe@vesta.ca)

Heather Allison, 2ndVP  
[heather@vesta.ca](mailto:heather@vesta.ca)

Jill Barclay, 3rd VP  
[jill@vesta.ca](mailto:jill@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 it's a great opportunity for VESTA members to participate in the most democratic decision-making body of our union. The AGM begins on Saturday, March 12 and ends on Tuesday, March 15. This year the AGM is being held in Vancouver. If you are interested in being a delegate with voting rights, please submit a nomination form to VESTA. Election of Delegates will be held at a VESTA meeting on 2016 January 19. Any member of the BCTF is welcome to attend the AGM but only those members elected by our General Meeting will hold voting rights.

## FSAs are Coming

Once again the FSAs are coming to schools across the province. They will be taking place from January 11—February 19. Members are reminded to hold a meeting on the FSA letters that will be sent home to parents. For a number of years now we have encouraged members to write individual or staff letters to parents regarding their professional concerns about the BC government's Foundation Skills Assessment.

The VSB has traditionally sent an opt out letter to parents about the FSA, and we will let you know as soon as we have confirmation that this will happen again this year.

## Humanitarian Crisis – How to Help

In light of the current refugee crisis, many teachers are wondering what they and their students can do to help. Donations can be made to a variety of organizations involved in providing relief for refugees. You can get your students involved by involving them in discussions about the refugee crisis. The following websites provide ideas for teaching about refugees: [UNHCR Educational Resources for Teachers](#) and [Teaching About Syrian Refugees](#). See the [BCTF webpage](#) for more information about organizations that are supporting refugees and links to websites.

## Duty to Investigate

Did you know that every time there is an incident at work in which a worker is injured, or there is an incident that has the potential to cause an injury, the employer must ensure that the incident is thoroughly investigated? It is a legal requirement that workers must report promptly to the employer if they suffer an injury in the course of their work. There is a further legal requirement that the employer must ensure that the incident is investigated and that the investigation include recommendations for how to prevent further injury. The reality is that teacher injuries, particularly injuries arising from violence and ergonomics, are vastly under-reported. In addition, when incidents are reported they are often not investigated. These two facts combine to increase the likelihood that other workers will be injured the same way.