



Stronger Together

2016 January 7

Staff Rep Weekly

Please share this important information with all VESTA members

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

January 12
Executive Committee

January 14
Social Justice Committee

January 19
General Meeting/
Staff Rep Assembly

January 20
Professional Issues
Committee

January 26
Executive Committee

January 27
Infusing Aboriginal
Content Workshop
4-7 pm



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Pro-D Information

Thank you to Pro-D chairs and committees for endeavouring to be up-to-date with record keeping, receipting and reimbursing teachers for their professional development costs. Please remind teachers to submit their original receipts to you so the appropriate costs can be forwarded to VSB Accounting for reimbursement. Teachers will be repaid out of last year's unspent school-based budget balances from either the Joint Conference Fund or the Professional & Staff Development Fund (2014—2015).

Upcoming Pro-D Opportunities for VESTA Members

1. **Infusing Aboriginal Content:** Wednesday, January 27, 4—7pm at the VESTA office. Call Vilma at the VESTA office to register.
2. **Dealing with At-Risk and Targeted Students:** Tuesday, February 9, 9am—3pm at the VESTA office. Email vilmam@vesta.ca to register.

AGM Delegates Wanted

If you have not yet submitted your name to VESTA to be a delegate to the 100th BCTF AGM please do so by January 19. [Application forms](#) are available on the VESTA website. Please fax your form to the VESTA office. We will be electing our delegates at the General Meeting on January 19.

Changes to Blue Cross

Effective 2016 January 1 Pacific Blue Cross is limiting coverage of narcotics and high cost drugs to a 35-day supply. Very few members will be impacted by this change. The reasons given for the change are to promote safety, reduce drug wastage and maximize cost sharing with BC Pharmacare.

BCTF FSA Letters to Parents

The VSB letter and form for parents to withdraw their children from the upcoming FSA testing will be in schools by early next week. The BCTF information page [Parents Should Know: FSA Tests Are Not Useful](#) and [Request that your child be excused from the FSA letter](#) can go home along with the VSB letter via students. Please be sure that union materials are in a sealed envelope or stapled format, clearly addressed to parents or guardians. Union information may also be handed to parents directly on school property. You may alternatively distribute a personal letter from you or your staff about your professional concerns regarding the value of the FSA test and the way the information is used, in the same manner. Links to the BCTF materials in a variety of languages are available on the BCTF and VESTA websites.