



Stronger Together

2016 February 3

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

Executive Meeting

February 9

Pro-D Workshop, 9-3pm
Challenging Behaviour

February 10

New Teachers' Induction

February 11

TTOC Committee

February 16

Staff Rep Assembly
Tupper @ 4pm

February 23

Executive Meeting

February 25

TOC EI Workshop
4-6pm, VESTA office

February 26

Meeting for BCTF AGM
Delegates, 9-3pm



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February is Antipoverty Month

February is Antipoverty Awareness Month. At the 2015 BCTF AGM, the following resolution was passed: *THAT the BCTF encourage members to recognize February as Child Poverty Awareness Month and take steps as individuals and/or as part of their social justice network.* The Antipoverty Month resources include four infographics and an accompanying list of resources and activities based on the following themes: poverty in BC schools, hungry families, school fees and adequacy of resources, and a poverty reduction plan. These resources are all posted on [BCTF's Antipoverty web page](#).



Professional Autonomy

Article F.20: Professional Autonomy in our collective agreement states that *employees shall, consistent with effective educational practice, prescribed, authorized curricula and locally developed programs, have individual professional autonomy in determining the methods of instruction, and the planning and presentation of materials in their professional assignments.*

It is important to keep this in mind as we explore the re-designed curriculum. For more information on this read the article *Curriculum and Pedagogy* in the Jan/Feb 2016 issue of [Teacher](#) newsmagazine.

Special Education Audit

We realize that many resource and special education program teachers have been working hard to prepare the required paperwork for the Ministry of Education Audit. We also realize that in some cases students have been losing out on the regular support they receive as resource teachers try to meet the demands on their time as a result of the audit. A series of motions were passed at the January 26 VESTA Executive Committee meeting regarding the VSB Special Education Audit. These motions were discussed with Staff Reps at the SURT this week. A copy of the motions will be emailed to Staff Reps. Please hold a VESTA meeting at your school to discuss them.