



*Stronger Together*

2016 September 28

# Staff Rep Weekly

*Please share this important information with all VESTA members*

## Dates to Remember

*Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated*

### September 28

Professional Issues Committee

### October 3, 4, 5

SURT, Maritime Labour Centre

### October 4

Social Justice and Solidarity Committee

### October 11

Executive Meeting



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## Pro-D News

The District Pro-D Committee has agreed that unspent balances from the Professional and Staff Development Fund can be used to cover conferences fees on the October PSA day! There are many conferences available October 21. More information can be found in the PSA brochure sent to all members at the beginning of the year and on the BCTF website under Professional Development.

The Professional Issues Committee and VESTA will also be hosting some fantastic workshops beginning with a BCTF facilitated presentation on play-based kindergarten, date TBA. Also, Jody Polukoshko will be presenting a workshop on Student Vote (see [studentvote.ca](http://studentvote.ca)) on October 21 at the VESTA office. More information and registration forms will be faxed to the schools so watch for them. The workshops will be free and snacks will be provided.

## Self-Directed Pro D

If a teacher chooses self-directed Pro D they are required to submit a plan to the Pro D committee at least 2 weeks in advance. The committee's role is to accept the plan. The committee does not approve or disapprove the plan. The principal will be aware of the plan as a member of the committee. Principals are responsible for knowing where people will be on that day. A list indicating where you will be is often circulated or posted, but this should not be done by Pro D reps. A teacher choosing to work on a self-directed plan can choose "at home" if actively engaged in Pro D as long as the administration accepts this as a choice. If it is not accepted then the teacher can select another location (university campus, library, another resource centre, or school site). Teachers also need to indicate where they will be for both parts of the day if attending a half-day workshop (i.e., Workshop in a.m., self-directed at library in p.m.)

## World Teachers' Day – October 5

World Teachers Day is Wednesday, October 5. It is a day to celebrate and acknowledge educators across the world. This is a time to examine issues in education and pertaining to teachers. It is an opportunity to look at teachers and the teaching profession from an international perspective and bring awareness to global education issues.

## Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice and Solidarity Committee looks into Status of Women, Anti-Poverty, Anti-Racism, Pride, Solidarity and Environmental Sustainability issues. If you're interested in any of these topics, please join us on Oct 4th at 4 PM at the VESTA office. At this meeting, we will discuss some of the priorities for this year.

If you are not available to attend, but would like to be a member of the committee, please email [kavan@vesta.ca](mailto:kavan@vesta.ca). We look forward to seeing you at our first meeting!