



Stronger Together

2017 February 2

VESTA Weekly

Topics Worth Talking about! Please read and discuss with your colleagues.

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

February 6

Election/Political Action Committee

February 7

Executive Committee

February 9

Social Justice Committee

February 14

SRA/GM at Tupper

February 15

TTOC Committee



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Pledge to Vote for Change

The BC Federation of Labour has launched a campaign for the upcoming provincial election. Follow the link <https://togetherforbc.ca> to make a pledge to vote for change. There are less than 100 days until the provincial election on May 9. If teachers across the province get engaged in this election, raise awareness about the state of public education, and vote, we can make sure our communities elect a government that will protect public education.

VESTA will be holding phone banks to create awareness of the upcoming election. Join us on Thursday evenings beginning February 23 to March 30. Please contact jill@vesta.ca if you are interested in participating.

Calendar Revised

At Committee III, a report from the Calendar Committee recommended that the dates for the 2017–2018 winter break be altered to align with other neighbouring districts. The recommendation will now go to the board meeting on February 27 for approval. Official trustee, Dianne Turner, indicated that she intends to approve the recommendation at the February board meeting. The proposed changes to the calendar would alter the dates of the winter break to start on December 25–January 5 (so last day in session would be Friday, 2017 December 22).

Peach Arch Rally

Members of the community are hosting a rally on the Canadian side of the Peach Arch Provincial Park to be held on Sunday, February 5 at 10am. The *No Ban, No Wall* rally is to show our Iraqi, Syrian, Iranian, Libyan, Somali, Sudanese, and Yemenite friends that they are welcome. For more information, please visit [No Ban, No Wall—Vancouver](#).

5 Days to Influence

The next provincial budget will be announced on 2017 February 21. There is a consultation process underway that closes 2017 February 6. We are encouraging teachers to visit the government's consultation page over the next five days to ensure that government fully funds the costs of implementing our restored language. Link to the consultation page at engage.gov.bc.ca

Living with Balance

The VTF will be offering a second session of the BCTF Wellness Program *Living with Balance* in the spring. The program runs for 6 weeks on Wednesdays from 4–6pm beginning April 5 through May 10. Contact jill@vesta.ca for more information or go to [BCTF Living with Balance](#) to register.