



Stronger Together

2017 March 3

VESTA Weekly

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

Dates to Remember

Meetings at VESTA office 4pm unless otherwise indicated

March 7
SRA/GM at Tupper

March 8
Living with Balance

March 9
TTOC Committee
Social Justice Committee



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Social Justice and Solidarity Guest Speaker

VESTA is hosting guest speaker, Mebrat Beyene from the WISH Drop-In Centre, at the next Social Justice and Solidarity Committee meeting on March 9 at 4pm at the VESTA office. Mebrat spoke at VESTA'S International Women's Day dinner last year.

Social Justice and Solidarity Workshop Opportunity

The VESTA Social Justice and Solidarity Committee is hosting a BCTF workshop called Teaching Green: Integrating Environmental Justice Issues Across the Curriculum (Module: Sustainable Resource Use) on April 4, 4-5:30pm at the VESTA office. This is a timely workshop to help educators share the importance of being sustainable and think about sustainable alternatives. Please RSVP to amy@vesta.ca if you are able to attend. A light refreshment will be provided.

Poverty Free BC Action Week

This is a week of action leading up to a rally on Saturday to bring attention to the importance of having a poverty reduction plan in BC. The rally will take place this Saturday, March 4 from 12-2 pm at the Vancouver Public Library (Robson side). The BCTF Antipoverty and Social Justice Action Group has put together resources and activities for each day of action for the week. For more information please visit the [BC Poverty Reduction Coalition](http://BCPovertyReductionCoalition.org) website.

Part-time Teachers Ability to Access Pro D

Part-time teachers who do not work on Mondays and Fridays are being excluded from valuable Pro-D opportunities. All teachers, including part-time teachers, can apply through their school based Pro-D committees, to the Joint Conference Fund to access funds to attend workshops and cover the cost of a TTOC if a workshop falls on a regularly scheduled day of work. The TTOC costs must take priority and must come out of this fund if a teacher is to attend a workshop that falls on a regular day of work. The Pro-D Handbook states that "*The fund was established to support teachers wishing to attend external conferences or programs related to their teaching assignments,*" and that "*The fund is intended to assist with registration fees and/or the cost of an employee on call.*" Please contact your school Pro-D committee for further details on how your staff committee has decided this fund is allocated at your school.

Extended Health Benefits Plan Vote

A reminder to all teachers that a vote regarding our extended health benefits plan will take place in schools on Thursday, March 30. Detailed information about voting procedures will be reviewed next week at the Staff Rep Assembly on Tuesday, March 7. Staff reps or a volunteer will be responsible for collecting the voting material and holding the vote at their school site and returning the envelope to the VESTA office after school on March 30. Each school site needs to ensure that they are sending one member to this meeting to pick up the voting materials and to act as a poll clerk for their site. It is extremely important that there be a representative from each school attend the General Meeting/Staff Rep Assembly on March 7 at Tupper, 4pm.