



Stronger Together

November 16, 2017

VESTA Weekly

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

Dates to Remember

Meetings at the VESTA office starts at 4pm unless otherwise indicated.

Health and Safety Chair SURT

November 22nd
VESTA Office
9-11:30am & 1-3pm

Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting

November 21st
Tupper Secondary
at 4:00pm

Staff Committee Chair SURT

November 29th
VESTA Office
9-11:30am & 1-3pm



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Provincial Budget 2018 Consultation Report

The Provincial government has released its annual report detailing the consultation process and priorities that need to be addressed in the upcoming February budget. It can be found at https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/CommitteeDocuments/41st-parliament/2nd-session/FGS/Budget2018Consultation/FGS_2017-11-15_Budget2018Consultation_Report.pdf. The document covers a wide range of topics including K to 12 education spending priorities. One set of recommendations addresses capital cost issues such as the need for new schools, seismic upgrading, and repairs to aging facilities. Operational cost issues such as the need for learning resources, training and support for the new curriculum, for LGBTQ inclusive sexual health education, and for mental health and addiction issues are part of another set of recommendations, along with the recommendation to review per-pupil funding! The need to address funding of educational initiatives related to the arts, graphic design, music and theatre is another exciting recommendation in the report. There is also recognition of and recommendations for supporting students with special needs such as the recommendation to "Provide funding to enable early identification of students with special needs, and to provide appropriate support programs, as required." These and many social justice issues are finally being recognized in Victoria. The February budget remains to be seen, but this report shows that the government is listening. Check it out!

Jim Iker is Running for the Pacific Blue Cross Board of Directors

If you are a primary beneficiary of health coverage through PBC, you are a member and eligible to vote for the board of directors of Pacific Blue Cross at its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday December 13. This is an important opportunity to have a say in how Pacific Blue Cross is managed. BCTF past-president Jim Iker, is running for election to the board of directors. Aaron Ekman, the secretary-treasurer for the BCFed, is also running. Jim, Aaron and others are stepping up because it is time for a change. More information about these and other progressive candidates can be found by clicking the link, "seven candidates" on the page https://cupe.ca/cupe-announces-slate-progressive-candidates-pacific-blue-cross-board?utm_medium=rss. Having progressive voices on the board of directors will help to make our extended health benefits provider, PBC, more aware and responsive to the needs of PBC members and PBC employees. The meeting will be held at the Westin Bayshore starting at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, Dec 13. Registration for members attending the AGM will begin at 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Members must bring proof of membership and photo ID to present at the registration desk. The Westin Bayshore is located at 1601 Bayshore Drive downtown. If you would like more information about the meeting you can find the agenda at <https://www.pac.bluecross.ca/service/member/update20171029/>

Teacher Qualification Service Policy on Ontario course work

The TQS has changed its policy on credit for Additional Qualification (AQ) courses taken in Ontario. If you think this may affect your category placement please review the associated policy in the TQS Regulations Brochure available on the TQS website at <https://www.tqs.bc.ca/regulations/>. The course work must have been taken from an accredited university and fit into the requirements of an Integrated Program as defined in Regulation 4.05. AQ courses will be generally allotted six semester credits.