



**Stronger Together**

November 23rd, 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.

**Executive Meeting**  
November 28th  
VESTA Office

**Staff Committee Chair SURT**  
November 29th  
VESTA Office  
9-11:30am & 1-3pm



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## Fight for Fifteen!

Raising the minimum wage as soon as possible will make a difference for the families of some of our most vulnerable students. At our November 21 Staff Rep Assembly we had Denise Moffat from the BCFed present regarding the fight to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. With a step in the right direction, the BC government has created the Fair Wage Commission that is tasked with developing a plan for increasing the minimum wage to \$15. The timeline for implementation of the increase is one of the key issues the Commission is soliciting input from the public on. The BCFed is advocating for the increase to take effect by January 2019. Ontario and Alberta will also have \$15 an hour minimum wages in effect by 2019. The Commission is now visiting locations across BC to hear from British Columbians. VESTA's Social Justice and Solidarity Committee chairs will be making a submission at the Vancouver consultation meeting. In addition, if you would like to add your voice to those concerned you can visit the BC government website at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/fairwagescommission/written-submissions/> for more information about making a written submission. You can also visit the BCFed Fight for Fifteen website, <http://www.fightfor15bc.ca/>, where you can simply sign the letter they have written or you can edit it and submit a more personalized letter. You can make a difference!

## VESTA Staff Committee Chair SURT

Next Wednesday, November 29 we will be holding a SURT for Staff Committee Chairs at the VESTA office. Sessions are a half day. Please see your staff rep if you haven't signed up already or email [andrea@vesta.ca](mailto:andrea@vesta.ca) to register. As with all union release times, you are entitled to TTOC coverage regardless of your position in the school, so please be certain to book one on SFE using code 141.

## VESTA Health and Safety Chair SURT

On November 22 we held a SURT for Health and Safety Chairs. Please speak with your rep to find out more information about what was covered or if you have any Health and Safety concerns. You may wish to have your Health and Safety rep review some of the protocols at a VESTA meeting. As some of the forms are difficult to find, as a reminder, they can be accessed through the portal by logging on and scrolling down to "District Resources", and following the links through "Administrative Services", then "Health, Safety and Employee Support", followed by the link on the side bar, "Health and Safety Committees." Other forms may be accessed through WorkSafe or through your principal. Health and Safety reps are also encouraged to attend VESTA Health and Safety meetings held here at the VESTA office. The next one will be in January. Watch the VESTA Weekly for meeting dates.

## Remedy

We now have a timeline for communication and distribution of remedy from the board. There will be a pilot roll out with two families of schools. Administrators from those schools were given a spreadsheet with the remedy data for their school and were asked to verify the information. Emails from the VSB should be going out to the teachers receiving remedy in those school groups on November 27. All other schools will be going through the verification by admin in the week after that and teachers will be receiving their emails regarding remedy by December 11. The remedy will only be for the month of October. The plan is to catch up and send teachers notification for November and December remedy in one email, early in January. Note that the remedy calculations will be based on the Board's interpretation of what remedy is due. Please speak with your staff rep if you think there has been an error in determining remedy and they will contact VESTA.