



**Stronger Together**

November 30, 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 Committee Meeting**

December 4th @ 4:30  
VESTA Office

### **Social Justice & Aboriginal Meeting**

December 5th

### **TTOC Committee Meeting**

December 7th

### **Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting**

December 12th  
Tupper Secondary  
at 4:00pm



Chloë McKnight  
President  
[chloe@vesta.ca](mailto:chloe@vesta.ca)

Jill Barclay  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
[jill@vesta.ca](mailto:jill@vesta.ca)

Joanne Sutherland  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
[joanne@vesta.ca](mailto:joanne@vesta.ca)

Allison Jambor  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President  
[allison@vesta.ca](mailto:allison@vesta.ca)

Jody Polukoshko  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
[jody@vesta.ca](mailto:jody@vesta.ca)

Hollie Williams  
AE Sublocal President  
[hollie@vesta.ca](mailto:hollie@vesta.ca)

Office: 604-873-8378  
Fax: 604-873-2652  
[www.vesta.ca](http://www.vesta.ca)

## **SSSW Shortage**

In addition to a teacher shortage, we are also experiencing a shortage of School and Student Support Workers. Teachers should not be reassigned to cover SSSW absences because they are another bargaining group. While you need to follow a directive from your principal, if you are told to cover for an absent SSSW please let your staff rep know and the staff rep should contact the VESTA office immediately.

There was an average of 66 unfilled SSSW call-outs per day in October. SSSWs are sent out based on priority when there are not enough on-call SSSWs to cover absences.

## **Loss of Service**

Please continue to record loss of service on the VESTA forms and give the form to your staff rep on a monthly basis. The staff rep will forward the Loss of Service Form to the VESTA office.

## **Remembrance of Victims of Violence December 6**

VESTA policy is that teachers be encouraged to observe with their students, on December 6, a minute of silence in memory of the fourteen women murdered at Montreal Polytechnique and for all women and girls who are victims of violence. The BCTF has some excellent resources on violence against women including many for the 16 days of action from November 25 to December 10. Follow the link <http://www.bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=19760&libID=19768> to the Status of Women page for ideas on "What you can do," posters, more links and other information about this serious issue. TeachBC on the BCTF website also has some resources for teaching about December 6 in particular and about violence against women in general. The government of Canada website at [Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](http://Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women) has resources including conversation starters through the social media tab with a reminder that #myactionsmatter.

On December 6 **the 15th Annual Shoe Memorial**, will take place on the steps of the Vancouver Art Gallery. One pair of women's shoes will be displayed, along with the victim's name, for each woman who has lost their life to violence in British Columbia. Shoes will be on display from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A ceremony will take place at 1:00 p.m. The shoes will later be donated to women in need. For more information, visit the Shoe Memorial website, at [www.shoememorial.com](http://www.shoememorial.com).

## **\$1000 Bursary for the Child of a VESTA Member**

The draw for a \$1000 bursary for a child of a VESTA member will be held at the December 12<sup>th</sup> Staff Rep Assembly. Get your forms in as soon as possible. Staff reps were given copies of the bursary application form at the November Staff Rep assembly. The form and criteria are also available on the VESTA website. Although the document on the website is an excel spreadsheet it should print fine. In order to qualify for the bursary the child must have graduated from a public secondary school and must be attending a post secondary institution during the 2017/2018 school year. Send your completed application along with proof of registration to Olga at the VESTA office. The fax number is 604-873-2652 or you can email [olgac@vesta.ca](mailto:olgac@vesta.ca).

