



Stronger Together

December 14, 2017

VESTA Weekly

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

Dates to Remember

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

Executive Committee Meeting
December 19

Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting
January 16
Tupper Secondary
at 4:00pm

TTOC Committee Meeting
January 17



Chloë McKnight
President
chloe@vesta.ca

Jill Barclay
1st Vice President
jill@vesta.ca

Joanne Sutherland
2nd Vice President
joanne@vesta.ca

Allison Jambor
3rd Vice President
allison@vesta.ca

Jody Polukoshko
4th Vice President
jody@vesta.ca

Hollie Williams
AE Sublocal President
hollie@vesta.ca

Office: 604-873-8378
Fax: 604-873-2652
www.vesta.ca

School Supplies Tax Credit

The new Federal tax credit for teachers may provide a little more money for teachers and recognizes the fact that some teachers spend their own money supporting the school system. However, fully funded classrooms that are properly equipped with resources ought to be provided by core funding. Until this is achieved, teachers will be eligible for a credit of 15% on goods they have purchased for use in their classrooms, up to \$1000. This means you will get about \$15 off your tax bill for every \$100 you spend up to the limit. The board has prepared a form that needs to be filled in and signed by your administrator in order for you to be able to apply for the credit. Follow the link to the form in an email sent to your VSB account for more information about what is an eligible expense and the taxation requirements.

Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics is an agreement that we share about how we work together and how we want our profession to be represented in the world. It says that we will support one another if we are struggling by reaching out to each other, and to be willing to talk about our practice with others in the community.

Number 5 states, "The member directs any criticism of the teaching performance and related work of a colleague to that colleague in private. If the member believes that the issue(s) has not been addressed, they may, after privately informing the colleague in writing of their intent to do so, direct the criticism in confidence to appropriate individuals who can offer advice and assistance. **It shall not be considered a breach of the Code of Ethics for a member to follow the legal requirements for reporting child protection issues.**"

This reflects our responsibility to address concerns to our colleagues about their teaching practice. As a professional you know how to have difficult conversations in a non-confrontational manner. Some first steps to consider, if you have concerns, are to think about how you can offer support or mentorship, ask for clarification and build community. A brief conversation in private may be all that is required. You may need to meet on more than one occasion. If the issues persist, only after informing your colleague, you may wish to seek support in sorting out the difficulty. The BCTF IMS (Internal Mediation Service) can help with trained facilitators. For more information about IMS visit the BCTF website at <https://bctf.ca/ProfessionalDevelopment.aspx?id=31876>.

Delegates Wanted for the 2017/2018 BCTF AGM Deadline January 9

The BCTF Annual General Meeting is a fantastic way to get to know how our union works, to learn how diverse issues and perspectives are across the province and to see some of the amazing initiatives our union is involved with. Participating in the AGM is a great way to experience democracy in action! This year the AGM will be held during the March Break from Saturday March 17 until Tuesday March 20. As noted on the application form, there are also pre-meetings you are required to attend. The application is available on our VESTA website at <http://vesta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Nomination-Form-VESTA-2018.pdf>. The deadline to submit applications to be a delegate to this year's BCTF AGM is January 9, 2018, the day after we return from the break, so get your applications in now. If you would like more information about being a delegate, you can call the VESTA office at 604-873-8378.

Note that anyone can attend the AGM as an observer. This is a great way get a taste for the experience even if you can't commit to be there for the entire time. Delegates will be elected at the January 16, 2018 Staff Rep Assembly.