



Stronger Together

January 25, 2018

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.

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining (WLC/B) Meeting

January 29

Social Justice & Solidarity Meeting

January 30

Health & Safety Meeting

January 31



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New Teachers' and Student Teachers' Conference

The BCTF is hosting a conference for new teachers, TTOCs and student teachers on March 2nd and 3rd at the Radisson in Richmond. The conference fees are reasonable and reflect the social justice values of our union with variable fees depending on your teaching status. For new contract teachers, \$70 gets you access to both days of the conference or you can also register for a single day for \$40. TTOCs can register for one or two days for \$40. Student teachers pay only \$25. You will need to be able to log into the BCTF portal to register if you are a public school employee. The conference website is at <http://ntc.bctfbuzz.ca/>. There are a huge variety of workshops from classroom management, to curriculum, to BCTF supports and structures. The keynote speaker on Friday will be Ivan Coyote and on Saturday will be Verna St. Denis. Both keynote speakers will also be hosting roundtable discussions. This is a highly recommended event. Hope you can make it!

Social Justice and Solidarity Committee Film Night

Next Tuesday, January 30 the Social Justice and Solidarity Committee is holding their monthly meeting followed by a showing of the movie, *Between: Living in the Hyphen* by Anne Marie Nakagawa. This documentary examines what it means to have a background of mixed ancestries that cannot be easily categorized. By focusing on 7 Canadians who have one parent from a European background and one of a visible minority, she attempts to get at the root of what it means to be multi-ethnic in a world that wants each person to fit into a single category. The movie is about 45 minutes long and will be followed by a discussion. The meeting starts at 4pm and the movie begins at about 6pm. Snacks will be provided.

VESTA News Call for Submissions

In addition to the VESTA Weekly, we publish a longer magazine once in a while, the VESTA News. For our upcoming publication we are looking for teachers who would like to share stories of their experiences in their classrooms this year. We welcome all kinds of submissions. Our executive passed a motion **that VESTA provide an opportunity for members to forward statements about the impact of the teacher shortage and strict adherence to the non-enrolling ratios to their workload** as we know that this is a huge issue in our district and this is a way to acknowledge our shared experience. We also know that teachers continue to provide excellent learning opportunities and we would like to hear about innovative projects and experiences taking place in classrooms. There is no minimum or maximum length for the submission. Please send your statement or story to vestanews@vesta.ca. Note that the address will not be available on Monday January 29 due to some technical service requirements.

Vancouver Teacher Shortages in the News

BCTF vice president Terri Mooring was interviewed on Roundhouse Radio speaking about recruitment and retention. The half-hour program highlights some of the issues Vancouver is experiencing and possible solutions. To hear the interview follow the link to <http://cirh2.streamon.fm/listen-pl-14194?smc=20>. Judy Vance, the host, also refers to an earlier interview with Janet Fraser. The interview took place on January 19 and can be accessed through the Roundhouse Radio site by checking out the Archives clicking on "On demand," filtering using the dropdown menu and selecting "Mid-Days," then scrolling down to January 19th's Middays With Jody Vance- Janet Fraser.