



**Stronger Together**

February 8, 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.

**Professional Issues  
CMTE Pro-D Opportunity**  
February 19, 9am-12pm  
Vesta Office

**Social Justice &  
Solidarity CMTE Pro-D  
Opportunity**  
February 19, 9am-3pm  
Van Horne Elementary

**Executive Committee  
Meeting**  
February 13

**Staff Rep Assembly/  
General Meeting**  
February 20



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## Collaborative Inquiry

The District Pro-D Committee has met and reviewed this year's collaborative inquiry applications submitted by those interested in engaging in projects with the new temporary guidelines and no release time. We have over 60 groups that will be meeting to continue their professional development through the inquiry model! Groups should be receiving emails this week or next with approvals or requests for resubmission. If you have any questions regarding collaborative inquiry please contact [allison@vesta.ca](mailto:allison@vesta.ca). Note that there will not be another intake for this school year.

## Celebrate Women in Science!

February 11 is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The Statistics Canada's website at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75-006-x/2016001/article/14643-eng.htm> states that "From 1991 to 2011, the proportion of women in scientific occupations requiring a university education rose from 18% to 23%, and from 14% to 21% in scientific occupations requiring a college education." While there is growth in the proportion of women in scientific occupations, clearly something needs to be done to change these appalling statistics. Celebrating women in science can help girls to see themselves in these careers and make strides towards creating more gender equity in this field of work. UNESCO has a wealth of information regarding the importance of promoting this social justice issue, and statistics that show the lack of women in scientific research positions across the world on their webpage <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/int-day-of-women-and-girls-in-science/international-day-of-women-and-girls-in-science-2017/#.WnoNsqinHyR>.

## Social Justice Pro-D: BCTF Workshops

The VESTA Social Justice and Solidarity Committee is hosting two BCTF workshops at Van Horne Elementary on February 19. The morning workshop, held from 9am-12pm, will be **Incorporating Anti-racist Education into BC's New Curriculum**. This workshop looks at privilege in society and how the legacy of our colonial past has shaped our present. It provides some youth perspectives on racism in schools, and explores strategies to recognize and eliminate racism in society, classrooms, schools, and community. In the afternoon from 1pm to 3pm you can attend the workshop **Creating Inclusive Spaces: Applying an Equity and Inclusion Lens to Schools and Classrooms**. Need strategies to help contribute to more inclusive environments? Learn of barriers to inclusion based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, class and physical ability. Explore strategies and resources available on the BCTF Equity and Inclusion webpages to address these barriers. Think about specific actions you can take in your classroom, school, local, and community. You can register for both morning and afternoon workshops or for either one. Please register for one or both of these workshops by faxing the registration form sent to schools to the VESTA office or by emailing [andrea@vesta.ca](mailto:andrea@vesta.ca). If you have any questions regarding this pro-d opportunity please email the Social Justice and Solidarity Committee co-chair [jean-michel@vesta.ca](mailto:jean-michel@vesta.ca). Space is limited so sign up soon.

## AGM Delegates Needed!

We still have four more positions for delegates to the BCTF AGM. It is held over four days during March Break, running this year from Saturday March 17 to Tuesday March 20. The AGM is a great way to make lasting connections with people from across our district and to get an idea of similarities and differences between our local and others. Members of the BCTF executive are elected at the AGM. Issues of all sorts are debated and voted upon. It is truly democracy in action. The event is cost neutral because the BCTF reimburses expenses and childcare is provided. If you are interested please fill in and fax in the form on the VESTA website or attend the General Meeting at Tupper Secondary on February 20th and run from the floor. Need more information? Call us at 604-873-8378.