



**Stronger Together**

February 22, 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 Committee Meeting**  
February 26

**Executive Committee Meeting**  
February 27

**Adhoc School Design & Seismic Meeting**  
March 1

**WLC/B Committee Meeting**  
March 5

**Staff Rep Assembly/ General Meeting**  
March 6



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## BC Government Survey on Proportional Representation

In the fall the government will be holding a referendum on our voting system and whether or not to move from a first-past-the-post system to some form of proportional representation. In preparation for that referendum the BC Government is soliciting input from the public regarding how to present the referendum. One of the things they are trying to decide is if they should offer up one form of proportional representation or several. There is information available through <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/howwewote/> and that also has the link to the questionnaire. It is important to go through the slide shows to make sure you understand the terms they are using for the various forms of voting. Also, Fair Vote Canada, an organization that supports proportional representation, has information regarding the specific questions on the survey since there are some questions that have implications that are not explicitly stated and may be interpreted as supporting a first-past-the-post system. Fair Vote Canada at <http://www.fairvote.ca/bc-government-consultation-survey-guide/> also gives you an opportunity to look at the questions before completing the survey so that you can make a thoughtful decision and see how your answer to one question might impact the answer to another. Some helpful videos on STV or Single Transferable Vote include <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzkVPduMq3w> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR1WWYXAH3A>. The BCTF Representative Assembly voted to “encourage locals and members to participate in the consultation process and to advocate for a change to BC’s current “first past the post” provincial election model.” There are many more links on their page at <http://www.bctf.ca/AdvocacyAndAction.aspx?id=5356>. Get informed and have your say!

## In Case You Missed It: Glen Hansman in the Media

The Provincial Government has released its February budget and there is some new money for education including both operating costs and for capital costs associated with new schools and upgrades for seismic. CBC’s Early Edition interviewed BCTF president Glen Hansman for a reaction. You can listen to the interview at <http://www.cbc.ca/listen/shows/the-early-edition/segment/15521956>. Also, last week on February 13, Glen had an extensive interview with Jody Vance on Roundhouse Radio. You can check out this interview through the archives at <https://roundhouseradio.com/ondemand/>. Glen discusses issues across the province, but focuses on some features of the Vancouver situation in particular.

## Living with Balance Series

There are still some spots available for the BCTF Health and Wellness workshop we are hosting, *Living with Balance*. The workshop explores a variety of topics including goal setting, creating boundaries, the importance of diet and exercise, communication skills and tools and strategies to build resiliency. These group sessions of 10 to 15 teachers are led by trained consultants or qualified occupational therapists. The workshop will be held Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm at the VESTA office beginning April 4 and going through to May 9. For more information contact [jill@vesta.ca](mailto:jill@vesta.ca) or check out the BCTF website at <https://bctf.ca/livingwithbalance.aspx>. There is a link on the BCTF page to register or you can email [lwb@bctf.ca](mailto:lwb@bctf.ca). Note that registration is done through the BCTF even though the workshop is held at the VESTA office.