



Stronger Together

March 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.

Executive Committee Meeting
March 13

Health & Safety Meeting
March 14

TTOC Meeting
March 15



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Cross Border Social Justice Conference

On Saturday April 7, 2018 from 8:30 to 4:30 the Surrey Teachers' Association will be hosting the first ever Cross Border Social Justice Conference. With the relentless attacks on public education over the past 10 or more years in both the US and Canada, this conference seeks to focus on reclaiming the common space of public education to nurture equity, inclusion and justice as the foundations of a democratic society. Don't miss this amazing opportunity to hear both Naomi Klein and Seth Klein as the keynote speakers. Outstanding workshops by presenters from both sides of the border include everything from food security to intersectionality and poetry to law. For more information go to the conference website at <http://crossborderconference.weebly.com/>. The conference will be held at Sullivan Heights Secondary and the very reasonable \$35 fee includes lunch.

BCTF AGM

VESTA is pleased to have endorsed at the February 20 General Meeting, Marjorie Dumont (C'tan) for a BCTF Member-at-large position. Did you know that even if you are not a delegate to the AGM you are welcome to come and observe? If you are wondering when to come, the guide to the AGM is in the *Reports and Resolutions* booklet, which includes the agenda and can be found on the BCTF portal. There are guest speakers scheduled throughout the conference. Along with the exciting debates that accompany the recommendations and resolutions portion of the program and there are the BCTF executive elections. Although only delegates can vote, observers can share the tension and excitement of the count. The March edition of Teacher magazine has the profiles of the candidates and the agenda for the AGM. The AGM will be held during March Break at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver from March 17 to 20th.

BCFed, CLC and VDLC Hosted Event

Labour groups are hosting an evening event on **Climate Action & Just Transition** with speakers from New Zealand, Denmark and Norway who have firsthand experience creating Just Transition strategies. They will be sharing ideas on how Just Transition can bring more and better jobs, create a thriving economy, and provide opportunities for local communities. Not familiar with Just Transition? Find out more at <https://www.ituc-csi.org/just-transition-centre>. The event is being held at the Creekside Community Center on Thursday April 5 from 5:30 to 9:00pm. Space is limited for this **free** event so go to <http://bcfed.ca/events> to register.

Satisfaction Surveys

BCTF policy 9.A.22 is "That teachers no longer participate in the government's satisfaction survey. (Nov. 03 RA, p. 18)" We understand that surveys are being sent electronically this year and that teachers are being asked to complete a "Ministry of Education Electronic Anonymous Learning Survey" which is the same as the old Satisfaction Survey except it is now done electronically. Please ignore the email and do not complete the survey as we have our structures for feedback regarding our working and learning conditions. Also, past practice has been that teachers do not administer the survey to students.

Transfer Card and Return from Leave Reminders

March 15 is the deadline for HR to receive cards from teachers committing to transfer. If you are planning to use the bluebag system please be sure to allow time for the vacate card to arrive at HR. You can also drop your vacate card off at the school board in the secure employee services box near the front desk. March 31 is the deadline for HR to receive return from leave notice and requests for increase in time.