



Stronger Together

April 12, 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.

**Staff Rep Assembly
General Meeting**
Tupper Secondary
April 17 at 4:00pm

**TTOC Committee
Meeting**
April 19

**Executive Committee
Meeting**
April 24



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Bargaining Survey

There is one week remaining for you to complete the Bargaining Survey. This is an important opportunity for you to include your input on priorities for local and provincial bargaining in the upcoming round. A communication was sent to all members on April 5 with a link to the bargaining survey. If you did not receive the communication and link, please contact lori@vesta.ca with your non-vsbs email so we can update your contact information and send you the link. We look forward to hearing from you. Make sure you complete the survey by April 19th!

Bereavement Leave

Article G.4.1. of the Collective Agreement on Bereavement states "Five (5) days of paid leave shall be granted in each case of death of a member of the employee's immediate family. For the purposes of this article "immediate family" means: a. the spouse (including common-law and same-sex partners), child and step-child (including in-law), parent (including in-law), guardian, sibling and step-siblings (including in-law), grandchild or grandparent of an employee (including in-law), and b. Any person who lives with an employee as a member of the employee's family." In addition, G.4.2. provides "Two (2) additional days of paid leave may be granted for travel purposes outside of the local community to attend the funeral. Such requests shall not unreasonably be denied." Bereavement leave can be booked through SFE using code 110. There is also a form available that must be filled out and sent to leaves@vsb.bc.ca. The form may be sent in after you return from the leave. Please note that 5 days leave for bereavement includes a day for attending the funeral or other similar service and is not in addition to the funeral leave. The 5 days do not need to be taken at once. If your leave is denied, please contact the VESTA office.

VESTA Surveys vs Satisfaction Surveys

You have received a number of requests to complete surveys recently, including some from VESTA and one from the Ministry of Education. The one from the Ministry is the old "Satisfaction Survey" and BCTF policy 9.A.22 is "That teachers no longer participate in the government's satisfaction survey." As stated above, we hope that everyone will complete the bargaining survey. In addition we have sent a survey to small schools regarding kindergarten intake. Finally, there is also a survey for resource teachers across the district to complete. Thank you to those of you who have already submitted yours. The information is very valuable to us as we engage in discussions with the Board and as we move towards bargaining.

Starling Minds Mental Fitness Challenge

Starling Minds is offering a 4 week mental fitness challenge that can help you increase your resilience and enjoyment. The challenge involves 10 minute online exercises, Monday through Friday. You can join by signing into your Starling account or registering for one through <https://www.starlingminds.com/>. Starling Minds works in partnership with the BCTF to provide free and confidential support.

TTOC Shortage

The continued shortage of TTOCs has impacted all of our members and every aspect of our working and learning conditions from professional development to support for students who are missing resource time as teachers are pulled to cover classes. Also, sometimes TTOCs are redirected by the Board at the last minute. If there is an unfilled absence at your school when there was previously a TTOC in place, this is most likely the reason. Please remember that we all need to be patient through this frustrating experience and that the union is filing grievances to address these ongoing concerns.