

REVISED



Stronger Together

May 17, 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
May 22

Aboriginal Resource Fair
May 24

Professional Issues Committee Meeting
May 28

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting
May 29



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VESTA AGM

The new VESTA Executive has been elected for the 2018/19 school year!

President - Chloë McKnight

1st Vice-President - Jill Barclay

2nd Vice-President - Joanne Sutherland

3rd Vice-President - Allison Jambor

4th Vice-President - Jody Polukoshko

Secretary Treasurer - Leslie Roosa

Local Representatives to the BCTF - Donna Brack, Anne Miller, Darren Tereposky, Heather Allison

Member at Large - Greg Canning, Patricia Gudlaugson, Sylvia Jackson, Tanja Cvekic, Carol Zrymiak

Health and Safety Committee Chair - Karin Bernauer

Working and Learning Conditions/Bargaining Committee Chair - Marjorie Dumont

TTOC Committee Chairperson - Vanessa Lefebvre

Social Justice and Solidarity Committee Co-Chairpersons - Elaine Ong, Jean-Michel Oblette, Julia Pressman

Aboriginal Education Committee Chairperson - Brenda Koch

Communications Committee Chairperson - Brian Sampson

Adult Education President - Hollie Williams

We are all looking forward to working for you in the coming year. For anyone still interested in joining the VESTA executive, we still have some important roles to fill including Chair/Co-chair of Professional Issues, two Social Justice and Solidarity Committee Co-chairs and one Member-at-Large position. Please call the VESTA office for more information if you are interested in joining the team.

Staffing

Schools are in the process of determining staffing assignments for the coming year. We understand that most schools have lost staffing and so there are many reassignments and surplus teachers. During this challenging process there are a few things to remember when you are discussing the school organization. Please hold any discussions of the staffing in a VESTA meeting, not at the Staff Committee Meeting. Once you have come to a decision or series of decisions in a VESTA meeting you can make recommendations to the principal at a Staff Committee Meeting. In the VESTA meeting please remember that the goal is solidarity of all teachers. If there is no recommendation that everyone can agree upon, it is okay to have no recommendations. If your school has any classes with more than 2 special needs students, we would consider that a violation of our restored Collective Agreement language so recommending that the organization comply with the restored language of the CA would be an appropriate motion to bring to Staff Committee. For further recommendations remember that in all discussions it is very important to respect professional autonomy. That means that you are not having discussions and voting on reductions or reassignments of other teachers' positions. It is perfectly fine to express what your desires are for your own assignment. Please keep in mind that ultimately it is up to the principal to organize the school. Recommendations brought to Staff Committee should be responded to by the principal in the meeting or at the next meeting and the response should be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Aboriginal Resource Fair Reminder

Next week VESTA's Aboriginal Committee is holding its third annual Aboriginal Resource Fair at the VESTA office on May 24th from 4 to 6pm. Snacks will be provided.