



Stronger Together

September 20, 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.

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee
September 25

Working & Learning Conditions/Bargaining (WLC/B) Meeting
September 25

Professional Issues (Pro-D) Workshop "Marking up the Wrong Tree"
September 28
9 am—12 pm



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Orange Shirt Day

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, a day to recognize and remember the suffering of aboriginal students in residential schools across Canada. There are some resources to help teachers explain why we wear orange available on the BCTF website at <https://bctf.ca/AboriginalEducation.aspx?id=46786>. Another fantastic resource is Phyllis Webstad's powerful and moving video which tells of her experience growing up and her arrival at the residential school in Williams Lake. The video and more information is available at <http://www.orangeshirtday.org> including resources such as lesson and unit plans, posters and handouts. The website does note that since September 30th is a Sunday this year, you might wish to set a nearby date to wear your orange shirts and hold an event.

SURT

October 1, 2, 3 and 4th are the dates this year for our annual fall School Union Rep Training. Each school is invited to send 4 union representatives; the Staff Rep, Pro-d Chair, the Health and Safety Rep and the Staff Committee Chair. If any of the reps hold two positions or is a member of the VESTA executive, then please bring another staff member, such as a Social Justice rep, along to the training. We will be offering five different BCTF workshops in the afternoon; **Advanced Advocacy Skills; Meetings, Minutes and More; Violence in the Workplace; Self-Directed PD: The Autonomous Professional;** and **Deconstructing Myths**. We will all be together for the morning so please attend with your team on the day assigned. The registration form has been faxed to schools and emailed to Staff Reps. Please register by September 25th so that we are able to confirm numbers for the lunch we are providing. Fax the office or email andrea@vesta.ca your form to register and be sure to book a TTOC to cover your absence.

School Board Trustee Election

The municipal elections will be held on October 20th this year and once again we have a very important role to take in ensuring that we have a progressive, supportive Board of Trustees. At our General Meeting on Tuesday, after vigorous debate, VESTA members voted to endorse the Vancouver and District Labour Council (VDLC) slate for school board. The 9 trustees VESTA endorsed are **Erin Arnold, Carrie Bercic, Janet Fraser, Estrellita Gonzalez, Erica Jaaf, Aaron Leung, Barb Parrot, Jennifer Reddy and Allan Wong**. All of these trustees (along with candidates for mayor, parks board and city council) participated in a rigorous vetting process through the VDLC. If you would like to see the full VDLC slate you can find it here <http://vdlc.ca/political-action/>. Please share these names with family and friends and help get out the vote on October 20th!

Early Career Teacher Meet and Mingle

If you are a teacher in your first five years of teaching, the VSB teacher mentors are hosting a session at Templeton Secondary where you can meet them and other early career teachers and learn more about mentoring and supports the VSB will be offering to its newest contract teachers. The session will be held in the Templeton library from 3:45 to 5pm on Wednesday September 26th. Elementary and Secondary teachers in temporary or continuing positions are the target audience. There is no RSVP required so show up, have some snacks and learn more about upcoming opportunities and initiatives.