



**Stronger Together**

# VESTA Weekly

Topics Worth Talking about! Please read and discuss with your colleagues

November 16, 2018

## Send in Your Ballots for Proportional Representation Vote

The November 30th deadline for Elections BC to receive your ballot is fast approaching. Mail-in ballot needs to be **received** by the deadline in order to count so put it in the mail as soon as possible. Very few ballots have been cast and we need a good turnout to make changes to our voting system. Please get your family, friends and neighbors to vote for Proportional Representation so that every vote counts in our next election. Don't be frightened by the advocates of First Past the Post. Countries with Proportional Representation are more equitable, have governments that are more representative of their populations, and if you are worried about the economy, "9/10 of the top economic performers in the OECD – with the highest GDP per capita – use proportional representation" (Fair Vote Canada, <https://www.fairvote.ca/2017/10/02/proportional-representation-economy-fiscal-responsibility/>). Not sure which system of proportional representation would be best? Try this questionnaire at <http://referendumguide.ca/lime/index.php/2018>, to help you to sort it out. Alternatively, you can always just answer the first question and your ballot will still be valid. Put your ballot in the mail today!

## Mentee Expression of Interest Due Today, November 16

If you are an Early Career Teacher interested in connecting with a mentor, please fill in the expression of interest form today. The link : <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=WC6KCzB7CEq6t9dVWVeDjpaM3d1vEs39GvViHWn8ZXRjUOTdQRjdLOEc0SlpNUVQxVdHPTepUWFFVWi4u> requires login with your VSB username and password. If you are having trouble with the login please email [DMST@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:DMST@vsb.bc.ca) to let the district mentor support teachers know you would like to be included in the program.

## November is Antipoverty Month

The BCTF Antipoverty Social Justice Action Group has numerous resources to support teachers who are building awareness about the prevalence and effects of poverty. Their main page at <https://bctf.ca/SocialJustice.aspx?id=6308&libID=6380> has links to lesson plans, BCTF policy related to poverty, resources, workshops and posters including the one below.

<https://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SocialJustice/Issues/Poverty/2015%20Economic%20Pressures%20of%20BC%20Families%20final.pdf>

## January 25th Pro-D Opportunity

VESTA has booked the BCTF workshop, **Project of Heart**, for 9am to noon on the January 25 Pro-d day. The BCTF's description of the workshop is

Project of Heart is an inquiry-based, hands-on, collaborative, intergenerational, artistic journey for seeking truth about the history of Aboriginal people in Canada. This teaching resource examines the history and legacy of Indian residential schools, commemorates the lives of the thousands of Indigenous children who died as a result, and prepares students to engage in social justice activities that contribute to the developing truth and reconciliation movement.

If you are interested in attending please email [andrea@vesta.ca](mailto:andrea@vesta.ca) to register.

## Dates to Remember

Meetings at the VESTA office start at 4pm unless otherwise indicated

**Adult Ed AGM**  
Sunday, November 18  
@ 11 am

**Staff Rep Assembly  
/General Meeting**  
November 20

**Social Justice  
& Solidarity Committee  
Meeting**  
November 22

**WLC/B  
Committee Meeting**  
November 27



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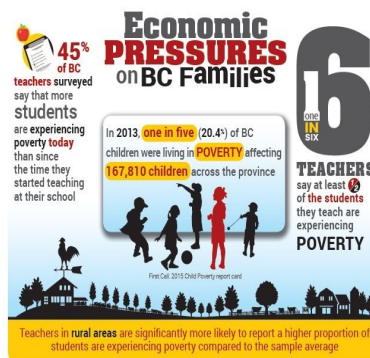
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VESTA

*The Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association is the union representing elementary teachers and adult educators working in public schools in Vancouver.*