



Stronger Together

VESTA Weekly

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

October 31, 2019

Reminder! Red for BCed Rally for Public Education Tuesday November 5th

Come join us at a rally for public education on Tuesday November 5th at 3:45 pm. We will meet at NDP MLA George Heyman's office at 642 West Broadway, near the Broadway-City Hall train station. Set the time aside, wear your red shirts, and we will have pamphlets to hand out. Encourage your colleagues to come out in a show of solidarity around the need for BC to increase public education funding, which is about \$1,800 less per student than the Canadian national average.

Rally for Hotel Workers November 1st

Come [support](#) striking Unite Here Local 40 hotel workers at the Rosewood Hotel Georgia (West Georgia and Howe) at 5 PM on Friday November 1st. The hotel workers have been on strike for 6 weeks for better working conditions, including sexual harassment protections. As stated on their [website](#), the BC Labour Relations Board ruled this week that the Hotel Georgia's use of managers to do the work of striking employees is one of several breaches of BC labour laws perpetrated by the employer. Several other Unite Here Local 40 locals at hotels in Vancouver have come to an agreement to settle their strikes with their employer.

ShareEdBC Beta Testing

At the October 15th Staff Rep Assembly, a motion was passed that VESTA members not volunteer to participate in the ShareEdBC beta testing. This Ministry of Education project, originally known as Wonderlab, is funded with a grant provided by Telus. BCTF representatives involved in the Wonderlab project had concerns around the influence of Telus in the development of this online resource sharing platform. VESTA and the BCTF have policy around corporate funding of public education and corporate influence in schools. In addition, there are concerns around features of the website that allow users to evaluate teachers' submitted resources. The BCTF has its own website, [TeachBC](#) for teachers to share and view resources.

Dependent care costs for Staff Reps attending Staff Rep Assemblies

A reminder that VESTA policy 12.E.4 states that Staff Reps can "be reimbursed for any dependent costs that would not otherwise be incurred by the member at a rate of \$15/hour up to a maximum of \$200 per day." Staff Rep Assemblies often run from 4 to 6 pm. If you are a Staff Rep, and attending the monthly meeting at Tupper requires you to extend your dependent care beyond the usual time, you can apply to be reimbursed for the extra cost. Contact olgac@vesta.ca for more information. This policy also applies to any VESTA member serving on any committee of the Association, or representing VESTA on any other committee, task force, or working group.

Dates to Remember

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

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting

November 5

Please note: 4:30-5:30

WLC/B

Committee Meeting

November 5

Please note: 4:30-5:30

Ab Ed

Committee Meeting

November 6



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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.