



Stronger Together

January 10th, 2020

VESTA Weekly

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

Changes to TQS Policy and Salary Category Criteria

The TQS has made changes to its policy regarding the different salary categories. To ensure you are not missing out on salary, please check the [BCTF website for detailed information](#) on what the changes are. As outlined on the BCTF web page, if you require clarification on how these changes might affect your upgrading requirements or current category placement you can request a Director's review of your file. The Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) places teachers in the BC public school system into a category for pay purposes based on their education. If your education credentials change, teachers must apply to make upgrades to their category, it does not happen automatically.

Teachers of Inclusive Education PSA 2020 Crosscurrents Conference

TIE-BC, a BCTF Provincial Specialist Association, will be hosting their 2020 Crosscurrents conference on February 20-21 in Richmond BC. This year's conference has many workshops of interest to inclusive education specialists and classroom teachers. The keynote speaker is Zach Anner, a public speaker, comedian, writer and disability advocate. Topics of workshops include strategies to modify curriculum, proactive strategies for children with challenging behaviours and developing self-regulating learners. Registration information is at www.tiebcbrochure.com, and there is a discount if you register before January 15th.

Workshops for your February Professional Development Day

Next month is Black History month, and an opportunity to highlight the contributions of Black Canadians to our history and culture over the years. The BCTF Social Justice [Antiracism action group](#) has a web page with resources to support teachers in planning activities for [Black History Month](#). If you haven't booked a workshop yet for your February Professional Development day, the BCTF also has workshops for teachers on anti-racism, equity and inclusion that you could book. Some suggestions are "[Responding to racism in the workplace and the classroom](#)" or "[Advancing equity and inclusion in our schools and communities](#)" and "[Incorporating Antiracist Strategies into BC's Revised Curriculum.](#)" There is no charge for these workshops.

Retirement Workshop "There's Also the Money" January 16th

An additional session of the BC Retired Teachers' Association "There's Also the Money" workshop has been added on Thursday January 16th. Topics include government pension and health benefits, non-governmental group benefits and online planning tools. The workshop runs from 4-6 PM at the VESTA office. Contact lori@vesta.ca with your full name and school site to register. No 'drop ins' please.

Support Australia Fire Relief Efforts

As fires continue to burn across Australia, help is urgently needed. Here is a link through canadahelps.org where you can donate to various charities, like the Canadian Red Cross or Disaster Aid Canada to support fire relief efforts. The fires in Australia are linked to global warming— this [BCTF document](#) about the September Climate Strikes provides links to resources that you can use to educate about the climate emergency and related environmental issues.

Dates to Remember

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

Health & Safety Committee Meeting
January 13

Executive Committee Meeting
January 14

Aboriginal Ed Committee Meeting
January 16



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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.