



Stronger Together

January 31st, 2020

VESTA Weekly

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

VESTA Pro D Funding Policy

Thank you to all who came out and participated in the debate at the January 21st VESTA General Meeting. At that meeting, VESTA members passed the following motion: "That Pro-D Funds including Temporary Supplemental Funds not be used to fund summer professional development." We recognize that many members choose to do Pro D during the summer and this motion doesn't prevent teachers from continuing to do so. However, this motion means Pro D funds will only be used within the school year. The Temporary Supplemental Pro D fund is a fund to enable individuals or groups of teachers to engage in professional development activities and opportunities. These funds are in addition to the school based and Collaborative Inquiry funds already available. We encourage members to take advantage of this opportunity to apply for up to \$1000 to pay for your Pro D activities to be used within the bookends of the school year. Group applications are also encouraged for larger amounts (for example, to bring in guest speakers). [Applications](#) and [guidelines](#) are available on the VESTA website or at your school.

February is Black History Month

Black History month is an opportunity to focus on the contributions of Black Canadians to our history and culture. This BCTF Social Justice [web page](#) has many resources related to Black History month to support your teaching. The resources include booklists, videos and even local information. You can also preview movies and short films at the [National Film Board](#) on Black Canadian history where you might find appropriate resources for your grade level.

Health and Safety Workshop: Refusal of Unsafe Work

Open to all teachers, including TTOCs, the process of refusal of unsafe work will be covered in the school context. Scenarios and examples will be reviewed in order for participants to understand the kinds of circumstances under which refusal may occur. This 1 hour workshop is on February 26th from 4-5pm at the VESTA office. Please register by February 10th by contacting olgac@vesta.ca with the subject line "Health and Safety Workshop".

School Union Rep Training (SURT) February 4th and 13th

A staff rep from each school should register for the SURT held at the VESTA office. Please do not come without registering, or switch days without prior approval as we have limited space in our meeting room. Contact andrea@vesta.ca if you need the form.

Additional Delegates to the 2020 BCTF AGM March 14-17th

There is space for 1 additional delegate and two alternates to the BCTF AGM. To put your name forward, send an [application form](#) to the VESTA office. Additionally, delegates can be nominated from the floor at an additional General Meeting to be held on February 18th at 4PM, @ Tupper.

Dates to Remember

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

Social Justice & Solidarity Committee Meeting
February 3

WLC/B Committee Meeting
February 4

Aboriginal Ed Committee Meeting
February 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.