



VUESTA SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE 2020-2021 YEAR-END REPORT

This year, the Social Justice and Solidarity Committee was co-chaired by Elaine Ong, Namorsh Reddy, Jean-Michel Oblette, Simon Marmorek and Samuel Couture.

In addition to attending Executive Committee meetings and various Pro-D opportunities, committee co-chairs virtually attended both the Fall and Spring BCTF Metro West Zone Meetings, learning from and connecting with other Social Justice chairs and Political Action contacts.

We held monthly virtual meetings throughout the pandemic. Through the research and motion-building work of the committee's members, Social Justice & Solidarity sent three resolutions to the 2021 BCTF AGM regarding the presence of police liaison programs in BC schools. One resolution hit the floor and passed: "That the BCTF advocate for the reinvestment of funding from police programs in schools to greater mental health supports and restorative justice programs." We also brought forward similar motions to our Executive Committee. Furthermore, we advocated for VUESTA to pressure the employer on several equity issues including: progressing on the creation of gender-neutral washrooms in all schools; making menstrual products available in all washrooms; strengthening anti-racist procedures and policies; and tracking lost instruction time due to the failure of accessibility infrastructure. We also continued to share relevant social justice resources with each other during committee meetings and provided these to the wider membership through our meeting minutes.

In lieu of attending in-person events, we directed donations to organizations we had previously supported as well as organizations we are supporting for the first time: the Downtown Eastside Women's Center, Qmunity, CLICK, First Call and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation Sacred Trust.

We were privileged to have had guests from CODEV present at one of our meetings. Their presentation inspired VUESTA's support of two CODEV programs: 1) A non-sexist and inclusive pedagogy project in Honduras and El Salvador to help more women teachers organize, collaborate and take on leadership roles; and 2) A Federation of Columbian Educators "Schools as Territories of Peace" project which organizes pedagogical circles with teachers, parents and students to work towards a more peaceful society.

We are appreciative of all the support that the VUESTA office staff and IHTO liaison Jody Polukoshko have given us in order to be able to meet and to continue our work.

Respectfully submitted by co-chairs:

Elaine Ong, Jean-Michel Oblette, Namorsh Reddy, Simon Marmorek and Samuel Couture

On behalf of committee members:

Madelene Wong, Gina Csanyi-Robah, Guillaume Robert and Rowan Shafer