



School Team Bulletin

Volume 7 Issue 1

September 5, 2013

Bargaining Updates

Starting September 9th, a full 19 court days are set aside to hear our case for redress with respect to our 2011 Supreme Court victory which ruled Bills 27 and 28 unconstitutional. Both the BCTF and government agreed to postpone bargaining during this process. No provincial bargaining dates are set at this time; *the expectation is that we will be back at the table in early October.*

Prior to the summer break, the five months of negotiations were the most constructive in years. However, the playing field has shifted with the appointment of a new lead negotiator, Peter Cameron, and the replacement of the elected leadership of BCPSEA with another government appointee, Michael Marchbank. Our provincial bargaining team continues to work hard to ensure teachers receive a fair salary increase and reasonable improvements, implemented over time, to our working conditions.

Locally, bargaining continues and the VTF has bargaining dates set for September and October with the employer. Our local bargaining team will continue to exchange language with the VBE on issues important to Vancouver teachers.

VANCOUVER TEACHERS' FEDERATION

GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 12th
Tupper Auditorium • 4:00 pm

All teachers are encouraged to attend our VTF General Meeting. We would like to see every school well represented.

The following issues will be addressed at this meeting:

- **Bargaining Update**
 - Provincial Bargaining – Jim Iker, BCTF
 - Local Bargaining – Jody Polukoshko, VTF
- **CUPE Update** – Jim Iker, BCTF

Executive Committee Vacancies

Currently there are two vacancies for Member-at-Large and one for chair of our Social & Eco-Justice Committee on our Executive committee. Members interested in being elected to these positions will need to be nominated and elected (or acclaimed) at our upcoming Council meeting on Thursday, September 26th. This is a great opportunity to get involved, contribute to public education, and improve the working lives of colleagues. If you are interested in one of these positions, or would like more information, please contact us at the office.

Truth and Reconciliation

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission national event takes place in Vancouver this September. There are multiple ways for everyone to become involved, bear witness and show support. Events are scheduled throughout the day and evenings. Following the closing ceremonies a **Walk for Reconciliation** has been organized. For further details go to www.myrobust.com/websites/vancouver/index.php?p=719.



- September 16 **Lighting the Fire of Reconciliation** (Ambleside Beach)
- September 17 **All Nations Canoe Gathering** (False Creek)
- September 18-21 **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** – national event (PNE)
- September 22 **Walk for Reconciliation – A New Way Forward**
(Queen Elizabeth Plaza—10AM)

Teachers wishing to bring their class to attend "Fostering Reconciliation through Education" on September 19th **must register by September 9th (1:00 pm PST)**. The registration materials can be accessed at bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/AboriginalEducation/TRC-FosteringReconciliation-InvitaReg.pdf.

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School Team Elections

Elections to fill all School Team positions should be completed by Thursday, September 26th. Please ensure that a Staff Organizational Meeting is held to elect or acclaim all reps. Even if there are no contested positions, it is essential that the process be open and inclusive, and that all teachers have the opportunity to participate. The following positions are available in each school:

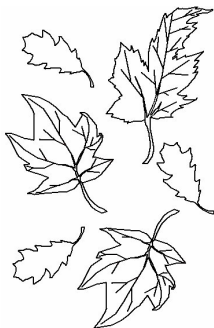
- Staff Reps (1 per 25 staff, or fraction thereof)
- Health & Safety Committee Rep
- Professional Development Committee Rep
- Social & Eco-Justice Rep
- Technology Committee Rep
- Working and Learning Conditions/Bargaining (2 reps)
- Parent Contact Rep
- Staff Committee Chair

Meeting dates for all standing committees are posted on the VSTA website by selecting the committee listed in the Upcoming Events box.

Please phone (604-873-5570), fax (604-873-3916) or email (mo@vsta.ca) your school's results.

First Council Meeting

Thursday, September 26th, 4pm, at the VSTA office, 2915 Commercial Dr. at 13th.
Meeting dates for all VSTA Council meetings are posted on the VSTA website by selecting the Council in the Upcoming Events box.



School Union Team Training

is scheduled for

Tuesday, October 29th

Workshop and registration details will soon be available.