



Tackboard

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Summer Interview Committees

The summer posting period will run from August 22 to 28. Interviews and offers for SPP [continuing positions](#) only will commence August 29. School interview committees will need to be convened to conduct these interviews. The VSTA position is that the school union representative on the interview committee must have attended the post-and-fill training provided at the April School Union Rep Training session. If none of your school's reps will be available for August interviews, please contact the VSTA office to arrange for a table officer to conduct the interviews. A limited amount of compensatory "time-in-lieu" will be made available by the VSTA for those staff reps who conduct August interviews. The next posting period will be Sept 5-11.



Rick Appel and Trish Mugford
Retirees' Dinner, June 20, 2017

President's Message



Late May and early June has been extremely busy at the VSTA office. Katharine, Trish and I have been fielding calls and supporting teachers on a number of issues

and staff reps have been working hard in schools through the staffing and timetabling season. The chronic shortage of teachers in British Columbia has come home to roost in Vancouver, with many teachers missing their preparation blocks to cover for absent colleagues due to the lack of TOCs. The VSTA has urged the VSB to continue to hire as many TOCs as possible and have been receiving regular updates on this progress. Due to the influx of staffing across the province as a result of teachers' win at the Supreme Court, there has also been a number of teachers who have chosen to relocate closer to home or to other communities.

The integration of our restored contract language on class size and composition has been uphill work in Vancouver and coupled with the disruption that has occurred at senior levels of the VSB and the ongoing ambiguity of the provincial government, I am deeply disappointed to report that it seems that we will need to keep fighting to have our contract provisions fully restored in Vancouver. Of chief concern is the VSB's application of some, but not all, of the required provisions in the "Best efforts" section of the Memorandum of Agreement that integrates our restored contract provisions. Also of great concern is the very recent news that the VSB only applied for \$42m of the \$57m available and in turn received a total of only \$35m to integrate the restored provisions. Although not certain yet, this may necessitate the wholesale

reorganization of staffing and timetables in schools over the summer and next few weeks. Please make sure that your personal (non VSB) email is up-to-date with the VSTA so that you can receive updates from us on this situation. Please also be judicious as to the level of preparation you dedicate to your course load over the summer — the load may change.

Several roles at the VSTA are changing. Katharine Shipley is stepping into the role of President while I will remain in the office as a Vice President and begin serving on the BCTF Executive, and Trish Mugford is moving on to her new job as Transitions teacher, while Terry Stanway and Treena Goolieff are coming in to the office as newly minted Vice Presidents. Our anchors will continue to be Mo Louie and Kim Pereira, our administrative staff, who keep us organized, grounded and ready to serve the membership.

Although Trish was at the VSTA office as a Table officer for only one year, she had a great effect on the well-being of many members as the point person for our Health and Wellness portfolio. She was also integral in our engagement with parent groups and PACS in the lead-up to the election along with the many member service inquiries we field each day. We will miss her but know she is not far away!

On a personal note, it has been an absolute privilege to work for teachers in the role of President over the last two years. I feel very lucky to have had this incredible opportunity. While the time seems to have flown by, we have been through much together and I am very much looking forward to continuing advocate on behalf of teachers in my new provincial role. Please have a safe and happy summer, spending time with your families and friends and enjoying yourself. You've earned it!

Take care,

Rory

Christy Clark's attempt to cling to power putting start of next school year at risk

“The BC Liberals and Premier Christy Clark are putting the successful start of the next school year at risk by clinging to power,” said BCTF President Glen Hansman.

“When the Supreme Court of Canada restored what was illegally stripped from teachers' collective agreements, the education community in BC was relieved to know that smaller classes and more supports for children with special needs were finally on the way,” said Hansman. “The subsequent implementation agreement set a clear path forward to ensure that next school year starts with better teaching and learning conditions in place. Unfortunately, the government's stalling tactics since the May 9 election created huge uncertainty for school districts who must finalize their budgets by June 30. Christy Clark has been so busy with

delays and political theatre that her government is putting our students' education at risk again.”

Hansman said school districts have been hamstrung for weeks by not knowing how much funding they were getting to implement the restored contract language. It was only late last week that the government informed districts of their funding allotments, and in many cases, the amounts came up far short. The result is more potential cuts to school programs and staffing.

“Springtime is normally when all the hiring and organizing occurs for students' classes in the fall,” said Hansman. “Because of the delay and uncertainty in funding, many of these processes have been on hold or not completed. Now, with districts around the province receiving significantly less than what is needed and expected, the BC Liberals have allowed uncertainty and instability to play out at a critical time. It is unacceptable.”

In Vancouver, it has been [reported](#) that the school district is getting \$22 million less than expected, which will result in fewer classes meeting the class-size and class-composition limits. The district is also proceeding with more cuts to adult education programs.

In Saanich, the provincial government has shorted the school district the [\\$1.5 million in funding](#) needed to hire the 15 new teachers to meet the restored contract language.

In Richmond, the school district [sent a letter](#) to all employees outlining that the provincial funding shortfall means 100 fewer teachers than what the district believes is required.

[Kamloops](#) and [Abbotsford](#) school districts are planning to cut 18 and 11 education assistant jobs, respectively. This is a direct result of inadequate government funding.

“If the provincial government doesn't act quickly to meet the real funding requirements of school districts, next school year is going to be unnecessarily chaotic and students will still be facing cuts,” said Hansman. “It's been almost two months since the election and our students need certainty, not more stalling. Christy Clark's ongoing efforts to put her political career before our students must come to an end.”



BCTF News Release
2017-06-27

New Westminster & District Labour Council invites you to celebrate

LABOUR DAY

Monday September 4, 2017

Holland Park, Surrey

11:30am-2:30pm

Join us for fun, food, music, and kid's activities



Holland Park is located at 13428 Old Yale Road across from the King George Skytrain station. Park and rides are located at Scott Road and South Surrey, and there are some pay parking lots nearby. Parking at Central City is not permitted for park activities.

For more information contact the New Westminster & District Labour Council office, 604-291-9306 or nwdlc@shawcable.com

Local Plan Will Stay

Once again Vancouver teachers have voted to retain our current local Extended Health Benefits Plan. On March 29 and 30 Vancouver elementary and secondary teachers cast 2254 valid ballots. The result was that 71.2% of our membership voted to retain our current local Extended Health Benefits plan. ***This means that our current EHB Plan continues as is.***

As per the motion passed at the VTF General Meeting held on January 14, 2015, we will have a yearly review of the provincial EHB plan by the two Executive Committees (VESTA and VSTA) and a presentation to the membership. A subsequent membership vote to join the provincial extended health care plan will be by secret ballot **each year by June 30.**

Latest updates on education change, the revised curriculum, and assessment

As the current school year comes to a close, the BCTF's latest [Education Change Bulletin](#) is a comprehensive review of where things stand on curriculum revision, assessment, and overall education change. Go through the [current bulletin](#) or review [past editions](#) to learn more, read some useful analysis, and get important advice.

Working and Waiting – Then and Now

1967 – Campaign for Quality

Several thousand children in our province will benefit directly this fall from the BCTF campaign to improve learning conditions...

...we predict that classes of 40 or more will have virtually disappeared from our schools next September. Although eliminating ridiculously large classes is one aim of the BCTF campaign, it is not the main objective. We want to improve learning conditions for all students, not just those in large classes. The part of the campaign which has received most attention from the mass media is the move to eliminate the intolerable '40 or more' classes. More important, however, is the objective of making all classes small enough to permit teachers to give their students individual attention. We must not let people become hypnotized by the figure 40, lest they conclude that classes of 39 are satisfactory learning conditions...

...Everyone must realize that the BCTF stand on '40 or more' was taken to indicate a class size which no one could defend. Certainly we want to eliminate such classes, but we want to reduce all classes to a desirable size, not merely to eliminate the intolerable ones...

...Surely no one can seriously dispute that education is an investment which pays high dividends to both the individual and to the community. The question is not 'Can we afford quality?' but 'Can we afford not to have it?'...

Excerpt from: "Campaign for Quality." *The BC Teacher* 46.8 (May-June 1967): 330. *BCTF Online Museum*.

2017 – Post-election/Pre-government

Teachers have been working hard in schools, advocating with the public and ... waiting... for a very long time! As we reflect on the gains we have made over the past 50 years and more, we must recognize that although slow, our progress is steady.

As teachers head off into summer after working hard all year, they will be exercising that other skill they have become very familiar with – waiting:

- **For a new government**
- For current government to adequately fund public education
- For government to bargain in good faith
- For several provincial court cases to resolve the dispute between government and BC Teachers
- For the Supreme Court of Canada to hand down the final ruling
- For the agreement on implementation of the SCC's ruling that restoration of stripped language must occur
- For restoration of stripped language to actually occur
- For May 9th Election Day, for May 26th final vote count, for June 22nd Throne Speech
- **For a new government**

The past 50 years of working and waiting continues, as cycles do – what remains remarkably constant is the determination of teachers to uphold the "Campaign for Quality".

VSTA Annual General Meeting Report

The VSTA Annual General Meeting took place on May 16, 2017 at the Tupper auditorium. There were two constitutional amendments passed. The first will result in the winding down of the Salary Indemnity Fund once the funds are depleted. The second allows for the addition of a part-time third Vice-President in years when an IHTO is elected to the BCTF, as is the case for the 2017-18 school year. As part of the Financial Report there was an accounting of the 100 Release Days for 2016-17 and the 2017-18 proposed budget was passed.

VSTA Executive Committee for 2017-18:

President: **Katharine Shipley**;
1st Vice-President: **Rory Brown**;
2nd Vice-President: **Treena Goolieff** (EH); 3rd Vice-President: **Terry Stanway** (VT); Treasurer: **Phil Lee** (VT); Local Representatives: **Katharine Shipley**, **Phil Lee** (VT), **Sara McGarry** (TTOC), Alternate LR: **Sylvia Metzner** (EH); Members-at-Large: **Michael-Don Borason** (VT), **Madeline Brewster** (TTOC), **Natalia Mayor** (GLAD), **Scott McKeen** (LB), **Sylvia Metzner** (EH), **Nancy Palejko** (PW), **John Silver** (JO); Standing Committee Chairs - Professional Development: **Leanne**

Hagglund (VASS-Pinnacle); W/LC & Bargaining: **Treena Goolieff** (EH); Health & Safety: **Brett Gabelman** (TEMP); Social & Environmental Justice: **Shelby Calman** (LB); Technology: **Peter Halim** (EH); Teacher-on-Call Rep: **Sara McGarry**. While scrutineers counted ballots during the elections, door prizes were awarded and after the meeting members enjoyed a social hour. We wish to extend our thanks to outgoing members Ryan Fullerton, Peter McLennan, Trish Mugford and the rest of the 2016-17 Executive Committee for their dedication and countless hours of service over the past year.

Congratulations to the Retiring Class of 2016-17!



VSTA Retirees' Dinner, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, 2017-06-20

Jim Campbell, Donald Chang, Geoffrey Clay-Smith, David Coopersmith, Randy Coutts, Jan Crawford, Judy Dabideen-Sonachansingh, Nancy Derpak, Marian Dill-Jones, Eileen Edwards, Moira Ekdahl, Mary Filleul, Lisa Ford, Patricia Gordy, Lynda Hall, Denise Isomura, Aurelia Jacob, William Jajic, Leslie Johnstone, Laurie Kidd, Stephanie Koropatnick, Patti Koyanagi, Robyn Littleford, Karen Lowe, Mary Lukacs, Marney Maretic, Perry Mathias, Jo-Anne McCluskie, Diana Mogensen, Rodica Munteanu, Janet Nicol, Lee Nipp, Daniel O'Gorman, Elizabeth Peterson, Don Phillips, Fernanda Pires, Jo-Anne Roberts, Paula Saar, Stephen Scherf, James Scoten, Ashley Sellick, Jacqueline Siller, Paul Sinclair, Kristina Tanner, Kathleen Thompson, Sophia Thomson, Shirley Turner, Xiaohui Wang, Shirley Woo.



For more pictures from the Retirees' Dinner, go to <http://vsta.ca/retirees-dinner-2017/nggallery/thumbnails>.