

TACKBOARD

The monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association

President's Message

WELCOME BACK from what we hope was an excellent summer! Since Rory, Treena, Terry and I returned in late August there has been a deluge of post and fill questions, as well as all the other interesting and complex questions we receive at the VSTA office. We want to thank all the hard working Staff Reps who provided valuable assistance during school based interviews at the end of the school year, over summer and now into the fall.

Since the Election in May and the final departure of Christy Clark's government, the tone in the world of public education in BC has improved considerably. Our meetings with VSB Senior Management have been open, communicative and productive, and there is a sense of optimism that better things lie ahead for public education now that the dark days of the Liberal government have come to an end. However, the unfortunate delay of the government's stepping down has had unpleasant ramifications for us in Vancouver, not least of which was the unexpected end of June announcement to the Board by the Ministry of Education that the VSB would be receiving 80 FTE less than what they had requested. This unfortunately resulted in the collapsing of classes, changes to teachers' loads and even surplussing.

The bulk of our work this fall will be tied up in dealing with the disagreement over the interpretation of our restored language and the implementation of the remedy. The Supreme Court Win signified

two important wins: that we have the RIGHT to bargain class size and composition as well as the restoration of our language. As we know in Vancouver, section 22.D (Best Efforts) in the Memorandum of Agreement has been interpreted by the Board to mean that



they can place more than two designated students in a class. When we receive the class size and composition data at the end of September, we will likely be filing many grievances, which may ultimately lead to an arbitration. Although this may seem disheartening, we do know that are

more teachers working in Vancouver than there was this time last year, despite the ongoing recruitment challenges faced by districts across the province.

The by-election for Vancouver School Board trustees is happening on October 14th. Treena Goolieff, our 2nd VP and Sara McGarry, our TOC Rep on Executive, have been working on the election including an election package for PAC Reps to share with parents. You will see our endorsed list of candidates in this issue of Tackboard. The voter turnout will be small which means that every vote counts – please take five friends to the polls with you. If you don't live in Vancouver, please share our list of endorsed candidates with your friends that do. Having a publicly elected School Board that is responsible to the community is essential to the working of our School District and our collective professional health.

This issue of Tackboard is full of Pro-D

see **PRESIDENT**, back cover

VSTA SIF 2017-18 Fees

WAIVED

As per the decisions made at the 2017 VSTA AGM, fees will be permanently waived for all existing members of the VSTA Salary Indemnity Fund. The VSTA SIF is an optional fund that 'tops up' the BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan that is automatically available to all teachers. If teachers have been up-to-date on VSTA SIF fees until 2015-16, they will remain members of the VSTA SIF in perpetuity until they retire, terminate employment or the VSTA SIF is exhausted of funds. To ascertain if you are a member of the VSTA SIF or for any other questions regarding the Fund, please contact Kim at the VSTA office directly at kim@vsta.ca

Tackboard is a newsletter produced and distributed to all secondary teachers on a monthly basis from September to June. It is designed to meet the needs of the VSTA members and contains information on an array of subjects, ranging from the VTF Collective Agreement to the President's Message to current news about the state of public education and its implications for Local 39.

In addition to our usual paper copies distributed to members, you will be emailed a link to the latest issue of Tackboard via Campaigner.

Current and past issues of Tackboard are also available on the VSTA website at <http://vsta.ca/publications/tackboard/>.

Do you know your **LANGUAGE?**

CLASS SIZE LIMITS VARY

CLASS	SIZE
English	28
Home Ec	28
Tech Ed	24
ELL Level 1-2	20
ELL Trs	25
All others	30

CLASS SIZE IS REDUCED WHEN:

REASON	REDUCTION
1 or 2 students with a designation	-1
Multi-grade classes (not ELL)	-2

FOR EXAMPLE:

Foods 9/10:	28
2 students with a designation	-1
	-2
	= 25 students

Social Studies 11:	30
1 student with a designation	-1
	= 29 students

As per the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), a class will trigger remedy if there are more than two students with a designation and/or it exceeds class size limits.

Contact your Staff Rep, WLC/B Rep, or the VSTA office if you have questions.



RESTORED LANGUAGE

and

Memorandum of Agreement

On November, 10, 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruled that the former government acted illegally and unconstitutionally since 2002. The SCC ruled to immediately restore our collective agreement language on Class Size and Composition. The ruling prompted the creation and signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to guide the language restoration process. Within the MoA there are six (6) best efforts that must be considered. If 'Best Efforts' have been met, but still a class is in violation of class size or composition, remedy will be calculated as outlined in the MoA.

Despite the definitive SCC ruling, political will and a commitment from our current government to reinvest in Public Education, 15 years of neglect will not be corrected overnight. The current challenge rests within the MoA and the best efforts clause which obstructs or excuses full restoration of our language due to a legacy of underfunding.

This then marks a point we must look forward to contemplate the next round of bargaining, as both our Collective Agreement and the MoA expire on June 30, 2019.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY
2017.10.05

Addressing
Violence,
Building
Respect



Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

www.ctf-fce.ca

Back to school teaching resources for teachers

from **Canadian Teachers' Federation**

We the Educators is an exciting new initiative created by Education International, the Canadian Teachers' Federation, and the Alberta Teachers' Association, that invites teachers to join in discussion on the future of public education. [<https://wetheeducators.com/we-the-educators-english-4a88a47ab2bb>]

Copyright Matters, which provides key questions and answers for teachers, and was produced by the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), the Canadian School Boards Association, and the Canadian Teachers' Federation. [<http://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/Pages/Issues/Copyright.aspx>]

Copyright Decision Tool, produced by CMEC, is a quick, handy reference to help teachers decide if the fair dealing provision allows the use of print materials, artistic materials, and audio-visual material or whether copyright permission is required. [<http://copyrightdecisiontool.ca/DecisionTool/>]

CTF publications catalogue has resources on a wide range of topics in English and French, available for purchase. The research library has many other publications of interest to teachers available without charge. [<https://publications.ctf-fce.ca/en/shop/>]

Imagineaction has many social justice publications, projects, and resources for teachers and students, as well as funding opportunities and resource persons to assist with school-community social action projects. [<https://www.imagine-action.ca/default.aspx?lang=EN&set=1>]

from **BC Teachers' Federation**

TeachBC – web based collection of BC teachers' lesson & unit plans as well as BCTF lesson & unit resources in English and French [<https://teachbc.bctf.ca/>]

Aboriginal Education Teaching Resources – web based resources to assist teachers in incorporating Aboriginal education into their classroom across the curriculum [<https://bctf.ca/IssuesInEducation.aspx?id=13404>]

VANCOUVER BY-ELECTION

Saturday, October 14, 2017

8:00AM to 8:00PM—Locations to be confirmed

The by-election to elect nine (9) School Board Trustees is fast approaching, and will finally return democratically-elected trustees to the VSB.

Our BCTF Supreme Court of Canada Victory on Class-Size and Composition from November 10, 2016, and the more recent swearing in of the new government will contribute to long overdue improvements to Public Education. As Vancouver teachers, we must take action to elect supportive School Board Trustees and ensure they are strong advocates for a quality, stable, well-funded system. This is an important piece to further public education.

At our first VSTA Executive meeting we reflected on the proven record of former trustees and/or candidates' actions as public education advocates. As a result, VSTA passed a motion to endorse the following eight (8) candidates.

Our VSTA endorsed candidates are:

✓	ALEXANDER, Joy	VISION
✓	BERCIC, Carrie	ONECITY
✓	CLEMENT, Ken	VISION
✓	FRASER, Janet	GREEN
✓	JAFF, Erica	ONECITY
✓	LAMB, Theodora	VISION
✓	LOMBARDI, Mike	VISION
✓	WONG, Allan	VISION



Historically, municipal voter turn-out is low, in the 2014 general municipal election was 44 %. Candidates can win or lose by only a handful of votes. Teachers have the power to make an impact. Beyond the commitment get to the polls on October 14th, consider these actions:

1. Talk to friends, and family members.
2. Distribute VSTA Poll Cards in your neighborhood or share it via social media.
3. Make a campaign contribution to the candidate(s) of your choice.
4. Volunteer on a campaign.
5. Contact the VSTA to get involved or to obtain more VSTA Poll Cards.
6. If you don't live in Vancouver, be sure to reach out to someone who does, and see that they get to the polls on October 14th!

ADVANCE VOTING: October 4 & 10

8:00AM to 8:00PM—Vancouver City Hall



October 20-21, 2017

Register NOW!

The last spots are selling fast!

<https://www.psasuperconference.ca/>

Registration for Super Conference includes

- Two full days overflowing with interactive, inspirational and highly applicable professional learning opportunities created by 25 BC PSAs.
- Over 30 remarkable keynote presentations on big ideas from every subject area, brain research, digital literacy, inclusion, and more.
- Your choice from hundreds of sessions offered in a variety of formats, including lectures and hands-on learning opportunities presented at Vancouver Convention Centre East, Pan Pacific Vancouver, Telus World of Science, and Stanley Park Ecology Society.
- Access to a massive Exhibitors Hall featuring the latest educational products and services.
- Unlimited networking opportunities with nearly 6,000 BC educators and education.
- Optional one-year membership to the PSA of your choice (additional charge).

PRESIDENT, from front cover

resources as September is the month when we have the energy to think about our big ideas for the year. Most schools have enough money in their Pro-D funds to reimburse part, if not all, of the cost to the PSA Super Conference and we urge you to attend this fantastic two day event happening in Vancouver.

Having sat through a number of interviews over the summer, I never fail to be amazed and inspired by the teachers working in Vancouver and all the good work you do for our collective children.

Best of luck for the start of the year.



Application Process:

Change of Salary Category for Teachers

Teachers are reminded that Human Resources has distributed copies of the document, *Information Regarding Teacher Salary*, including Application for Change of Category for Teachers” to all school sites. Teachers are advised to consult the document to gain an awareness of the procedure in place and the application form required to get retroactive pay when they apply for a new TQS card for salary change. All applicants must apply through TQS, the Teacher Qualification Service. Go to the TQS website at www.tqs.bc.ca for further information or call TQS at 604-736-5484.

2018 BCTF Conference for New Teachers, New Teachers Teaching on Call, and Student Teachers

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

The BC Teachers’ Federation will be hosting its 20th New Teachers’ Conference in Richmond on Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, 2018. The conference is a professional development opportunity designed specifically for teachers and teachers teaching on call in their first five (5) years of teaching. Student teachers are also invited.

Responsibilities of facilitators

- Prepare and present a 90-minute workshop:
 - a) to participants with some classroom experience and prior knowledge
 - b) with examples from/for the target audience picked (K-3, 4-7, 8-10, 11-12, K-12)
- Present the workshop on Friday AND/OR Saturday.
- Have experience as a workshop facilitator and expertise in the content area.

For more info: <http://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/NewTeachers/conference/2018/Letter%20NTC%20proposal.pdf>

Application deadline:

Monday, October 30, 2017 at 5:00pm.

Complete the Workshop Proposal Submission Form at bctf.ca/forms/ntc.aspx?ekfrm=4671.

Educational Leave

Continuing contract teachers with the VBE are eligible for a variety of educational leaves (G.9.):

Teachers with a continuing contract for at least five (5) consecutive school years immediately preceding the date of requested leave may apply for a paid (60% of annual salary and allowances) education leave of one (1) year. Teachers applying for an education leave of one school year must apply in writing to the Associate-Superintendent-Human Resources on or before December 15 for a leave commencing in September 2018.

- Teachers with a continuing contract of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the requested leave may apply for a paid (60% of annual salary and allowances) education leave of less than one (1) school year, but longer than ten (10) school days. Teachers must apply in writing to the Associate-Superintendent-Human Resources at least three (3) months prior to the commencement of the leave.
- Teachers with a continuing contract of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the date of the requested leave may apply for a paid (100% of annual salary and allowances) education leave for ten (10) school days or less. Teachers must apply in writing to the Associate-Superintendent-Human Resources at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of the commencement of the leave.

Application forms are available from the VBE.

TTOCs: Reminders for a new year

The BCTF has a myriad of resources available to TTOCs. Check out <https://www.bctf.ca/TeachersOnCall.aspx?id=5022> where the latest TTOC Alert is available.

Please remember that there is a **TTOC email listserv** that is available through the BCTF website. There are lots of tips and ideas that are shared through the list, and you are able to connect with other people from around the province. <http://bctf.ca/cgi-bin/maillinglistssub.pl>

TeachBC.bctf.ca is a relatively new website that is full of lesson plans for a single day, or a range of days. If you are called out into a subject area that you are not familiar with, please check out the web page for ideas and extra help. You can also upload any of your lesson plans that you wish to share.

Don't forget that you are part of the teaching force, and safety/security is part of your job as well. Please remember to ask the principal or secretary for any pressing information you may need to know before starting the day. Also, ensure you have a set of keys for the day to keep yourself and the students safe at all times. **If you are unsure about an issue or situation, contact the VSTA immediately.**