

Candidates for Delegate to the BCTF AGM 2023

VSTA members will be able to elect 15 delegates and 2 alternates to the BCTF AGM at the **VSTA General Meeting on January 24, 2023**.

[Advance registration](#) is required to attend the VSTA General Meeting. Registration deadline is **January 23rd, at 12:00 pm**.

CANDIDATES

Baldeep Bassi
Michael-Don Borason
Erin Cullingworth
Nicole Duy
Cynthia Ganatra
Carl Janze
Blair Miller
Denise Norman
Nancy Palejko
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts

Baldeep Bassi

John Oliver | 17.5 yrs teaching exp | Social Studies, English, Law, History, Social Justice, Psychology, VLN

As teachers, we have faced many uncertainties such as, increased workload, loss of Prep time, etc. which has affected our mental and physical health. Six years ago, I decided to join the BCTF Assistance Society to help my colleagues who are in financial need. My work in the society for the past 6 years has created an interest to attend the Annual General Meeting for the first time in March where I could listen and learn from all the voices within our membership. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to participate in a forum where the concerns of all BCTF teachers will be voiced and to advocate on behalf of VSTA on the concerns we have regarding the social/emotional well-being of teachers.

Michael-Don Borason

Britannia | 20+ yrs teaching exp | LALS, Physical Education, Art, Junior Science

VSTA/BCTF Experience:

- BCTF AGM Delegate (2008, 2010, 2012, 2013-20)
- VSTA Executive - Health & Safety (2018-present), Member-at-Large (2014-18)
- BCTF Health & Safety Advisory Committee (2019-present)
- BCTF Health & Safety Facilitator (2019-present)

CANDIDATES

Baldeep Bassi
Michael-Don Borason
Erin Cullingworth
Nicole Duy
Cynthia Ganatra
Carl Janze
Blair Miller
Denise Norman
Nancy Palejko
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts

Erin Cullingworth

Churchill | 19 yrs teaching exp | Social Studies, French Immersion, Faculty Associate, Transition Teacher, Peer Support Consultant
I have been a Vancouver secondary teacher for the past 19 years, working in schools across the city, and have also worked in schools across the province in my roles as both Faculty Associate and Peer Support Consultant. As such, I understand how the issues faced by Vancouver teachers fit into the larger picture of teaching in BC, and can work to find areas of common ground with delegates from other districts. In addition, my experience as a Peer Support consultant means I understand the unique struggles of teachers who are going through evaluative and disciplinary processes, and my hope is to represent them as well as the VSTA. Finally, this year I am bringing a motion to the AGM that affects the Peer Support Program and would like to be at the AGM in person to speak to it and answer questions on it. I appreciate your endorsement and am happy to answer any further questions via email.

Nicole Duy

Prince of Wales | 7 yrs teaching exp | English, Social Studies, French
During my time at PW I have served as Staff Committee Chair, Staffing and Timetable Committee Chair, and Staff Rep. In each of these roles I have enjoyed learning about our union and supporting my colleagues. I have also come to appreciate the responsibility, balance, and listening these roles require. This year for the first time I am serving on Executive Council and the AGM would provide a chance to build my knowledge and experience. I would love the opportunity to work with the VSTA team and to represent our members as a local delegate.

Cynthia Ganatra

Britannia | 7 yrs teaching exp | Science, Chemistry
It would be an honor to represent the VSTA and attend my first in person BCTF AGM; I have previously attended two BCTF AGMs online as an observer. I teach Chemistry at Britannia Secondary and currently serve on the VSTA Executive as SEJ Chair, where I work tirelessly to advocate for all my colleagues. I was a participant of the very first BCTF Issue Session on Racism and have also served as Staff Rep, SEJ Rep, and WLCB Rep at Britannia. These experiences taught me that in order to make change, you must engage with your union. While on the SEJ Committee, I worked with other racialized members to create equity motions that led to the creation of the Teacher of Colour and 2SLGBTQ+ MAL seats on the VSTA Executive. It's important to me that marginalized groups are represented at all levels of our union. I am incredibly passionate about making our union a more just and equitable place for all our members.

CANDIDATES

Baldeep Bassi
Michael-Don Borason
Erin Cullingworth
Nicole Duy
Cynthia Ganatra
Carl Janze
Blair Miller
Denise Norman
Nancy Palejko
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts

Carl Janze

VSTA 2ND Vice President | 27 yrs teaching exp | STEM, ICT, PE, IE, Special Ed, English/ELL

I have been with the VSB since 1995 and served in numerous Union roles at the school, local and provincial level (Pro-D, WLCB, VSTA Tech Chair, BCTF WLC/BAC, BCTF AEAC) and have been fortunate to attend several BCTF AGMs. Being a part of representational democracy in action is a humbling experience and has shaped the core values that I reflect upon when I am called to act in service to and in the name of our members. As your Vice-president I would like to be in attendance to support the delegation and to represent and speak on behalf of Vancouver Secondary teachers. I would be honoured to represent our local union at the BCTF AGM. Thank you for consideration as a candidate.

Blair Miller

Kitsilano | 18 yrs teaching exp | Math, Information Technology, Business, Science, Distance Learning, Elementary, Technology Mentor

The past two years I served as a Secondary Technology Support teacher helping teachers with using technology for teaching and learning. This role provided a unique opportunity to see the workings of different departments at the board level, meet and hear from colleagues in a wide range of teaching areas and schools about their experiences and advocate to LIT for changes in technology policies and practices to support teachers. Having taken on the role of VSTA Technology Committee Chair this year, and as a new member of the Executive Committee, I am continuing this work. I have not yet attended a BCTF AGM and would be honoured to represent the views of the membership while gaining a better understanding of how we operate as a collective.

CANDIDATES

Baldeep Bassi
Michael-Don Borason
Erin Cullingworth
Nicole Duy
Cynthia Ganatra
Carl Janze
Blair Miller
Denise Norman
Nancy Palejko
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts

Denise Norman

Prince of Wales | 28 yrs teaching exp | Science, ELL Science, Chemistry, Physics, Summer School, Biology

I share with you a passion for public education. I hold degrees in Biochemistry (McMaster), and Secondary-Chemistry Education (UBC) and have a Special Education Diploma (UBC). I served as H&S Rep at Lord Byng and Prince of Wales. I have three grown sons. One has autism. They all attended public school in Vancouver. As a teacher and parent, I have observed the many varied challenges teachers face daily. I have witnessed the resiliency and passion of teachers who, despite these challenges, continue to work to ensure student success. I have many ideas on how to meet these challenges and improve conditions for all in the BCTF. I would love to share my thoughts and listen to others at the AGM conference. Through constructive discussion, we can create a brighter future for beginning and experienced teachers, summer school teachers and teachers-on-call. In doing so, we can brighten our students' future. It would be an honour to be your representative at the 2023 AGM conference.

Nancy Palejko

John Oliver | 18 yrs teaching exp | French, Spanish, ELL, Psychology
I currently teach languages and psychology. My teaching specialties include French, Spanish and ELL. I was VSTA Staff Representative at for at least 10 years, and I was a Member-at-Large for 7 years or so. In my capacity as BCTF AGM Delegate, I will listen, to the best of my ability, to the concerns facing our provincial membership. I think one of my strengths is speaking up when something uncomfortable or unpopular needs to be said. When the need arises, I will endeavor to do so.

Carmen Schaedeli

VSTA 1ST Vice President | 17 yrs teaching exp | English, ELL

In my role as an LR and EC member and now as the 1st VP, I have had the opportunity to represent our local interests at the provincial level and to connect with other locals and BCTF EC to work toward common goals. In all of my union work, I take the time to listen and to learn about the needs and concerns of our diverse membership and I take a thoughtful and measured approach to decision-making. If elected as a delegate again this year, I look forward to working with our delegate team to bring forward our unique secondary perspective in the meaningful debate and decision making that will set the direction of the BCTF.

CANDIDATES

Baldeep Bassi
Michael-Don Borason
Erin Cullingworth
Nicole Duy
Cynthia Ganatra
Carl Janze
Blair Miller
Denise Norman
Nancy Palejko
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts

John Silver

John Oliver | 25 yrs teaching exp | Technology Education

With the recent ratification of both our local and provincial contracts, we must begin to look forward to our next round of bargaining. There were gains made but we left many important negotiating elements on the table. It is time to quickly regroup and focus on improving our working conditions. The AGM will chart a path forward for our members. I would be honoured to be a delegate to make these important choices for our profession. I am hopeful that our strength in solidarity will provide us with the improvements we need to make our next contract more superior to our current conditions.

Terry Stanway

VSTA President | 36 yrs teaching exp | Math

I have been with the VSB as a Math teacher at Van Tech since 1992 and for the last four years, I have been pleased to serve as first one of the Vice-Presidents and now President of our Association. I believe that the issues challenging our profession and public education in general need to be contemplated at both the Local and Federation levels. I also believe that we have reliable and balanced methods for both informing and obtaining the views of our members regarding these challenges. I would be honoured to be a part of the VSTA team representing our members' views at the AGM.

Jesse Taylor

Magee | 10 yrs teaching exp | Math, Science

I am putting my name forward again to be a VSTA delegate to the BCTF AGM. My first year of attending the AGM was in 2020 - the first year we were dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic, and the first year the BCTF decided to hold the meeting virtually/online. I was also elected to represent the VSTA in 2021 and 2022 - again, both virtual meetings. If I am elected to again represent the VSTA at the AGM in 2023, this will be the first such meeting I get to attend in person - something I am very much looking forward to. As the incumbent WLC/B Chairperson, I have been clear through the years in that role that my view that the primary focus of union representation is to advocate specifically for better working conditions for all members and to ensure that the agreed terms of our collective agreement are adhered to in the workplace. And should I receive your support and again be elected as a VSTA delegate, this is the viewpoint that will guide my voting on your behalf.

CANDIDATES

Baldeep Bassi
Michael-Don Borason
Erin Cullingworth
Nicole Duy
Cynthia Ganatra
Carl Janze
Blair Miller
Denise Norman
Nancy Palejko
Carmen Schaedeli
John Silver
Terry Stanway
Jesse Taylor
Stephanie Tsui
Kailey Willetts

Stephanie Tsui

David Thompson | 17 yrs teaching exp | Secondary and Elementary ELL, English, Resource, Library, Computer Prep, Counselling

My name is Stephanie Tsui and I'm hoping to be chosen as a delegate for the 2023 BCTF AGM. For the past 6 years, I have worked as a Secondary School Counsellor and for the past 1.5 years I have been the ELL Department Head at David Thompson Secondary. I have served the VSTA membership as a DT Staff Representative for the past 4 years incorporating my belief in building and advocating for a professional community that is supportive of all. My role as a Staff Representative, Case Manager, and Department Head have prepared me to listen, understand, and advocate for the needs of those I serve. This work is based on my belief that when we work together, communicate thoughtfully, reflect, and act according to best practice, we are better able to navigate through complex systems and difficult situations to arrive at equitable and just outcomes. As a delegate, I will look for opportunities to improve working conditions, and ways to address the diverse needs of our district. Thank you.

Kailey Willetts

Britannia | 9 yrs teaching exp | English

My name is Kailey Willetts and I am a teacher at Britannia Secondary. I would be honoured to represent the VSTA at the first in-person AGM in years, after being an observer at the past two AGMs. I am currently Staff Rep at Britannia Secondary and have also served on Tech Committee as Tech Rep. Additionally, I participated in both the BCTF's and VSTA's first ever 2SLGBTQ+ Issues Sessions. I believe Vancouver secondary teachers deserve a strong voice at the BCTF AGM, and am passionate about advocating for all teachers, but in particular for ways we can make our working conditions more equitable and just.