



# TACKBOARD

*The monthly newsletter of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association*

## Summer Interview Committees

The summer posting period will run from August 14 to 20. Interviews and offers for SPP [continuing positions](#) only will commence August 20. 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 4-10.

**Congratulations** to you and another year filled with learning, building relationships, and professional growth! Your efforts helped students to create, to deconstruct, and to be better able to take on the challenges of the world around them.

As we consider the 2017-18 school year there were many highlights but two issues posed constant challenge; lost prep-time and Remedy.

Due to the TTOC shortage, teachers were regularly re-directed to cover classes and we clearly heard that this reality was much more than an inconvenience; it was demoralizing and exhausting. Guided by the mandate to provide some recourse to members, the VSTA was able to reach an agreement with the board and signed off on a Letter of Understanding (LOU) to provide teachers with financial compensation for the board's inability, due to the TTOC shortage, to provide contractual prep-time to teachers. Teachers have been offered payment for this overtime that will be provided in two installments. The first will be paid June 30, 2018 for lost prep-time dating September 2016 to March 15, 2018. The second installment will be September 15, 2018 for dates April 2, 2018 to June 15, 2018. The Prep-time Reimbursement LOU expires June 15, 2018.

The second challenge has been the ability to understand, access and implement Remedy as defined by the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). Due to our Supreme Court of Canada ruling of November 2016 and the MoA reached in March 2017 with BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) and the previous government, any class that remains in violation of our restored class size and composition language even after 'best efforts' will generate remedy minutes to be used by the teacher for prep-time or co-teaching. However, due to the large amount of remedy owed and the TTOC shortage, the board has been unable to provide all remedy to teachers. As a result, many teachers will sit with unused remedy minutes as of June 30, 2018. However, Remedy does NOT extinguish with the school year; the VTF is still in discussions the VSB regarding how this unused remedy from 2017-18 school year will be accessed next year.

It is important to note, however, that this year was better for many teachers as a result of our restored language, and we are hopeful next year will be even better with smaller classes and more classes compliant with our restored language. We also look forward to bargaining as our current Collective Agreement expires June 30, 2019.

We thank you for the phenomenal work you have provided to your students in classrooms, libraries, fields, labs, shops, and studios, and a special acknowledgment to our retiring colleagues who in a few days will close their classroom for the last time. We wish you well and thank you for your many years of service to our students. To all our colleagues, enjoy a well-deserved and restful summer holiday!

*Katharine, Rory, Ireena & Jerry*

"It's the end of the school year and I'm just bursting with so much energy that I think we should postpone summer," said no teacher ever.



# School Union Team Elections



As per established practice, elections for members of the VSTA School Union Team take place in the spring, or in the case of a school that expects significant staff changes, in the following September. Elections should take place at a Staff Organization Meeting. Uncontested positions should be acclaimed while contested positions must be determined by secret ballot.

## *The School Union Team consists of:*

- **Staff Rep** (1 Staff Rep for every 25 teachers or fraction thereof on staff)
- **Professional Development Chairperson** (1)
- **Working/Learning Conditions & Bargaining Committee Reps** (up to 2)
- **Health and Safety Committee Rep** (1)
- **Social & Environmental Justice Committee Rep** (1)
- **Technology Committee Rep** (1)
- **Parent Advisory Committee Liaison Rep** (1)
- **Election/Political Action** (1)

Members of the VSTA Executive are also considered to be members of the School Union Team. Committee Reps will also represent the school on the appropriate VSTA Standing Committee.

# WANTED

## LOCAL ELECTION CONTACTS

### Municipal Election

**OCTOBER 20, 2018** is the Municipal Election. The campaign to elect nine supportive School Board Trustees will be short but so important! For this reason we seek Local Election Contacts at each school to work with the VSTA to ensure Vancouver teachers have a say in who is elected to the Vancouver School Board.

Municipal elections traditionally receive low voter turnout, but organized efforts by teachers has real potential to improve overall turnout at the polls. Trustees that focus on improving Public Education and explicitly value the role and voice of teachers are allies we will work to elect.

#### LEC duties will include:

Connecting with the VSTA, disseminating information to members, create a Get Out the Vote Campaign at your school, and share information with colleagues via bulletin boards or staff meetings.

If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to your staff rep or contact us at the VSTA.



## VSTA AGM 2018 Report

**MANY THANKS** to all who attended the VSTA AGM on May 15 at Tupper to vote on important issues and elect the 2018-19 Executive Committee.

### The membership

- received a report and passed recommendations on the Salary Indemnity Fund (SIF);
- adopted the Audited Financial Statements for Year Ended July 31, 2017;
- passed the VSTA Budget 2018-19;
- appointed Auditors for 2018-19;
- passed changes to the VSTA Constitution and By-Laws;
- elected IHTOs and Executive Members for 2018-19;
- recognized and thanked Brett Gabelman who served as a member of VSTA Executive and Health and Safety Chair;
- received a bargaining update
- received a report on the recently signed Letter of Understanding on Prep-time Recovery.

### Congratulations to the elected In-House Table Officers and Executive Members for 2018-19:

President: **Katharine Shipley**; 1st Vice-President: **Treena Goolieff**; 2nd Vice-President: **Rory Brown**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President: **Terry Stanway** (VSTA/VT); Treasurer: **Phil Lee** (VT); Local Representatives: **Madeline Brewster** (KLN), **Phil Lee** (VT), **Sara McGarry** (TEMP); Members-at-Large: **Nikitha Fester** (VT), **Scott McKeen** (LB), **Sylvia Metzner** (EH), **Trish Mugford** (DLS), **Nancy Palejko** (PW), **Alyssa Reid** (WRE), **John Silver** (JO); Standing Committee Chairs - Professional Development: **Leanne Hagglund** (VASS); W/LC & Bargaining: **Treena Goolieff** (VSTA); Health & Safety: **Michael-Don Borason** (BRIT); Social & Environmental Justice: **Shelby Calman** (LB); Technology: **Peter Halim** (VT); Teacher-on-Call Rep: **Karine Ng** (TTOC).

We wish to extend our thanks to outgoing member Brett Gabelman and the rest of the 2017-18 Executive Committee for their dedication and countless hours of service over the past year.

# WANTED

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

### Curriculum Implementation Days 2018-2019

Next year's CI days will be held on November 9, 2018 and February 15, 2019.

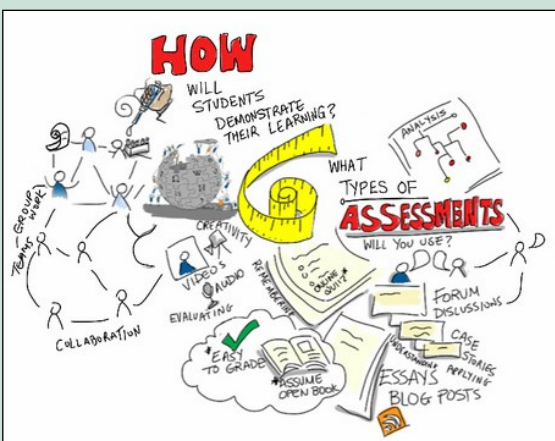
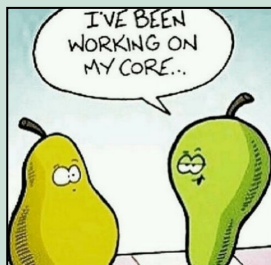
The November theme will be **CORE COMPETENCIES** and the February theme will be **ASSESSMENT**.

A planning group comprised of Senior Management, District teachers and VSTA and VESTA is working on the program.

The VSTA would like to invite any teachers who have been part of a Collaborative Inquiry Group focussing on the Core Competencies and/or Assessment to consider putting on a workshop on one of the days.

Further, we would also like to invite any teachers who are willing to share their practice on these two aspects of the revised curriculum. You do not need to be an expert! This would be a great opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and develop everybody's professional practice.

If you would be interested in presenting at either or both of these days, please send an email to [katharine@vsta.ca](mailto:katharine@vsta.ca).



# BARGAINING

## Preparation for June 30, 2019



As you are likely aware, our current Collective Agreement (CA) expires June 30, 2019, and given the history of collective bargaining since the previous government's unconstitutional legislation in 2002, we are hopeful that this government has a desire to shift the tone, be proactive and set the stage for a productive and positive round of negotiations.

In order to achieve a signed contract prior to the expiration of our current CA, BCTF has formally requested to open bargaining by December 1, 2018. Preparations are underway across the province to achieve this goal. In committee on May 31<sup>st</sup> VSTA ratified its list of Bargaining Objectives to send to the October 2018 Provincial Bargaining Conference. The decisions made at this meeting will determine the objectives and strategy of the provincial table, and our elected delegates will organize with the goal to see that Vancouver Secondary Teachers' objectives are central to debate. Among other items, salary increase was highlighted as a significant issue that must be addressed in the upcoming round of bargaining.

To provide your input to the bargaining process please contact the VSTA or speak with your Staff Rep.

## GRAD REQUIREMENTS

As part of the updated Ministry of Education graduation requirements, students in the new Graduation Program will have to complete a provincial literacy and numeracy assessment. The Graduation Numeracy Assessment is being implemented this year, and the Graduation Literacy Assessment will be implemented in the 2019–20 school year, replacing the existing Language Arts 12 examinations.

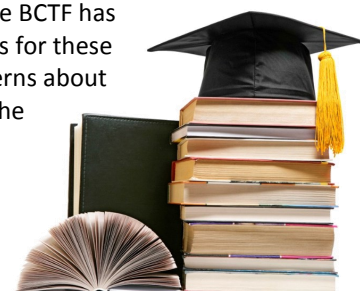
A motion was passed at the May 2016 BCTF RA meeting:

*That continued participation in the development of a new Provincial Student Assessment Program instrument at the secondary level be premised on student and school data being protected and therefore not released or available for misuse by outside groups; and, that an updated report and recommendations, as necessary, be brought to the fall Representative Assembly.*

At that time, the Ministry of Education failed to provide the BCTF with the required assurances regarding the use of data collected by the graduation assessments, so the BCTF withdrew from the development process.

The BCTF has recently become aware that the Ministry of Education has put out a call for teachers to apply to be on the marking teams for the Graduation Numeracy Assessment. As the BCTF has withdrawn from the development process for these assessments and continues to have concerns about the potential uses of the data collected, the advice to members is that they do not participate in these marking sessions.

Please communicate this advice to the members of your local.





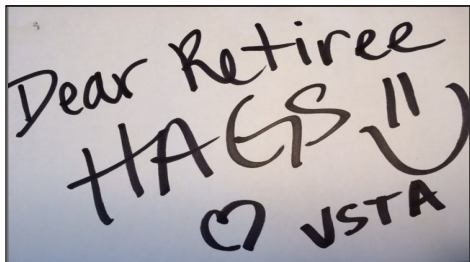


**VSTA Retirees' Dinner, Royal Vancouver Yacht Club, June 19, 2018**

Photo gallery: <http://vsta.ca/2018/06/retirees-dinner-2018/nggallery/thumbnails>

## *Congratulations to the Retiring Class of 2017-18!*

Mike Allina, Ali Astaneh, Alexander Baillie, Jennifer Belanger, Wyatt Bolton, Po Yu Chiang, Geoffrey Clay-Smith, Henny Coates, Alfonso Crescenzo, Avtinder Dhillon, Anne Downing, John Drescher, Cindy Dudra, Douglas Ekelund, Tim Gale, Fred Gault, Nadia Grunwell, Ray Guraliuk, Richard Helem, James Hill, Wayne Hogaboam, Dan Kamin, Gerry Kuniss, Carl Larouche, Denis Lejay, Brad Lloyd, David Low, Takeko MacDonald, Deborah Matheson, Lucy Mattu, Elizabeth McNicoll, Sara Neil, Jacob Neu, Karen Ostrom, Robert Paquin, John Rowland, Anne Sander, Lois Sanford, Wayne Shaddick, Michael Sheane, Paul Sinclair, Don Staller, Lee-Ann Strelzow, Lorri Taylor, Elizabeth Vikner, and Jesse Wong.



### **British Columbia Teachers' Institute on Parliamentary Democracy**

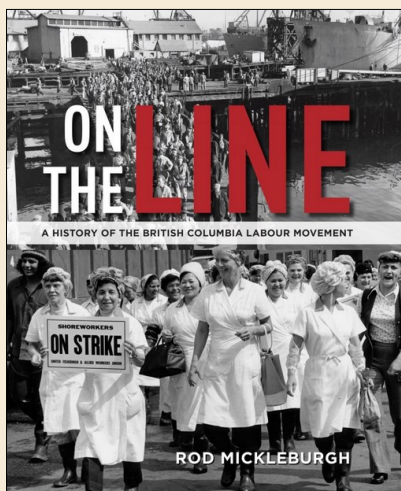
The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia offers BC teachers a unique professional development program at the Parliament Buildings in our provincial capital. Learn about parliamentary democracy and become champions of citizenship education. You will return to your school with an enhanced understanding of British Columbia's political system. You will meet with the Speaker of the House, MLAs, senior public officials and have a behind-the-scenes tour of your Parliament Buildings. You will also have plenty of opportunities to collaborate and share with your colleagues from across the province! Deadline to apply is June 29, 2018. Visit [www.leg.bc.ca](http://www.leg.bc.ca) for more information or <https://www.leg.bc.ca/learn-about-us/educational-programs-workshops/bcti>.

## **BC LABOUR HERITAGE CENTRE**

### **BC LABOUR HISTORY WALKING TOURS' APP**

now available on the Apple Store and Google Play

Locals as well as travellers will be able to visit sites of significance to workers' heritage that commemorate the importance of labour unions, individuals, collective actions, along with archival photos and short educational videos to enhance the experience. New locations and routes will be added regularly to expand and include routes around the province of BC. Download the tour on Google Play or Apple Store.



### **ON THE LINE**

In prose that is both accessible and engaging, accompanied by over two hundred archival photos, Rod Mickleburgh tells the important story of how BC's labour organizations have shaped the economic, political and social fabric of the province—at a cost of much blood, sweat, toil and tears. This volume is the most comprehensive overview of labour's struggle in BC and will be of particular interest to union members, community activists, academics and readers of regional history. Available at <http://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/>