

2019 VSTA AGM Candidates' Statements

FOR PRESIDENT



Katharine Shipley, VSTA

Representing VSTA members to the Employer is a job I take seriously and one that I have tried to fulfil with integrity. I am putting my name forward for a fifth and final year as a VSTA In House Table Officer – the last two years served as President. Thank you to my fellow In House Table Officers, our hard-working Executive members who give up many hours in volunteer time, and our School Union Team members for the support and guidance. As a believer that the Union and its members are one and the same, I will continue to support our Executive Committee to be a shared and collaborative responsibility, as well as supporting School Union Team members to feel empowered to deal with issues at the school level. I would be privileged to represent the membership for the 2019-2020 School Year as VSTA President.

FOR FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT



Treena Goolieff, VSTA

I continue to be committed to improving our working conditions and our students' learning conditions. I have been preparing for bargaining for years, and I am excited to put my knowledge of the Collective Agreement into action as VTF Co-Lead Negotiator (shared with Joanne Sutherland of VESTA) to further support our members. I believe my genuine desire to find solutions, to raise difficult issues even when uncomfortable to do so, and to be open to other perspectives are skills that support me in this role and as 1st VP. I have been so fortunate to work alongside Katharine, Terry, Shelby, Mo and Kim. They are wonderful colleagues and truly committed to improving our organization. I send out an extension of gratitude to the members of WLC/B and VSTA Executive, thank you for your work on behalf of your colleagues.

FOR SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT



Terry Stanway, VSTA / Vancouver Technical

I have been teaching at Vancouver Technical since 1992. Over this period, I have had several tenures on Staff Committee and have chaired our school Technology and Finance Committees. I have been a member of the Executive Committee since 2011 and currently share the role of 3rd Vice-President, dividing my time between Van Tech on Day 1's and the VSTA office on Day 2's. I have previously held the role of VSTA Treasurer. In the community, I am the Past-President and current Treasurer of the Association of Neighbourhood Houses of British Columbia. I have been a member of the ANHBC Finance Committee since 2005. As part of my work with ANHBC, I sat on a committee which oversaw a building redevelopment with a total budget of over \$20 million. I am interested in good governance in general and how financial management influences organizational structure and governance. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee to address the challenges facing the VSTA and district - including the challenges presented by the potential redevelopment of the VSTA/VESTA building.

FOR TREASURER



John Silver, John Oliver

I am currently a Technical Education teacher at John Oliver. I have been a Member-at-Large with the VSTA Executive for the past several years. Further, I have also been a delegate at the BCTF's AGM over these years as well as being a member of the Local Bargaining Team in the last round, as well as being on the team again this year.

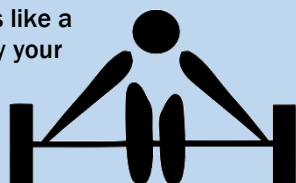
I am running for the position of Treasurer with the VSTA after being on the committee for a number of years. I have enjoyed learning about the financial structures of our organization and am ready to take on the role of Treasurer. One of the most interesting things we accomplished this year was the updating of Policy for the Finance Committee. One of the challenges ahead is the development of our building. Connection with our members will be very important through this endeavor.

VSTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

4:00 PM at Tupper Auditorium

Union membership is like a gym membership. You pay your monthly dues, but you must show up and participate to become **stronger.**



AGENDA

Financial Report
Election of VSTA Executive Committee 2019-20
Bargaining Update
Building Re-Development Project Update
Announcements
Door Prizes

Social for members following the meeting!

FOR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE – 3 positions



Shelby Calman, VSTA Office

The work I do in this Union is for the betterment of us all, the future of education, the future of youth and the future of our Union. During my time as one of the Vice Presidents at the VSTA, I had the opportunity to learn about the inner workings of the local and provincial Unions. I am cognizant of members' needs and how it frames our work locally. As a Table Officer, I have had experience to see how our members' issues can be brought to the provincial level to inform policy creation at the BCTF. As a Local Representative, it would be my duty to take what is important to our local to the BCTF. I am passionate about social and environmental justice and I also intend to focus on policy at the BCTF level for climate justice and equity and inclusion. My time in the office will enable me to represent our membership to the best of my capabilities at the BCTF.



Phil Lee, Vancouver Technical

It has been an honour to represent VSTA as a Local Representative to the BCTF for the past five years. With 23 years of teaching experience in Vancouver, I believe I bring the right mix of knowledge, experience, passion and commitment to this position. I am ardent about engaging members and learning about their perspectives, challenges and successes. I am wholeheartedly committed to supporting equity seeking groups and listening and acting on the concerns of all members.

Currently I am an elected member of the Rep Assembly Agenda Committee and I have served on the Resolution and Bargaining Committees for the BCTF. I have served as the VSTA Treasurer for the past 2 years. My past experiences also include Chair of the VSTA Health and Safety Standing Committee, Staff Rep and Executive Committee Chair.

I would be honoured to continue as a Local Representative so that I may bring forward issues and concerns of Vancouver teachers to the BCTF. Thank you for your support.



Preet Lidder, Windermere

I began my career in VSB at UHill and now teach at Windermere. Working at various schools has given me an understanding of the complex needs of our communities. Plus, teaching in multiple districts from Stikine to Haida Gwaii has furthered my understanding of how we fit into the provincial context of the BCTF. I have built relationships with many talented educators and am eager to bring their voices forward.

As Pro-D Chair at Windermere, I have worked to create meaningful, member-driven professional development opportunities. I have also advocated for a safer learning community at the staff committee level. Further, I was elected to attend the last two BCTF AGMs and learned immensely.

I am completing an M.Ed in Equity Studies which has reinforced my passion for equity and inclusion. All voices should be heard within our democratic organization. As a Punjabi woman working in an incredibly diverse local, I know that representation is vital to a thriving union. It would be an honour and privilege to represent your collective voice as a VSTA LR.



Alyssa Reid, Windermere

It is with great pleasure that I put my name forward for consideration for Local Rep. I understand the importance of this position to represent the entire membership, bringing our local's concerns to the BCTF, and it is a job that I would take seriously. This was my first year on Executive and I decided to dive in head first – I have had an exciting year learning a great deal from our IHTOs and the rest of Exec. This year I took on roles in our TFEU Liaison Committee, Finance Committee, as well as my biggest challenge - assistant negotiator on the local bargaining team. It has been a steep learning curve, but one that I feel I have grown and thrived in. I enjoy a challenge, and I have learned so much this year about process and structure within the union, and I feel I am ready to take on the challenge of Local Rep.

When I am not learning new things in the office, I am a Fine Arts teacher at Windermere Secondary.

FOR MEMBER-AT-LARGE - 8 positions



Paul Falardeau, Teacher Teaching On-Call

Hello folks! My name is Paul Falardeau and I am in my first-year teaching, working as a TTOC in the Vancouver School District. Though new to VSTA, I have already taken part in the work of our union, around the office and in the streets. Additionally, I served as a shop steward and negotiated a collective agreement as a part of BWDW Local 300. I hold a BA from UFV and BED from SFU. Though my specialty is English, I have a diverse background including time spent as a journalist, activist and community events planner. I am a published poet and essayist and love the arts, but also studied biology as part of my undergrad. Art and biology combined when I found work as a Brewer down on Granville Island. Born and raised in the Fraser Valley, I currently live in the beautiful Mount Pleasant neighbourhood. I may be new, but I'm eager to continue following a passion for union work and the vocation of teaching with the fine educators of Vancouver.



Nikitha Fester, Vancouver Technical

It is with a sincere interest that I am submitting my candidature for the position of Member-at-Large for the VSTA. I feel that I am exceptional candidate for this position because I am an effective communicator, problem solver and empathetic listener. In the past year, as a member of the Executive I have been a member of the Diversity Committee at the VSB. This committee has allowed me to share with the employer goals and intentions of the union, provide proposals for initiatives and provide feedback on decisions that the employer is making. As our schools become diverse, this work becomes increasingly important and I hope to continue it next year.



Sara McGarry, Templeton/TTOC

I currently teach English 9 and LSP English/Socials. I have been a VSTA executive member for four years; for the past two years I have served as Local Representative at BCTF Representative Assemblies and at BCTF AGMs. It is a privilege to bring forward VSTA motions and perspectives to discussions at the provincial union level. This year I seek re-election to the executive as a member-at-large. It would be an honour for me to continue to serve on executive.

This is a bargaining year, and a year of continued tension for Vancouver teachers. We face pressing issues such as seismic upgrades, a new provincial education funding model, and recruitment and retention concerns. I strive to increase my understanding of the issues, and will advocate for improved working conditions for our members, and better learning conditions for our students.

I continue to be inspired by the dedication of our local staff reps, VSTA Committee Members, our local Executive Committee, and by the work that *all* teachers do to support students in our district.



Sylvia Metzner, Tupper

While being back in the role of Resource Teacher at Tupper is an absolute pleasure, it also highlights the complex issues teachers continue to face in the classroom. There is always much work to do, from bargaining and implementation of our restored language to advocating for fully funded public education and pushing back against detrimental proposals to restructure the nature of funding for special needs students. I would be honoured to continue to represent my colleagues as a Member-at-Large on the VSTA Executive Committee.



Trish Mugford, District Mentor Support Teacher/Templeton

Once again, I am running for the position of Member-at-Large on the VSTA Executive. It is exciting to see the engagement of many new members and I am proud of the motions passed at the BCTF and within our local which encourage inclusion and diversity. I would be honoured to contribute my experience as well as my eagerness to learn. Currently I serve as a BCTF workshop facilitator and Parent Presenter, member of the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice and VSTA Executive Member-at-Large. My past experience includes VSTA Local Rep and Member-at-Large, VSTA 2nd Vice-President, Staff Rep, WLC Rep, Pro D Chair, PAC Liaison, and AGM delegate.



Nancy Palejko, John Oliver

I currently teach languages and psychology. My teaching specialties include French, Spanish and ELL. I have been a VSTA Staff Representative at for at least 10 years now, and I have been a Member-at-Large for the last 6 years.

If re-elected in my capacity as Executive member, I will continue to speak up when I feel more clarity is needed. I will continue to bring members' concerns to the table. I feel one of my strengths is speaking up when something uncomfortable or unpopular needs to be said and then discussed.

My particular interest lies in increasing member involvement in our union and helping our members understand how much the BCTF and the VSTA actually support us. I feel our Union is our only source of hope in maintaining our high BC educational standards in these times of cutbacks and market driven ethics.

I welcome the opportunity to offer my time and skills to serving as a Member-at-Large for the VSTA.



Nigel Reedman, Vancouver Technical

First off, thanks to everyone for taking the time to read through members statements. I have been teaching ADST (tech studies) for the past 11 years. Most of those years at Van Tech, but the first couple at Killarney. I have been involved with the VSTA directly since getting "tricked" into being the Health & Safety Rep when I started at Van Tech. Since then I have also been (and am currently) one of our Staff Reps and have been a VSTA delegate at the BCTF AGM and to the provincial bargaining conference. I am also the secretary for my provincial PSA. I feel my role as a Member-at-Large is to be a conduit for all members and making sure we continue on with communication between you, the Executive and then via our table officers to the District and BCTF. I look forward to the opportunity to continue all the work already being done alongside the other Executive members.



Standing Committee Chairs

FOR ABORIGINAL COMMITTEE CHAIR

No candidates.

FOR HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR



Michael-Don Borason, Britannia (committee endorsed candidate)

I am the Britannia Learning Assistance/Life Skills Program Teacher, and this past year I served as the Health & Safety Standing Committee Chair. I also was the VSTA representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), the District Emergency Management Team, as well as Co-Chair of our Executive meetings. Over the past 11 years, I have been a Member-at-Large with the VSTA for 3 years, and served on my school union team as a Staff Rep and W/LC Rep, and a BCTF AGM delegate for 10 years. In my first year as Chair for Health & Safety, I had opportunity to learn another facet of our school structure and system, but more importantly, was privileged to collaborate with fellow colleagues in the District, both in our schools and at the District level. This experience has inspired my desire to continue in this role and learn even more about Health & Safety, and perhaps contribute in the future at the Provincial level. I thank you in advance for your support!

FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR

No candidates.

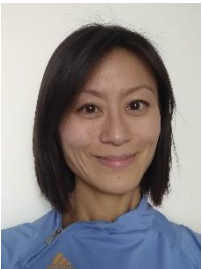
FOR SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CHAIR



Madeline Brewster, Killarney (committee endorsed candidate)

I am honoured to put my name forward for the position of Social & Environmental Justice Chair for the 2019-2020 school year. For the past two years I have served as a member of the VSTA Executive: one year as a Member-at-Large, and one as Local Rep to the BCTF. Through these positions, I have continually prioritised social and environmental justice; most recently I worked on a motion for the BCTF Rep Assembly to urge the government to provide free menstrual products in school restrooms, and I have collaborated on equity motions brought to Executive from the SEJ Committee. Two years ago I completed my M.Ed at SFU in the Equity Studies in Education program, where I focused on the influence of whiteness in education for my capstone project. Since then I have collaborated with my colleagues to continuously promote social and environmental justice in our school community through the construction of classroom resources and school initiatives. Thank you so much for considering me for this role.

FOR TEACHERS TEACHING-ON-CALL COMMITTEE CHAIR



Karine Ng, TTOC (committee endorsed candidate)

2018-2019 has seen another challenging year for many teachers to access remedy which relied on a healthy TTOC population. It has also been another year of increased awareness of the work that TTOCs perform to support and maintain the profession, however difficult and precarious our working conditions may be. I have been humbled by the talent and solidarity afforded to me as a rookie activist within the VSTA. Looking forward, my priorities are to be continue to act as a conduit between TTOCs and the VSTA to support our members individually and collectively, engage with new and early-career teachers, raise up the diverse voices of our membership, create a stable committee with core members, and build strong relationships locally and provincially to advance concerns particular to TTOCs.

FOR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR



Peter Halim, Vancouver Technical (committee endorsed candidate)

I have represented VSTA Technology on VSTA Executive and several district-based committees for the past three years. I have been endorsed by this year's Technology Committee to continue this work next year.

It has been a pleasure to see positive results from our advocacy, in the successful and well supported implementation of new teacher laptops, improved training supports, and better supported implementation of new communication tools.

Next year I hope to focus and advocate, on the behalf of our membership, for purposeful and well supported digital communications within our own organization and the employers' environment.

I look forward to applying my knowledge and experience in representing your perspectives and opinions on technology in 2019/2020.

FOR WORKING/LEARNING CONDITIONS & BARGAINING COMMITTEE CHAIR



Scott McKeen, Lord Byng (seeking endorsed at May meeting)

I am honoured to run for the position of Working Learning Conditions and Bargaining Chairperson for 2019-2020. I am currently on the VTF Bargaining Team and engaged in the local bargaining process. For the past four years I have been honoured to be a Member-at-Large and believe I am ready to take on more responsibilities with the Executive. At Lord Byng I serve as a Staff Rep, WLC&B Rep, plus PAC Rep and I am on the Timetable and Finance Committees. For two years I have stepped into the role of VSTA Aboriginal Education contact for BCTF Zone Meetings. I currently teach Social Studies and English First Peoples and coach Rugby and field hockey. I also have been actively engaged in the Curricula Implementation process, which includes working on an inquiry group that is looking at developing an interdisciplinary program focused on Community Stewardship and Environmental Sustainability using the First Peoples' Principals of Learning and Indigenous Ways of Knowing. I hope to bring my wide array of experience to the WLC&B Committee and I thank you for your support.