

VANCOUVER SECONDARY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TACKBOARD

Volume 35, Issue 1 December 2021



Dear Colleague,

Change is upon us at the office. After 32 years and many special memories, Mo Louie is retiring! Liz DeLong is an incredible new hire and will join Kim Pereira on our Team. We look forward to continuing our commitment to work for you-our secondary teachers. From all of us, we wish you a restful holiday and all the best in 2022.

Happy Holidays,



Treena, Terry, Alyssa,
Mo, Kim and Liz

Happy Holidays



VSTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2021-2022



TOP: Treena Goolieff (PRES), Terry Stanway (VP1), Alyssa Reid (VP2), John Silver (JO), Nikitha Fester (EH), Carmen Schaedeli (PW), Jonathan Wynn (WRE), Michael-Don Borason (BRIT), Spirit Lavallee (OUTREACH), Kathryn Walks (JO), Sarah Ng (BRIT).

BOTTOM: Carl Janze (TEMP), Paul Falardeau (TTOC), Jesse Taylor (MAGEE), Omar Kassis (VASS), Rohit Kumar (EH), Lindsay Donaldson (VT), Shannon Less (BRIT), Rod Ofreneo (VT), Bal Panesar (EH), Katharine Shipley (DLS), Matthew Sinclair (KG).



What were you doing?

It's time to go back...way back. Back into time. What were you doing in 1989? Were you dancing to Bobby Brown "My Prerogative" at your college mixer? Or slow dancing to "Right Here Waiting" by Richard Marx? Maybe learning the choreography to Janet Jackson's "Miss You Much"? Maybe some of you were buying your first home for a cool 120 grand and

enjoying filling up your tank at 49 cents/L. Some of you were probably cheering because Apartheid was being dismantled in South Africa, and the fall of the Berlin wall symbolized a new era. While some of us were simply matching our United Colors of Benetton, throwing on our Swatch and adding just a touch more hairspray before heading out the door. While we were all in our own worlds enjoying the peak of the 80s, our dearest Maureen (Mo) Louie, was beginning her first year at VSTA.



Mo Louie

What was your first year at the office like?

Mo: In 1989, I was introduced to a computer and was completely blown away that it could generate King George's staff list in under an hour!

What was your 80s style of choice?

Mo: Softball mitt, football cleats, and maternity clothes.

What is one thing you would add to make the space more enjoyable? Think big.

Mo: A NO-SHOP-TALK staff room for people to relax and enjoy some time with each other.

Has working here changed your perspective on anything? Relationships? Unions?

Mo: I was brought up with socialist values, so working for the Union was a natural fit. I have learned so much from my colleagues and teachers, and it has been incredibly interesting to listen to the many perspectives shared at Council and EC meetings. Of course, this question seems somewhat leading.... I am incredibly grateful to have met my amazing, supportive, wise, loving and hilarious partner, Leo Boissy, whose 5 years of retirement serenity will soon be shattered :)

What advice would you pass on to future Presidents?

Mo: From a classroom teacher to a defender of the Collective Agreement, activist, employer, building owner – it's a steep learning curve and requires tremendous commitment and long hours. IHTOs give and demand so much from themselves. My advice to them would be "remember to take time for yourself" OR "there are chips in the back closet".

Was there a golden era in the office? What was it like?

Mo: Soon to be released, "Memoirs of an EA".

Was there a favourite item on your portfolio?

Mo: So many. Retirees Dinner (loved all the speeches!), Tackboard, website, AGM, sorry, but even job actions and strikes were fun.

If you could come up with a slogan for the office what would it be?

Mo: "VSTA, where the temperature is always changing."

With 32 years under her belt, Mo is off to enjoy the best of the 2020s...though not quite the 80s, still a decade that holds promise. We wish you all the best during your retirement, Mo! Thank you for all that you have done for us, here at VSTA.

Tackboard also sat down with the VSTA TFEU Staff to record some of their memories, advice, and other thoughts on life in the office.



Kim Pereira

What is the key to having the office run in tip top shape?

Kim: Having good coffee, chocolate and chips on hand!

What do you love about coming to work here?

Kim: I love the location - working on Commercial Drive; I love being busy and supporting the table officers and members.

What was your 80s style of choice?

Kim: Big hair and padded shoulders!

What is the favourite item on your portfolio?

Kim: This is a difficult question – I enjoy working in a supporting role and helping others – to hopefully make their job/role easier and run smoothly.

If the office was a sitcom, what would it be called?

Kim: "The Office" ... or "All My Teachers".

What is one thing you are looking forward to in the new year?

Kim: We are expecting our first grandchild – a girl!.. I'll become a "Nonna" in January.



WELCOME

Liz DeLong

What is the first thing you need to know to work in this office?

Liz: Team work really does make the dream work. I am not kidding! Around here, as soon as you step inside, the positivity and support

from the IHTO's and office staff is contagious. This office has a lot of moving pieces, and I have been welcomed and supported since the day I started.

What is the best advice you've received about working in the office?

Liz: Always ask questions and never be afraid to speak up. We are forever learning in life.

If the office had a theme song, what would it be?

Liz: "Takin' Care Of Business" by BTO.

What is something you're looking forward to in the New Year?

Liz: Focusing on my wellness through yoga and hanging out with my husband and fur baby Jimmy.

The Mo Louie

Tackboard Challenge

Complete the quiz by **December 15th**. If you answer all questions correctly, you will be entered to win a prize of **one hundred and THIRTY-TWO dollars** to the BC Liquor Store in honour of Mo's 32 years at the VSTA. Winner will be announced in the December 16 Connect.

1. Who was the first president Mo worked with?

- a. Jim Gill
- b. Ellen Smith
- c. Teri Mooring
- d. Don Briard

2. True or false: There are chips hidden at the office.

- a. True, they are hidden everywhere.
- b. False, this is a no chips anywhere space

3. Which meeting takes Mo the most amount of time to prepare for?

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Annual General Meeting
- c. WLCB Committee
- d. Council



4. How long was the longest meeting Mo has ever recorded?

- a. 4 hours
- b. 6 hours
- c. 3 hours
- d. 7 hours

5. How many Presidents and Vice-Presidents has Mo worked with?

- a. 32
- b. 18
- c. 27
- d. 15

6. Quote from a president – "OK, let's finish this crossword before we go home." Who said it?

- a. Debbie Pawluk
- b. Irene Lanzinger
- c. Katharine Shipley
- d. Rory Brown

7. According to Mo, how many pizzas are enough pizzas for a Council meeting?

- a. 14 extra large pizzas
- b. 25 large pizzas
- c. 72 personal pizzas
- d. 10 meat, 6 vegetarian, 3 vegan, and 2 gluten-free pizzas



8. What would Mo say is her secret to not getting finger cramps while taking meeting minutes?

- a. stress ball ten minutes a day
- b. daily finger strength exercises with one of those spring-loaded hand exerciser thingies
- c. using 10-year-old minutes and changing the names, dates, and details
- d. having everyone speak s-l-o-w-e-r

9. How many meetings has Mo recorded minutes for?

- a. more than 1000
- b. around 800
- c. 259
- d. about 10

Go to quiz link:

<https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f/1/Mo>



One Mo Message

The in-house table officers wanted to do something special for me, but I told them I wanted to leave quietly, to take some time to transition out of a job I've loved so much before celebrating my retirement. Thank you, Nikitha and Sarah for offering me space in Tackboard.

It was with mixed feelings when I submitted my retirement notice after 32 years at VSTA. My life has been enriched by so many kind and lovely people, and I am proud to have worked for an employer who defends and advocates for public education and social equity. I am incredibly grateful to VSTA for the many opportunities, benefits and flexible working conditions that, from early in my career, made it possible for me to raise and support my family and for the security I now look forward to in retirement.

Though leaving is difficult, it is made so much easier knowing Liz DeLong is replacing me. I know Liz will do an amazing job serving VSTA, and I am confident she will love this work as I have.

So many **THANK YOUS**:

- TFEU 1 & VESTA: thanks to the many people sitting across my desk and down the hall from today and years past — from working together, to office socials and making time for friendly conversation.
- Meeting Chairs: thank you for stepping up to perform a very tough job, for your grace in handling the most challenging meetings, and for making it easier for me to do mine.
- Executive & Staff Reps: thank you for adding to the regular demands of your work/personal lives to strengthen the union and for advocating for your colleagues. It has been rewarding to support your efforts and getting to know you.
- Presidents & Vice-Presidents: thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and keeping us safe during COVID. Thanks, Don Briard, for offering me the job, and heartfelt thanks to the last few teams who created the "best" camaraderie.
- Lillian Moldowan, Kathy Robbins and Kim Pereira: partners in crime over the years. Our office is small, and we have spent more time in a day with each other than with our partners, so I send heartfelt thanks to each of them for listening to my stories and for sharing theirs, for tolerating my bad jokes, for being a shoulder and inspiration, and for supporting me in my work. Oh, and for always submitting our payroll invoices on time :)
- To my family: thank you Leo Boissy for being my anchor, for your wisdom, and for all the great ideas I stole from you and took credit for. Thanks to my "Wylie" kids: Conor who dropped off coffee and goodies for the office during job action, and Aleia who, well into her adulthood and out of all possible professions, mistook me for a teacher :)

THANK YOU to **EVERYONE** who spent a little extra time to chat on the phone, to say hello as you walked by my desk, for sending thanks and goodies, for your kindness and generosity which all helped to brighten the many days of my 32 years.

Best wishes and happy holidays,

Mo





Susan McIntosh

was an incredible leader and support for all of us here at the VSTA. We are grateful for her years of service on our VSTA Council as a Staff Rep, Executive Committee, as a employer representative on our VSTA/TFEU Liaison Committee, and for her constant role as the VSTA Rep to the Education Leaves Committee. That and more, Susan was an advocate for public education, her colleagues and her students.

If you would like to donate to a Gladstone scholarship fund in memory of Susan, please follow this link (<https://vsta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SchoolCash-Donation-Tutorial-for-S.-Mcintosh-Memorial-Scholarship.pdf>).

2SLGBTQ+ Ad Hoc Committee

2022 MEETING DATES

January 18 — first meeting will be held on this day to continue and build on the work that came out of the Spring Issues Session for 2SLGBTQ+ members. Check MyVSTA in the new year for meeting links and agenda items.

Future dates: February 15, March 8, April 12, May 10.



CALL FOR DELEGATES to the BCTF AGM

Every teacher should attend a BCTF AGM at least once in their teaching career. Spending time with over 600 teachers from around the Province broadens your perspective on our Union, our Province and Public Education. BCTF Executive Committee recommendations that set the direction of our Union are debated and voted on. Local resolutions are debated and voted on—this year. Equally important, delegates to the BCTF AGM elect members to the BCTF Executive. Who sits on the BCTF EC influences the direction our Union takes.

VSTA members will be able to elect 16 delegates to the BCTF AGM at the **VSTA General Meeting on January 25, 2022**. The BCTF AGM will be taking place from March 19-22, 2022.

Link to nomination form: <https://questionnaire.simplesurvey.com/f/I/BCTF-AGM>

Deadline for nominations is **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 4:30 pm**.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor of the General Meeting.



VTF BARGAINING TEAM



FRONT: Marjorie Dumont (VESTA), Vanessa Lefebvre (VESTA), Jody Polukoshko (VESTA) **BACK:** Carmen Schaedeli (VSTA), Jesse Taylor (VSTA), John Silver (VSTA), Alyssa Reid (VSTA), Karine Ng (VESTA), Greg Canning (VESTA).