



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Vol 44, no 2 Sept 2021

Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

Hello Colleagues,

It's the second half of September already and Summer seems a distant memory. Certainly some of our recent weather would suggest that!

This is a brief newsletter to inform you of some of the opportunities available to you through the BCTF, to give an overview of our Professional Development fund and how to access it.

It's also an excuse to remind you again of the **WVTA General Meeting, this Thursday Sept. 23rd, 3:45 to 5:00 pm**, to be held virtually via Zoom. The [link](#) is here and also in the notice on this page. There are many important issues to discuss and your input matters.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, I hope for a calmer year ahead. However, there are still many issues in our workplace: new Health and Safety guidelines, new schedules, Elementary supervision at lunch thanks to a shortage of EAs, confusion about prep time in a semester system, to name only a few examples. The WVTA is monitoring all of these and several more, advocating for you with the district and ensuring our Collective Agreement is followed.

Finally, don't hesitate to reach out to me or your Vice President, **Stephen Price**. Unlike last year, we are able to access school sites and we look forward to fewer virtual connections this year!

Sincerely, Spencer

Notice:

WVTA GENERAL MEETING Thursday, September 23rd 3:45 – 5:00 pm, (Virtual)

AGENDA ITEMS

- President's Report; Important updates
- Committee Reports
- Election of one additional Member-at-Large
- 2021-2022 Budget Report – Recommendations from Staff Rep Assembly:
 - (a) Adoption of adjustment to WVTA fees percentage rate from .83% to .80%;
 - (b) Adoption of 2020-2021 Budget

Spencer Capier is inviting you to
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)



**Wear orange on
September 30th
in the Spirit of
Reconciliation**

On September 30, 2021, teachers and communities are encouraged to participate in **Orange Shirt Day**, an opportunity for schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. The organizers created Orange Shirt Day as a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, in the spring of 2013, where one survivor told her story about "having her shiny new orange shirt taken away" on her first day of school at the Mission. The event gains momentum each year with the hope it continues to be an opportunity to keep the discussion on the legacy of residential schools and the need for reconciliation moving forward.

WVTA Professional Development Fund: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is the WVTA ProD Fund?

A: The Pro-D fund is a trust fund administered by the Association, primarily the WVTA office with direction from the Pro-D Committee chair and the WVTA president. The fund receives an annual contribution from the Board equal based on a formula in our contract, and a Teacher on Call pool of up to 120 days is allocated annually for Professional Development purposes. The Association makes an annual contribution of \$8000 to the fund.

The School Effectiveness Fund no longer exists! This program was discontinued a number of years ago and its related monies incorporated into the ProD Fund, also based on a formula in the contract.

Q: What is my allotment?

A: Any teacher with an assignment in the district, including part-time teachers and teachers on leave, is eligible for up to \$350 funding and two TOC days per school year (one day for .4 FTE and under). Non-enrolling teachers **who do not require TTOC coverage** are eligible for up to \$500 of funding per school year, and TTOCs employed by the district are eligible for up to \$150 of funding per school year.

Q: Is there a deadline for applying?

A: Applications, when possible, should be received at the WVTA office at least two weeks prior to the event to ensure TTOC coverage and/or costs will be covered. Incomplete applications (missing signatures, conference name not filled in, no supporting documents, etc.) will be returned. **All applications must be received at the WVTA office by June 15th** of the end of the school year to be considered.

Q: Can unused funding be carried over to the next year?

A: No, there is no carry-over; funds must be used in the current school year **for Professional Development undertaken in the current school year**. Funding for Professional Development taking place during the summer can be applied for during the school year before, and/or the following September from the \$350 available for the new school year. (If the summer Pro-D is expensive, funding can be accessed in June for up to the maximum annual allowance, then application can be made again in the new school year in September towards additional costs.)

Q: Can I get TOC coverage for day-in lieu, or be paid by the fund if I attend a Pro-D event or collaboration on a non-working day?

A: TTOC coverage will not be approved for a day in lieu. Much of the Professional Development teachers undertake

is scheduled during non-teaching hours or days (including evenings, weekends, summers).. *(The WVTA is currently in discussions with the Board to determine if the special program offered last year for paid collaboration time on non-teaching days will be repeated this year.)*

Q: Can I apply for TTOC days to get coverage for invigilating exams?

A: No, TTOC coverage will not be approved for this.

Q: Can I have my PD funding paid directly to the conference or event I am attending?

A: We prefer to make payments directly to the person who has applied for the funding in order to simplify the accounting records for audit process. If there is a group of teachers paying a special group fee, each teacher should submit an individual application form for their share of the cost.

Q: Where can I find the WVTA ProD Fund Application Form?

A: The form can be found on the [WVTA Website](#)



TeachBC (recently redesigned!)

What is TeachBC?

- Online resources of teaching materials, lessons, and research relevant to the K-12 BC curriculum.
- Allows users to download, upload and share resources.
- Search by subject, grade, resource type, title, description, language and more.

Who can use it?

- Everyone! The website is public.
- Teachers, provincial specialist associations, and other organizations.

How can teachers contribute?

- Upload your favourite lesson plans, unit plans, activities, resources, or research and make TeachBC the go-to site for K-12 BC resources.
- Tell your colleagues about TeachBC and help build the site.

In the spirit of teachers helping teachers, visit

[TeachBC](#) .

Professional Development Opportunities

BC School Counsellors Association (BCSCA) Conference - Rising in Strength

October 22 – Virtual

This year's conference addresses the theme of "Rising in Strength" from the lessons we are learning through the pandemic. The target audience is school counsellors and anyone interested in counselling.

Keynote Speaker: **Dr. Gordon Neufeld**, Vancouver-based developmental psychologist with over 45 years of experience with children and youth and those responsible for them. BCTF Members - \$100. No refunds from October 8th, 2021 onward. Information and Registration at

[BCSCA 2021 Conference - October 22, 2021 - \(bcscaconference.ca\)](https://bcscaconference.ca)

Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Association - MyPITA Fall Conference 2021

October 22 – Virtual

Fall Conference is now open for registration, and with over 85 workshops and 100 presenters - **Adrienne Gear, Carol Fullerton, Diana Cruchley** and more - there is something for everyone. Check out the full program and register for the conference here. [myPITA Fall Conference 2021 - October 22, 2021 - \(ourconference.ca\)](https://myPITA.org)

Association of BC Drama Educators (ABCDE) Conference – Behind the Mask

October 22 – Virtual

ABCDE is proud to announce another creativity-boosting, capacity-building, community-rooted conference. Stay tuned here for more information and registration

[Association of British Columbia Drama Educators - HOME \(bcdramateachers.com\)](https://bcdramateachers.com).

"Behind every mask there is a face, and behind that, a story!" (Marty Rubin)

For more event information as it becomes available, go to [Event Calendar \(bctf.ca\)](https://bctf.ca)

District Device too old to be useful?

The district tells us that all you need to do is put in an IT request and they'll solve the problem! Give it a try and let us know if it doesn't work 😊.

The WVTA office is not part of the District email system. Please note the following:

Spencer Capier scapier@wvta.ca
604-809-3267 (cell)

Stephen Price sprice@wvta.ca
778-833-2792 (cell)

(ProD Fund) kstraith@wvta.ca
604-926-1617 (WVTA office)

It is recommended that email communications to Spencer and Stephen be sent from your non-school account.