



# WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

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## Notes from your President - Spencer Capier

*Dear Colleagues,*

I hope this newsletter finds you well and still feeling rested after spring break! I confess I don't often read the Retired Teachers magazine "*PostScript*", but one article in the current issues of this fine publication had me laughing out loud. Read "[The Principle of Parking](#)" if you are in need of a chuckle.

I would like to again thank **Rozhin Emadi** (WVSS), **Chris Feige** (HB), **Jamie Hicks** (TTOC), **Andrea Layzell** (BICS), **Stephen Price** (EH/WVTA), **Jessica Selzer** (RR), **Jane Standfield** (WB) and **Chantalle Wigley** (IE) for joining me at the BCTF AGM which took place over Spring Break. It was great to have so many new WVTA delegates representing our local.

This year's BCTF AGM was held in Vancouver at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and much was accomplished. Here are some of the takeaways from our four days of meetings:

- **Clint Johnson** was re-elected as president of the BCTF for a second term. Another candidate ran solely on the issue of divestment of oil from our pension plan. This candidate was defeated, but received enough support that it sent a message. During debate on divestment many delegates spoke in favour of it, while others argued that continued investment in these companies held the possibility of influencing company decisions. That said, our pension, is directed by trustees who do not answer directly to BCTF leadership or AGM resolutions.
- The long-standing practice of the BCTF refraining from contributing to political parties was enshrined in by-law. This was strongly

supported, but personally I think that there's a reason other unions have a seat at the NDP table, and we do not...

- Delegates voted to look for a new term for Non-Enrolling Teachers. They felt it does not adequately encompass the work of those teachers. What do you think?
- Members fees remain at 1.69%.
- We pledged a million dollars in support of New Brunswick teachers in the event of a strike. They did the same for us in 2014, so it felt good to reciprocate.

You can access all the minutes and decisions from this year's AGM [here](#).

This month the WVTA is hosting a **Post and Fill Workshop** at ILC on Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 3:45 P.M. Term teachers are encouraged to attend if they have any questions about West Vancouver's Post and Fill process as laid out in the Collective Agreement, and about their rights as WVTA members. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the [WVTA office](#).

As many of you will know, Rockridge lost a student last week. This is always a difficult and painful moment for a school community and teachers can be at the forefront of helping students deal with grief. This can take a toll. If you or any teacher you know needs some help right now, please reach out. I have used many of these resources myself and they do make a difference. The Employer Family Assistance Plan is much improved, and the BCTF has a self-directed

plan. We all have access to \$1200 for psychologists or registered clinical counsellors through Pacific Blue Cross. Like the flight attendant says, “put your oxygen mask on first.”

The weather is better, we have two four-day weeks ahead, and June 30th is only 86 sleeps away.

*In solidarity, Spencer*

*With the focus on COVID mercifully reduced this year, local VP **Stephen Price** sat down with West Vancouver parent, former pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon and currently deputy leader of the BC Green Party **Dr. Sanjiv Gandhi** to explore the question, ‘what now?’ for COVID and schools.*

*A summary of the discussion is [here](#).*

## WVTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 3:45 pm, Thursday May 18th, 2023 Kay Meek Theatre

**Agenda items** include the election of WVTA Executive Members for the 2023 – 2024 school year. **(The positions of President and Vice President will be confirmed prior to the AGM in a one member-one vote election; calls for nominations for these two positions will be sent out shortly by the Nominating Chair.)**

To be elected at the AGM: Local Reps to the BCTF (2), Alternate Local Rep; Pro-D Chair, Social Justice Rep; Health & Safety Reps (2); TTOC Rep; Members-at-Large (4).

Description of positions are available from the WVTA office or Staff Reps. Please contact the WVTA by May 15<sup>th</sup> if you are interested in being a candidate.



## EARTH DAY OPPORTUNITIES (April 22, 2023)

[Earth Day 2023](#) - Best Earth Day Activities for Schools and Kids



### Be the Change Earth Alliance:

Be the Change Earth Alliance is a charitable organization founded in 2005 which supports positive, interconnected environmental and social change in schools and communities. They deliver socio-ecological education and empowerment programs that help youth to take personal and collective action on environmental and social issues. Their mission is to inspire, educate, and empower youth to take personal and collective action for a just, sustainable, resilient, and personally fulfilling world.

**BTCEA** offers several student workshops, ProD opportunities, and hundreds of free resources created by and for educators through their flagship program, Student Leadership for Change (SLC). SLC features an online library of learning resources including student Action Packs, worksheets, videos, lesson plans, classroom activities, and more. Register [here](#) for free access.

## Teachers' Pension Plan BC

The TTP continues to work to serve you during COVID-19; online courses and webinars are available to help you answer your employees' pension questions. To create a profile, go to [www.myaccount.pensionsbc.ca](http://www.myaccount.pensionsbc.ca). You can view information on your beneficiaries, pension estimates, and read the annual pension report.

[Free Online Learning:](#)

### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PENSION

New to your teaching career? This 15-minute online learning can help answer your questions about what it means to have a pension and be a member of the plan.

You will learn how:

- Your pension is a valuable source of retirement income.
- Your pension is secure for your lifetime.
- The plan website and MyAccount can help you make the most of your pension.

[Take Getting to Know Your Pension](#)

### MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PENSION: for mid-career members

Are you establishing your career or several years away from retirement? Learn how the decisions you make throughout your career can affect your pension when you retire.

You will learn more about:

- Buying service for approved leaves
- Purchasing service for a time when you worked for your current employer but didn't make pension contributions.
- Transferring service from other plans
- How the decisions you make in your career can affect your pension
- The effect of life events on your pension
- Using our online tools to plan for your future.

[Take the 45-minute online course now](#)

[Register for an upcoming instructor-led webinar](#)

### APPROACHING RETIREMENT: a 2-hour workshop for members nearing retirement

Are you planning for or within five years of retirement? Understand the important decisions you need to make about your pension. Planning for your retirement now can make your transition easier. Learn about:

- Choosing your best pension option
- The retirement application process
- Returning to work after you have started collecting a pension.

[Take the 45-minute online course now](#)

[Register for an upcoming instructor-led webinar](#)

## POST and FILL WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

3:45 – 5:00 pm, ILC

This important workshop explains the intricacies of the post and fill process and is highly recommended for all WVTA members with term appointments.

Contact the WVTA with any questions;  
[info@wvta.ca](mailto:info@wvta.ca) or 604-926-1617.

## WVTA SCHOLARSHIPS

Find the application form for the **WVTA Scholarship Awards** on the WVTA web site: [www.wvta.ca](http://www.wvta.ca) > Teacher Resources > *Forms for Download*.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a June 2023 graduate and a child or legal ward of an active or retired WVTA member. Two scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded. The deadline for application is August 31, 2023.