



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

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Notes from your WVTA President – *Spencer Capier*

Dear Colleagues,

We've made it to the Holidays - congratulations! Whatever this time of year means to you, I encourage you to make it a time away from work, away from *thinking* about work. Enjoy the break, you've earned it.

Last month's newsletter was long, so I'll make this one brief. Below are some important items.

On behalf of **Stephen Price** (VP) and **Karen Straith** (Business Manager), we wish you the very best of the Holiday Season!

Sincerely, Spencer

➤ **Preliminary Survey Results for Semester vs Linear Systems:**

- 141 Secondary teachers responded (an excellent turnout).
- 48.2% preferred Linear.
- 39.7% preferred Semester.
- 12.1% had no preference.
- 70% felt "strongly" or "very strongly" about their preference.

A more detailed presentation of the results will be given to the next Representative Assembly and General Meeting.

➤ **Unvaccinated Students returning from out of country vacations:**

If students leave the country over the break and are not double vaccinated, they may not return to school for 14 days after their return to BC. Teachers are not expected to give extra instruction and can direct parents to Google Classroom for students to catch up. Most administrators are on board, but if your principal directs you to create homework packages, please let me know.

➤ **Office Renovation**

We have begun exploring the costs of a renovation of the WVTA office, as we currently lack a working HVAC system and a private meeting room. We will present possible plans to a General Meeting next year.

➤ **In-person General Meeting**

Our next General Meeting will be at Kay Meek Theatre on January 26th at 3:45. There will be more than sufficient space in the theatre but we there will be the option for remote participation.

You can be a delegate!
BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 18-21, 2023

Attend the AGM and learn about your BCTF, discuss and debate issues that matter to you and your colleagues, hear guest speakers discuss education and labour issues locally and worldwide, elect Executive Committee members, and connect with over 670 teachers from around the province. If attendance at the AGM is in-person, you will be compensated for accommodation and meal expenses. High quality childcare at no cost to delegates will also be available throughout an in-person AGM.

We will elect our WVTA Delegates at our next WVTA GENERAL MEETING, Thursday, January 26th. Any BCTF member, regardless of union experience, can let their name stand to attend their BCTF AGM as a delegate.

Salary Indemnity Plan

You may be eligible to save about 1.50% of your salary.

Why? Because you are no longer entitled to long-term disability benefits under the Salary Indemnity Plan (SIP) when you attain any of the following milestones:

- 35 years of contributory service, with a minimum age of 55
- Age 61, if you reach "Factor 90" before age 61
- "Factor 90" if you are between ages 61 and 65
- Age 65

Ensure that in the event of serious illness or accident you have sufficient accumulated sick leave, which, when combined with 120 days of benefits from SIP short-term, will protect your salary to the end of the month in which you meet one of the above milestones.

**To apply call BCTF Income Security
at 604-871-1921**

Professional Development Opportunities

Teacher Inquiry Program

Teacher Inquiry is a teacher-organized, teacher-led professional development.

Find and view the [online webinar](#) to answer most question you may have about Inquiry. You will also hear stories from the field, success stories on how Inquiry is helping and transforming the teaching practice.

Watch all videos:

[Living Inquiry - Stories from the field - YouTube](#)

Apply for Teacher Inquiry Project:

[Teacher Inquiry Program \(bctf.ca\)](#)

alternate **AEA Challenge and Change Feb 15 to 17, Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre**

The Annual BC Alternate Education Association's Change Conference is back after a two-year pandemic hiatus! Featuring **Shelley Moore** as keynote speaker along with many other sessions on a wide variety of topics of interest to teachers, administrators, youth care workers, and others engaged with at-risk youth in an alternate education setting. Visit [their website](#) for conference registration and more details.

