



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Vol. 45, no 7 May 2023

Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for once again allowing me to be your WVTA president for another year. I promise to always represent the best interests of members and to ensure our collective agreement is followed. I want to thank **Stephen Price** for his two years of stellar work as the Vice President of the WVTA. Stephen has been tireless in advocating for the betterment of our contract. Also, big congratulations to **Chantalle Wigley** as she takes on the role of Vice President this fall.

Changes...

I've been thinking lately about how much change we've experienced as teachers the last three years. It's a lot!

COVID had us teaching in ways we couldn't have conceived of a few months earlier. Remote teaching was exhausting.

Then we faced the challenges of reintegrating students back into classrooms. Teachers have experienced an increase in difficult behaviours and even violence in classrooms.

Now we are facing the New Reporting Order (NRO). It feels like a lot of change, and depending on what grades you teach it might be. The WVTA has been in frequent conversations with District Leadership (DLT) to get a sense of how the NRO will roll out in West Vancouver. DLT assures us that the new way is much like the old way.

That said, each principal interprets DLT guidance differently, and workload can vary from school to school. This is why your Staff Reps are vital. They meet as the WVTA Representative Assembly once

a month to share experiences across the district. This fall, workload consistency will be top of the agenda at those meetings. If and when you have concerns, bring them to your school Staff Reps.

Have you thought about becoming more involved in union leadership? Consider running for the WVTA executive! We meet once a month on Thursdays at the WVTA office. Positions include:

- Local Representatives to BCTF meetings (2 plus alternate)
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Pro D Chair (comes with a block of time)
- Social Justice Rep
- Health and Safety Reps (2)
- TTOC Representative,
- Members at Large (4).

If interested, contact our nominating chair [Dianne Wanless](#) by May 13th. Members can also be nominated from the floor of the AGM.

Speaking of which, coming up is our **Annual General Meeting, May 18th**, 3:45 pm at the Kay Meek Centre. There will be door prizes! There will be a Wine/Beer & Cheese reception in the lobby to follow! Come have a voice in selecting your executive team for next year and socialize with colleagues from around the district.

In solidarity, Spencer

WVTA Annual General Meeting Thursday, May 18th, 2023 3:45, Kay Meek Theatre

AGENDA

- **Election of WVTA Executive Members** (bring a device for voting)
- **WVTA Updates**

Door Prizes! Stay after the AGM for a Wine and Cheese Social!



WVTA SCHOLARSHIPS

The application form for the **WVTA Scholarship Awards** is available from the WVTA office and at the WVTA web site: www.wvta.ca > Teacher Resources > *Forms for Download*. To be eligible, the June 2023 graduate must be a child or legal ward of an active WVTA member or of a retired member. Two scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded. Deadline for application is August 31, 2023.



District Retirement Reception

3:30 – 5:30 pm, Wednesday, May 31st
The Atrium at Kay Meek Centre

Join your colleagues and visit with old friends as we celebrate the careers of our District Retirees!

MAY Special Events

Asian Heritage Month

Canadians are invited to learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian descent who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today." This month is a reminder to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination in all its forms. Find more about the significant events in history of Canadians of Asian heritage [here](#).

May 17: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

This day was created as worldwide celebration of sexual and gender diversity. Since 2005, May 17th has been dedicated to the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia, marking the day in 1990 when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. <https://may17.org>

May 23 - 26: Aboriginal Awareness Week

This week was first introduced in 1992 "with the purpose of increasing awareness of Aboriginal peoples within the federal public service". Aboriginal Awareness Week has largely focused on giving federal public servants an opportunity to learn more about the Métis, Inuit and First Nations peoples. Since its beginnings in 1992, Aboriginal Awareness has moved beyond this original mandate to provide meaningful events for the public to explore contemporary indigenous life in Canada.

Teachers interested in incorporating more Aboriginal content in their classrooms are sometimes unsure of where to start and how to find authentic materials. The BCTF has a number of workshops and resources [available for request](#).

SFU SCHOOL ASSOCIATES – FALL 2023

**Develop New Teachers.
Become a School Associate.**

SFU's Faculty of Education, Professional Programs is currently seeking experienced teachers to help mentor our teachers this fall. [School Associates](#) play a pivotal role in our teacher education programs — helping student

teachers (our future colleagues) to make sense of the vast and complex world of educational practice during their placement semesters. **If you or someone you know may be interested in collaborating with one of BC's brightest future educators, speak to your administrator or contact SFU's placement team today.**

Most SFU school associates agree that mentoring a student teacher is a professionally enriching experience unlike any other. In addition to receiving up to four

transferrable tuition fee credits valued at nearly \$800, school associates also develop new leadership skills, reflect on their instructional practice, learn the latest educational theories and research, grow their professional community, and attract high-calibre new teachers to their schools.

Most of all, they will be having a profound impact on a future educator.

For more information, contact the placement team at:
Joan Greenlay: pps_elementary_placements@sfu.ca
Janet McCarron: pps_secondary_placements@sfu.ca

Summer Pro-D:

Reminder – you can use remaining ProD funding available from this school year, and/or apply next September to use next year’s funding towards this summer’s professional development costs.

*Applications must be received **at the WVTA Office** by June 16th to receive funding for this school year.*

Factor 90 or 65 yrs of age?

DON'T WAIT – You can save the long-term fee (approx. 1.2%) from the date you reach age 65 or “Factor 90”.

Members are no longer entitled to long-term benefits under the Salary Indemnity Plan once they hit Factor 90 (age plus contributory service) or age 65. As the BCTF does not have access to your personal information, it is up to you to apply to withdraw from LTD.

Any member who has attained age 64, or has reached “factor 88” (age plus contributory service), or is in receipt of a retirement pension under another registered pension plan, may **voluntarily** withdraw from the long-term portion of the Salary Indemnity Plan. **In making application for withdrawal**, you should ensure that in the event of serious illness or accident you have sufficient sick leave, which when combined with 120 days of benefit from SIP short-term, will protect your salary to the end of the month in which you reach “factor 90” or the end of the month you attain age 65, whichever comes first.

Applications are available online at bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SalaryBenefits/SIP/LT-withdrawalForm.pdf and at www.wvta.ca (under Download Forms), or call the BCTF Income Security Division at 604-871-1921.