



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

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Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

Hello Colleagues,

Several weeks have flown by and I am well past the deadline for another newsletter. Here are some things to ponder...

Bargaining:

I won't share specifics in this newsletter, as those are not to be shared outside committee or the password protected BCTF website. Here's a link to the latest BCTF bargaining update:

<https://www.bctf.ca/whats-appening/bargaining-updates-and-information>

Things are moving quickly, and the updates are coming in fast and furious.

ELL support and EA shortages :

We have been hearing from many of you about the lack of EAs in schools, and the need for more ELL support.

In the short term - this month the district increased ELL FTE at several elementary schools. There is a bit more EA FTE as well.

In the mid term, I am optimistic the current round of bargaining between the district and the WVMEA (the union that represents EAs) will improve recruitment and retention of EAs.

In the long term the WVTA is advocating for an increased funding envelope for school districts generally and working with local and provincial stakeholders to pressure the government to do that.

Evaluation Workshop:

The district and the WVTA will be facilitating an Evaluation Workshop in the next few weeks. It's a great opportunity to learn about the evaluation process. With the right information evaluation can be a very positive experience! Date TBA in November.

WVTA Social:

We haven't had a WVTA social this fall. I apologize, but we will make up for it in January when the weather is bleak, and the Summer feels like a distant dream. We'll put an announcement out as soon as the details are nailed down. We look forward to seeing you in person around some appetizers and a beverage in the new year. We were going to schedule one for December but there are always numerous social engagements and events to keep everyone busy during the month.

You can always contact us:

This is just reminder that we are here to respond to any questions or concerns you have about your workplace and the Collective Agreement. You can reach out to your staff reps or to us directly through our land line, cells, or emails. We work for you!

I can almost see winter break from here...

Spencer



WVTA Scholarships Awarded

A WVTA scholarship of \$1000 was awarded to each of two school graduates that are the daughter or son of a WVTA member. Congratulations to:

Libby Meldrum, daughter of WVTA members **Amy Meldrum** and **Greg Meldrum** (Ridgeview). Libby has begun her studies at Thompson Rivers University.

Marisa Pinto, daughter of WVTA member **Jana Pinto** (Sentinel). Marisa has begun her studies in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science at UBC.

The Scholarship Committee looked for dedicated service to school and community as well as academic and extra-curricular achievements. Their task was a difficult one - all this year's numerous applicants were outstanding, and the committee was particularly impressed with how every applicant was able to maintain high levels of participation extra-curricular activities and scholastic achievement. We congratulate them all and wish them great success as they pursue their academic and life goals!

Dianne Wanless
Chair, WVTA Scholarship Committee

Don't Forget...

**Turn your clocks back one hour on
November 6th (2:00 am)!**

Free Pension Education

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR PENSION

New to your teaching career or thinking of joining the plan? Here's an introduction to the values and benefits of plan membership.

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 My Account can help you make the most of your pension

Take [Getting to Know Your Pension](#)

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PENSION

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. Learn 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 effects of life events on your pension
- Using our online tools to plan for your future

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

or

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

APPROACHING RETIREMENT

Are you planning or within 5 years of retirement? Understand how your pension is calculated and the important decisions you need to make about it.

- Choosing your best pension option
- Eligibility for an unreduced pension
- The retirement application process
- Returning to work after you have started collecting a pension

[Take 45 minutes of online learning now](#)

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