



# WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

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## Notes from your President - Spencer Capier

*Dear Colleagues,*

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. It's hard to believe Spring Break is only days away!

The BCTF holds its Annual General Meeting smack dab in the middle of Spring Break. Several of our colleagues have volunteered to spend some of their holiday representing West Vancouver teachers at the AGM, and I want to thank them all:

**Rozhin Emadi** (WVSS)  
**Chris Feige** (HB)  
**Jamie Hicks** (TTOC)  
**Andrea Layzell** (BICS)  
**Stephen Price** (GE)  
**Jessica Selzer** (RR)  
**Jane Standfield** (WB)  
**Chantalle Wigley** (IE)  
**Do Hoon Lee** (WVSS) alternate.

These teachers along with myself will spend four days at the Hyatt Vancouver discussing issues important to teachers in the province.

Next year's linear Secondary School schedule is out soon. It's similar to what we had pre COVID. From a union perspective, linear is preferable for part time teachers, teachers with child care, teachers in a gradual return to work process, and a host of other reasons. I'm curious to hear your thoughts.

You may have heard about a few parents in the district who are upset about SOGIE and the BC Health curriculum. Many of these parents are misinformed about the nature of the curriculum and the scope and sequence of its delivery. Worse, some of these parents have focussed their ire on individual teachers. I have

always been impressed with Deputy Superintendent **Sean Nosek's** support for teachers who deal with extremely challenging parents. Notify your Staff Rep or myself if you are having to deal with a parent who inappropriately crosses boundaries.

Last Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the WVTA hosted an after-school Members' Social at the West Vancouver Art Museum. This well attended event was a hit, with teachers enjoying an open venue that allowed for mingling with colleagues and grazing around the abundant appetizer tables. There was also viewing opportunity of the current exhibition featuring two contemporary Persian-Canadian artists. The museum's Administrator/Curator, **Hilary Lewis**, and Assistant Curator **Alison Powell** were on hand to answer questions about the artworks and the artists, and to tell those interested about the special events and educational programs the museum offers. (Find out more about the museum [here](#).)

Kudos to WVTA VP **Stephen Price** and his team of volunteers for organizing and catering this event, and a big thank you **Hilary** and **Alison** at the museum who helped with set-up and even stayed on to help clean up. We're hopeful there will be opportunity for another social before the end of the school year.

Other than that, keep your eye on the prize, only eight working sleeps until Spring Break!

*Sincerely, Spencer*

## myPITA Spring Conference 2023

### BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 107th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation will be held at the Vancouver Hyatt Hotel, March 19-22.

In addition to our two Local Reps **Jane Standfield** and **Chantalle Wigley**, and WVTA President **Spencer Capier**, **Rozhin Emadi** (WVSS), **Chris Feige** (HO), **Jamie Hicks** (TTOC), **Andrea Layzell** (BICS), **Stephen Price** (WVTA VP/EH), and **Jessica Selzer** (RR), will devote a portion of their Spring Break to represent the WVTA. This is an intense four-day affair that immerses one into the heart of what the BCTF is and what it stands for.

**Although only delegates and LRs can vote at the AGM, any teacher is welcome to attend – come and join your WVTA delegates at their assigned table.**

### Applications for Leave of Absence

After each five years of service in the district, a teacher may apply to the Leave of Absence Committee for full-time Personal Leave **for whatever reason they wish**. Full-time Personal Leave will be granted for a period of not more than one year.

A full-time teacher who, **prior to March 15**, requests to teach part-time commencing the following school year, shall be granted their request provided the assignment is "compatible with the organization of the Board." A teacher may request an extension of their part-time assignment for up to three consecutive years.

On recommendation of the Leave of Absence Committee, the Board will grant teachers Educational Leave with no salary for a specified period of time. The date of return to duty will be clearly stated when the leave is granted. **Please call the WVTA office if you need further clarification or some advice.**



### Friday, May 5, 2023, Hilton Whistler Resort

Workshops will be relevant, immediately applicable, and many will include hands-on participation plus interaction with other attendees.

#### Conference details:

- 6 great sessions to choose from
- Lunch time socials, discussion topics, and work likes

**Early bird fees until April 15<sup>th</sup>.** This event has a limited number of seats, and it will quickly sell out. Conference information and registration [here](https://spring.ourconference.ca).