



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Vol. 44, no 9 May 2022

Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

Dear Colleagues,

I know it feels like we just had a newsletter - we did! However I felt it was important to reach out to all of you to remind you of our **Annual General Meeting on Thursday May 19th at 3:45 at the Kay Meek Theatre**. We will be holding our first in person WVTA meeting in two years in the main theatre, so there will be lots of room to spread out and the air circulation is excellent.

I am very happy to say that the **BCTF president elect Clint Johnston will be our keynote speaker**. This is an important opportunity to hear directly from our incoming president about provincial bargaining. He is a member of the provincial bargaining team as well as the current first vice president. Clint is an excellent communicator so if you are looking for a reason to come to the AGM, it's hearing from him.

Stephen Price and I are honoured to serve another term as your WVTA vice-president and president after our acclamation on April 26th. Your WVTA executive will be elected at the AGM. Be sure to bring a device as we will use the Simply Voting platform during the meeting to place our ballots. The Kay Meek has recently upgraded their cell reception and wifi. Only members who attend the meeting cast ballots, as per our constitution and bylaws.

There are many other important issues to discuss, such as much needed improvements to our WVTA offices (HVAC, a private meeting space, end of life carpets etc.) an update on our fees, and reports from our executive on important portfolios such as Social Justice, Health and Safety, and Professional Development, to name a few.

Also, there will be a Wine and cheese reception to follow and of course there will be door prizes!

I know we are still dealing with the reality of COVID. Therefore, we request that members wear a mask at the AGM unless speaking to the meeting. We intentionally booked the larger of the two theatres to facilitate distancing. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely, Spencer

WVTA Annual General Meeting Thursday, May 19th, 2022 3:45, Kay Meek Theatre

AGENDA

- **Election of WVTA Executive Members** (bring a device for voting)
- **Bargaining update – BCTF President Elect Clint Johnston**
- **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 2022 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, 2022.



District Retirement Reception

3:30 – 5:30 pm, Monday, May 30th
The Atrium at Kay Meek Theatre
(No-Host Bar)

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

Summer ProD Opportunities:

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 17th to receive funding for this school year.

UBC 2022 Summer Institutes - Professional learning programs at UBC

UBC Faculty of Education is announcing the lineup of [2022 Summer Institutes](#) and professional learning programs designed specifically for educators. Courses include:

- Institut de Français: UBC à Québec – 19 Day Institute in Quebec City
- Sk'emel Iya'7yulh: The Paddle Journey, July 7th in person, UBC Campus
- Anti-Racism Education, July 11-15 (online)
- Sustainability in the Classroom, July 12 & 13 (Online)
- SOGI Inclusive Ed & Leadership, July 21 & 22, in person, UBC Vancouver
- Okanagan Summer Institutes (Multiple Dates)
- Engaging All Learners in Secondary Schools – Interactive Webinar Series

SFU SCHOOL ASSOCIATES – FALL 2022

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

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. The theme for Asian Heritage Month 2022 is, "Continuing a legacy of greatness". This month is a reminder to come together to combat anti-Asian racism and discrimination in all its forms. Find more information and resources [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 24 - 27: 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 [available for request](#).

Are you missing out on salary? Teacher Qualification Service Policy Changes

Teachers are advised that there have been policy changes to the Teacher Qualification Service in the following areas:

Master's of Doctorate Degree Changes

1. If you are in category five plus (5+) and hold a master's of doctorate degree that meets the requirements, apply for an upgrade.
2. If you hold an acceptable masters or doctorate degree with less than 30 semester credits and have not yet topped up that degree and received an upgrade, apply for an upgrade.
3. If you are in category five (5) and hold a graduate degree that contains a teacher education program, you will need to complete an integrated program to qualify for category six (6).

Integrated Program Changes

1. If you are in category five plus (5+) or lower and have completed course work that meets the new requirements of an integrated program but have not yet used that course work for your current category placement, apply for an upgrade.

Second Teacher Education Programs and Familiarization Programs

1. If you are in category five (5) or lower and have completed a second teacher education program for which you have not yet been granted Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) category credit, apply for an upgrade.
2. If you are in category five (5) or lower and have completed a familiarization program for which you have not been granted TQS category credit, apply for an upgrade.

For full information on these policy changes, application requirements, and the three important deadlines during the year for submission of documents, go to the TQS website at www.tqs.bc.ca, or call TQS at 604-736-5484.

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.

Check out the BCTF's eBook collection! Free to all BCTF members at [BCTF eBooks](#)

