



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Vol 41, no 5 Jan 2019

Notes from your President – *Renée Willock*

Dear Colleagues,

I'm hoping to see you at our **General Meeting** on **Feb. 4th** when BCTF president, **Glen Hansman**, will be our guest speaker. Delegates to the BCTF AGM will also be elected at this important meeting.

This month's newsletter addresses bargaining, salary, class size and composition, and maternity leave provisions. As always, get in touch if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely, Renée

➤ **WVTA General Meeting**

Come out on **Monday, February 4th** from 3:45-5:00 pm at the Kay Meek Studio Theatre to hear BCTF president, **Glen Hansman**, talk about provincial bargaining. Glen is interested in hearing from West Vancouver teachers and will stay for the Wine and Cheese Social afterwards.

➤ **BCTF Annual General Meeting**

This year's **BCTF AGM** is **March 16-19** at the Fairmont Empress Hotel and Convention Centre in Victoria. The WVTA can send a total of 9 delegates. I will be attending along with our 2 local reps, **Spencer Capier** and **Leanne Pruner**. Six more delegates will be elected at our WVTA General Meeting.

Six teachers have put their names forward so far:

- **Aaron Anthony**, *Rockridge*
- **Karen Foster**, *Westcot*

- **Shannon Gray**, *Sentinel*
- **Andrea Layzell**, *BICS*
- **Stephen Price**, *Eagle Harbour*
- **Jane Standfield**, *West Bay*

Thank you to everyone who is willing to do this important work for our union. Further nominations will be accepted by email until January 31st or from the floor at the General Meeting on February 4th.

➤ **Bargaining**

Provincial bargaining is set to begin this month. The big issues of salary, class size and composition, and special needs funding are getting lots of [press](#).

Your local bargaining team, consisting of, **Spencer Capier, Stephen Price, Jane Standfield, and me**, is scheduled to start negotiations in early February. While we are limited to discussing non-cost items, we are optimistic about making some small but significant improvements for West Vancouver teachers.

➤ **Salary**

BC teachers are amongst the lowest paid in Canada. A beginning teacher's salary in BC ranks 9th out of 10 provinces while the maximum salary for BC teachers ranks 7th out of 10 provinces. Our salary is not keeping up with the cost of living, especially in Metro Vancouver. It's clearly time for a significant salary increase.

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But...other public sector unions have received 2% increases, each year, for 3 years. The government cannot give teachers more without triggering “me too” clauses. It may be possible to increase the pay of beginning teachers by removing bottom steps of the salary grid (like the nurses achieved), and I’m hoping it may also be possible to add a step to the top of the salary grid so that long-time teachers also make some gains.

➤ Equality

West Vancouver Teachers are amongst the lowest paid in BC and living in the most expensive region. Our school board chair, **Carolyn Broady**, has written a letter to BCPSEA asking for salary harmonization for West Vancouver Teachers. She points out that “teacher compensation differentiation between districts remains problematic from a political, recruitment and retention perspective.”

BCTF president, **Glen Hansman**, has been speaking out about the need for parity in class size and composition for districts like West Vancouver. Check out Glen’s [tweet](#).

Look for my article in the next edition of *Teacher Magazine* describing what it’s like to teach in a district without class size and composition language and pointing out that maternity leave pay in West Vancouver is only 50% compared to 95% in Vancouver. Providing West Vancouver teachers with pay, working conditions, and maternity leave provisions equal to other teachers in the province is a social justice issue.

Crosscurrents Conference 2019

Date: February 21-22, 2019

Place: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond

Attend this year’s **44th Annual Crosscurrents Conference** hosted by the Teachers of Inclusive Education (TIE-BC). **Keynote speaker Dr. Ross Greene** will discuss the key themes of the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) Model and transforming discipline in the school system.

Register here:

www.tiecbrochure.com/register.html



BCTF New Teachers' Conference 2019

GAINING GROUND: NEW TEACHERS LEADING THE WAY

April 5, 2019 - Vernon Lodge, Vernon, BC
Keynote speaker – Dr. Deborah MacNamara

May 10, 2019 – Vancouver Island Conference Centre, Nanaimo, BC
Keynote speaker – Tracy Myers

Registrations open February 14, 2019. Watch for more conference and registration information on the WVTA and BCTF websites.

WVTA General Meeting

Monday, February 4, 2019

3:45, Kay Meek Studio Theatre

AGENDA

- Election of WVTA Delegates to the BCTF AGM (March 16 -19, 2019)
- State of the Union – Glen Hansman, President of the BCTF

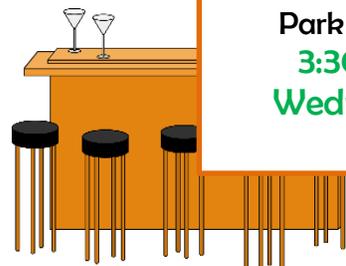


Door Prizes! Stay for Wine and Cheese Social after the meeting!

Save the date:

Back by Popular Demand!

WVTA Members' Social
at the Tap House,
Park Royal South Village
3:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Wednesday March 13th



Application Process:
**Change of Salary Category
for Teachers**

Teachers are advised that while completing your Masters degree, if you have completed at least 30 credits of 3/400 level course work, you may be eligible for 5+ category. You are advised to consult the [TQS Categories Requirements document](#) to gain an awareness of the procedure in place and the [TQS Category Upgrade Application Form](#) required to get retroactive pay when application is made for a new TQS card for salary change.

The deadlines are September 30th, **January 31st** or May 31st. All applicants must apply through TQS, the Teacher Qualification Service. Go to the TQS website at www.tqs.bc.ca for further information and to apply for category upgrade, or call TQS at 604-736-5484.

Notice:
BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As required by *the Society Act*, formal notice of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the BCTF has been made to all BCTF members:

The 103rd Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation will be held at the Fairmont Empress Hotel, Victoria, BC beginning on Saturday, March 16, 2019 and continuing to Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Nine teachers from West Vancouver will represent the WVTA at the AGM, including 6 delegates to be elected at the February 4th General meeting who will join our president and our two LRs. The AGM 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.***

“88 and Out” – Save up to \$800/ Yr

BCTF Indemnity Plan regulations provide for a **member who has reached age 64, or a total of age plus contributory service of 88**, to withdraw from the Long Term portion of the plan. You may wish to continue the plan, however, if your accumulated sick leave in combination with BCTF Short Term SIP (120 days) will not protect your salary until you reach the age of 65 or factor 90. Members who withdraw from the Long Term portion of the plan will still receive the 2% SIP allowance. **Call the Income Security Division at the BCTF, 604-871-2283, or the WVTA for more information.**

Have You Signed Up to

***My*BCTF?**

Our members-only secure portal is online at mybctf.ca.

This is where the most up to date information can be found:

- Timely bargaining updates
- Interactive tools, including secure member-only discussion groups
- Updating personal information
- Easy registration for conferences
- Information, articles, videos

Sign up is easy! Just click on **“BCTF Member Portal”**, then click **“first time here?”** If you have any problem, call 604-871-2119, local 2119, or email portal@bctf.ca.

**Have you taken *Advantage*
of your BCTF membership lately?**

The BCTF Advantage program is your ticket to great offers and discounts on a variety of products and services, such as group rates on insurance, discounted mobility plans with Telus or Rogers, travel deals, gym memberships and much more!

Visit www.bctf.ca/advantage to see how YOU can take advantage!