



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Vol 42, no 5 Jan 2020

Notes from your President – *Renée Willock*

Dear Colleagues,

Wondering how decisions are made at the BCTF? It's truly a member-driven organization.

I encourage you to come to our General Meeting on January 30th as this is an opportunity to give your opinion about decisions that will be made at BCTF Rep Assembly. Delegates to the BCTF AGM will also be elected at this important meeting.

This month's newsletter contains a bargaining update and explains the how decisions are made in your union. As always, get in touch if you have questions or comments.

Sincerely, Renée

➤ **BCTF Annual General Meeting**

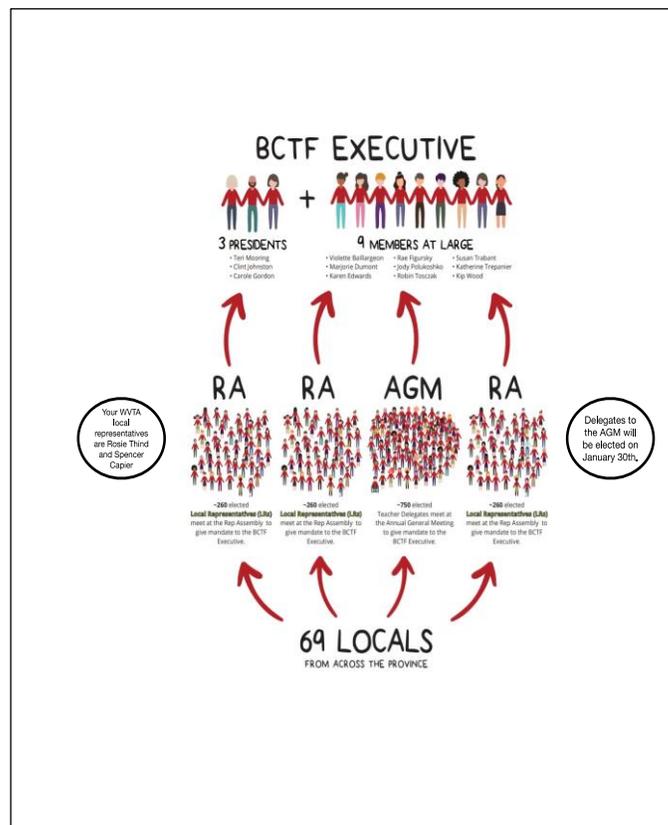
Have a voice in the decisions made by your union. This year's **BCTF AGM is March 16-19** at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. The WVTA can send a total of 9 delegates. I will be attending along with our 2 local reps, **Spencer Capier** and **Rosie Thind**. Six more delegates will be elected at our WVTA General Meeting. Nominations will be accepted by email until January 29th or from the floor at the General Meeting on January 30th.

➤ **Provincial Bargaining**

Bargaining has been on pause since the Mediator's Report was released in early November. In December, the mediator met with the BCTF and BCPSEA to talk about how to move forward. Bargaining is set to resume in February when the mediator is available.

➤ **WVTA General Meeting**

Come out on **Thursday, January 30th** from 3:45-5:00 pm at the Kay Meek Studio Theatre to give direction to your local reps, **Spencer Capier** and **Rosie Thind**, before we go to the BCTF Rep Assembly, the decision-making body of the BCTF. Have your say and then stay for the Wine and Cheese Social afterwards.



**WVTA General Meeting
Thursday, January 30th, 2020
3:45, Kay Meek Studio Theatre**

AGENDA

- Provincial Bargaining
- Election of WVTA Delegates to the BCTF AGM (March 14 -17, 2020)



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

DID YOU KNOW?

**You can be a delegate!
BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
March 14-17, 2020, Vancouver**

Attend the AGM and learn about your BCTF, discuss and debate issues that matter to you and your colleagues, hear guest speakers discuss education and labour issues locally and worldwide, elect Executive Committee members and connect with 750 teachers from around the province. You are compensated for accommodation and meal expenses. High quality childcare, at no cost, is available during the AGM. We will elect our WVTA Delegates at our next WVTA General Meeting, **Thursday, January 30th**. All BCTF members, regardless of union experience, can let their name stand to attend the BCTF AGM as a delegate.

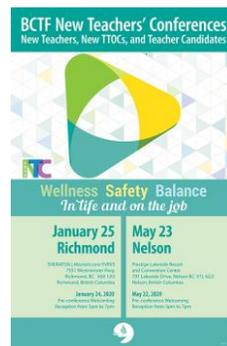
**Sick? Get advice before
reducing your assignment**

Often teachers take reduced assignments because of lifestyle or family situations; however, if you feel that you are too unwell to maintain your whole assignment, you should seek advice from the WVTA office. Employers are under some obligation to accommodate their employees when sick.

Teachers should be checking with their doctor as to whether or not their inability to work is health related. By taking a reduced assignment instead of going on a partial sick leave, a teacher would be giving up salary, reduced Salary Indemnity Plan benefits if the illness gets worse, and have reduced pension credit.

All teachers on contract can be referred to the BCTF Health and Wellness Program for additional support. Contact the WVTA office, 604-926-1617, or go to benefits@bctf.ca for more information.

**Professional Development
Opportunities 2020**



**BCTF New Teachers'
Conference 2020**

**Wellness Safety
Balance
in Life and On the Job**

*- bringing together members
from all over the province,
offering unique networking and
sharing opportunities.*

January 25, 2020 – Sheraton Hotel, Richmond BC
Workshop description for this event – [Click Here!](#)

May 23, 2020 – Prestige Lakeside Resort & Convention Centre, Nelson, BC
Workshop description for this event – [Click Here!](#)

Registration for the January conference open now. Special rates for Student Teachers and New TTOCs. Watch for more information on the WVTA & BCTF websites.

**BCAEA Challenge and Change 2020
Feb 12 to Feb 14, Vancouver, BC**

The BC Alternate Education Association's 33rd annual Challenge and Change Conference features speakers on a wide variety of topics of interest to teachers, administrators, youth care workers, and others engaged with at-risk youth in an alternate education setting. Visit their website bcaea.com for further details.

Crosscurrents Conference 2020

Date: February 12-14, 2020

Place: Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel
7551 Westminster Highway, Richmond

Teachers of Inclusive Education of BC are holding Crosscurrents 2020 at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport hotel. Keynote speaker Zach Anner, is an award-winning comedian, show host, and public speaker. Born prematurely and underweight, Zach was born with cerebral palsy and an uncertain future. With a mixture of humour and heart, Zach shares his story. There will also be several other speakers on inclusive education relevant for K-12 teachers, administrators, and others working with children and youth in schools. For more information visit our website at tiebc.com.

Salary Indemnity Plan

You may be able to save 1.2% of your salary

Why? You are no longer entitled to long-term disability with benefits under the Salary Indemnity Plan (SIP) when you attain the following milestones:

- 35 years of contributory service, with a minimum of age 55
- Age 61, if you reach “Factor 90” before age 61
- “Factor 90” if you are between ages 61 and 65
- Age 65

It is up to you to apply to withdraw from long-term disability.

Ensure that in the event of serious illness or accident you have sufficient accumulated sick leave, which, when combined with 120 days of benefits from SIP short-term, will protect your salary to the end of the month in which you reach one of the milestones mentioned above.

To apply call BCTF Income Security at 604-871-1921.

Notice:

BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As required by *the Society Act*, formal notice of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the BCTF has been made to all BCTF members:

The 104th Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Teachers’ Federation will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, BC beginning on Saturday, March 14, 2020 and continuing to Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Nine teachers from West Vancouver will represent the WVTA at the AGM, including 6 delegates to be elected at the January 30th 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.***

Have You Signed Up to

MyBCTF?

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!