



# WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Newsletter Vol 46 No 9 June 2024

## Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

*Hello Colleagues,*

We did it! Another school year is done, but it has been a challenging year.

### The New Reporting Order

The New Reporting Order has presented many challenges. The province, for starters, saddled teachers with horrible software. The BCTF and the WVTA have continued to work with district and ministry stakeholders to improve the situation, but challenges remain. Teachers are not adverse to hard work, but let the work be for the betterment of their students, not conforming to pointless software limitations.

### Provincial Specialists Association Controversy

There have been several controversial happenings at the provincial level. Recently the Provincial Specialists Association Council rejected the application of the Holocaust and Antisemitism Educators Association (HAEA). This was an unprecedented move, and surprising in the light of the fact the province ordered the Holocaust be included as mandatory curriculum. This caused an uproar within the union and in the media, as the HAEA met every requirement for acceptance and yet was turned down. I worry about reputational damage to the BCTF, and hope our provincial leadership will find a way to resolve this.

### WVTA Advocacy for funding model reform

In better news I'm happy to report the WVTA made some headway in advocating for better funding for so called 'middle districts.' We are one of seven districts in the province whose enrolment is neither growing nor contracting. As a result, we don't receive funding from the province to deal with, for example, more portables or staff on the one hand, or supportive funding to cover basic overhead on

the other. Middle districts are at the mercy of inflation, and our funding in real dollars decreases over time. Board Chair **Carolyn Broady**, along with her counterparts in the other six districts wrote a letter to the Minister of Education calling for reform of the funding model. I organized several local presidents from those districts, and wrote a letter in support of Chair Broady's initiative. Both letters were well received by the minister. Our letter was responded to at length by the deputy minister. My hope is that our continued efforts will see some form of funding reform for school districts with steady enrolment.

### The BCTF Membership Survey

The BCTF Membership Survey came out recently, and it gave numbers to things we already knew. For example, the vast majority of teachers in BC would like to see more EAs in classrooms. Also, the vast majority of teachers in BC would like more prep time.

### Bargaining

Bargaining begins again next fall, and at the BCTF bargaining conference last month priorities were identified for the provincial table. Workload took top priority. We felt our top local priority of paid leave for medical appointments was heard and included in the priorities document. Kudos to **Jessica Selzer** (RR) getting to the microphone and amending the priorities document to capture our local priority. **Chantalle Wigley**, our Bargaining Chair, will be sending out a Local Issues bargaining survey soon.

### New Logo

As you may have noticed we have a new logo! We were privileged to work with Squamish artist **Xwalactun**. The WVTA needed a new logo to

reflect our core values and place in the community of West Vancouver, on the lands of the Squamish First Nation. We were fortunate to collaborate with Xwalactun as he has a strong connection to the district and West Vancouver teachers. You may have seen his carved doors at the school board office, for example.

Xwalactun designed this stunning image for us, and we decided to keep two versions for different aesthetic applications.



The logo is rich in meaning with symbols specific to this part of the world. At the centre is a paddle pointed upwards in peace and respect. Centred on the paddle is the Coast Salish eye, indicating we look through an indigenous lens as educators. A Salish eye on an indigenous paddle always faces the paddler behind as they move through the water, signifying colleagues watching out for each other. The eagles are in motion counterclockwise, which reflects the rotation of the moon around the earth and likewise the movement from one speaker to another in Squamish gatherings. (Other nations move between speakers in a clockwise manner like the sun.) Eagles are revered in Squamish culture as symbols of strength, focus, authority, and wisdom. A person holding an eagle feather speaks the truth.

Member response has been overwhelmingly positive, and we hope to soon have some swag (t-shirts, etc.) available for members to show their pride in membership of the WVTA.

I want to take opportunity in this last newsletter of the year to thank VP **Chantalle Wigley**, **WVTA Staff Representatives**, **ProD Representatives**, **Local Representatives to BCTF RAs** and **AGMs**, and **Executive Members** for their amazing leadership and support of their colleagues in West Vancouver this year. To those of you who are moving on from your positions serving your local, thank you! For those newly elected to positions,

thank you as well! The WVTA would not function without your involvement. Have a well-earned relaxing Summer!

*In Solidarity, Spencer*



**WVTA General Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 19, 2024**  
3:45 pm, Kay Meek Centre  
McEwen Theatre  
Wine & Cheese Social following

## Thanks to the Many Who Serve their Union

Many WVTA members contribute to their union by serving as Staff Reps, ProD Reps, or members of committees. We thank those who, despite the demands of teaching and home-life, stepped forward this past year to serve their Association and support their fellow teachers in their schools!

**Executive Committee:** *Spencer Capier (President), Chantalle Wigley (VP), Jane Standfield (Secretary/treasurer), David Gibson, Stephen Price, Jessica Selzer & Sylvie Sturgess (Members-at-large), Jane Standfield & Matt Glover (Local Reps to BCTF), Susan Carsky (Alternate LR), Adrienne Gruber (ProD chair), Chantalle Wigley (Bargaining Chair), Rozhin Emadi (Social Justice rep), Richard Warrington (TTOC rep), and Roland Samson (Health & Safety Rep).*

**Staff Reps:** *Heather Johnston (BICS), Suzanne Seward CA, Renelle Allard (CE), Maia Janz (CH), Bea Sedgwick (CP), Erica Hardern (EH), Tara Nesbitt & Jenn Stephenson (HO), Kristy Olson (IE), Geoff Hamelin (IP), Sonia Southam (LB), Scott Kittredge (PJ), Dianne Wanless (RI), Moriah Gibli (WB), Karen Foster & Firouzeh Vaziri (WE), Matt Glover (RR), Lara Winstone (SE), Nicola Colhoun, Lisa Lee & Brian Smith, (WVSS), Richard Warrington (TTOCs)*

**Professional Development Committee Reps:** *Adrienne Gruber (Chair), Samantha Adkins, Tess McDonald & Andrea Woodworth (BICS), Micha Prins (CA), Stephanie Davenport (CE), Christine Desai, Salimah Fidai, Erin French & Leah Kos (CH), Andrea Anderson (CP), Kate Stephen (EH),*

Judy Downie & Meghan Robertson (GE), Doni Gratton & Jenn Wong (HO), Alisha Burke & Doni Gratton (IP), Michele Gannon & Nina Parr (PJ), Maria Dawson, Erica Eng & Julia McGaw (RI), Dave Dickinson, Parnaz Kashani, Scott Lawson & Meghan Lesieur (RR), Kristi Alm, Meaghan McGuinness-Gill & Jana Pinto (SE), Morikke Espenhain, Chrysta Millhouse & Claudia Ng (WB), Hannah Kothe & Natalie Pang (WE), Sarah Cormier & Vanessa Peterson (WVSS).

### Health & Safety Committee:

Roland Samson (HO)

School staffs are asked to think ahead about selecting their Staff & ProD Reps for the upcoming 2024/25 school year. To plan for Union Rep Training sessions, we will need the names and member counts as early as possible in September. Rep names can be forwarded to the WVTA office by phone, (604) 926-1617, or by email to [info@wvta.ca](mailto:info@wvta.ca).

## WVTA Executive 2024-2025

These members, apart from **Spencer Capier** (President) and **Chantalle Wigley** (VP), were elected at the WVTA AGM on May 30<sup>th</sup> to fill the Executive Committee positions for the 2024-2025 school year. Spencer and Chantalle were both elected to their positions by acclamation prior to the AGM, and those positions elected at the AGM were by online voting or by acclamation. *Thank you to all the individuals who agreed to put their names forward to serve their union.*

President	<b>Spencer Capier</b>	
Vice President	<b>Chantalle Wigley</b>	(IE)
Secretary/Treasurer	<b>Nicola Colhoun</b>	(WVSS)
Local Reps to BCTF	<b>Matt Glover</b>	(RR)
	<b>Chantalle Wigley</b>	(VP/IE)
Alt. Local Rep	<b>Sylvie Sturgess</b>	(PJ)
Members-at-Large	<b>Craig Elliot</b>	(SE)
	<b>Moriah Gibli</b>	(WB)
	<b>Jessica Selzer</b>	(RR)
	<b>Jenn Stephenson</b>	(HO)
FFWL Rep	<b>Sylvie Sturgess</b>	(PJ)
ProD Chair	<b>Adrienne Gruber</b>	(WVSS)
Social Justice Rep	<b>Rozhin Emadi</b>	(WVSS)

TTOC Rep **Richard Warrington**  
Health & Safety Rep **Roland Samson** (HO)

## ProD Opportunities:

With summer break soon upon us, WVTA members may be considering attending a Professional Development course or workshop in July or August. If you attend a ProD event during the summer and did not make an application prior to the summer, or received only partial coverage of the costs, you may apply for ProD funding from next school year's fund. Application forms and receipts for summer professional development should be submitted to the WVTA office as early as possible in September, by September 30, 2024, latest. No applications are processed during the summer.

**The next Provincial PSA Day is next October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Many of the PSA conferences being offered will soon be previewed on the BCTF website.



## Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Fall Conference 2024

October 25, 2024

Royal Bay Secondary, Victoria, BC

Featuring **Julianne Harvey** (Teacher Wellness), **Tom Hierck** (Trauma-Informed Classroom Management) and **Kenneth Opiel** (YA author) plus over 70 presenters with in-person workshops in all subject areas for grades 4-9 teachers and EAs. Additional professional development opportunities on Saturday, Oct. 26 at various locations around Greater Victoria.

Early bird benefits until September 30<sup>th</sup>. In-Person cost \$130 until Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>; \$170 Oct. 1 and later.

This conference is limited in number of attendees and usually sells out, so register early. For more information, go to [www.mypita.ca](http://www.mypita.ca) or you can register now.

## EASI PSA

A new potential PSA (Provincial Specialist Association) is currently trying to gather enough members to pass at the PSA Council in November.

The Educational Assessment, Support, and Intervention (EASI) PSA invites all interested BCTF members to join. It is particularly focussed on School Psychologists, Counsellors, Learning Support Teachers and all other members who are interested and/or involved in assessment, support and interventions to improve student learning.

An information brochure can be found [here](#). Please see the [sign-up form](#) here.

### An Invitation to HeARTing, SFU-approved PhD Study

An exciting invitation is extended to you to join an SFU-approved study led by WVTA member **Misty Paterson** called HeARTing: Co-inquiring with Materials, Modalities, and Pedagogies to Carry Care-full Conversations in Community. This arts-based research is in response to the current global teacher shortage, decline in student and teacher mental health, and the Sustainable Development Goals of quality education, health, peace, and partnership.

The study is open to all in-service teachers and counsellors K-12. Only 15 educators can join, making this a rare chance to gain new insights, improve teaching methods, and contribute to important research. If you are interested in the topic AND can attend the key 5 in-person sessions, from July 22 to July 26, 1-3 pm in Coast Metro area, please open the [Study Invitation](#) letter.

**Deadline to participate is June 30, 2024.**

**The WVTA office is closed for much of the summer. Your President, Spencer Capier can be reached for emergencies at [president@wvta.ca](mailto:president@wvta.ca)**

**Have a Happy, Healthy Summer Break!**



Congratulations  
WVTA Retirees!

Thank you to all our retiring colleagues for their years of good work for their students. We wish them great happiness in their retirement pursuits!

<b>Andrea Crowdis</b>	(Gleneagles)
<b>Colin Dignum</b>	(WVSS)
<b>Helen Eng</b>	(Rockridge)
<b>Linda Haddow</b>	(Chartwell)
<b>David Henning</b>	(WVSS)
<b>Robin Hood</b>	(Inclusive Ed)
<b>Michael Ioannou-Johnson</b>	(WVSS)
<b>Blaise Johnson</b>	(Sentinel)
<b>Heather Johnston</b>	(BICS)
<b>Rose Murray</b>	(Hollyburn)
<b>Jana Pinto</b>	(Sentinel)
<b>Joanne Pohn</b>	(WVSS)
<b>Jane Standfield</b>	(West Bay)
<b>Kristina Stead</b>	(WVSS)
<b>Tatsuzo Taguchi</b>	(Rockridge)
<b>Hugh Wilson</b>	(Sentinel)



### WVTA SCHOLARSHIPS

The application form for the **WVTA Scholarship Awards** is available [here](#) and on the WVTA web site: [www.wvta.ca](http://www.wvta.ca), Teacher Resources > *Forms for Download*. To be eligible, the June 2024 graduate must be a child or legal ward of an active or retired WVTA member. Two scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded. The deadline for application is August 31, 2024.