



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

WVTA Newsletter Vol 47 No 2 Oct 2024

Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

Hello Colleagues,

As president of the WVTA I attend all School Board meetings. I speak during the “questions and comments” portion of these meetings from time to time. My contributions are usually on issues of local funding, teacher workload, or a particular policy of the district.

Last week I felt compelled to speak at length to the board on the provincial election and the decision of one of our school trustees to run as a BC Conservative. Normally this would not provoke much comment, as we teach in a conservative district. It's not my job to tell members how to vote. Teachers as a group are politically diverse.

However, as I outline below, the leader of the BC Conservatives has made several outrageous and false statements about teachers. As your advocate and representative, I had a duty to speak out.

Here are my comments to the board expressing West Vancouver teachers' disappointment in Trustee Block's decision, and a call to the remaining Trustees to stand with teachers in defending public education:

“In 2015 the writer PJ O'Rourke was asked if he was going to vote for Hilary Clinton or Donald Trump in the 2016 US election. As a libertarian, he disagreed with the Democrats on almost everything economic, social, and political. However, he publicly endorsed Hilary Clinton. When asked why on NPR he said, “She's wrong about absolutely everything, but she's wrong within normal parameters.””

This is how I felt about the BC Liberals. Even in the darkest moments of contract stripping under Premier Christie Clark, they had a grasp on reality. I assumed they read the same newspapers as I did.

It is therefore with sadness I note that a Trustee of our school district is standing for election as a BC Conservative.

*The Conservative Party of BC leader **John Rustad** has taken several positions on climate change, public health, and (most relevantly to me as president of the WVTA) education, which make me wonder what newspapers he reads if any at all.*

Mr. Rustad doesn't see climate change as the existential crisis it clearly is. This should not be a partisan issue.

*He is a vaccine skeptic, and regrets getting his three shots. His views on **Dr. Bonnie Henry** are of the tin foil hat variety.*

Regarding K-12 Education, Mr. Rustad's YouTube interview with Jordan Peterson was concerning, as were his interviews with the CBC. Here are two examples from those media spots that are of great concern to West Vancouver Teachers:

His call for the removal of all portables in Surrey is delusional. The inevitable increase of class sizes to 36 or higher would be no thoughtful person's idea of sound educational policy.

We are most offended by his claim that elementary teachers are exposing students to pornography because of SOGI policies. This

assertion is disconnected from reality, undermines confidence in the public school system, and puts teachers at risk. Mr. Rustad has promised he would produce evidence to support his claim but has yet to do so.

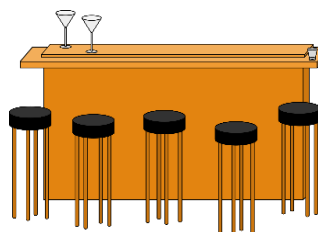
The implication is that teachers, administrators, and school trustees are failing in their duty to ensure students are safe from radical indoctrination.

West Vancouver teachers are disappointed and disturbed that **Lynne Block**, a West Vancouver School Trustee, a former teacher no less, would choose to associate with such an ill-informed political party and leader.

A Conservative Party of BC Government with its current cast of characters would seriously undermine the work of public education in West Vancouver and the Province.

I call on the Trustees here at this meeting to stand with us in support of public education.”

In solidarity, *Spencer*



“Oktoberfest”!

WVTA Members’ Social,
Thursday, October 24th,
3:30 – 5:00 pm
The Village Taphouse,
Park Royal South



District Flu Shot Clinic
8:00 am – 4:00, Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Gymnasium – South Campus
By APPOINTMENT ONLY: Click on the icons below.



TMVC ONLINE
BOOKING GUIDE.pdf



2024 Seasonal Flu
Health Profile.pdf

Evaluation Workshop

The District in partnership with the WVTA will be holding an **Evaluation Workshop at the School Board office, 3:30-4:40, Wednesday, November 6th**. Term appointment teachers are strongly advised to attend this one-hour workshop that will outline the process of teacher evaluation in West Vancouver. All term contract teachers are evaluated and should become familiar with the processes, their rights and responsibilities.



WVTA Scholarships 2024

WVTA Scholarships of \$1000 were awarded to two school graduates, both children of a WVTA member. Congratulations to:

Harris Cameron, son of WVTA member **Julie Cameron** (Rockridge). Harris has begun his studies at the Smith School of Business, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario.

Silas Mee, son of WVTA member **Timothy Mee** (Westcot). Silas has begun his studies in the Faculty of Applied Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

The Scholarship Committee looked for dedicated service to school and community as well as academic and extra-curricular achievements.

All of this year’s applicants were outstanding. The committee was particularly impressed with how all of them were able to balance school volunteerism and involvement in extra-curricular activities with maintaining outstanding scholastic achievement. We congratulate them and wish them all great success as they pursue their academic and life goals!

Dianne Wanless
Chair, WVTA Scholarship Committee

POLITICAL ACTION

Provincial Election, Oct. 19, 2024 Very different visions of K-12

The Provincial Election will be held on October 19th, 2024, and the outcome may **directly affect your classroom.**

Conservative Party of BC leader **John Rustad** has pledged to:

- [Increase class sizes](#) to save money, and do away with portables
- [End SOGI](#) as he believes teachers are using pornographic materials, and compared this [education to Residential Schools.](#)

Mr. Rustad also does not believe [Climate Change](#) is a crisis, and has pledged to repeal the province's commitment to the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or [UNDRIP](#).

According to a recent Angus Reid Poll, the race between the NDP and Conservative Party of BC could be very tight. Your Vote Matters!

The current NDP government has built schools to address overcrowding, supports SOGI education, restricted digital devices in schools, and [banned protests on school grounds](#). The 2020 Green party Platform on education can be [found here](#). ***Please take the time to familiarize yourself about the issues in this election, and make sure to vote.***



Don't Forget.....
Turn your clocks back one hour on 3rd (2:00 am)!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation is a social justice union that strives to build equity within our organization and wider society. Therefore, social justice work is an imperative aspect of our union.

If you are interested in doing this work within our union, join the WVTA's Social Justice committee. For the upcoming year, our top goal is to establish a strong Social Justice Committee within our Local, which has representatives from all schools and meets on a consistent basis. This way, we can ensure more of our members have access to social justice curriculum and wider union initiatives that promote social justice. We hope to continue carrying out this important social justice work in a more collective way, and one that brings our members together.

Please email your **Social Justice representative, Rozhin Emadi**, if you are interested in joining. Email: rozhin.emadi@gmail.com

Professional Development Opportunities

PSA Day – October 25th Applying for ProD Funding?

- Application forms on the WVTA website, www.wvta.ca
- Please submit your applications prior to, or shortly after October 25th conferences you are requesting funding for – don't wait until the end of the school year!

visit [TeachBC](#) !

What is TeachBC?

- Online resources of teaching materials, lessons, and research relevant to the K-12 BC curriculum.
- Allows users to download, upload and share resources.
- Search by subject, grade, resource type, title, description, language and more.

Who can use it?

- Everyone! The website is public.
- Teachers, provincial specialist associations, and other organizations.

How can teachers contribute?

- Upload your favourite lesson plans, unit plans, activities, resources, or research and make TeachBC the go-to site for K-12 BC resources.
- Tell your colleagues about TeachBC and help build the site.

New Lending Service at the BCTF Library

In addition to TeachBC, the BCTF has e-books available as well as physical books that the central library at the BCTF can mail out to members (it's a free service for libraries from Canada Post).

Books range from items that are relevant to professional issues in education but they are building their catalogue of resources that are more geared to the classroom. [Read more here.](#)

PSA DAY Opportunities:

Oct. 25-26th, Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Association (*myPITA*)

Royal Bay Secondary, Victoria, BC, and Online

The 2024 *myPITA* Fall Conference features **Julianne Harvey** (Teacher Wellness), **Tom Hierch** (Trauma-Informed Classroom Management) and **Kenneth Oppel** (Canadian YA Author). Friday features over 80 workshops for Grades 4-9 teachers. Plus, five hands-on learning experiences on Saturday. A selection of

workshops will be presented in-person and streamed online, and others will be delivered online and

streamed to the in-person audience. Regardless of the format, all participants will be able to ask questions and participate in activities.

Early bird benefits including discounted rates and a chance to win a class visit by author Kenneth Oppel!. Prize draws. Mailed goodies to the first 1000 online conference registrants. Registration closes October 20th. Visit [myPITA](#) for information and to register.

Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) Fall Conference, October 25th, Victoria, BC Inspiring Engagement for Learning.

Dr. Gordon Neufeld and his team, plus many more great presenters like **Charlotte Diamond**, **Sharon Jeroski**, **Lauren MacLean** and more!

[More information, register here.](#)



Fill YOUR CUP at coffee talk

Drop by *myPita's* virtual teacher coffee talk where you may ask questions, listen, offer suggestions and support or hang out while doing your grading and lesson planning. There will be current and former teachers available to help and others around to chat with, but you'll be left alone if you want to work quietly. **3:30 4:30 pm on Thursdays: next sessions November 7 and November 28th.**

To receive the Zoom meeting link, join the monthly e-newsletter at [myPita Coffee Talk](#).

Camp Suzuki at Chá7elkwnech: WALKING WITH THE SQUAMISH October 25-26, 2024

Are you an educator interested in learning more about Indigenous education, culture, and ways of knowing? If you are, this professional development retreat is for you! Coinciding with the province-wide Pro-D day, a Professional development retreat for educators of all backgrounds and grade levels (K through to post-Secondary).

[MORE INFORMATION](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)
Questions? info@fircom.ca