



WEST VANCOUVER Teachers' Association

Vol 46, no 1 Sept 2023

Notes from your President – *Spencer Capier*

Hello Colleagues,

I am probably the fiftieth person in the district to welcome you back, but I'll do it anyway: Welcome Back! I hope you are ready for another school year.

Also: Welcome new teachers and new members to your union! I look forward to getting to know you all this coming year.

Here are several things your WVTA is focussed on this coming year:

New Reporting Order: The WVTA feels the district is avoiding several of the pitfalls the NRO could present, and that is to the good. Our concern is workload, of course.

Please let your Staff Reps know if you feel the expectations at your work site are unreasonable and are not consistent with the rest of the district nor the clear intention of ministry documents.

Non-Enrolling Ratios: This is always an issue at the start of the year. September is when enrolment data is not fully collated, many students have not been identified as needing more support, and it's easy to begin to feel overwhelmed. Please monitor class composition and caseloads and let your Staff Reps know if you see issues developing. The WVTA can bring concerns directly to upper management, and push for change if it's needed.

Bargaining: Holy Cow, already?! We would normally not be focussing on this for a few more months but the BCTF Bargaining Conference was moved up six months earlier than normal to this coming Spring.

If you are interested in participating in the bargaining process by being a member of the Bargaining

Committee, please let me or **Chantalle Wigley** (your Vice President) know. A Bargaining Chair will soon be appointed by your Representative Assembly. The WVTA will survey members to determine bargaining priorities and those priorities will be brought to a General Meeting for approval.

I believe the Provincial table's priorities will be on class size and composition language. I hope we see stronger language in this area, much as we saw last round with maternity leave provisions.

Professional Development Funds: Your Representative Assembly is considering changes to how Pro D funds are disbursed. Many of you have asked if Pro D funds could be rolled over from one year to the next. We are therefore looking at allowing funds to be rolled over for up to three years for a total accumulation of \$1050. Additionally, there may be the development of a Conference Fund of 20 grants of \$2000 per year. Many have also asked if Pro D funds could be applied to for credit course work. This last item would require consultation with the district.

The shift from Department Coordinators to Teacher Leaders continues. The WVTA has successfully consulted with the district on a mutually agreeable job description of the new Position of Special Responsibility (POSR). There will be further consultation on the method of appointment, and negotiation of the annual allowance. Our current annual allowance for Department Coordinators is one of the few examples of superior language in our Collective Agreement compared to most other school districts. The WVTA does not see why that should change.

The WVTA will provide opportunities for members to provide fulsome in person input on the new POSR in the coming weeks.

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Our first **General Meeting of the year is September 21st at 3:45 at the Kay Meek**. You will hear a 'state of the union,' and be given an opportunity to discuss and approve the proposed budget for the year. There will be lavish door prizes and a wine and cheese social to follow. I look forward to seeing you there!

Lots going on! Remember, teaching is a marathon, not a sprint; pace yourselves!

In solidarity, *Spencer Capier*

Notice:

**WVTA GENERAL MEETING
Thursday, September 21st
3:45 – 5:00 pm, Kay Meek Centre
Studio Theatre**

AGENDA ITEMS

- President's Report; State of the Union
- Committee Reports
- 2023-2024 Budget Report –
Recommendations from Staff Rep Assembly:
 - (a) Adoption of WVTA fees
 - (b) Adoption of 2023-2024 Budget

Door prizes!

Wine and Cheese Social following the meeting!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

*A message from your WVTA Pro-D Committee Chair, **Adrienne Gruber**:*

Welcome back everyone! Hopefully you have all come back after a summer of resting and decompressing and are ready for the year. I am thrilled to be back as your WVTA Pro-D Chair for the 2023/2024 school year and am looking forward to supporting all the school Pro-D reps in this important work. This year will be a bit different than last year, as we will have on one district Professional Development Day (January 29th). All other Pro-D days will be school-based, which will hopefully provide an opportunity for all members to have more self-directed options for your professional development. The school reps and I will be meeting at the end of September to discuss some exciting,

proposed changes to the WVTA Pro-D Funding program, and my hope is to be a consistent and helpful support as they plan school-based days. Please feel free to reach out to me any time if you have any questions or would like to chat.

Sincerely, **Adrienne**

WVTA Professional Development Fund: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: What is the WVTA Pro-D Fund?

A: The Pro-D fund is a trust fund administered by the Association, primarily the WVTA office with direction from the Pro-D Committee chair and the WVTA president. The fund receives an annual contribution from the Board based on a formula in our contract, and a Teacher on Call pool of up to 120 days is allocated annually for Professional Development purposes. The Association makes an annual contribution of \$8000 to the fund.

The School Effectiveness Fund no longer exists! This program was discontinued several years ago with its previously designated monies incorporated into the ProD Fund, also based on a formula in the contract.

Q: What is my allotment?

A: Any teacher with an assignment in the district, including part-time teachers and teachers on leave, is eligible for up to \$350 funding and two TOC days per school year (one day for .4 FTE and under). Non-enrolling teachers **who do not require TTOC coverage** are eligible for up to \$500 of funding per school year, and TTOCs employed by the district are eligible for up to \$150 of funding per school year.

Q: Can I get TTOC coverage for day-in lieu, or be paid by the fund if I attend a Pro-D event or collaboration on a non-working day?

A: TTOC coverage will not be approved for a day in lieu. Much of the Professional Development teachers undertake is scheduled during non-teaching hours or days (including evenings, weekends, summers). *The special program offered last year for paid collaboration time on non-teaching days may be repeated this year. More information on this program will be coming soon!*

Q: Where can I find the WVTA Pro-D Fund Application Form? [WVTA Website](https://www.wvta.ca)

Q: Can I have my Pro-D funding paid directly to the conference or event I am attending?

A: We prefer to make payments directly to the person who has applied for the funding to simplify the accounting records for audit process. For a group of teachers paying a special group fee, each teacher should submit an individual application form for their share of cost.

Professional Development Opportunities

Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teachers' Association (myPITA)

Friday Oct. 20th – North Delta Secondary and Online

The 2023 myPITA Fall Conference features **Dr. Jody Carrington** as keynote speaker, and proudly presents **Nicki Lineham, Julianne Harvey, and Miranda Krogstad** plus 80 in-person workshops at North Delta Secondary and 60 online workshops. 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 rate until September 30th, 2023. Price increases October 1st. In-person registration 2/4 at noon on October 15th. Online registration closes at noon on October 20th. Register now at [myPita](https://myPita.ca).

BC Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) October 20th, Richmond, BC

Inspiring Engagement - The Primary Years. **Gordon Neufeld, Deborah MacNamara, Tamara Strijack & David McFall** address **The Hidden Keys to Engagement for Primary Students**. "In our hurry to educate our students and realize basic academic and behavioural outcomes, it is all too easy to neglect the natural contexts which actualize, empower and optimize learning" For a more detailed program or to register, [visit here](#).

BC Association of Math Teachers (BCAMT) Fall Conference, October 20th

Guilford Park Secondary School and Hybrid

Learning Math: It's Rational. Speakers include **Sean Chorney** (Keynote), **Maegan Gioux, Alicia Burdess, Jason Jo, Aleda Klassen** (virtual), **Kori Czuy** (virtual), and **Berkeley Everett** (virtual). [Register here](#).

BC Science Teachers' Association (BCScTA) Catalyst Hybrid Conference 2023

October 20th Victoria, BC & Online

This year the BCScTA is bringing you a hybrid conference. Attend in-person at Royal Bay Secondary

School, 3500 Ryder Hesjedal Way, Victoria, BC, and get access to ALL our workshops; get some great swag; network with colleagues; and enjoy some great food and prizes. If you just can't make it work, then choose to attend virtually and get access to a selection of online workshops from some amazing presenters. Workshop info and Registration [HERE](#).

BC Music Educators Association (BCMEA) October 19-21, River Rock Casino

The BCMEA Conference is back for another year at the River Rock Resort in Richmond. Its website is undergoing renovations - Schedule, Marketplace, Presenters, and Conductors are currently under construction and will soon be available. Registration is now open and information as it updates is [live here](#).

BC Association of Teachers of Modern Languages (BCATML) – Celebrating Languages October 20th – Executive Hotel Vancouver Airport in Richmond

BCATML will host its in-person conference in Richmond, with **Lisa Green** as keynote speaker. This year's theme is **Authentic Assessment**.

There will be over 20 workshops throughout the day, with a wide range of sessions in French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, Punjabi, Spanish, and general sessions from which to choose. There is something for everyone - [Celebrating Languages 2023 info](#)

Camp Suzuki at Chá7elkwnech: WALKING WITH THE SQUAMISH

October 20-21, 2023

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 a province-wide Pro-D day, a Professional development retreat for educators of all backgrounds and grade levels (K through to post-Secondary).

Interactive and engaging seminars in Squamish Nation history, language, ethnobotany, culture, stories, and stewardship in a welcoming, encouraging outdoor-education setting.

Hosts:

Longstanding partners the David Suzuki Foundation, the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and Camp Fircom

[Check Here for more information](#)

[Click Here to register](#)



**Wear orange on
September 30th
in the Spirit of
Reconciliation**

On **September 30th**, teachers and communities are encouraged to participate in **Orange Shirt Day**, for communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come. The organizers created Orange Shirt Day as a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, in the spring of 2013, where one survivor told her story about “having her shiny new orange shirt taken away” on her first day of school at the Mission. The event gains momentum each year with the hope it continues to be an opportunity to keep the discussion on the legacy of residential schools and the need for reconciliation moving forward.

Find and download BCTF suggestions for classroom [Orange Shirt Activities here](#).

The WVTA office is not part of the district email system. Please note the following:

Spencer Capier president@wvta.ca
604-809-3267 (cell)

Chantalle Wigley vp@wvta.ca
778-229-8250 (cell)

Karen Straith kstraith@wvta.ca
(Office & ProD) 604-926-1617 (WVTA office)

We strongly recommend emailing Spencer and Chantalle from your private email accounts.



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.

In the spirit of teachers helping teachers, visit [TeachBC](#) .