



# COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

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The CTA office is a scent free workplace. Visit our Website at [www.coquitlamteachers.com](http://www.coquitlamteachers.com)

Ken Christensen, President  
Amanda Long, First Vice-President  
Kara Obojski, Second Vice-President

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## **Representation at Meetings**

Based upon some phone calls and situations this week, we are reminding teachers that they are entitled to CTA representation in any meeting with management, under article A.21 of the Collective agreement which guarantees that right. Should you wish representation, please don't hesitate to contact your staff rep and discuss the nature of the meeting and whether it is something they can represent you for or if you need a released officer of the association. Typically, any meeting that involves a discussion that could be disciplinary or directive should have a released officer present. You can also call us for advice and we will suggest the appropriate level of representation required.



## **District Occupational Health and Safety Committee**

The District came to the worrying decision that it no longer wishes to continue the District Occupational Health and Safety Committee, a committee that has been practice in this district for more than two decades, allowing oversight of OH&S trends in the district and containing reps from CUPE, CTA, CPVPA and district management. The employer cites that Worksafe has told them that they don't have to have an overseeing committee and, that the site-based committees are the only legally-required committees. We disagree with this assessment and will resist this decision through the normal dispute resolution channels. Examples of issues clarified and solved district-wide by the DOHS over the years include, heating procedures, scent-free policies, working alone policies, student-entry protocols, hazardous material disposal, to name a few.

Members of site-based joint OH&S committees should be aware that they are entitled to 8 hours of training per year, at the employer's expense. See the link below for more information on mandatory training.

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/education-training-certification/joint-health-safety-committee-member>

Contact the CTA if this training isn't offered or provided.

## **Pacific Blue Cross Board Election**

After the disastrous and unfair lockout of CUPE 1816 members in the labour dispute this summer at PBC, it's hard to argue that there isn't need for change in its board. A slate of seven progressive candidates are running for election at the PBC Annual General Meeting, Wednesday, December 13, 6 pm at the Westin Bayshore downtown. Among the slate of candidates are some names teachers will likely recognize, such as Jim Iker and Aaron Ekman. All plan recipients are welcome to come to this meeting and vote for candidates that represent their values. If you are coming to vote, registration starts at 3 pm and we suggest getting there early.

Here is a link to provide more information on the slate of progressive candidates and transportation assistance to the Westin Bayshore from Waterfront Station or the PNE.

[http://www.cupe.bc.ca/pacific\\_blue\\_cross\\_board\\_candidates\\_aim\\_to\\_take\\_pbc\\_back\\_to\\_its\\_progressive\\_roots](http://www.cupe.bc.ca/pacific_blue_cross_board_candidates_aim_to_take_pbc_back_to_its_progressive_roots)



**Feeling drained? New resources available to help BCTF members**

Starling Minds, in partnership with the BCTF, has created a new series of online tools, called Regulation Essentials, to help BCTF members with their health and well-being. The tools will help members learn how to manage the intensity of their emotions, handle pressure, and make better decisions.

[more...](#)

# PD Power

"At the other side of chaos, you get a new kind of order -- an order that is adaptive, that is transforming, that is all the things we want an organization to be" ~ Margaret Wheatley from the Order on the Other Side of Chaos

Thank you for all your wonderful suggestions for our February CTA Day! In sending out the Call for Presenters, I was asked to share more about this year's theme, "Perspectives in Teaching and Learning". I thought you might be interested, too.

Here's the background:

When the PD Committee discusses and chooses a theme, the idea is to be open-ended enough to allow for a variety of workshops to be offered while reflecting where we are collectively on the journey. Our thinking this year was that, as teachers, we are being asked to embed core and curricular competencies with indigenous ways of knowing through an inquiry approach using an inclusive model of teaching that honours collaborative goals (set by the student/parent/teacher)... which I grossly understate when I say: "Um, that's a lot!"

Building on our recent themes of Creating Cultures of Leadership (2015), Collaboration (2016), Weaving Our Stories (2017), the importance of having multiple *perspectives* to help us create meaning for ourselves became clear. What are you noticing from your perspective? How can you share your ideas to help us move forward together? There's still time to register as a presenter. Please contact [hstibbs@cta43.org](mailto:hstibbs@cta43.org) for more information.

Take care,  
Holly

## **BCTF AGM: Be A Delegate!**

The **BCTF Annual General Meeting** will take place on March 17-20, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. This year, we will elect delegates to the BCTF AGM at our General Meeting on January 17, 2018. We would like to encourage members to seriously consider coming to the BCTF AGM this year.

Please go to our website for a curriculum vitae and submit it to the CTA Office before **Monday, January 8, 2018**.

## **Learn how to upgrade your position on salary scale**

The [Teacher Qualification Service](#) (TQS) has updated some policies that may mean some members are eligible to upgrade their position on the salary scale. Alternatively, the changes may help other members choose to take additional studies to upgrade their TQS salary category. Any member who believes they qualify for an upgrade should contact the [TQS](#). Members can review the TQS [Category Requirements](#) page at any time to see the various pathways to salary upgrading.

## **Wondering about Retirement Options? Read on!**

BC Retired Teachers' Association and local Coquitlam Branch (CRTA) invite both retired and active teachers to test drive membership and associate membership for a year, for free! As a BCRTA member/ associate member, you will have access to a wide range of extended health plan benefits, travel insurance, consumer and travel discounts, and many retirement resources. You will be part of an organization that stands up for education, for seniors, and for pension rights. You will also find great opportunities for learning experiences and new personal connections. It only takes five minutes to join. Check us out at [BCRTA.ca](http://BCRTA.ca).

## **How your EFAP can help**

✓ Confidential services  
✓ Information to help with work and life  
✓ Immediate assistance 24/7/365  
To access Employee Family Assistance Program services, just call  
**Morneau Shepell**  
**1.844.880.9142 / TTY 1.877.338.0275**

## **Updating NonSD43 Email Addresses**

The CTA is collecting personal emails for the purpose of communicating union business such as bargaining, implementation work, strike support, etc. Due to District policy's and further to privacy regulations we would like to contact members regarding specific information through personal not employer-based email addresses. We will not share your personal information with any third party.  
Please complete the survey on our [website](#) or send your information directly to [membership@cta43.org](mailto:membership@cta43.org)  
(First name, Last name, Employee number, nonSD43 email address).

