

# COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

March 2, 2018 - No.25

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## *President's Message*

### **Budget 2018**

There are several education-friendly elements in the recent Provincial budget. Highlights include \$212 million in increased funding to general operating and a commitment to funding increases in future years. Additionally, the focus on affordable daycare and housing prioritizes things that directly affect education. Parents less stressed by financial considerations around daycare and housing can make better choices in parenting their child, with consequent positive effects on public schools. Affordable daycare and housing also makes BC a more attractive environment for people with a teaching certificate out there and must be a part of any robust recruitment and retention strategy.

As always, we await seeing how the rubber hits the road here, knowing that it will take time to reverse 16 years of cutbacks and strained resources.

# CTA UPDATES

## Semester 2 Remedy

The BCTF put a grievance forward at Step 3 with regard to the denial of Remedy for the first 22 days of Semester 2. Locally, we put a grievance forward on the same matter and placed it in abeyance pending a decision provincially. BCPSEA has denied the grievance at Step 3 and the BCTF will be taking the matter to arbitration. At the heart of our concerns are that linear systems get a 21 day window at start of year where teachers are not eligible for remedy but, that is the sum total of lost remedy time for that year. Semestered or quaternary systems get hit multiple times and this is unfair, in our view. That was certainly not the intent of LOU #17 and, the CTA actually noted this problem to SD43 right out of the gate, ahead of the provincial parties catching on to it.

## Bargaining 2018

Staff reps attended training this week at the CTA where we talked about bargaining. Our current contract expires June 30, 2019 so we are starting to gather feedback from members on what their bargaining priorities are. Your staff rep will be speaking to you if they haven't already to get your input. Please participate in these important discussions so we can have all voices heard. The feedback forms are due back to the CTA office by Wednesday, March 14. We will compile the information and use it to create a survey which will go out to all members after Spring Break. Survey results will allow our negotiations committee to set bargaining objectives locally and to make provincial recommendations to the BCTF. Thanks for your participation in these activities we value your voice.

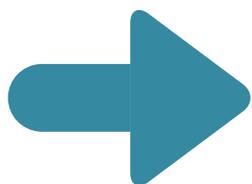
## Did you know?

Our collective agreement has provincial and local clauses! Any article under the number 20 is provincial and anything numbered 20 and up is local. Ask your staff rep for more information.

Example:

A.2 - recognition of the union (provincial language)

A.21 - right to representation (local language)



### **REMINDER: K/K-1 BCTF Provincial Kindergarten Survey Open until Sunday March 4th!**

Survey findings will be used to help the BCTF and BCPTA understand and advocate for K/K-1 teachers' working and learning provisions.

<http://form.simplesurvey.com/f/L/FullDayKSurvey2018>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CHAIR 2018-19

The CTA Professional Development Chair position is filled on an annual basis. As such, the CTA is seeking members interested in the position of Professional Development Chair for 2018-19. Release time for this position is currently 0.4 and the responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- chairing the PD Committee, the CTA PD Day Committee and LSA Council
- planning, developing, organizing and implementing professional development activities for the CTA Professional Development Day
- processing applications for PD assistance and course fee assistance
- maintaining a liaison between the CTA and the BCTF in matters of Professional Development

The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of and be highly committed to, professional development; will be well organized and will support a collaborative and collegial office atmosphere.

Interested members should go to our website for a curriculum vitae form, which must be submitted to the CTA by Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:00 p.m.

## LABOUR RELATIONS OFFICER 2018-19

The CTA Labour Relations Officer position is filled on annual basis. As such, the CTA is seeking members interested in the position of Labour Relations Officer for 2018-19. Release time for this position is 1.0 and the responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Dealing with members' problems and inquiries
- Researching, preparing and presenting grievances
- Collaborating with the Table Officers
- Maintaining confidentiality

The successful candidate will have excellent presentation skills and the ability to deal effectively with confrontation and stressful situations.

Interested members should go to our website for a curriculum vitae form, which must be submitted to the CTA by Wednesday, April 11, 2018 4:00 p.m.



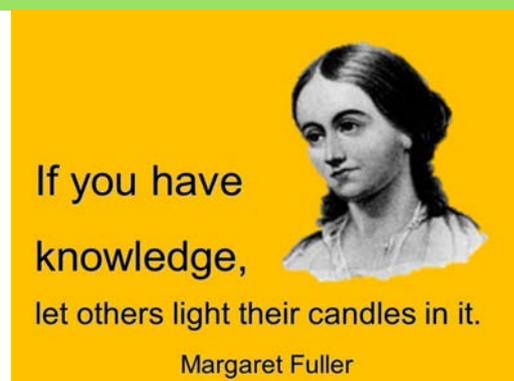
Watch your school mailbox for the March issue of Teacher magazine. It comes fully loaded with information about the BCTF's Annual General Meeting, including statements from your 2018-19 BCTF Executive Committee candidates. This issue also features the #MeToo movement, our advocacy timeline on the Bountiful situation for women and children, new resources from Equal Voice, and tips for teachers on facilitating respectful classroom conversations on controversial issues. Find out how to register your school for the April 28 Day of Mourning to raise awareness about young worker safety. Get a preview of an amazing giant gym-sized map, with accompanying resources, that shows the traditional territories of Inuit, First Nations and Metis peoples. The entire magazine is also now online to read through it all. Thanks to school staff reps, for distributing Teacher magazine to your colleagues! Online access:

<http://www.bctf.ca/publications/TeacherNewsmag.aspx?id=49337>



Thank you, Colleagues, for an amazing PD Day! Joining together to share in a common learning experience is powerful on so many levels.

First, I would like to thank all of our SD43 teacher presenters. Thank you all so much for sharing your passion, energy and expertise with us and for so willingly modelling professional leadership!



I would also like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of your CTA PD Committee who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organize, plan, set up and prepare for the day. Their flexibility and ability to keep the big picture in mind while dealing with those hiccup moments that always arise kept the energy light and the day moving smoothly. Thank you so much to Michelle Ciofitto, Meggan Crawford, Jacqueline Favelle, Ron Morwick, Amanda Roberts, Jody Rowat and Alissa Sarte. Without this amazing team, our PD day could not happen.

Already, the PD Committee is reflecting and looking forward to 2019. We really value your feedback. You can help us by completing this very short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/36J8TFV>

- Holly

## IVAN COYOTE LINKS

For those of you who attended Ivan Coyote's sessions, or are interested in finding out more information about Ivan's sessions, the links have been posted on our website under PD Resources as a flip box. Just hover over it and the links will be shown.

### **Deadline to sign up for Tribes TLC® Certified Training has been extended!**

TRIBES TLC 4-DAY TRAINING IS BACK!

Dates: April 16-20th

The deadline to sign up for Tribes TLC® Certified Training has been extended to the end of next week (March 8th). **Click here to register.**

For more details about dates, times and session description, contact [mmacmillan@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mmacmillan@sd43.bc.ca)

\*\*Reminder: if you are planning to apply for CTA PD Assistance, you will want to complete the yellow forms before Spring Break. Yellow forms need to be submitted to the CTA Office on or before Thursday, March 29th, 2018. The CTA Office is open during the first week of Spring Break but plan ahead.

# SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL JUSTICE



Recent history in the US and Canada records multiple attacks on public education in many forms. Public education as a common space—the foundation of a democratic society—has lost ground over the past 10 years. It's time to reclaim the space that's been lost to the voices of hate, bigotry, and neoliberalism.

It's time for teachers to re-engage in their important role in the process of social transformation. Teachers from British Columbia, Oregon, and Washington will come together to connect across borders in the face of common threats.

Date: April 7, 2018

Time: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Place: Sullivan Heights Secondary, Surrey, BC.

Registration is open now. Visit the website for details.



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Naomi Klein**

Naomi Klein is an award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist and international bestselling author, known for her books, *No Logo*, *The Shock Doctrine*, and *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate*. Her most recent book, *No is Not Enough: Resisting Trump's Shock Politics and Winning the World We Need* was a New York Times and international bestseller. She is the Senior Correspondent at The Intercept.



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Seth Klein**

Seth Klein is the British Columbia Director of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a public policy research institute committed to social, economic and environmental justice ([www.policyalternatives.ca](http://www.policyalternatives.ca)). He has been a social activist for over 30 years.



During International Women's Week, March 4 to 10 and International Women's Day, on March 8, check out the Educator's toolkit on the Status of Women International Women's Day webpage.

The Status of Women webpage features lessons and resources to use on these dates, including the International Women's Day Timeline poster, available in English and French, and the International Women's Day Lesson Plan.



March 16 is **Bottled Water Free Day**. The BCTF Environmental Justice Action Group's Bottled Water poster can be used in classrooms to examine the negative impacts of relying on bottled water. Cette affiche est disponible en français. There is also a Bottled Water Lesson Plan available.

# RACISM

## Seeds of Social Justice

The past year has demonstrated that we still have a long way to go in dealing with racist sentiments and actions. Our neighbours to the south are one year into a presidency that has proven to have many racist overtones that promoted a rise in racist actions. Sadly, here in Canada we too still have a lot to learn.

Racist posters and pamphlets continue to be distributed on university campuses and in certain cities and towns with some of the white nationalists having the gall to argue for their free speech rights as they go up against hate laws.

Canadian Senator Lynn Beyak posted on her website that First Nations people should become Canadian citizens and trade in their status cards and in March 2017 she said an "abundance of good" had come from residential schools.

A UN report on racism in Canada has validated the experiences of many black Canadians and strongly advocates for systemic changes to fix what continues to be an issue in Canada. The UN working group's recommendations include an apology for slavery as well as creation of a federal department of African-Canadian affairs. They also include changes to the criminal justice system.

Not all recent stories are bleak. There are still Good Samaritans willing to step forward when they see racist actions being directed at fellow Canadians as was demonstrated on the Skytrain recently when Jake Taylor intervened on behalf of Noor Fadel.

The BCTF EC is also recommending the following Solidarity Statement Against Islamophobia to the 2018 AGM to further our solidarity with those being persecuted.

Solidarity Statement Against Islamophobia

1. The Federation opposes anti-Muslim discrimination, violence, and oppression.
2. The Federation supports schools that are welcoming and supportive to students, families, and colleagues from all countries.
3. The Federation will demonstrate a commitment to challenge Islamophobia and ensure our schools are safe for all people regardless of their background.
4. The Federation will demonstrate a commitment through resources and workshops to support teachers in challenging Islamophobia and promoting a diverse, inclusive and just society.
5. The Federation understands that authentic connection to others is the best inoculation against the fear and alienation that lead youth towards Islamophobic attitudes and actions.



The Antiracism Action Group of CASJ is pleased to relaunch the updated Show Racism the Red Card resource booklet. Teachers and students are invited to take an active role in learning more about the detrimental effects of racism and how to move towards systemic change. The BCTF is also continuing its relationship with the Whitecaps Football Club (WCFC), one of our Advantage partners. The club also subscribes to the Show Racism the Red Card initiative and is sponsoring an artwork contest for teachers and their classrooms across the province.



**Please see the contest poster for details.**

# COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Teachers interested in the following committees should go onto our website for a curriculum vitae form and submit it to the CTA Office by: **Monday, March 5, 2018.**

If you have questions, call the CTA Office at 604-936-9971.

## **New Westminster & District Labour Council**

- 5 CTA reps

## **CTA Multiculturalism & Anti-Racism Committee**

- 1 elem. reps, 2 sec. reps, 1 MAL

## **CTA PD Committee**

- 1 elem reps, 1 middle rep, 2 secondary reps

## **CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee**

- 5 members-at-large

## **CTA Policies & Procedures Committee**

- 1 member-at-large

## **CTA Social Justice Committee**

- 1 elem. rep, 2 middle reps

## **District Student Services Advisory Committee**

- 2 CTA reps

## **District French Advisory Committee**

- 3 CTA reps

## **District Student Achievement Advisory Committee**

- 4 CTA reps

## **District Review Panel Committee**

- 1 CTA rep

## **District Technology Advisory Committee**

- 2 CTA reps

## **District Student Wellness & Safety Committee**

- 3 CTA reps

## **District Advisory Committee on Aboriginal Education**

- 1 CTA rep

## **District Reporting Template Feedback & Review Team**

- 1 CTA reps (Grades K-5)- 1 CTA rep (Grades 6-8)

## **District Design Committee for New Elementary Schools**

- 4 CTA reps



# Calendar of Events

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- Elementary Guitar and Ukulele Jamboree on April 11th  
@ Roy Stibbs
- Elementary Choral Jamboree at on May 9th  
@ Aspenwood Elementary



## Contact Us...

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/CTA43



@CTA43

The CTA can be found on Facebook and Twitter. You can also email us or check out the website  
[www.coquitlamteachers.com](http://www.coquitlamteachers.com)

## CTA Contacts:

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