

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

May 11, 2018 - No. 33

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President's Message

Posting Landscape

As referred to in previous newsletters, the posting process will begin on May 24th and include 4 rounds of postings. The landscape is a little different this year, due to the fact there is no layoff and that there have been a record high number of conversions in the last two years (200+). These conversions put pressure on the available work without the relief of layoff. Teachers can expect there will be higher than normal levels of surplus in schools. We now know what that looks like: 14.57 FTE district-wide. This is about three times what we normally see but, more than half of the surplus is due to the opening of Smiling Creek Elementary and the consequent downsizing at Leigh. If we take that out of the mix, 7.07 FTE remain, which is a lot closer to the normal yearly volume of surplus. High surplus numbers mean that there will be a higher than normal number of Priority 1 teachers looking for work and that increases the competition for P2s looking for a change. We are also expecting, due to the factors above, that there will be less choice in postings this year. Last year had a record number of postings, due to the restoration of the contract language and this year, we are expecting a more normal volume. We won't have final numbers on postings until next week so, please stay tuned for further updates.

Admin Teaching Time

As schools work through their organization, teachers will become aware of how much teaching time and the type of teaching load admin are assigning themselves for next year. If there are any concerns with what is being proposed by your admin, please contact us at the CTA.

Congratulations, Ruby Seah!

At the recent Metro West Zone Meeting for the BCTF, Coquitlam teacher Ruby Seah was invited to speak on what it has been like as a new teacher hired to continuing under the SCC ruling. Ruby held a room full of hard-core activists, local Presidents, BCTF staff and EC spellbound as she spoke of the joys and challenges faced by new teachers today. The CTA is very grateful for Ruby's perspective as a new teacher as we turn our minds to provincial and local bargaining. We are very pleased that her long-held dream of becoming a continuing teacher has been realized.

Remedy...

The ellipsis at the end of the title suggests that there is still ongoing change and debate provincially. Recently, Renzo Del Negro, the CEO of BCPSEA, contacted Glen Hansman to take a new position on the BCTF's proposal to roll accrued remedy over into the 2018-19 school year. Previously, we were told that both sides agreed this was possible and that debate was only centred on what kind/type of remedy choices would roll over. Now, the position of BCPSEA, who state that the Education Ministry supports them on this, is that the remedy must all be used or dealt with by the end of this year. BCPSEA do not make the case it goes away if it isn't used but, this BCPSEA remedy position has the potential to weaken our provincial bargaining position, if it prevails and cash payouts are made. At this point, discussions between the provincial parties continue and we'll let you know about any new developments.

Provincial Bargaining Meetings

Glen, Terry, and Clint will be meeting with Carole James, Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, to discuss education funding and remedy very soon. As well, sector union Presidents will be meeting with the Public Sector Employers' Council, to discuss bargaining, global funding and remedy. PSEC is an arm of government that insulates the government from directly dealing with public sector unions and deals with matters around total compensation planning, human resource management and labour relations across the public sector. BCPSEA, as an employer advocate, reports to them. We will share with you anything that comes from those meetings.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018

CTA Year End Meeting

All teachers encouraged to attend!



Winslow Gymnasium
4pm

ELECTIONS - COMMITTEE REPORTS
MARC AWARDS - BARGAINING UPDATES
POLICY & PROCEDURES - PRIZES
LOCAL ISSUES

BCTF ZONE MEETINGS

Last week was BCTF Zone Meetings across B.C. and delegates from Coquitlam attended Friday May 3 and Saturday May 4. Coquitlam joined delegates from Richmond, Burnaby, Vancouver, Delta, Sea to Sky, New Westminister, and other metro west zone locals to discuss current issues. Discrete sessions were held for representatives for PD, TTOC reps, Social Justice, aboriginal education, Health & Safety, Bargaining Chairs, Local Presidents, Local Elections Contacts and others. Whole group sessions participated in discussions around curriculum, assessment, grad requirements and ministry changes as well as the BC Blanket exercise which is a workshop the BCTF Offers examining aboriginal education. Delegates then met in their interest groups to explore current issues and topics related to their areas. There was great discussion on Adult Education, upcoming bargaining and restored language issues. Thank-you to delegates who attended: **Ken Christensen, Christy Wong, Holly Stibbs, Karen Learmonth, Melanie Mattson, Geoffrey Kehrig, Amanda Roberts, Meggan Crawford, Diether Malakoff, Haymen Leong and Amanda Long** who facilitated the zone meeting in Prince George for delegates up north. Also a very special thank-you to local teacher **Ruby Seah** who spoke on her experiences as a new teacher to the group.



Mental Health Week: A reminder to take time for yourself

It's Mental Health Week across Canada, and the focus this year is not on the one-in-five Canadians who struggle with mental health issues, but on all of us who need to pay attention to our self-care. As teachers, it can be hard to keep up with our own mental health and wellness because we are so dedicated to helping others.

That's why Starling, in co-operation with the BCTF, is inviting you to break old habits and focus on yourselves. We've tailored a four-week challenge to guide you. In a series of interactive learning activities, you'll discover ways to integrate new skills to better manage daily stressors at work and at home.

The program is designed to help you reflect and re-adjust thinking and behaviour patterns that decrease well-being. Teachers who complete the challenge often say they wish they had started sooner because they are finally living life to the fullest.

How do I get started?

Visit the Starling website at **starlingminds.com** and sign up to create your personal account. Starling is strictly confidential and free for you and your family. To add a family member, simply sign into your Starling profile and select the referral tab. Enter their email address and an invitation will be sent to them

Starling Minds
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A New Online Mental Health & Wellness Program for B.C. Teachers

Starling is Free for B.C. Teachers

APP.STARLINGMINDS.COM

Learn More

Like Comment Share

CTA UPDATES

Mentoring Celebration

By Amanda Long

It was a full house this week at our Mentoring Celebration. Thank you to everyone who came out on Wednesday to celebrate mentoring and support our new colleagues in getting ready for interviews.

After reflecting on a fantastic year of mentoring and collaborating we discussed the posting process and answered questions on hiring and interviews.

After dinner we participated in a Tips & Tricks workshop for interviewing.

A special thank you to Shauna Parrotta and her mentee, Leisal Westerink, for sharing their mentoring journey and all they accomplished this year to enhance student learning! It was so great to bring so many mentors and mentees together to reflect on their learning this year.

Mariah Ma, Jade Pass and Natasha Hussein thanked their mentor Anneli Good for sharing her time this year and helping them grow as educators as she steps down as mentor next year. She will be missed. Thank-you again to all our mentors for their tireless commitment to supporting new colleagues in our district.



Top photo left - Mariah Ma, Anneli Good, Jade Pass, Natasha Hussein

Top photo right - Tamara Sengotta speaks on the mentoring program and the successes from the past year

Bottom Centre - Shauna Parrotta, Leisal Westerink



SOCIAL JUSTICE

May

- 3: World Press Freedom Day
- 6: International Family Equality Day
- 12: World Fair Trade Day
- 15: International Day of Families
- 17: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
- 22-25: Aboriginal Awareness Week

Asian Heritage Month

June

- 1: Injured Workers' Day
- 5: World Environment Day
- 3-9: Canadian Environment Week
- 10: Canadian Rivers Day
- 12: World Day Against Child Labour
- 20: World Refugee Day
- 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
- 27: Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Aboriginal History Month
LGBTQ Pride Month



PD Connections Series Workshop:

Join Kirk Gummow with from the Aboriginal Education Department and explore the use of visual text to engage learners using approaches that align with First Peoples Principles of Learning.

When: May 17th, 2018

Where: Winslow Centre (Room 212)

Time: 3:45 – 5:45

IF WE WANT MEANINGFUL CHANGE, WE HAVE TO MAKE A CONNECTION TO THE HEART BEFORE WE CAN MAKE A CONNECTION TO THE MIND. #INNOVATORSMINDSET”
— **GEORGE COUROS, THE INNOVATOR’S MINDSET: EMPOWER LEARNING, UNLEASH TALENT, AND LEAD A CULTURE OF CREATIVITY**

To register:

<https://my43.sd43.bc.ca/departments/studentservices/PD/default.aspx>

10 Reasons Why Every Teacher Needs a P.L.N.

PERSONAL or PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

- 1 Find great resources, lesson plans & conferences
- 2 Share your resources & ideas
- 3 Follow amazing educators and their blogs
- 4 Get support when needed
- 5 Make international connections
- 6 Flatten your classroom walls
- 7 Collaborate globally on projects
- 8 Find round-the-clock inspiration
- 9 Learn the latest trends in education
- 10 Never run out of ideas for new things to try with your students

@sylviaaduckworth

The BCTF ADVANTAGE PROGRAM is your gateway to a number of benefits and offers from cars to insurance. With 41,000 members the BCTF, as an organization, has been able to obtain savings on various products and services for members. The BCTF Advantage program allows your membership in the BCTF to work for you in areas outside of your employment relationship. For most BCTF Advantage partners you simply state that you are a BCTF member and they will apply your discount/savings to your purchase. Have you taken advantage of your BCTF membership lately? Take a moment and see what is available to you!

<https://bctf.ca/advantage/>

BCTF Advantage offers Endless Savings & More which can be an app on your phone. Here are the current offers:

New this month is 1-800-Flowers – Save 20%. Just in time for Mother's Day, order online or by phone and have flowers delivered across Canada or around the world. Tap the ESM App for details.

Exclusive ESM Travel Discounts by Member Deals - Save up to 50% or more at US theme parks (Disneyland, Universal Studios and many more), Broadway & Vegas shows and more. Also, check out the "Travel and Play" category on the ESM App to save hundreds on your next travel including hotels, vacation packages and car rentals.

To get the ESM App, go to your app store (Google or Apple) on your smart phone and search for Endless Savings & More. When you first download the app, you will be asked for the BCTF "organization code". It's: bctf

Email: contact@ESMobileApp.com

Website: <http://www.ESMobileApp.com>



CUEBC 2018

I'd like to personally invite you to join us at CUEBC 2018, October 19, at Frank Hurt Secondary in Surrey. We are planning a fantastic day, with awesome sessions, an inspiring Keynote, and as always, delicious food and super giveaways.

As a special opportunity, we will be hosting an additional day of Pro-D at Science World for those interested in expanding their coding and computing connections on Saturday October 20th.

One day and two day tickets are available for purchase.

Be one of the first registrants for your chance to win a Chromebook.

<https://www.picatic.com/cuebc2018>

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Dave McCristall

President CUEBC



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, May 28, 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. rep, 2 secondary reps, 1 MAL

CTA PD Committee

- 1 elem. 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

- 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



Upcoming Retirement Events

- **Sheila Kopf** from Coquitlam River Elementary School (CRE) is retiring. A retirement party in the library at CRE on Thursday, May 31 from 4 to 7 pm. If you would like to attend and help Sheila celebrate, please RSVP Verena von Unruh (vvonunruh@sd43.bc.ca) by May 17. \$25 per person or \$10 for gift only. 
- **Mike Cook** from Pinetree Secondary School is retiring. A celebration on Monday June 25th from 4 - 9:30 pm at Pinetree Sec. School Library. \$20 for food & gift. Please use this link to RSVP and pay: <https://sd43.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/16781/108/False/True> 
- **Brenda Graham** from Westwood Elementary is retiring. A celebration on Friday, June 22 from 3:30 - 5:30 pm at Westwood Elementary gym. \$20 for food & gift (\$10 for gift only). RSVP by June 1, 2018 to Carly Johnson (cjohnson@sd43.bc.ca)
- **Robin Shaw** from Panorama Heights Elementary is retiring. A celebration on Tuesday, June 12 from 3:30 - 6:30 pm at Fairways Grill & Patio. \$25 for food & gift (\$10 for gift only). RSVP by June 1 to Nicole Elliott (nelliott@sd43.bc.ca)

Contact Us...



/CTA43



@CTA43

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Andy Gilligan, Labour Relations Officer
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The CTA can be found on Facebook and Twitter. You can also email us or check out the website

www.coquitlamteachers.com

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