

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

February 22, 2019 - No. 23

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President's Message

Teacher Megan Leslie Celebrated!

A Dr. Charles Best Teacher was selected by Global News for their piece, "Celebrate Teachers". We are very proud of Megan, who was nominated by a student for this honour. Please see the link below for the full interview.

<https://globalnews.ca/video/4972654/celebrate-teachers-megan-leslie>

BC Budget Boosts Education Funding

After decades of neglect and outright malicious cuts, the new BC budget does promise some sorely-needed increases in funding for education. As with any government initiative, there are things that are positive and things that fail to make the grade.

Capital spending, (meaning facilities) continues to outstrip the actions of the previous government massively. Seismic upgrades, new buildings and envelope remodelling continues to be strong in the new budget.

There is continued investment in Adult Basic Education and ELL programs to keep them free and accessible to newcomers to Canada and local people trying to upgrade their education.

The elimination of MSP is a small help to the pocketbook of regular British Columbians, as is the elimination of student loan interest, improvements to childcare and the expansion of the childcare tax benefit.

There is also increased funding for mental health initiatives, something that is increasingly a strain on our medical system and other supports that aren't always well-resourced to deal with this, like public education. **...can't p.2**

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Most important to us, as educators, is increased operational funding. Operational funding means mostly funding for staff and the operation of the school district on a daily basis. This is separate from capital funding, which mostly goes to buildings and other fixed assets.

The increase is \$550 million over three years, meaning a yearly increase of \$182 million for 2019-20. This is only set to be maintained over the next two years so, that likely means operational funding will come up short. \$31 million will also be devoted to increased funding for private schools, something we have opposed in the past.

What is most disappointing is there is nothing new here to help with new resources for the implementation of the new curriculum or to address the serious teacher shortage across the province.

The Funding Review remains on hold for a year and we continue to advocate against the things that we find troubling in that document, which may impact future spending on special needs and elective courses.

*Re-circulated from BCTF News February 20, 2019

New BC budget boosts education funding and other social programs

The provincial government's **2019-20 budget** was released on February 19, 2019, and includes \$550 million in new education spending over the next three years. The funding increase for the upcoming year is \$182 million.

In a news release the BCTF welcomed that new funding, but cautioned it could fall short of the amount needed to fund important improvements. The budget also included record spending for new schools and seismic upgrades and ongoing funding to keep adult basic education and English language learning accessible. The government also announced new initiatives like the elimination of interest on student loans, increased funding for childcare, and an expansion of the child tax benefit.

Beyond education, the new provincial budget offers a number of welcome investments in our province and continues to address years of inadequate social spending in areas that matter to British Columbians--particularly poverty reduction and climate action. However, some opportunities to go further have been left on the table. Check out this budget-day analysis from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives BC for the highlights: **Nine things to know about BC Budget 2019**



Read Teacher magazine for info on bargaining, education funding, and the upcoming AGM

The March edition of Teacher magazine is on its way, but you can read it **online today**. In this edition there are important articles on the government's negotiating mandate, the education funding model review, and the agenda for the upcoming BCTF Annual General Meeting. You'll also find statements from the candidates running for the BCTF Executive Committee.



CTA Survey Results for the BCTF EC Candidates

The results of our survey questions are now posted on our website. You can click **here** as well.



Provincial Social Justice

Conferences are held every two years and provide opportunities for local social justice contacts to attend workshops and network with colleagues from around the province.

This year's conference will be held on May 24–25, 2019, and will be organized by the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice and the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee. More information will be available soon.

Who can attend?

The BCTF will cover the expenses of the following participants:

Locals with 1–999 members: one social justice contact and one Aboriginal education contact

Locals with over 1,000 members: two social justice contacts and two Aboriginal education contacts



BCTF New Teachers' Conferences
New Teachers, New TTOCs, and Teacher Candidates

April 5 Vernon Vernon Lodge and Conference Centre 3914 – 32nd Street, Vernon, BC V1T 5P1 Vernon, British Columbia April 4th 2019 Welcoming Reception	May 10 Nanaimo Vancouver Island Conference Centre 101 Gordon Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J8 Nanaimo, British Columbia May 9th 2019 Welcoming Reception
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Registrations start on February 14, 2019
To register, please visit bctf.ca/NewTeachers

Sponsored by SEL BC (<http://www.selbc.ca/>), the **CARE Program** is a series of skill building sessions to develop your own resilience and emotional balance. Learn simple ways to infuse mindfulness into your everyday life.

CARE for Teachers is an evidenced-based program specifically created to support social and emotional wellness for teachers. We will focus on a mindfulness-based approach to enhancing well-being and self care.

For more information on CARE, visit <https://createforeducation.org/care>

There will be three sessions:

Tuesday, March 19, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Wednesday, March 20, 9:30am - 3:30pm

Saturday, April 13, 9:30am - 3:30pm



Tea, coffee, continental breakfast and lunch provided. Please bring own water and mug for coffee/tea.

Registration deadline is March 8, 2018.

For more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/care-for-teachers-marchapril-2019-tickets-55664184073>

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 (padolf@cta43.org) by:

Monday, February 25, 2019.

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

CTA PD Committee

- 1 elem. rep

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

- 5 members-at-large

CTA Policies & Procedures Committee

- 2 member-at-large

CTA Committee of Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

- 2 Secondary reps, 2 Middle reps, 3 Elementary 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

- 4 CTA reps

District Student Wellness & Safety Committee

- 2 CTA reps

District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee

- 1 CTA rep

New Westminster & District Labour Council

- 5 CTA reps



NEW! School Moves Working Group - Members needed! - 2 CTA reps

This working group will have discussions with the school board to improve processes around school moves. Meetings TBD, but will likely be just a few in total.

Please go to our website for a curriculum vitae. <http://www.coquitlamteachers.com> and submit it to Pat Adolf, padolf@cta43.org ASAP.



UPCOMING EVENTS: submit your details to kstewart@cta43.org for posting.

FEBRUARY

- BCTF Representative Assembly Fri-Sat, **February 1 & 2**
- CTA Executive Committee Wednesday, **February 13**
- School Not in Session Friday, **February 15**
- BC Family Day Stat Monday, **February 18**
- CTA District PD Day Friday, **February 22**
- CTA Executive Committee Wednesday, **February 27**
- Staff Rep Training (Session 2) Tues-Thurs, **February 26, 27, 28**

February	
18-24:	BC Heritage Week
20:	United Nations Social Justice Day
24-March 2:	Freedom to Read Week
27:	Pink Shirt Day

Black History Month



MARCH

- CTA Executive Committee Wednesday, **March 13**
- Schools Close for Spring Break (last day in session) Friday, **March 15**
- BCTF Annual General Meeting [Victoria] Sat –Tuesday, **March 16-19**

March	
3-9:	International Women's Week
8:	International Women's Day
18:	National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day
21:	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
21-27:	Week of Solidarity with People Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
22:	World Water Day
31:	Transgender Day of Visibility



*Back issues of the previous school year CTA Newsletters can be found on our website.



/CTA43



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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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www.coquitlamteachers.com
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