

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

RECENT UPDATES - 2

JOINT MESSAGE FROM THE CTA & SD43 - 2

PD POWER - 3

CONTACT INFORMATION - 4

President's Message

Layoffs

The COVID situation has unfortunately put pressure on the District budget for next year that was unexpected. The employer relies heavily on International Ed revenue to support initiatives and staffing in SD43. Clearly there is going to be a reduction in that due to travel restrictions under COVID.

You may have seen some statements in the media but, there is no way to determine the size of layoff at this time. There are many factors that play into that, like how many teachers rolled over this year, how many retirements come in, what staffing allocations for schools look like and the passage of the district budget. Of all these things, only the district budget has been passed. It is safe to say this will NOT be a return to the dark days of layoffs up to 8-9 years.

The CTA will be working closely with the employer to ensure the size of layoff and the impact on members is as minimal as it possibly can be. We have a great deal of experience in-house in crafting Section 54 agreements and managing layoff and recall on a daily basis.

Please avoid speculation on numbers here. The CTA will let people know where things are landing as soon as it can reasonably be determined.

Yours In Solidarity,
Ken

Election of 2020-2021

CTA Executive Committee

The following CTA Executive Committee positions will be filled at the CTA Year End General Meeting on Wednesday, **June 3, 2020**

- **President**
- **First Vice President**
- **Second Vice President**
- **Local Reps to the BCTF (2)**
- **Members - at - Large (6)**
- **Member - at - Large who identifies as a person of colour (1)**
- **Member - at - Large who identifies as Indigenous (1)**

Those interested in running for any of these positions should go to coquitlamteachers.com for a CV form.

Deadline for receipt of CV form to the CTA office is **Monday, May 11, 2020**. Please submit forms to padolf@cta43.org.

CTA CALENDAR CHANGES

The CTA Office is currently trying to determine the best way to hold our larger meetings and elections.

In the meantime, the CTA Executive Committee passed a motion to reschedule the upcoming CTA Representative Assembly and Year End General Meeting as follows:

CTA Rep Assembly

Was scheduled; Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 4:00 pm

Will now be held; **Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 4:00 pm - meeting location/program TBD**

CTA Year End General Meeting

Was scheduled; Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 4:00 pm

Will now be held; **Wednesday, June 3, 2020, 4:00 pm - meeting location/program TBD**

A Joint Message from the CTA and SD43

Since the beginning of the COVID 19 epidemic and the suspension of in-class instruction, the Ministry of Education and the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, have been highlighting the need to provide support for vulnerable learners in schools across the province.

For the past several weeks, teachers and education assistants have been working with school aged students in schools, providing education support for children of ESWs in the community. This has gone well and the safety protocols in place have proven effective. There have been no cases of viral transmission anywhere in British Columbia due to this endeavour. Coquitlam was among 19 school districts, mainly in the Coastal and Fraser Health regions to provide these services.

With that, the employer has clear direction from the PHO and the Ministry of Education that it must begin to offer support for vulnerable learners in schools. This means starting with a small number of students at a time, approximately 5-12 students based on size and context of school, in 2-3 classrooms, with the same rigorous protocols in place for safety that are currently in place for the education care support, namely, limited entry, hand-washing regularly, individual workstations in the classroom, custodians focusing on touch points and sanitation support. The time spent in schools will be limited as a further cautionary step.

This means starting the transition back, slowly, to some teachers working in schools. These will include teachers that have connections with the vulnerable learners who may be asked to do some work at school. In cases of extenuating circumstances (personal health issues, care of others, etc.), teachers should reach out to their administrators and consideration shall be given to those circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Teachers wishing to work at their sites, whether with these kids or doing other work, can now be accommodated in doing so, because of the safety protocols in place to support the care of ESW worker children and these vulnerable learners. In this situation, teachers will need to communicate with their administrator so that a schedule can be set up and the number of individuals in the site can be controlled.

There has been no date for the re-opening of schools to regular operations predicted at this time. A tentative date of May 15 for evaluation of this possibility has been presented by the PHO and the Education Minister. That will be completely dependent on the course of the disease in BC. The PHO says we are doing very well thus far but we need to see continued flattening or downward trending of the curve.

It is understood that this will cause anxiety and concern for some and we are sympathetic to that. We invite all questions or comments.

Ken Christensen
President, CTA

Randy Manhas
Executive Director of HR, SD43

The CTA is providing updates on new and emerging information as we become aware on the Member Resources/General Information page of our website - <http://www.coquitlamteachers.com>
Please have a look when you get a moment.



It is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the passing of our dear friend, Alison Whitmore.

Alison's service as a teacher in Continuing Ed was legion. She was someone the CTA relied upon heavily for her clarity of mind and her kind heart in dealing with issues.

Her work on the CTA Executive and in support of her colleagues was something that will last forever.

The sadness at this loss will be felt by many across the district.

Our hearts go out to all her family and friends in this difficult time. Much love from the CTA family.

TTOC's, Part Time Teachers, EI and COVID Emergency Response Benefit

We still don't have absolute clarity on which benefits of the two above, part time teachers who also TTOC, qualify for. Our advice remains to apply for everything, as the rules seem to be adjusting on the fly here and a no one day may be a yes the next. ROEs can be easily obtained from the district's Payroll Department with a call.

Apply first and see if you are asked for an ROE, as that has been one thing that has been changing as well.

TTOCs and Teachers on unpaid leave - Teaching Certification

Normally, if they are working in April, the Teacher Regulation Branch fee is deducted from your earnings in that month. With little to no work coming in, you will need to be mindful not to let your certification lapse, because you can't work without it. You can pay the fee directly to the TRB and the due date is May 31, 2020. <https://teacherregulation.gov.bc.ca/>

PD Power

During these unprecedented times, it's important that we also stop to take care of ourselves. Starling Minds, a mental health program that is free to all BCTF members and their families, is currently offering additional supports and I hope that you will find some time to check them out.

They have developed a short, 60 minute program designed specifically around managing the stress and anxiety from COVID-19. With five sessions you can choose to work through it all at once or take your time with it and spread it

out. https://info.starlingminds.com/covid-19-b2c-faq?_ga=2.124528909.642560364.1587746977-871478289.1587746977

The full Starling Minds program can be found at <https://app.starlingminds.com/registration/bctf> - you will need your BCTF membership ID to sign up, but there is no cost and the program is entirely confidential. This is a resource for us all at any time, but right now it is even more important that we put time aside for self care!

Science World

Science World is hosting online PD Workshops - every week on Fridays at 2PM and others throughout the week - all are free! Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/online/science-world/> for more information and to register.

Meggan Crawford CTA PD Chairperson

Pronouns: she/her/hers
mcrawford@cta43.org

Celebrations!!

This week we want to celebrate all the schools, staff, and teachers who organized parades through their students' neighbourhoods! The smiles and waves definitely showed how much students and caregivers appreciated your efforts!

Let's also celebrate all of the schools who are creatively sharing photo collages and videos with their students to show that we are all still here for them and that we care! Thanks for all you do teachers!

MOMENTS OF JOY

In the midst of all the covid news it's easy to lose sight of the positive things that are all around us. If you're having a day where you could use a smile check out some of these brief moments of joy!

The prom must go on! John Krasinski continues his Some Good News efforts with a virtual Prom, a weather report from Brad Pitt, and more in episode four: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQLi2GYVULc>

A Coquitlam pillow maker converted his business and has started producing masks for essential service workers: <https://www.timescolonist.com/business/coquitlam-pillow-maker-poised-to-become-n95-mask-manufacturer-1.24116459>

In South Wales a group of sheep decided to visit the McDonalds drive-thru: <https://people.com/pets/flock-sheep-visit-mcdonalds-coronavirus-lockdown/>

Even Banksy (an anonymous UK Street artist) is staying home! He turned his artistic talents to a bathroom...and rats. <https://globalnews.ca/news/6831775/banksy-bathroom-art-coronavirus-lockdown/>



How EFAP Can Help

Information to help with work and life

Confidential · Immediate Assistance · 24/7/365

Morneau Shepell · 1-844-880-9142

workhealthlife.com

CTA Website Login

Information is posted on our website as quickly as we have it. Please make sure you are able to access the site. If you have any questions about login please contact

Kelly Stewart kstewart@cta43.org

Questions about your pension?

Go straight to the source for answers.

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/pension-basics>

Online workshops and learning

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/learning-resources>

Retirement Health Coverage

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/retirement-health-coverage>

Committee Vacancies

District Student Services Advisory Committee

- 2 CTA reps

District Student Achievement Advisory Committee

- 4 CTA reps

District Review Panel Committee

- 1 CTA rep

District Student Wellness & Safety Committee

- 3 CTA reps

District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee

- 1 CTA rep

District French Advisory Committee

- 2 CTA reps

New Westminster & District Labour Council

- 5 CTA reps

CTA PD Committee

- 1 Secondary Rep, 1 Middle, 1 LSA Council Rep, 1 TTOC Rep,
1 Adult Ed Rep

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

- 4 members-at-large

CTA Committee - Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

- 2 Secondary reps, 2 Middle reps, 2 Elementary reps,
1 member-at-large

CTA Negotiations Committee

- 1 member-at-large

Teachers interested in any of these committees should go onto our website or click here for a curriculum vitae form and submit it to the CTA Office (padolf@cta43.org).

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

Contact Us:

It feels a little different but we are here, as always, available to help all of our members during this unprecedented time.

Following Provincial COVID recommendations the CTA Office will largely be operating remotely.

We will not be answering phone calls but ask that you send your questions in via email.

Please see the list below for the officer or staff member best able to help you.

(Last names A-F) Ken Christensen, President

kchristensen@cta43.org

(Last names G-L) Kara Obojski, 1st Vice-President

kobojski@cta43.org

(Last names M-R) Diether Malakoff, 2nd Vice-President

dmalakoff@cta43.org

(Last names S-Z) Andy Gilligan, Labour Relations Officer

agilligan@cta43.org

PD related questions

Meggan Crawford, PD Chairperson - mcrawford@cta43.org

CTA Administration

(anything not covered by anyone in the list below)

Kelly Roberts, Executive Coordinator - kroberts@cta43.org

Accounting/Finance

(reimbursements, scholarship payment) & CTA newsletter

Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator - hdavis@cta43.org

Scholarships, Committees, CTA PD Day

Pat Adolf, Administrative Associate - padolf@cta43.org

Membership info & website access

Kelly Stewart, Office Clerk - kstewart@cta43.org

If your situation is already being handled by an officer not matching your alpha assignment, then please continue to liaise with that officer.

www.coquitlamteachers.com

