

# COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message

### Welcome back and Focus for the New Year

So, here we are with our first newsletter after the break. I hope your time away was restful in some way, within the limits of the Covid-imposed restriction on meeting up and sharing time with friends and family. I certainly used a lot of Zoom over the break, myself and I am sure you did the same.

Covid challenges continue to be the main focus for us here, as we see situations that are quite upsetting occurring outside of this school district and we wonder how long it will be before we encounter similar situations here. The BCTF presented a brief to the new Education Minister, Jennifer Whiteside, to bring her up to speed quickly on our issues and the concerns we have, particularly with pandemic teaching and learning. Teri was to meet with her this Friday to continue the discussions already started. It's critical to improve safety practices across the board here with stronger mask mandates, greater transparency in exposure information distribution, density reductions and viable online alternatives. We are pressing locally where we can and continuing to meet with the employer, with Fraser Health and the BCTF to work together on moving our agenda forward. We have been fairly fortunate thus far in Coquitlam and that speaks to our strong commitment to open communication with the employer, advocacy around safe practices in schools and the hard work of site-based committee members to address the school-level presentation of the Covid situation.

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We are certainly hearing from members around the Foundation Skills Assessment and know that the entreaties around doing this test now have not gone unheard, locally and provincially. Teachers have been requesting the opt-out letters agreed to under the protocol agreement with BCPSEA and we have been creating and distributing them. It is quite likely we will hear something officially by the time this newsletter comes out on the fate of this assessment, given the many and obvious problems with administering it under Covid, over and above the objections we normally raise to this test.

In Solidarity  
Ken

## BCTF AGM DELEGATES

We will elect delegates to the BCTF AGM at our General Meeting, January 20, 2021.

The 2021 AGM will be held March 20 - 23, 2021  
it will be held in an online format

Please submit your CV form to [padolf@cta43.org](mailto:padolf@cta43.org)  
before 4:30pm on Monday, January 11, 2021

**No nominations will be able to be taken from the floor  
all CV's must be in before the deadline.**

Forms can be found on our website by clicking [here](#).

### CTA Representative Assembly/General Meeting Wednesday, January 20, 2021

The link to register to attend, all documents,  
Zoom meeting ID and password are now posted  
on the Member Resources/General Information  
page of the CTA website.

#### CTA Representative Assembly 4:00 PM, Zoom

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Ratification of Committee Appointments
3. Adjournment

#### CTA General Meeting 4:10 PM, Zoom

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Election  
*CTA delegates to the 2021 BCTF AGM*  
*EC Committee Member at large*  
*EC Committee Indigenous Member*
3. President's Report
4. Bargaining [In-Committee]
5. School Concerns
6. Prize Draw
7. Adjournment [5:45 pm]

## Executive Committee Vacancies

**Two Executive Committee  
positions are currently open  
Indigenous Member At Large – 1  
Member At Large – 1**

If you are interested in running for one of these positions  
please go to our website to get and submit a CV to Pat Adolf  
[padolf@cta43.org](mailto:padolf@cta43.org) by January 11, 2021

## TTOC COVID HARDSHIP FUND

A motion was passed through the September 30, 2020  
CTA Representative Assembly : That the CTA Executive  
Committee establish a TTOC COVID Emergency Hardship Fund  
for the 2020-2021 school year to support TTOCs, prioritizing  
those who have not benefited from CERB or EI. This aid is to  
take the form of grocery store gift cards.

The grocery gift cards are \$50 President's Choice cards, the  
application form can be found on the [CTA website](#) member  
resources/covid page (at the bottom of the page) on a first-  
come first-serve basis.

Once you have filled out the application it should be emailed  
to Heidi at [hdavis@cta43.org](mailto:hdavis@cta43.org).

## FSA TESTS COMING SOON

BCTF has released the latest letters and pamphlets for the FSA  
campaign. The FSAs will run from Jan. 18 – Feb. 26, 2021.

### What are teachers doing? What are we not doing?

Teachers are required to administer the test. That said,  
teachers do not mark FSA tests.

### What about communicating with parents?

You are able to distribute information on FSA testing to  
parents but should do so following the BCTF/BCPSEA protocol.

### Here is what you do:

- Inform your administrator that you plan to send/hand out the pamphlets.
  - Use the two BCTF/CTA pamphlets.
  - Distribute these pamphlets directly to parents, or  
If sending pamphlets home via students, all pamphlets must  
be in sealed envelopes clearly identifying that they are  
produced and distributed by the CTA.
- Staff reps and teachers who wish to send information to  
parents contact the CTA with the number of packages required  
for your school. **The CTA Office will supply the materials –  
please call or email Kelly S. @ [kstewart@cta43.org](mailto:kstewart@cta43.org) .**

# PD POWER

Welcome back and Happy New Year! With the arrival of 2021 we are less than two months away from our February 26 PD Day, "Resilience and Renewal". Joining Monique Gray Smith and Jo Chrona, we can also announce that Dr. Lori Desautels and Dr. Tish Jennings will be offering keynote and breakout sessions!

Dr. Desautels works a great deal with how neuroscience can better inform us about attachment, regulation, and the impact(s) of experiencing adversity or trauma. She has published several books that discuss the importance of connection and relationship building, and the need to be compassionate.

Dr. Jennings' work focuses on the importance of social emotional learning and mindfulness for both adults and children. Her latest book, Teacher Burnout Turnaround, looks at how individual teachers and the profession can work to empower themselves and hopefully overcome the difficulties that lead to burnout.

## NEW TEACHERS' NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

This year the BCTF will offer various opportunities for new members to network and connect with each other, with their local union and with their provincial family. There will be a New Teachers' Zoom Gathering on January 27th from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, this is a new event to allow new members to gather informally and chat together as well as the New Teachers' Conference on February 26th!

### New Teachers' Zoom Gathering (FREE)

<https://members.bctf.ca/Event.axd?e=2251>

### New Teachers' Conference (registration fee \$25)

<https://www.bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2021/>

### In Memoriam

After a battle with illness, Sandra Carter, passed away on December 28, 2020.

Sandi retired in 2014 from Mary Hill Elementary where she had taught for many years and was loved by all. She will be greatly missed.

A service will be held once allowed. Information to follow at a later date.

## Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

CASJ committee meeting (3rd Thurs of each month):

Thur, Jan 21, 2021 3:45 pm via Teams

We are in the process of exploring options for gathering racial justice oriented teaching resources with an eye on planning workshops for the CTA PD day in the new year. We will also be discussing suggested content for a joint statement on anti-racism between the CTA and the district which will be going out sometime in the new year.

CASJ book club (2nd and 4th Thurs of each month):

Thur, Jan. 14th at 4pm via Teams

We'll be discussing Chapters 11 through 14 from "So you want to talk about Race". Please contact committee chair Karen Learmonth [klearmonth@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:klearmonth@sd43.bc.ca) or Diether Malakoff [dmalakoff@cta43.org](mailto:dmalakoff@cta43.org) with any questions.

## TTOC Committee

**TTOC Townhall (first Tuesday of each month)**

Next Townhall will be Tue Feb 2 @3:45pm on zoom

**TTOC Committee Meeting (second Tues. of the month)**

Next meeting will be Tue Feb 9 @3:45pm on zoom

All meeting links and additional information will be posted in the CTA TTOC facebook group. If you're not on facebook and would like to attend, please contact committee chair Morgan McKee ([chair.ttoc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.ttoc@gmail.com)) or Diether Malakoff ([dmalakoff@cta43.org](mailto:dmalakoff@cta43.org)).

## Moments of Joy

Let's get back to celebrating the moments that make us smile, laugh, and enjoy our days - send Moments of Joy to [mcrawford@cta43.org](mailto:mcrawford@cta43.org) and they might be shared in our next newsletter!

Two widowed penguins comfort each other in an award-winning photo that has now gone viral:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-55416365>

At the end of October a new coral reef was found off the coast of Australia - and it's taller than the Eiffel Tower!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-QApfHbkCA>

A dog who is an enthusiastic horse racing viewer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I553tpJdOzQ>

Some Good News is back for a special holiday edition with none other than Dwanta Claus (and Justin Timberlake and George Clooney): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3GwU4GKzLXY>

# Community and connections for early career teachers

## February 26, 2021

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

[bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2021](https://bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2021)

BC Teachers' Federation hosts its first

## New Teachers' ZOOM Gathering

- An informal, open discussion for teachers with less than 5 years of teaching experience.
- Share ideas, initiatives and resources with new teacher colleagues from across the province.
- Connect with new teachers from your local.

**DATE:** Wednesday January 27, 2021

**TIME:** 3:30pm to 4:30pm

**ZOOM:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86921862246?pwd=WFVaVEZtdTYyQXRaZ2l4QUl5aWJ0Zz09#success>



## Quick Event Links

# Resilience & Renewal

A JOINT PRO-D DAY WITH  
BURNABY & COQUITLAM  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS

**FEATURING JO CHRONA &  
MONIQUE GRAY SMITH**

FEBRUARY 26, 2021  
ONLINE



**BCSSTA**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SOCIAL STUDIES  
TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

presents

## Teacher Sip & Chat

Tue 12 January 2021 4:30-5:30pm

How's your pandemic going?



Connect with other  
BC Social Studies teachers.

Some shop talk on  
courses & assessment.

Common questions.

Timely Issues.

Celebrate the demise  
of 2020.

Door prizes.

**ZOOM**

MEETING LINK: [bcssta.wordpress.com/events](https://bcssta.wordpress.com/events)

## Exploring Modern Ways of Teaching and Learning

February 1  
**FOCUS DAY**



**Dean Shareski**  
Keynote Presenter

### Featured Speakers:

Katie White (Assessment)  
Kim Barthel (Trauma Informed)  
Miriam Miller (SEL)  
Discovery Education (STEM)

### Other Sessions:

ADST & Making  
Technology Integration  
...and more!

Registration will open after winter break.  
Register early to secure your spot!



## ***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](mailto: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 Student Wellness & Safety Committee**

- 1 CTA reps

## **District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee**

- Currently Full

## **District French Advisory Committee**

- Currently Full

## **CTA PD Committee**

- 1 Secondary Rep, 1 Middle Rep, 1 TTOC Rep, 1 Adult Ed Rep,  
1 Elementary Rep

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

- 5 members-at-large

## **CTA Committee of Action on Social Justice (CASJ)**

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

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

- 5 CTA reps

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](mailto:padolf@cta43.org)). If you have questions, call the CTA Office at **604-936-9971**.

# **Contact Us:**

**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](mailto:kchristensen@cta43.org)

**(Last names G-L)** Kara Obojski, 1st Vice-President  
[kobojski@cta43.org](mailto:kobojski@cta43.org)

**(Last names M-R)** Diether Malakoff, 2nd Vice-President  
[dmalakoff@cta43.org](mailto:dmalakoff@cta43.org)

**(Last names S-Z)** Andy Gilligan, Labour Relations Officer  
[agilligan@cta43.org](mailto:agilligan@cta43.org)

## **PD related questions**

Meggan Crawford, PD Chairperson - [mcrawford@cta43.org](mailto:mcrawford@cta43.org)

## **CTA Administration**

(anything not covered by anyone in the list below)

Kelly Roberts, Executive Director - [kroberts@cta43.org](mailto:kroberts@cta43.org)

## **Accounting/Finance**

Reimbursements, scholarship payment) & CTA newsletter  
Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator - [hdavis@cta43.org](mailto:hdavis@cta43.org)

## **Scholarships, Committees, CTA PD Day**

Pat Adolf, Administrative Associate - [padolf@cta43.org](mailto:padolf@cta43.org)

## **Membership info & website access**

Kelly Stewart, Office Clerk - [kstewart@cta43.org](mailto: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](http://www.coquitlamteachers.com)

CTA Office: 604-936-9971

