

# COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message

### School Calendar

The CTA has been fielding many questions about losing a day off because Easter falls within the break. It is important to look at how the calendar is organized in regards to both School Act and Collective Agreement language.

Currently, the calendar is at the absolute lowest amount of work we can get away with under the School Act, while the maintaining a two-week spring break and 180 instructional days. Sometimes, due to when the year starts and ends (also School Act) there may or not be extra closure days if there are more than 180 instructional days within the school year.

Sometimes Easter, as a motile holiday, falls within the Spring Break and sometimes it does not. The Admin Day and PD days need to be inserted as well, which adds pressure to the available days for instruction but, are contractually and legislatively required. Additionally, there is a strong attempt to balance the first and second semester at high school and that affects the district calendar. We started late this year and we end mid-week, which puts a bit of a squeeze on the this year's calendar. Before the harmonization to a minimum workload, the school year could be up to a week longer, depending on the factors referred to above and thus, in a real way, you'd take a pay cut in those years, because you were doing more work for the same amount of money. Calendar is something done on three year cycles by the employer and all partner groups are surveyed for preferences, as is required. That work was done in September 2019 for this current three-year calendar cycle. We welcome any questions or further discussion from members on this subject.

### Covid Terminology and Decision-making

An ongoing source of frustration for the Local Presidents in Fraser Health is the somewhat inscrutable metrics by which Fraser Health determines something to be an outbreak, an exposure, quarantine v. isolation, what's close contact? Etc.

We are not experts in the field of communicable diseases but, we certainly know that clarity of instruction and judgment leads to better outcomes for students, as we are, in this case. A couple of points here might help. An exposure means what it looks like; namely someone has come into the building that has subsequently tested positive for the virus. Fraser Health does contact tracing and informs those people whom have been in contact with the individual that there has been an exposure and what to do.

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Generally, it's monitor for symptoms in that case. Isolation happens when the disease has entered a community and they determine they need to do that to prevent spread. Outbreak is where it is determined that the source of the transmission is inside the workplace. Why sometimes they call something an exposure when clearly people are getting sick in site is because they know with certainty that the source of the infection is external to the building, for example, a sporting event people collectively attended. So, they could call something an exposure and still have multiple individuals and classes in isolation. Isolation and quarantine are substantively the same, with the same expectations on the people asked to do it. Quarantine is also a legislative term and requirements for it can cite enforceable legal underpinnings, if needed, specifically the Quarantine Act. Close contact appears to be within three feet for at least one-half hour....which is not exactly an uncommon situation in a school site, particularly at the elementary level. I am not sure any of this clarity will aid or comfort anyone but, know Fraser Health has heard our concerns about language and information transfer and they say they are working on ways to make the information more understandable. Once we see fruit from that effort, we will pass that along to you.

In Solidarity  
Ken

## FSA TESTING DATES DELAYED

As you know despite the pandemic, the FSAs will proceed this year. Friday, the government confirmed online that they have been postponed again. **They will now run from February 15 to March 12, 2021.**

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 still require packages for parents need to contact the CTA with the number of packages (pamphlets, envelopes & labels) required for your school.

**The CTA Office will supply the materials – please call or email Kelly S. @ [kstewart@cta43.org](mailto:kstewart@cta43.org)**

# BLACK HISTORY February MONTH

Every year, Canadians are invited to take part in the festivities and events that honour the legacy of black Canadians, past and present, during Black History Month. Celebrate the many achievements and contributions of black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation we know today. Visit the [BCTF Black History Month Fact and Resources](#) page for more information.

## RAC (Real Acts of Caring) Week February 14 - 20, 2021

RAC is doing something caring and kind for another and not expecting anything back. Below are links for RAC related activities, many of which are COVID safe. RAC posters will be sent to your school shortly. RAC Leadership students are encouraging students to wear purple t-shirts during RAC Week to spread awareness (due to Covid restriction measures, we are unable to sell RAC t-shirts this year).

Here are some websites with caring and kindness ideas which are Covid safe:

<https://ripplekindness.org/11-covid-safe-acts-of-kindness-to-make-a-difference-on-world-kindness-day/>

<https://schoolofkindness.org/resources-for-schools/self-isolation-little-kindness-lessons-and-activities>

<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>

RAC Week does not need to be a one-time event! If you are looking for a positive leadership program for your school, you may wish to organize a RAC Club to enable students to participate in caring and kindness events throughout the year. Please contact Harriette Chang if you have any questions. Have fun!



# PINK SHIRT DAY

## February 24th, 2021

# PD POWER

February is a busy month for Professional Development in Coquitlam! Many schools have February 1st, a district Focus day, as a Pd day (check your school calendar) and Learning Services has put together an awesome day, including a lunch time keynote by Dean Shareski and sessions with Katie White, Kim Barthel, Miriam Miller, and Discovery Education to name a few. Make sure that you have registered at <http://tiny.cc/sd43focusday>.

Please also remember that if you are doing other professional development, you can probably get some reimbursement back through a yellow form (they aren't just for the PSA day). Find one in your school's office and make sure to submit it to the CTA at least two weeks before the event starts. Yellow form reimbursement is available throughout the year, except for our CTA PD day (Feb. 26th this year) when we cannot reimburse yellow forms. Since we are already spending so much on that day we cannot reimburse other events that may happen at the same time. An exception has been granted this year for the BCTF New Teachers' Conference, which also falls on the 26th of February.

## 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.

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).

## Terry Fox Rock School teacher leading the way to creating a Canadian Musicians' Support Fund

Steve Sainas the Rock School, Recording Arts and Guitar Teacher at Terry Fox Secondary School has set his sights on a government program to support and help professional musicians in Canada earn a living wage.

Steve, with help from Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam MP Ron McKinnon created a petition asking for the creation of a Canadian Musicians' Support Fund helping not only musicians, it also asks for financial help for operators of live music venues, and for more grants for songwriters and for public schools to teach music to students.

[E-Petition 2995](#) now has 1,200 signatures and will be tabled in the House of Commons on February 23rd, 2021. For more information click on the E-Petition number above or [sign the petition here](#).

## Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

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

Thur, Feb 18, 2021 3:45 pm via Teams

Following up on last meeting's discussion, we will be considering options regarding work on a CTA anti-racism policy. We also are looking to build on the success of our first book club series. New members welcome!

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

Thur, Jan. 28th at 4pm via Teams

We are looking to continue the book club with a new book.

By deadline for this newsletter, decisions have not yet been made. If book club interests you but Thursdays don't work or if you have any book that you'd be interested in reading with us, please let us know. Update on the next series for the book club will be available in next Friday's newsletter. For more info 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!

Thank you to Amanda Roberts from Port Moody Secondary for contributing to this week's Moments of Joy!

Bernie's mittens led to a massize charitable donation when he made merchandise that sold out in minutes:

<https://www.newsweek.com/bernie-sanders-mittens-merch-sells-out-30-mins-raises-18m-working-class-need-1565013>

A reminder of the impact a small act of kindness can have, this time from children: [https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/ravi-kahlon-son-tweet-ca\\_60009395c5b62c0057bb55ad](https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/entry/ravi-kahlon-son-tweet-ca_60009395c5b62c0057bb55ad)

A few sets of recordable buttons and this dog can talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBunRnvzw8>

A group of nuns in Sussex have become an unlikely chart-topping classical music sensation:

<https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/latest-news/poor-claris-arundel-nuns-album-light-for-the-world/>



**REGISTRATION  
IS NOW OPEN!**

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



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



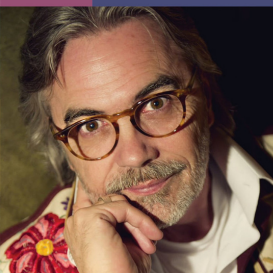
**ONLINE  
CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 12**

EARLY BIRD PRICING  
UNTIL JANUARY 24

OVER 60  
WORKSHOPS  
FOR K-12  
EDUCATORS

KEYNOTE  
**DAVID BOUCHARD**  
METIS AUTHOR & EDUCATOR  
ENGLISH & FRENCH WORKSHOPS

EMMA JOE  
FELT SALMON: IMAGINATIVE PLAY  
AND INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL  
LIFE SKILLS IN EARLY YEARS



**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!

# Resilience & Renewal

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

**FEATURING JO CHRONA &  
MONIQUE GRAY SMITH**

FEBRUARY 26, 2021  
ONLINE



## PD Quick Links

mypita



BC ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF MODERN LANGUAGES

PROUDLY PRESENT THE

## SPRING CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2021  
ATTEND FROM HOME OR AWAY

FEATURING

**LEYTON SCHNELLERT**  
LIBERATING STRUCTURES TO DEEPEN LEARNING

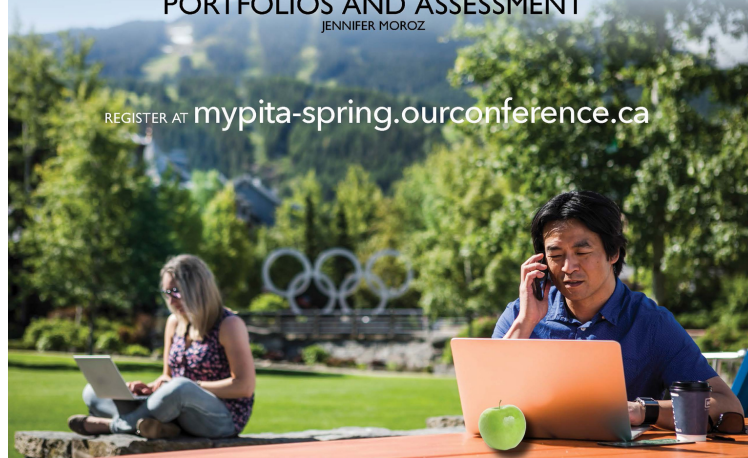
FOSTERING SELF-REGULATED LEARNING

**CORE FRENCH**  
KINDRA HARTE | TANYA CAMPBELL

**SOCIO-EMOTIONAL AND BEHAVIOUR**  
JAN PALMER | REGAN RANKIN

**PORTFOLIOS AND ASSESSMENT**  
JENNIFER MOROZ

REGISTER AT [mypita-spring.ourconference.ca](http://mypita-spring.ourconference.ca)





## ***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**

- Currently Full

## **District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee**

- Currently Full

## **District French Advisory Committee**

- Currently Full

## **CTA PD Committee**

- 2 Middle Reps,

1 Adult Ed Rep, 2 Elementary Reps

## **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

