

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

#208 2502 St Johns Street, Port Moody, BC V3H 2B4 Ph: 604-936-9971 Fax: 604-936-7515



President's Message

Covid Protocols and Changes

As we scour through the large document of Covid protocol changes from the PHO, it's clear the substantive changes are not that significant and introduce some new confusions for people to have. What is a workstation? How do tables work as workstations? What's my workstation as a teacher? What do I do at elementary school? How does indoor low-energy activities, mask-wearing and social distancing look in PE class? How does my Music class singing in masks work? Can I open the Library? Etc. Etc. There are some answers to these and other questions but, definitely the school-based OHS committee needs to meet, discuss and plan to implement these protocols as best they can, by the 26th of this month. This committee has been the linchpin to successful and safe school-level protocols since the beginning. We are here to advise and support the work of these committees and will guide you with any questions and answers you need.

Covid-specific Leave

BCPSEA just announced, out-of-the-blue, there would be a Covid-specific paid leave for teachers. It's not our first day down here so, we know if we're being handed a carrot, to check for worms. BCPSEA wanted a PR coup by announcing this but, there are a healthy number of prescriptions attached to this, too many to go into here. The BCTF has many questions and are trying to get answers from BCPSEA. The main intention is to potentially provide paid leave to teachers directed to isolate by Fraser Health and, who are asymptomatic at the time of the direction. There is more to this than meets the eye and, the leave is only retroactive to Feb. 1st. We can help any member in this situation to navigate the request for this leave. We encourage anyone finding themselves in this situation, to reach out to us directly at the CTA for help.

In Solidarity
Ken

Waiting on TRB certification or your TQS card for pay?

If you have recently graduated from a teacher program, you need to apply to both the Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) for your teacher certification and to the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) that adjudicates your level of course work to determine your pay category. These are two separate organizations which have their own processes and requirements for documentation. If you are experiencing delays, please follow up with both the TRB and TQS. There is collective agreement language around submission deadlines and communicating to the employer any possible delays in receiving TRB/TQS documentation. You will be placed on the Teachers' Salary Scale at Category 4 with 0 years experience until documentation has been received to warrant an upgraded placement/category and to receive retroactive pay according to Articles B.1.9 and B.12.

Missing any deadlines can result in the loss of pay if not communicated to the employer prior to the deadline.

Article B.1.9.a.iv. "Each employee shall submit all documentation required by the Board to establish salary placement, including category and experience. Such documentation shall be submitted within three (3 months) of commencement of employment, or change in categorization or certification. The employee shall be responsible for advising the Board, in writing, if delays which occur in obtaining the documentation necessitate an extension of the time limits."

Article B.1.9.a.v. "The Board shall not refuse a request for extension of the time limits if it can be proven that the teacher:

(1) Has provided all documents and/or fees necessary to the Teacher Regulation Branch, if relevant; and (2) Provides written proof, within one (1) month of the deadline, that the delay in obtaining a transcript, a certificate or category card has been caused by a university, a Ministry of Education, Teacher Regulation Branch, the Teachers' Qualification Service, other relevant institution, or circumstances beyond the control of the teacher."

Please email Nadine Tambellini:

ntambellini@sd43.bc.ca with any notice of delays with written proof at least a month before the deadline. You can also contact the CTA if you have further questions.

The **Representative Assembly**
scheduled for
Wednesday, February 17th, 2021
has been **cancelled**.

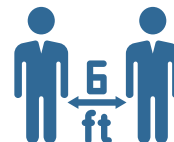
Staff Rep Training

February 23, 24 and 25, 2021

If you are a staff rep and have not received information regarding these dates please contact Pat Adolf padolf@cta43.org

If you have not booked your leave for these dates please do so as soon as possible!

COVID SAFETY PLAN REVIEWS



The recent updates to the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings encourage the meeting of site Joint Health and Safety Committees to review and address areas where there may be identified gaps in implementation. The BCCDC has developed a COVID-19 School Health & Safety Checklist:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/schools/school-staff> that can help support these safety plan reviews.

School medical officers have recommended key areas of focus for schools based on reviews of school exposures to date:

1. Prevent crowding and gathering; pay particular attention to the start and end of the day, and stagger recess, lunch and transition times for students and staff whenever possible
2. Avoid close face-to-face contact whenever possible
3. Assign staff to a specific learning group whenever possible
4. Ensure that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing physical distancing between learning groups and other prevention measures, for both students and staff
5. Ensure prevention measures are in place in staff only areas, including break and meeting rooms
6. Use the British Columbia Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in British Columbia Guidance for music classes
7. High intensity physical activity should occur outside whenever possible. For low intensity exercise activities, middle and secondary students are required to wear masks when they are indoors, unable to maintain physical distancing (2m), and a barrier is not present.

PD POWER

Over 2700 people have registered for our February 26th PD Day so far! Workshops have limited capacity and, once filled, cannot normally be increased. If you haven't already, please register at <https://cvent.me/ZQA4Pa>. You will notice that several workshops have "Will be recorded" included above their description. These workshops will, barring any technical difficulties, be recorded and the recordings will be made available to all SD43 teachers regardless of what workshop they attended. The recordings will only be available for the two weeks following the PD day and are for teacher use only. Our presenters have been exceedingly kind in allowing us to record their work, so please respect this and do NOT share the recordings outside of our district or with your classes. More information on how to access the recordings will be sent out after the pd day.

#BBYCOQPD2021
#RESILIENCE&RENEWAL

PD Day Registration is OPEN!

<https://cvent.me/ZQA4Pa>

February 26, 2021

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!

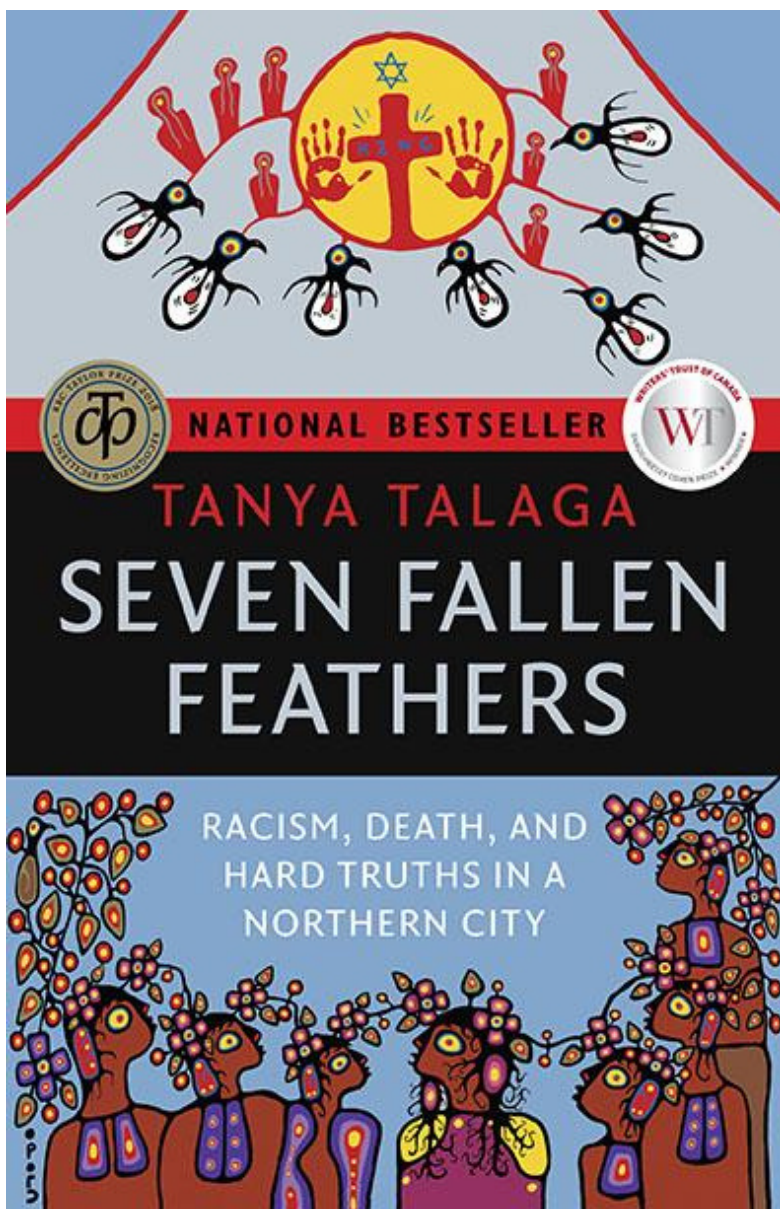
CASJ book club (2nd and 4th Thurs of each month):

Thur, Feb 25th at 4pm via Teams

We've chosen Tanya Talaga's Seven Fallen Feathers for our next book club series. Please join us for the first session additional details will be shared on Teams.

New members welcome!

For more info please contact committee chair Karen Learmonth klearmonth@sd43.bc.ca or Diether Malakoff dmalakoff@cta43.org with any questions.



TTOC Committee

TTOC Townhall (first Tuesday of each month)

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

TTOC Committee Meeting (second Tues. of the month)

Next meeting will be Tue Mar 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) or Diether Malakoff (dmalakoff@cta43.org).

The TTOC Hardship Fund \$50 grocery store gift cards are still available to qualified TTOCs. The application form can be found on our website, member resources/covid page. Please submit your completed application to Heidi hdavis@cta43.org



PINK SHIRT DAY

February 24th, 2021

BLACK

HISTORY

February

MONTH

9

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.



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 mc Crawford@cta43.org and they might be shared in our next newsletter!

A challenge was issued by the Swiss police after they took on the viral Jerusalema dance craze...and the Irish Gardai accepted: <https://www.thesouthafrican.com/lifestyle/gardai-irish-police-jerusalem-dance-challenge-viral-video/>

Ever wondered how you weight a koala? Thanks to this tweet, now we know...and the replies show even more adorable methods of weighing animals: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/it-s-viral/ever-wondered-how-koalas-are-weighed-take-a-look/story-F40zSM6m61mgMnuB4N701K.html>

Continuing the animal weighing trend - check out how eager these penguins are to jump on the scale: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oN0XBY8hFnA>

With the forecast looking very much like winter, check out the highest resolution photos of snowflakes ever captured: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/johnkoetsier/2020/12/02/this-is-the-highest-resolution-snowflake-photo-ever/?sh=5efa63e97ddd>

BCTF Working and Learning Conditions/Bargaining Advisory Committee (WLC/BAC)

The role of the WLC/BAC involves raising awareness and advocating for the improvement of teaching and learning conditions, analyzing information on allocations of resources to schools, developing strategies and providing advice on local bargaining and other actions, reviewing BCTF bargaining campaigns, and providing advice to the BCTF Executive Committee. **Two term positions are currently available.**

The deadline to apply is Tuesday, February 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. For more information and to apply, click [here](#).

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!



Retiring Soon?

Visit <https://bcrrta.ca/workshop/> to sign up for an online workshop from the BC Retired Teachers' Association or <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/online-courses-and-webinars> for Pension specific workshops.



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 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, 1 Elementary rep,

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). 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

(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 Director - 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

CTA Office: 604-936-9971

