

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

Half-masting

You may have noticed that the employer lowered flags to half-mast in school and district sites yesterday. The purpose of that was to acknowledge the one-year anniversary of the WHO declaring Covid a pandemic and to honour the many lives lost in the last 12 months. Vaccines are giving us hope for the future here but, that can't erase the experience and loss of the last 12 months.

A Bad Month

February turned out to be the worst month for us locally here, since the beginning of the pandemic. The most exposures, isolations, sickness we have seen thus far. The frustrating major cause was people in the general public making poor decisions socially. In an extraordinary move, Fraser Health put out a social media post that showed a flow chart of how one infected individual in a pub turned into 296 people directly affected by that. I think this action really indicates their frustration with people flouting the Covid safety protocols.

Some highlights of the latest Fraser Health Local President's call with Dr. Zbar. We asked for specific information on the number of educators affected by Covid. Dr. Zbar said releasing that was a provincial decision, a theme you'll see repeated shortly. Dr. Zbar claims they are being more aggressive with contact tracing, due to the variant. This statement was a little short on specifics but, there have been five emergency response teams created, to go out to situations that develop that are extreme. We have not seen them in action here, as we are still relatively well-off, compared to some of our neighbours. We pressed Dr. Zbar on region-specific protocols and latitude for superintendents to go above and beyond the provincial protocols. She responded that was, again, a PHO decision. We found this a little mystifying since Fraser Health is responsible for the circumstances in Fraser Health, just as we are responsible for what happens in our local, not the BCTF. We further pressed her on teacher vaccinations and priority, Dr. Zbar again referred to her provincial colleagues in the Ministry of Health, saying it would have to be their decision to prioritize any group.

In Solidarity

Ken

CTA Representative Assembly/General Meeting Wednesday, April 21, 2021

All documentation is now up on the Member Resources/General Information page of the [CTA website](#).

The link to register to attend & Zoom meeting ID and password are posted as well.

Meeting protocols will be posted soon.

Please have patience with us for this meeting as this is the first live meeting of this size we will be holding.

We hope to see you there.

CTA Representative Assembly

April 21, 2021

4:00 PM, Zoom

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Ratification of Committee Appointments
3. Election - Negotiations Committee
4. Adjournment

CTA General Meeting

April 21, 2021

4:10 PM, Zoom

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Election - CTA Executive Committee
Member-at-large position
3. President's Report
4. SD43 Budget 2021-2022
5. Bargaining [In Committee] [Kara Obojski]
6. BCTF
AGM 2021
Metro West Zone Report Out
7. Committee Reports
8. School Concerns
9. Prize Draw
10. Adjournment [5:45 pm]

Negotiations Committee

Our Collective Agreement is up for re-negotiation in 2022, and a new Negotiations Committee is required.

Elections will be held at our CTA Rep Assembly, Wednesday, April 21, 2021 via Zoom.

As per CTA Policy 7.a the committee shall consist of:

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- Past Chief Negotiator
- Appointed member of the Executive Committee
- Five (5) Members-At-Large

The CTA Past Chief Negotiator is currently our 1st Vice-President, so 6 members-at-large will be elected. Members-at-large shall be elected to serve until a new Collective Agreement has been ratified by both parties.

If you are interested in running for member-at-large please go to our website to get and **submit a CV to Pat Adolf padolf@cta43.org by April 12, 2021.**

If you have any questions please contact Kara Obojski, 1st Vice-President kobojski@cta43.org or 604.936.9971.

Executive Committee VACANCY

**The CTA is currently seeking to fill
One (1) Member At Large position on the EC**

If you are interested in running for this position please go to our [website](#) to get and submit a CV (Member Resources/Forms) to Pat Adolf padolf@cta43.org by Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Register now to be an observer at the BCTF's virtual 2021 Annual General Meeting

The 2021 BCTF Annual General Meeting will be held online from March 20 to 23. All of our local associations will have delegates Zooming into a new platform called Lumi that allows delegates to vote, debate, and see speakers all in one platform. As space in the platform is limited to 1,000 participants, there is room for up to 200 BCTF members who are not delegates to register as observers. This will allow you to pop into the meeting from time-to-time and witness the discussions and debate. You can register on the BCTF Portal under the events tab. The deadline to sign up as an observer is March 10, 2021. Once logged in to the portal, you can also go to <https://www.bctf.ca/myBCTF/agm.aspx> to read all of this year's AGM documents like the agenda, Reports and Resolutions book, and the guide to Lumi platform. Importantly, anyone who signs up as an observer needs to use a desktop or laptop computer. The platform does not work on mobile devices like smartphones or tablets. In addition, Chrome is the best browser and others like Safari do not support the technology.

INTERESTED IN WORKING with the CTA?

Members interested in either of these positions should go to our website for a curriculum vitae form (Member Resources/Forms), which must be submitted to Pat padolf@cta43.org at the CTA by Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:30 p.m.

Labour Relations Officer

The CTA Labour Relations Officer position is filled on an annual basis. The CTA is now seeking members interested in the position for 2021-22.

Release time for this position is currently 1.0 and the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- dealing with member problems and issues
- researching, preparing and presenting grievances
- collaborating with Table Officers
- maintaining confidentiality

The successful candidate will have excellent presentation skills and the ability to deal effectively with confrontational and stressful situations.

PD Chairperson

The CTA Professional Development Chair position is filled on an annual basis. The CTA is now seeking members interested in the position of Professional Development Chair for 2021-22.

Release time for this position is currently 0.4 and the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- chairing the PD Committee, the CTA PD Day Committee and LSA Council
- planning, developing, organizing and implementing professional development activities for the CTA Professional Development Day
- processing applications for PD assistance and course fee assistance
- maintaining a liaison between the CTA and the BCTF in matters of Professional Development

The successful candidate will have a sound knowledge of and be highly committed to, professional development; will be well organized and will support a collaborative and collegial office atmosphere.

BCTF LGBTQ2S+ issues session

The BCTF is seeking members to virtually attend a two-day Issues Session for members who identify as LGBTQ2S+ on May 17 and 18, 2021. **Participation in all the meetings is required for those appointed.**

The session membership will consist of 20 individuals from the membership who identify as LGBTQ2S+ plus the four members of the Committee for Action on Social Justice LGBTQ2S+ Action Group. **To see full participation details check the BCTF website here.**

Selection of task force members will be completed by the Executive Committee at an April meeting.

This is a volunteer opportunity to serve and represent all the teachers of BC. Accommodation, meals (per diem), leave of absence (LOA), necessary travel costs, and dependant care costs (if required) will be provided in accordance with BCTF policies.

Any questions or concerns about confidentiality should be directed to Todd Patrick.

To apply Complete the appropriate [CV form here](#) and fax to 604-871-2286 or email your application to applications@bctf.ca.

Direct enquiries to: Todd Patrick, BCTF, tpatrick@bctf.ca

**Application deadline is Tuesday April 6, 2021 @ 4:30 pm
NO late applications will be accepted.**

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

With heavy hearts we acknowledge
the passing of both

Mike Torressan, on March 5, 2021 and;
Joseph-Etienne Champagne, on March 1, 2021

The Association has no information on
services or requests from the families at this
time. We respectfully offer our condolences
to everyone affected by the death of any
member of our community.



PD POWER

April may seem like it's far in the future, but with spring break coming up soon, we will be in April before we know it! An exciting part of April is the Indigenous Focus Day on April 23rd. With two incredible keynote speakers, Kevin Lamoureux and Jennifer Katz, there will be a lot of sharing and learning. These two speakers are the co-authors of "Ensouling Our Schools", a book that explains how we can create schools that support all types of health (mental, spiritual, emotional), but also help learners develop critical thinking skills and the curiosity to spark intellectual thought. With direct ties to the TRC Calls to Action, this is an important work for shifting our practice to better support all learners. We strongly encourage schools to be a part of this day – Indigenous education is a vital part of our work and is an area in which we can all learn more and do better. If your school chooses not to attend the focus day, consider other Indigenous topics that you can make the focus of your day.

- Meggan Crawford, CTA PD Chairperson

CASJ COMMITTEE FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

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

Thur, Mar 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. New members welcome!

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

Thur, Mar 25, 4pm via Teams

Our third session with Tanaya Talaga's Seven Fallen Feathers will cover chapters 5 and 6.

New members welcome!

TTOC Committee

TTOC Townhall (first Tuesday of each month)

Next Townhall date TBA

TTOC Committee Meeting (second Tues. of the month)

Next meeting will be Tue Mar 16 @3:45pm on zoom

We're looking to plan some (covid safe) activities for TTOC appreciation week in May, if you would like to be part of this, come on out!

All meeting links and additional information will be posted in the CTA TTOC facebook group. Please contact committee chair Morgan McKee (chair.ttoc@gmail.com) or Diether Malakoff (dmalakoff@cta43.org) for more information.

PD DAY 2021 PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to all the prize winners posted this week and last!! All prizes will be sent via district mail – keep an eye out for your prize in the next few weeks if you're a winner!

The Coquitlam winners of our random PD Day prize draws are:

Anika Ledoux, Amanda Panahi and Laura Principe –

"Mindset Mathematics"

Grant McNally – "Number Sense Routines"

Troy Cunningham – "Unwritten: The Story of a Living System"

by Lori Desautels

Michelle Burton – "Rebent Sinner" by Ivan Coyote

Krista Bogen – "How May I Serve You" by Lori Desautels

Susan Lambert – mask lanyard donated by Deborah Siu

Stephanie Kehle – "Mindfulness for Teachers" by Patricia Jennings

Dakota Meredith – "Speaking Our Truth" by Monique Gray Smith

Marnie Gordon – "Mindfulness in the K-5 Classroom"

by Patricia Jennings

Karla Allan – "The Decision Playbook"

Karen Edgell – "Tilly: A Story of Hope and Resilience"

by Monique Gray Smith

Barbara Braidwood – "Tluuwaay 'Waadluxan: Mathematical Adventures"

Darren Miller – "Connections Over Compliance" by Lori Desautels

Vanessa Lee and Deb Renaud – "Dive Into Inquiry"

Simon Kwok – "Who Owns the Learning?" by Alan November

Cassie Bermel - \$25 Garden Works Gift Card

Jesse Mann, Leah Gilligan and Kristi Frisk -

\$25 Rocky Point Ice Cream Gift Card

Kylie Charlton and Wooje Choi - \$25 Wish on a Star Gift Card

Adrian Walker - \$25 Artisan Flowers and Gifts Gift Card

Janette Elliott and Ron Lee -

\$25 Black Sugar Coffee Shop Gift Card

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



The penguins from the Shedd Aquarium are taking field trips to a whole new level as they waddled around replicas of the set of the TV show Friends: <https://miami.cbslocal.com/video/5359432-web-extra-penguins-visit-the-friends-experience-exhibit/>

A photographer celebrates adopting dogs with adorable (and often hilarious) photos of puppies eating peanut butter: <https://www.today.com/pets/rescue-puppies-licking-peanut-butter-star-new-dog-book-t209316>



There may be no audience at Rogers Arena, but that didn't stop this Canucks ice crew member from adding some flair into his snow clearing task: <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/dazzling-canucks-ice-crew-member>

BC TEACHERS' COUNCIL ELECTIONS ONLINE ONLY - MARCH 8 - 18, 2021

The BC Teachers' Council zone elections, conducted by the Ministry of Education—BCTC Elections Office, is underway. Emails will be sent out to all BC Certificate Holders notifying them that the content is posted and that Simply Voting will be contacting them with voting instructions.

There is a short window of opportunity to vote:

- March 8, 2021—online voting opens
- March 18, 2021—online voting closes

The voting is based on where members live, and an electronic ballot will be emailed to the email you have on file with the BC Teachers Certification Branch. As certificate holders, all BCTF members are eligible to vote in their zones.

Nominated Candidates

Northern Zone

- Lisa Kishkan—BCTF-endorsed, candidate statement (PDF)
- Donald Fajemisin
- Lorn Kennedy.

Vancouver Coastal Zone:

- Marjorie Dumont—BCTF-endorsed, candidate statement
- John O'Flynn.

Fraser Zone:

- Jatinder Bir—BCTF-endorsed, candidate statement (PDF)
- Farid Azar
- Tara Olchoway.

Interior Zone:

- Shelley Balfour BCTF-endorsed, candidate statement
- Danielle Neer.

To ensure that you are able to participate in the election, please log in to Your Account to confirm that your contact information is up to date. If you need help logging in to Your Account or linking your BCeID, please call the Service BC Help Desk using one of the following numbers: Vancouver at 604 660-2355 or toll-free at 1 888 356-2741.

BCRTA GOLDEN STAR AWARDS



The BC Retired Teachers' Association's (BCRTA) Golden Star Awards celebrate programs that promote the interaction of seniors and students. BCRTA invites teachers in public schools to apply for a Golden Star Award. Winning programs receive \$1500 and a trophy.


We know that this school year is full of challenges. The in-person connections usually fostered in intergenerational programs are not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. Programs that were in full swing before the pandemic have had to consider changed and unpredictable circumstances. It inspires us to know that some teachers are continuing to implement their intergenerational programs for seniors and students by virtual means and letter writing. We applaud those efforts and encourage teachers to apply.

The deadline for applications for Golden Star Awards is April 15th, 2021.

Golden Star Awards information and application forms are available on the BCRTA website: www.bcrt.ca




Coquitlam School District 43
Indigenous Education Department




EQUITY


Every Child, Every Day



Kevin Lamoureux
KEYNOTE PRESENTER



Jennifer Katz
KEYNOTE PRESENTER



INDIGENOUS FOCUS DAY

APRIL 23, 2021

KEEPING EQUITY FIRST

Our goal for 2021 is to reawaken your spirit as to 'why' you chose the field of education. Please join us as 'school-based' participants and have in-depth discussions to highlight how schools can support marginalized learners through the equity lens.

Collaboratively create the school your students deserve.

To register, scan QR code or click on link below:
[Indigenous Focus Day Registration](#)



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

