

# COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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



happy  
spring break!!!

## President's Message

### Vaccination Good News

Dr. Henry announced Thursday that teachers would be among the candidates for vaccination in April. This is, I think, the summation of months of pressure from the locals, the BCTF and members to get the Health Authorities to recognize our work as front line. Personally, vaccination rollout and timing was the very first point I raised with Fraser Health in our Fraser Health Local President's meeting months ago and we have continued, with other locals, to press the point that teachers need to be treated as front-line, be vaccinated and, earlier than general public. It's nice to go into Spring Break knowing that we are setting up to get our first jab, maybe within it or shortly after we are back to work. Having at least one shot before the end of the year presents a really good additional layer of protection for teachers in classrooms and, it also raises the possibility of a second shot before summer is out, making the teaching force of BC fully vaccinated by the start of the next school year.

### District Calendar

Lately, there have been many inquiries about calendar, how the dates of our Spring Break are different than other districts and other concerns, like Easter being linked with Spring Break costing a day off.

The employer and the union agree to a consistent 180 day calendar every year, plus 6 PD days and an Admin Day. The Collective Agreement stipulates that our school year starts after Labour Day and ends on the last Friday in June, unless that Friday falls on the 25th or earlier, which means we go to the 30th. We also have a local agreement for a two-week Spring Break, which adds pressure to the calendar, as does Family Day and, as will the potential Indigenous Day. 180 days is the minimum work year we can do that meets the School Act minutes of instruction and maintains the existing schedule of the school day. In the past, the year varied quite a lot, in some cases as much as 7 days, depending on when it began and ended and where motile holidays like Easter, fell. Balancing the semesters for high school and other internal pressures, like PD Days, also affected calendar planning, and still do. A longer work year is a pay cut in that year because, you're doing more days of work for the same money. It also meant a constant reshuffling of school schedules which wasn't good for kids, teachers or parents.

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There have been (and, will be) years with extra closure days inserted when there are more than 180 instructional days within the bookends of the year. We had a very long summer break this school year, as a result of an early end in June 2020 and a later start in September. Teachers are absolutely working exactly the same amount of time this year as last.

Now, people have been pointing out other district calendars that begin and end on the same or earlier days and asking, "How come they can do it?". What people aren't seeing are the various local Collective Agreement clauses that affect that district's calendar planning. Examples include last-Friday-in-June clauses, prescriptive clauses around when Spring Break must occur, extra supervision minutes before and after school, longer instructional days, fewer PD Days, etc. School districts still have to meet the School Act requirements, in addition to all these pressures. When looked at from a height, things appear similar until all these additional requirements are illuminated.

The union is deeply involved in calendar planning with the district, to ensure a stable, predictable, minimal work year that meets provincial requirements and the language of our Collective Agreement. The government oversees and approves every District Calendar in the province. All partner groups are encouraged to participate in the planning process. The reason Spring Break is a week later than the other metros this year was due to the lack of concern expressed in the survey responses for alignment with other districts and to maintain the contractual 6th PD Day, as an example. We have two more years in this three-year cycle so, planning for the next three years will be starting in that last year of the cycle.

All of us at the CTA wish you a restful Spring Break and hope to see you well-rested and re-invigorated for the close of this very difficult year.

In Solidarity  
Ken

## 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.

## 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]

## Local Returning Officer

Are you interested in being involved with the CTA and already attend Rep Assemblies and General Meetings?

This job does not involve extra meetings, just the ones you already attend. For the job it would be helpful to have someone who is already committed to the CTA, is interested and does attend meetings regularly. Some familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order and our CTA Policies and Procedures, but not essential, as you learn on the job.

Interested members should go on our website for a curriculum vitae form, and submit it to **Pat Adolf** [padolf@cta43.org](mailto:padolf@cta43.org) by 4 PM, April 12, 2021.

## 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](mailto:padolf@cta43.org) by Wednesday, April 7, 2021

## 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](mailto:padolf@cta43.org) by 4 PM, April 12, 2021.

If you have any questions please contact Kara Obojski, 1st Vice-President [kobojski@cta43.org](mailto:kobojski@cta43.org) or 604.936.9971.

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](mailto:hdavis@cta43.org)

# PD POWER

Spring Break has arrived! I hope that the next two weeks give you time to relax, enjoy some sunshine, clear off your to-do list, and reenergize for the last few months of the school year. If you're looking for some pro-d, remember that many of the recordings from our Feb. 26th pro-d day will be available until March 31st, including ALL of our keynote speakers. None of the recordings will be available once March arrives, so please take advantage of them while you can. If you're looking for a book for some pd, consider picking up one of the many publications by our keynote speakers – almost all of them are published authors and their works have some great insights and ideas for our day to day work. Regardless, I hope that the next two weeks offer some R&R in the midst of a stressful year and that you can make time to prioritize your own self-care. See you in April!

- Meggan Crawford, CTA PD Chairperson

## TTOC Committee

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

The TTOC committee has decided to add a townhall component to our committee meetings and not have a separate town hall event. **Please join us at our next committee meeting on Tue April, 6, 2021 at 3:45pm.** Among the business of the meeting will be a finalizing our plans for TTOC Appreciation week in May.

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.

## WINNER WINNER CHICKEN DINNER!!

Congratulations to our Local Bargaining Survey prize draw winners:

- Kim Pavan (Heritage Woods Secondary)
- Joanne Peressin (Nestor Elementary)
- Shawna Smith (Gleneagle Secondary)
- Ryan Cho (Terry Fox Secondary)
- Mark Hinds (Como Lake Middle)

You will each receive a \$15 Chapters Gift cards.

## 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!

Howie, a rescued Bob cat in Oregon, has a special bond with his stuffed animal toys:

[https://www.tiktok.com/@wildcatridgesanctuary/video/6938797980254326022?](https://www.tiktok.com/@wildcatridgesanctuary/video/6938797980254326022?sender_device=pc&sender_web_id=6924452170608903686&is_from_webapp=v3&is_copy_url=0)

[sender\\_device=pc&sender\\_web\\_id=6924452170608903686&is\\_from\\_webapp=v3&is\\_copy\\_url=0](https://www.tiktok.com/@wildcatridgesanctuary/video/6938797980254326022?sender_device=pc&sender_web_id=6924452170608903686&is_from_webapp=v3&is_copy_url=0)

A bittersweet, but touching story of how two people connected through an apartment wall to play the piano together:

<https://fb.watch/4fgupSK7pV/>

We've all seen fireworks displays, but have you seen drone displays? 600 drones were used for this impressive tribute to Vincent Van Gogh: <https://youtu.be/xj1T2AWcl6o>



**COMMITTEE FOR  
ACTION ON  
SOCIAL JUSTICE**

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

Thur, April 14, 2021 3:45 pm via Teams

Ongoing work to be done, come on out to add your thoughts! You can check the records of recent meetings on our Teams channel. New members welcome!

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

Thur, April 8, 2021 4pm via Teams

We will be continuing with 'Seven Fallen Feathers' looking at chapters 5,6, and 7. An excerpt of the book is available for new members if you'd like to read over the break and join us.

Please contact Committee Chair Karen Learmonth (klearmonth@sd43.bc.ca) or CTA liaison Diether Malakoff (dmalakoff@cta43.org) with any questions.

## BCTF RACISM ISSUES SESSION

BCTF members who identify as First Nations, Inuit, Metis, and persons of colour are invited to apply to participate in the BCTF 2021 Issues Session on Racism. The session will take place virtually on the evening of Thursday, April 29 and all day, Friday, April 30. The BCTF will provide a Leave of Absence for this date.

For full participation details check the BCTF website here

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

Direct enquiries to: Christine Stewart at [cstewart@bctf.ca](mailto:cstewart@bctf.ca) 604-871-1800

**Application deadline is Friday April 9, 2021 @ 4:30 pm.**





# 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](http://www.bcrt.ca)**



## EQUITY Every Child, Every Day



**Kevin Lamoureux**

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



**Jennifer Katz**

KEYNOTE PRESENTER



**Collaboratively create the school your students deserve.**

To register, scan QR code or click on link below:

[Indigenous Focus Day Registration](#)

Coquitlam School District 43  
Indigenous Education Department



## 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.

## BCTF Member Opportunities

### 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 meetings is required for those appointed. The issues session will provide opportunities to strengthen connections and community for BCTF members who identify as LGBTQ2S+, examine current issues for LGBTQ2S+ teachers, and provide recommendations regarding future advocacy, supports, policy and/or programs that could further support LGBTQ2S+ members. For more information and application instructions, visit the [Opportunities for Members](#) page online. The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. on April 6, 2021.

### Earth Day webinar

The Environmental Justice Action Group invites classes to attend an Earth Day Webinar on April 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The webinar is for Grades 4 to 12. We will hear from youth activists, and classes will have a chance to take part in discussions. The webinar focuses on Earth Day through an Indigenous lens. Optional pre- and post-webinar activities will be provided. To register, click on the Events tab in the Member's Portal.

### Employment Opportunity: Director, Field Service Division

The Director of the Field Service Division has overall responsibility for the effective operation of the division, including the design and implementation of programs and the administration of budgets. The director supervises and provides direction to divisional staff. The role includes co-ordinating aspects of work of the division related to support to locals in political action, contract enforcement, and a range of professional, social justice, Aboriginal education, health and safety, and other issues. For more information and application instructions, [view the posting online](#). **Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2021.**

### Advisory Committee openings

The BCTF has several openings on a variety of advisory committees. Advisory committee positions are volunteer positions with two- or three-year terms. Please visit the [Opportunities for Members](#) page online for descriptions of each committee, and details about committee members' roles. **The deadline to apply is 5:00 p.m. on June 4, 2021.**



## ***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, 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](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

