

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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President's Message

Continued Frustration.....

Just like last year, there seems to be moving goalposts on information regarding Covid 19 being shown to schools and school communities. We had to fight to get information released last year and we seemed to start the year in the same spot, where the Health Authorities were limiting information again. Pushback from parents and the Union seems to have resulted in a statement by Dr. Bonnie Henry that information will be more forthcoming but, confusion still seems to reign. There are school closures out east and up north and those locals were not necessarily being informed. We have an agreement locally that the employer will share any and all information they get with us but, I am not entirely confident even they are getting the whole picture. We are working to get a meeting with Fraser Health as soon as we can here, to explain our concerns. It's hard to square the circle when the claim is made that contact tracing is still underway with the reduced information going out to schools. While it is great the majority of staff are double-vaxxed, that doesn't mean we can treat this as just another of the routine communicable diseases in schools quite yet.

Morale and Mindfulness

In a recent roundtable discussion at the Executive Committee, we sought information on how people are faring two weeks in. It's understood this is a small sample size but, one of the main goals of having an Executive Committee is to bring the voice of the classroom teacher to the organization. While it was heartening to hear this wasn't as rough a start as last year, it was clear people were dealing with levels of exhaustion higher than can be expected from this point in the year. As exemplars, high school teachers were making the adjustment back to a semestered system and thus seeing a lot more students in the day.

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Elementary teachers similarly report dealing with a higher than normal amount of anxious kids, as the gradual transitions kids from last year return. Everyone notes the difficulties of teaching in a mask all day and, naturally, some internal conflict on what to do with noncompliant kids and parents. We are happy to continue to troubleshoot issues in schools with these or, any other aspect of this pandemic. In the end, we can only really control our own state of mind and wellness. I hope the PD day today provided a little relief and a new focus for everyone.

In Solidarity,
Ken

CTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Wednesday, September 29, 2021
Zoom – 4:00 pm*

Zoom links have be sent to reps via email and are posted on our website (Staff Rep Page)

Agenda

First Nations Acknowledgement

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| 1. Call to Order | 4. 2020-21 CTA Guiding Principles & Priorities |
| • Adoption of the agenda | 5. CTA Budget 2021 - 2022 |
| • Adoption of the minutes of the Representative Assembly held April 21, May 5 & June 23, 2021. | • Recommendations to the CTA AGM (October 6, 2021) |
| 2. President's Report | 6. School Concerns |
| 3. Ratification of Committee Appointments | 7. Prize Draw |
| | 8. Adjournment |

CTA Annual General Meeting

Zoom links will be sent shortly, meeting documents are posted on our website (General Info Page)

Agenda

First Nations Acknowledgement

1. Call to Order
 - Adoption of the agenda
 - Adoption of the minutes of the Year End General Meeting held May 12, 2021.
2. President's Report
3. Financial Reports
 - Auditor's Report Manning Elliott, Accountants & Business Advisors
 - Financial Statements
 - That the Annual General Meeting receive the financial statements to June 30, 2021
 - That the CTA Auditors for 2021-22 be Manning Elliot, Accountants & Business Advisors
 - Approval of the 2021-22 Finance Recommendations
4. Bargaining Update [In-Committee]
5. Prize Draws
6. Adjournment



PD POWER

I hope that today's PD day was meaningful and a positive experience for everyone! The end of September looks a bit different this year with the Truth & Reconciliation Day falling on September 30th. Although Orange Shirt Day may be familiar to many educators, this day brings further depth and meaning to our remembrances. I truly hope that everyone will make time on September 30th to take action on their own towards real reconciliation, whether through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action ([calls_to_action_english2.pdf \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://calls_to_action_english2.pdf(gov.bc.ca))), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples | United Nations For Indigenous Peoples), or other choices and actions. The Indigenous Education department has also compiled some incredible resources and lists of community events, available at <https://sd43bcc.sharepoint.com/sites/NDTR?CT=1631811184241&OR=OWA-NT&CID=a00e3611-b9b0-9615-57f2-f66d3d1adbe9>. If you are looking to do some further learning we also have several books by Indigenous authors in our CTA Lending Library, which can be borrowed free of charge (email lendinglibrary@cta43.org to set up an account). - **Meggan Crawford PD Chairperson**

EVERY CHILD MATTERS IS GROWING FROM A SINGLE DAY TO A FULL WEEK OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION PROGRAMMING.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Presented by 

SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 1

#EveryChildMatters

Yellow PD Forms for PSA Day are due at the CTA Office by October 8 and MUST be in school mail bag by end of day Tuesday, Sept 28 to be delivered on time. After this all forms must be brought to the office

Decolonizing On-Demand with Nahanee Creative

Four new courses launching on September 30th, National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Etiquette for Allies Anti-Racist Communications + Unlearning Microaggressions	Are you looking to decolonize your communications? Unlearn micro aggressions and learn more about anti-racist communication.
Restorying Colonialism Restorying Narratives, Roles & Identity	Are you ready to start decolonizing your frameworks and how you walk in this world? Restorying Colonialism will dive into the social and personal frameworks that may guide you, and how we can begin to see things differently and in better relations with those around us.
Territorial Acknowledgements What are they? Why they matter? & how to move beyond copy & pasting yours	Are you ready to engage in meaningful dialogue about colonialism, supremacy and the land you live & work on? Are you ready to take action toward centring Indigenous ways & Indigenous cultural safety in your workplace?
Cultural Protocols, Cultural Empathy and Cultural Safety	This three part mini-course is designed to inspire you to further your learnings with definitions and examples of what cultural protocols, empathy and safety look like in action.
Introducing Decolonizing Practices: What are they and why they matter	Is your organization ready to have meaningful dialogue about colonialism, supremacy and decolonizing practices? Are you ready to ensure cultural safety in your workplace? Decolonizing Practices offers experiential training and dialogue facilitation grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing.
Decolonizing Identity 101 Social and cultural construction of gender, and how ideas about masculinity & femininity shape current issues, knowledge, pop culture and social policy	This workshop aims to help folks understand the social and cultural construction of gender, and how ideas about masculinity and femininity shape current issues, knowledge, pop culture and social policy. The goal is to examine the ways in which historical, cultural and social events shape the role of gender in society by focusing on how colonization and settler colonialism has obstructed our vision of gender.

#MMIWG
#SISvigils



Sisters in Spirit Day

What are you doing on October 4, 2021?

Honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls

1. raise awareness
2. provide support to families who have lost a loved one
3. engage in a movement for social change.

BC accounts for over a quarter of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada.

Most cases occur in Vancouver's Downtown East Side and along the Highway of Tears near Prince George.



COMMITTEE FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Book Club will continue on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Our second session will be Oct 14th where we will be discussing Chapter 8 and the concluding chapter of Robyn Maynard's Policing Black Lives.

We are already discussing options for our next book, please join us on teams to be part of this conversation! For our next book, we are looking to find titles from authors who speak from an intersectional perspective on matters of race and, ideally, also Canadian. The intention is find authors that speak from an intersectional lived experience as opposed to someone speaking from outside this experience. If this interests you, check us out on Teams. New members welcome!!

Next committee meeting will be Thursday Oct 21 at 4pm on Teams.

We are continuing our work with the 'Anti-Racism Advisory Committee' as well as planning for some additional events like movie viewings. We're always looking for new folks to add voice to our work.

You can connect with us on Facebook at 'CTA CASJ' group as well as joining our group on Teams.

Please contact Committee Chair Karen Learmonth or CTA liaison Diether Malakoff with any questions.

TTOC Committee

Our first meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday Sept 28 @ 4pm on zoom**. The agenda has been posted in 'CTA TTOCs' Facebook Group.

Please contact committee chair Morgan McKee (chair.ttoc@gmail.com) or Diether Malakoff (dmalakoff@cta43.org) with any inquiries.

Congrats and Thank You!

Committee Appointments

Marina Mehai (Port Moody) -
District Student Achievement Advisory Committee
Michelle Allen Ciolfitto (Learning Services) -
PD Committee as Learning Services Rep.
Ronak Pahlevanlu (Riverside) -
BCTF Professional Issues Advisory Committee



The BCTF has made some great changes to their website
take a look here

CTA Anti Racism Working Group

(7 BIPOC CTA members)

The CTA is seeking 7 BIPOC CTA members to form a working group to inform the Committee for Action on Social Justice's (CASJ) ongoing anti-racism policy work. This working group shall continue until a CTA standing committee on anti-racism is established. Meeting dates/times will be established once the working group is formed. If you have any questions about the working group please contact Diether Malakoff, 2nd Vice President at dmalakoff@cta43.org. **Please submit a CV form to the CTA office (padolf@cta43.org) before 4 pm, Wednesday, October 13, 2021.**

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!

A groom in Brazil made an entrance to remember as he danced his way down the aisle: Brazil groom dances to Justin Timberlake song at his wedding. Epic viral video ([msn.com](https://www.msn.com))

The Seattle Mariners hosted their "Bark at the Park" night where dogs are welcomed to watch the baseball. What's not to love about their "Simba Cam"? (Seattle, Washington): Fans bring dogs to "Bark at the Park" night at the Seattle Mariners game. Stadium has the "Simba Cam" where people hold up their dogs 'Lion King style' for a chance to be featured on the jumbotron... - GIF - [Imgur](https://www.imgur.com)

The election is behind us, but some folks in Ontario had a great time with parody signs: These Fake Election Signs In Ontario Are So Ridiculous We Kind Of Wish They Were Real ([msn.com](https://www.msn.com))

I'm not sure if it's the number of cones or the laughing, but "Wally's first day at work" is sure to make you smile: Wally's Opening Day Premier's April 2, On NESN - Bing video

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

CTA PD Committee

2 Middle Reps, 1 Secondary Rep, 1 LSA Rep
2 Elementary Reps, 1 Adult Ed Rep, 1 TTOC Rep

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

5 members-at-large

CTA Committee of Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

2 Middle reps

New Westminster & District Labour Council

5 CTA reps

CTA Adult Educators

1 Learning Centre Rep, 1 High School Completion Rep

District Student Services Advisory Committee

2 CTA reps

District Student Achievement Advisory Committee

1 CTA reps

District Student Wellness & Safety Committee

Currently Full

District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee

Currently Full

District French Advisory Committee

Currently Full

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

Kelly Roberts, Executive Director - kroberts@cta43.org

Accounting/Finance

Reimbursements, scholarship payments & CTA newsletter
Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator - hdavis@cta43.org

Scholarships, Committees, CTA PD Day

Pat Adolf, Administrative Associate - padolf@cta43.org

Membership Database & Website Access

Kelly Stewart, Office Clerk - kstewart@cta43.org

Office Clerk

Corbey Heyes-Jones, Office Clerk

If your situation is already being handled by an officer not matching your alpha assignment, then please continue to liaise with that officer.



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

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>

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](#)

www.coquitlamteachers.com

CTA Office: 604-936-9971

