

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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



Happy
Thanksgiving

President's Message

Mandatory Vaccination

There is a lot of talk around vaccine mandates right now and you have all by now received the communication from the BCTF on the subject. It's probably good that you hear the local perspective on this matter. While we don't outright oppose vaccine mandates, we are very clear and aware of our responsibility to represent ALL members of the CTA in any situation that arises from a direction, a disciplinary situation or where someone's employment is in peril. We will absolutely fulfill that responsibility for every member and we are fully aware of members' rights and responsibilities. At this point, there are NO decisions that have occurred or are imminent on the imposition of a vaccine mandate. Much discussion must be had and many plans made before something like that is announced, at least that would be best practice. I do not think the government really thought through the BCGEU announcement and wasn't prepared for the pressure that landed on them subsequent to the announcement. The BCTF is doing all it can to ensure that a hodge-podge approach, rushed decision or other equally bad choices don't prevail. There will undoubtedly be much more to talk about on this subject in the coming weeks, so, keep your eyes and ears open.

K-3 Mask Mandate

The CTA remains concerned with the difficulties surrounding the K-3 addition to the mask mandate for 4-12. This is a public health order. This isn't a guideline or a recommendation. Thus, students not legitimately exempted should be complying with this order. The admin have had clear direction to have conversations with the families refusing, explore options for even partial compliance, encourage and explain the rationale behind this order. The CTA continues to advise that it is ok to ask a student to wear a mask but, not to get into pitched battles with children or families over it. Refer the conversation to admin. If you are encountering any problems in your school related to the K-3 order or, the 4-12 order, for that matter, please reach out to us at the CTA and we will help you.

In Solidarity,
Ken

Observers needed at the BCTF Bargaining Conference

The BCTF's virtual 2021 Bargaining Conference will be held over 3 days: October 28–30, 2021.

One of the BCTF Priorities in 2020–21 is creating an equitable and inclusive union in which the structures, processes, and culture ensure that all members can count on access, agency, and a sense of belonging. Toward this end, additional spaces for observers have been designated to support access to the 2021 Bargaining Conference.

The BCTF is inviting members who would not otherwise be attending the 2021 BCTF Bargaining Conference to attend as an observer (without voting rights) to this event:

- 10 observers who are members in their first five years of teaching
- 10 observers who are members who identify as Black, Indigenous/Aboriginal, and/or persons of colour members
- 10 observers who are members and work as TTOCs.

Selection will be completed by the BCTF Executive Committee and will consider geographic representation, as well as providing this opportunity first to members who may not have attended a Bargaining Conference or other large Federation meetings in the past.

Deadline: Monday, October 18, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
To apply please complete the online application form on the BCTF website



CTA Hoodies AVAILABLE TO ORDER

These are unisex hoodies in antique cherry, with the CTA logo embroidered in white on the chest (left front).

Hoodies will be \$22 each and are available in sizes Small to 3XL

Orders need to be in by 4:30 October 22, 2021

We will be making one large order and hope to have them in before Winter Break.

Once in they will be available for pick up or delivery.

[Click here to order now](#)

District Reporting Working Group

The CTA is seeking 10 school-based teachers (4 elementary, 3 middle and 3 secondary) for the District Reporting 2022 Working Group.

There will be approximately 8 meetings during the 2021-2022 school year, with the early meetings being held on Teams. TTOCs will be provided if meetings are held during the school day.

The work of the group will be to provide district input to the Ministry on the Draft Reporting Order by November 5, 2021. The working group will also help draft guidelines and implementation support strategies for review by the District Leadership Team by early May 2022.

If you have any questions about the working group, please contact Ken Christensen at kchristensen@cta43.org.

Please submit a CV form to the CTA Office (padolf@cta43.org) before 4:30 pm, Monday, October 11, 2021, if you are interested.

CTA GUIDING PRINCIPLES 2021 - 2022

- To enforce the contractual rights of all CTA members and empower the school union team as defenders of the collective agreement.
- To engage and involve members in the business of the CTA and its committees and raise awareness of professional rights and responsibilities of CTA members.
- To advocate for public education and supports to members.
- To advocate for racialized/BIPOC members.

CTA PRIORITIES 2021 - 2022

- To hold trustees and school board officials accountable for their management of the district.
- To actively encourage members to participate in local level activism and support CTA committees in their work.
- To engage members in the bargaining process.
- To advocate for resources and supports for members to care for their mental and physical well-being.
- To advocate for support for members in the COVID environment with health and safety and educational priorities.
- To actively engage in meaningful work around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the Missing & Murdered Women and Girls Calls to Justice, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to support members in doing the same.
- To actively engage in meaningful work around anti-racism and anti-oppression advocacy, and to support members in doing the same.



Well Teacher Group Sessions

Last school year, the BCTF made the decision to work with Wade Repta—author of *The Well Teacher*—to develop a new group wellness program to replace Living with Balance. The program is based on the book of the same name and was designed to support in-person groups or offered virtually. The BCTF has agreed to fund these groups for the current school year, and we will be scheduling additional groups in other locals this winter and spring. They typically run for six weeks after school or in the evening and are facilitated by our rehabilitation consultants who are located in communities across the province. The groups provide an opportunity for participants to develop a wellness plan and connect and share strategies and resources to support their physical and mental health.

The website for The Well Teacher Groups is now live and can be accessed using the following link:

www.bctf.ca/wellteachergroups.

Coquitlam & Burnaby Sessions

Name of presenters: Darby Eakins and Christy de Bulnes

Workshop dates: Tuesdays beginning November 2 to

December 7, 2021

Time of workshop: 4:00–6:00 p.m. PST



Developing Social Comprehension in our Middle Years Students:

Using Diverse Text to Support Critical Conversations and Foster Identity and Belonging

Join **Miriam Miller**, Marna Macmillan and guest educators for an inspiring series anchored in a thoughtfully curated, collection of rich multi-modal text sets (poetry, novels, picture books, etc.) that are found in the Middle Years Literacy Text Set.

This series is designed to build an awareness of how text selection impacts our practice and our students' identity development, understanding of self and the world. We will consider how we might move away from a single, dominant narrative toward a selection of work that celebrates the beauty and brilliance of humanity.

Throughout the series, we will explore the use of mentor texts as they anchor lesson ideas, learning sequences and instructional routines that welcome student voice and build social comprehension skills. We will share real examples from other SD43 educators to show the multiple entry points to this work and how folks are making meaning of it in their classrooms.

Join us as we seek to better understand how literacy practices might move us closer to better understanding ourselves and others and the unique gifts we offer to the world.

Dates:

- Wednesday, October 13th
- Thursday, November 25th
- Thursday, January 13th, 2022
- Tuesday, April 12th, 2022

Times: 3:15pm – 5pm

Audience: Grade 6-8 Educators

Location: Zoom

[Please click here](#) to register **before Friday, October 8th**, so that you are sent the Zoom link before the first session.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATORS NETWORK

EXPLORING IDENTITIES, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Celebrating Our Children and their Brilliant Gifts

Stories captivate our hearts, minds and souls. We all desire to create, share, and listen to stories - this is what makes us human. Through storytelling, we connect with the past, present, and imagined future. Through story, it is our hope to find ways to enliven classroom read-alouds and explorations of themes related to personal and cultural identity, relationships and belonging, and diversity.

Join **Miriam Miller**, Harpreet Esmail and guest educators as we explore ways to playfully inspire and re-energize our love of teaching and reading through thoughtfully curated, heartfelt picture books. Drawing from the district Elementary Literacy Text Sets and examples from SD43 classrooms, we'll explore multiple pathways that collectively nudge our thinking beyond diverse text selection to consider the real (and practical) ways we might design learning activities and sequences to deepen our own and our students' learning.

As you participate in this active, experiential series, you'll have a chance to network with other educators, collect simple, meaningful classroom applications, instructional routines and practices, and see examples of how a learning sequence might unfold.

Dates:

- Thursday, Oct. 14th
- Thursday, Dec. 2nd
- Thursday, Feb. 10th
- Thursday, Apr. 7th

Times: 3:15pm-5:00pm

Audience: K-5 Educators

Location: Zoom



MindUP has a NEW look, UPDATED lessons, and NEW online platform

School District #43 Virtual MindUP in Schools (K-8) Workshop

Join Marna Macmillan and Rachel French for this 4 part virtual series.

MindUP's signature program is an acclaimed classroom-based curriculum, spanning ages 3 to 14. MindUP focuses on four pillars: neuroscience, social- emotional learning (SEL), positive psychology and mindful awareness. MindUP teaches children how to focus their attention, use brain breaks as a means to manage stress, act with empathy, and build resilience in the face of challenge.

This virtual workshop will consist of 4 sessions; October 20 & 27, November 24 and December 1, 2021

After each session you will get access to the lessons for that section and after completing all 4 sessions you will get access to the NEW MindUP Virtual Platform.

Register by Thursday October 14th HERE

Email rfrench@sd43.bc.ca with any questions

PD POWER

Over the next few weeks the CTA PD Committee is excited to announce a few of our keynotes for the February 25th, 2022 PD Day! The call for presenters for workshops will be coming out soon, so if you'd like to present or know of someone who would be an incredible addition to our day, please keep an eye out for that. As we will once again be hosting a virtual day we will have several keynote speakers for you to choose from, including:



TANYA TALAGA is Ojibwe with roots in Fort William First Nation in Ontario, Canada. She worked as a journalist at the Toronto Star for more than twenty years, and has been nominated five times for the Michener Award in public service journalism. Talaga holds an honorary Doctor of Letters from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, and shares her expertise on the boards of PEN Canada and The Narwal. Tanya is the President and CEO of Makwa Creative, a production company focused on Indigenous storytelling.

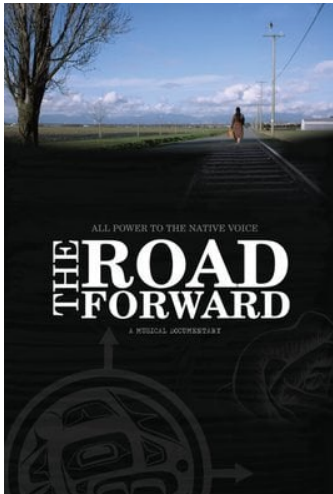
Tanya is the acclaimed author of *Seven Fallen Feathers*, which was the winner of the RBC Taylor Prize, the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing, and First Nation Communities Read: Young Adult/Adult. The book was also a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Nonfiction Prize and the BC National Award for Nonfiction, and it was CBC's Nonfiction Book of the Year, a Globe and Mail Top 100 Book, and a national bestseller.

Tanya was named the 2017–2018 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy and this series resulted in her new book, *All Our Relations: Finding A Path Forward*, Tanya shared the messages of this book through the Massey Lectures 2018 across Canada. This book was a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize for Non-Fiction in 2019. *All Our Relations* has also been published and released in the United Kingdom and Australia under the title, *All Our Relations: Indigenous Trauma in the Shadow of Colonialism*. The book will be released in French in 2020.

She lives in Toronto with her two teenage children, but her heart is in northern Ontario. Her great-grandmother, Liz Gauthier, was a residential school survivor. Her great-grandfather, Russell Bowen, was an Ojibwe trapper and labourer. Her grandmother is a member of Fort William First Nation, and her mother was raised in Raith and Graham, Ontario. Visit Tanya Talaga (ttalaga.ca) for more information - **Meggan Crawford PD Chairperson**



[Check out the #PSAday_page,](#)
[your one-stop spot for](#)
[BCTF Provincial Specialist](#)
[Associations \(PSA\) Fall PSA day](#)
[conferences.](#)



Check out this documentary brought to our attention by a fellow SD43 teacher. that looks at the history of the [Native Brotherhood](https://nativebrotherhood.ca/) <https://nativebrotherhood.ca/> that was formed in the 1930s and is a tribute to the fighters for First Nations rights. The music is powerful, the acting fantastic, and it's filmed locally.

The Road Forward, a musical documentary by Marie Clements, connects a pivotal moment in Canada's civil rights history—the beginnings of Indian Nationalism in the 1930s—with the powerful momentum of First Nations activism today. The Road Forward's stunningly shot musical sequences, performed by an ensemble of some of Canada's finest vocalists and musicians, seamlessly connect past and present with soaring vocals, blues, rock, and traditional beats. A rousing tribute to the fighters for First Nations rights, a soul-resounding historical experience, and a visceral call to action.



**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 at 4 pm on teams.**

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

Next committee meeting will be on Tues Nov 2nd at 4pm via zoom. In the meantime, connect with us

on Facebook to join our community at 'CTA TTOCs'. Those in formalised roles in the TTOC committee are looking to transition from those roles, we need more folks to get involved. If you or anyone you know would like to get involved, please do reach out. Anyone who is working as a TTOC, even if they have a part-time contract, are eligible for membership in the TTOC committee. If you know someone who comes to mind as a good candidate, please send us the names and we'll do some shoulder tapping. There are some opportunities for paid work in getting involved with the TTOC committee and many more opportunities to learn about your rights and getting involved in advocacy efforts.

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

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.

Coquitlam Teachers'
Association



Lending Library
<https://ctalibrary.libib.com>
Email lendinglibrary@cta43.org to create an account.



The BCTF has made some great changes to their website take a look [here](#)

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 and they might be shared in our next newsletter!

A Dutch Grocery Store is combatting loneliness by inviting customers to slow down the checkout process and enjoy a chat as their purchase is processed: A Grocery Line Where Slower is Better: Supermarkets Open 'Chat Checkouts' to Combat Loneliness Among Elderly (goodnewsnetwork.org)

The rare sound of a few million monarch butterflies flying around: Listen to Millions of Monarch Butterflies Make One of the Rarest Sounds on Earth: 'Just like a waterfall' (goodnewsnetwork.org)

A comedian has some fun imagining how different animals would run if they were human: How Animals Would Run if They Were People (sunnyskyz.com)

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](mailto:kstewart@cta43.org)

www.coquitlamteachers.com

CTA Office: 604-936-9971

