

# COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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



## President's Message

### Valentine's Day

We are speaking with the employer in an attempt to allow for a system where the exchange of Valentine's Day cards can still take place in schools. I know this matters more for younger grades but, any way we can try and insert a little normalcy and celebration into school settings these days seems like a good investment in resilience and happiness. Employer concerns remain around health but, we are discussing them and trying to move the needle here.

### Shortages....update

It has been a pretty tough patch for absences and shortages, as predicted when we returned from Winter Break. The good news is it appears to be slowly trending back towards seasonal norms and that may mean less disruption, less unfilled absences, less redeployment of staff and...a return to the acceptance of more leave requests. We shall see what the coming week brings, as that will be pretty illustrative of full demand. In the main, teachers here were extraordinary in their response to this crisis. They stepped in to help, maintained a positive attitude, accepted redeployments to different settings and took it easy on each other. That kind of community support makes these things a great deal easier. Hopefully we are through the worst of this problem for this year.

### BCTF/CTA N95s, Portable Ventilation and Rapid Tests

All of these things are "on their way", to greater or lesser degrees. However, I would like to caution people not to get their anticipation up too high. Something we've seen throughout this pandemic is slow delivery times, delays and other logistical problems with getting things. I will say it is real when I see these things being unloaded. We are definitely not doing anything that will slow things down or impede rapid delivery. Much of this is beyond our direct control but, anything that is in our control is being done.

In Solidarity,  
Ken

# HEARING TESTS



To the attention of noise exposed employees (PE teacher middle and secondary, Tech Ed, and Full-time music) – appointments are still available, do not delay in booking your annual hearing test. This week has been set aside specifically for you. January 24 to 31st.

Appointment hours are:

Wednesday, January 26	9:15 am – 2:45 pm
Thursday, January 27	9:15 am – 5:30 pm
Friday, January 28	9:15 am – 2:45 pm
Monday, January 31	9:15 am – 2:45 pm

If you did not receive your personal invitation, contact the hearing centre directly at 604-464-0609 or by email at [hearingappt@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:hearingappt@sd43.bc.ca).

Hearing tests are not optional – the District must ensure that all noise exposed workers are tested annually. This allows for an early intervention and implementation of prevention measures in the event that changes are noticed between your current test results and past results.

Please note that the Hearing centre is following strict safety protocols – both district and industry specific protocols to ensure your safety and the safety of the attendants.

## In Crisis? Need Help? Reach out

**1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)** to speak with crisis line workers anytime of the day or night.

**Call 310-6789** You will receive emotional support, and information on appropriate referral options and a wide range of support relating to mental health concerns province wide.



**Trans Lifeline – 1-877-330-6366**  
**[www.translifeline.org](http://www.translifeline.org)**

Trans Lifeline is a non-profit dedicated to the well being of transgender people.



**KUU-US Crisis Line Society**  
**First Nations and Aboriginal specific 24/7**  
**crisis line serving the entire province.**

Toll-free: 1-800-588-8717  
Youth Line: 250-723-2040  
Adult Line: 250-723-4050.



**heretohelp**

Mental health and substance use  
information you can trust

## Spotlight On Committees



CTA Committees are a great way for those interested in starting to become more active with their union to dip a toe in the water without making a huge commitment.

You can find a CV to apply to a committee on our website, if you have questions about a committee please call the office and we can help you out.

### CTA Anti Racism Working Group

The CTA is seeking 2 more 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.

### PD Committee

The Professional Development Committee is a group of teachers that meet once a month to discuss PD challenges and goals within our district.

The Committee reviews appeals for PD reimbursement, collaborates with learning services, and supports colleagues to find PD options or plan activities for school-based PD days. One of the main jobs of the PD Committee is to plan and organize our February CTA PD Day. This small group organizes everything for that day, from keynote to catering to which sessions we think will provide the best learning opportunities for our colleagues.

The Committee currently has openings for Reps for Elementary, Middle, LSA, TTOC and Adult Ed.

### Adult Education Committee (AEC)

The Adult Education Committee is a group of teachers that meet once every two months to address issues specific to Adult Educators.

The Committee will work toward increased awareness and respect for Adult Educators in SD43, by liaising with the CTA, SD43 and community groups concerned with Adult Education issues. They will encourage and promote professionalism, autonomy within Continuing Education, through mentorship, inservice and other resources.

The Committee currently has openings for a Learning Centre Rep.

## A LITTLE BIT OF FUN. TO MAKE THE DAY BRIGHTER!

Create your own Wordle

Language: English

ⓧ

**Make Custom Wordle**  
Word can be 5 or 6 letters long

Enter Custom Word

Generate Link



# PD POWER

Next Monday is a PD day for a lot of our schools – this Focus Day is organized by Learning Services and information is available through your school administration and/or your school's PD rep. The Learning Services team has once again organized a day full of incredible learning opportunities! You can register for the January 31st workshops at: <https://sd43bccs.sharepoint.com/sites/focusday>. Any questions about the Focus Day workshops/schedule/links/etc. should be directed to Heather Daly (hdaly@sd43.bc.ca). Whether your school is taking part in this or has planned something else, I hope that your PD day is rich and meaningful. Please check in with your administrator(s) for details about working remotely on the January PD Day. After the Focus Day we will be opening registration for the February 25th CTA PD Day, so keep an eye on your email on February 1st! - **Meggan Crawford PD Chair**



## Real Acts of Caring Week

**February 13 - 19, 2022**

This year the focus of RAC Week is Climate Change and Covid Caring and we are encouraging as many students as possible all over BC to get involved in supporting this goal in a safe Covid way. Please see our RAC website for more information about RAC at:

<http://www.realactsofcaring.org>

Check out the RAC Educator's Manual which has 25 Covid friendly RAC lesson plans and ideas which also support the New BC Curriculum (contact Harriette Chang at [hchang@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:hchang@sd43.bc.ca) for information).

RAC is a fantastic student initiative which has been around for 16 years and is listed as a resource on the provincial ERASE website which advocates that we erase bullying by embracing kindness.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase/bullying>

RAC was created by grade 4 and 5 students in SD43 in 2005 and is doing something caring and kind and not expecting anything back. Coquitlam leadership students have just been successful in convincing the provincial government to have a proclamation passed again which recognizes RAC Week, our seventh one!

**Transforming Perspectives**  
February 25th, 2022  
Keynote Speakers including: Cicely Belle Blain, Kevin Lamoureux, Dustin Louie, & Tanya Talaga  
A COLLABORATIVE VIRTUAL PD DAY

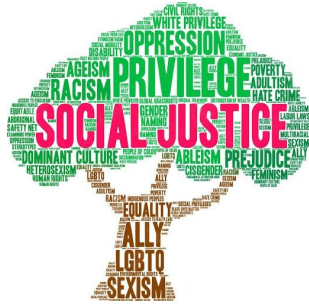
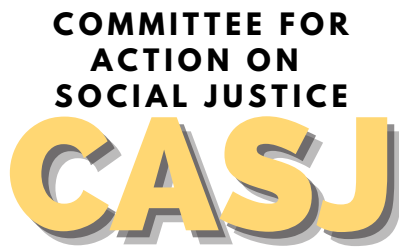
THINK  
POSITIVE

## Moments of Joy

A child in Hull was surprised with their first pay cheque after 'helping' with some electrical work in their home over a few weeks. With payment for measuring, counting, catering (cookies), volunteering, and asking countless questions, Seytons Electrical made his day: 'Kindness matters': Electrical company pays little boy for helping them and asking lots of questions (msn.com)

When snow is in the forecast this team trades their weight room workouts for snow shoveling in their community: After snow storm, high school coach cancels workout and tells players to shovel driveways of elderly and disabled neighbors - CBS News

Celebrating their connection(s) to nature, these elders work with artists Riitta Ikonen and Karoline Hjorth and create some thought-provoking images both of folklore and of the role of elders in communities: Seniors Play Dress Up With Nature to Personify the Magic Around Us- LOOK (goodnewsnetwork.org)



## CASJ BOOKCLUB

*Meets the first Thursday of every month.*

**Thursday Feb 3rd, 2022 (4pm on teams)** we will be

discussing Parts VI and VII of *We Do This 'Till We Free Us* by Mariame Kaba. This will be the last session with Kaba's book. We will also be discussing what book to move to next.

Preliminary discussions are showing interest in discussing a work of fiction that touches on the themes we've encountered in earlier books we've been reading.

## CASJ COMMITTEE

*Meets the 3rd Thursday of every Month*

**Thursday Feb 17, 2022 (4pm on Teams)**

Work is ongoing including planning activities for the spring.

We're looking for ideas, new folks welcome!

CTA CASJ is now on Instagram! Find us at [socialjusticecta](#).

We're also on FB at CTA CASJ.

No experience necessary, new members welcome!!

**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.**

## Black History Month 2022

### Facing Facts and Finding Feelings

Through the presentations and resources, we hope to encourage you to look for the truths, find the facts and face the feelings. We have the opportunity to recognize history and work towards a more diverse and inclusive society.

#### Part 1 – February 9, 2022 – 7:00PM

Join moderator Alicia Fahrner and speakers Candace Knoll (Racism is a Virus), and Parker Johnson (Anti-Racism, Respect and Inclusion at Work) for an insightful discussion as we honour Black History Month.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

#### Part 2 – February 16, 2022

Join moderator Alicia Fahrner and speakers Parker Johnson (Systemic Racism and Intersectionality) and Candace Knoll (Dismantling and Challenging Racism) for an insightful discussion as we honour Black History Month.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**



VANCOUVER & DISTRICT  
LABOUR COUNCIL



# TTOCs & New Teachers

## TTOC COMMITTEE

*Meets the second Tuesday of every month*

**Tues February 8th, 2022 at 4pm via zoom.**

Further details on the meeting including link to access the meeting is available in the [TTOC FB](#) Group under 'events'. Although TTOC committee meetings do have some structure and business, there is also plenty of time to chat and discuss concerns, ask questions, and otherwise connect with folks. All CTA members welcome, no experience necessary 😊 Come on out and bring a friend!

## TTOC BOOKCLUB

The TTOC Committee is looking to start a book club for TTOCs and other early career teachers.

As an introduction to union oriented work and opportunities, we are considering Jane McAlevey's *No Shortcuts: Organizing for Power In The New Guilded Age*. McAlevey is a union organizer from the US that has international renown in her work. She has worked extensively with nurses' unions as well as other groups. If you're interested in participating in this discussion, please contact TTOC committee chair Morgan McKee ([chair.ttoc@gmail.com](mailto:chair.ttoc@gmail.com)) or Diether Malakoff ([dmalakoff@cta43.org](mailto:dmalakoff@cta43.org)). We are checking on interest at this point and are considering holding the first session sometime in February.

## TTOC COVID SUPPORT FUND

The CTA is committed to continuing support for our TTOC's during these unprecedented times. A fund was established last school year and grocery store gift cards are still available to our TTOC Community.

For an application or if you have any questions please contact Diether Malakoff [dmalakoff@cta43.org](mailto:dmalakoff@cta43.org) or Heidi Davis [hdavis@cta43.org](mailto:hdavis@cta43.org)

Coquitlam Teachers'  
Association



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



Teachers'  
Pension Plan

# COMMITTEE VACANCIES

## **CTA PD Committee**

2 Middle Reps, 1 LSA Rep, 1 TTOC Rep

2 Elementary Reps, 1 Adult Ed Rep

## **CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee**

7 members-at-large

## **CTA Committee of Action on Social Justice (CASJ)**

2 Middle reps, 2 elementary reps, 1 member at large

## **New Westminster & District Labour Council**

5 CTA reps

## **CTA Adult Educators**

1 Learning Centre Rep

## **District Student Services Advisory Committee**

2 CTA Reps

## **District Student Achievement Advisory Committee**

1 CTA Rep

## **District Student Wellness & Safety Committee**

1 CTA Rep

## **District Aboriginal Ed Advisory Committee**

Currently Full

## **District French Advisory Committee**

1 CTA Rep

## **District Technology Advisory Committee**

2 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**

Kelly Roberts, Executive Director - [kroberts@cta43.org](mailto:kroberts@cta43.org)

### **Accounting/Finance**

Reimbursements, scholarship payments & 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 Database & Website Access**

Kelly Stewart, Office Clerk - [kstewart@cta43.org](mailto: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](http://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)

