



COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

Back to School

The CTA and CPVA Retirement Reception honouring retiring teachers and administrators will be held Thursday, September 14, 2023 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Poco Inn & Suites, Poco Room 1545 Lougheed Highway Port Coquitlam Please RSVP to Kelly Stewart kstewart@cta43.org

CTA Secondment *Labour Relations*

The CTA is seeking members interested in a full year secondment. The position will be Labour Relations Officer until further notice and additional staff thereafter.

Office hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm however in this role your day will often extend beyond this. Release time for this position is 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 working with members through investigation and discipline process

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

CV's are due by 4:30 PM September 18, 2023.

Please email to corbeyhj@cta43.org

Interviewing will take place the evening of September 20, 2023.

Candidates will receive interview information directly to their personal email.

The position will start Tuesday, October, 3, 2023.

Executive Committee VACANCY

The CTA is currently seeking to fill **Two (2) Member At Large positions** and **One (1) Member who identifies as Indigenous position**

If you are interested in running for these positions please go to our [website](http://www.cta43.org), to get and submit a CV (Forms & Scholarships) to Corbey at the CTA corbeyhj@cta43.org

FSA PACKAGES

FSAs will be administered between October 2 and November 10, 2023.

Staff reps and teachers who wish to send information to parents must contact the CTA with the number of envelopes and pamphlets that your school requires for distribution before coming to pick them up.

The CTA Office will supply these materials – please email Kelly S. @ kstewart@cta43.org or call her at the office 604-936-9971.

President's Message



Welcome Back!

To a hopefully exciting new year! Several things present themselves as interesting in this new school year. We will see the highest wage increase in recent memory, this school year, (6.75% with a .3% for top of scale). There were over a hundred new TTOC hires over the summer, which will hopefully help mitigate shortages. There was continuing work advertised in August after a summer blissfully free of layoff/recall, which means more teachers in schools with better job security. We also know we are getting ready for the next round of bargaining this year, with bargaining training in January and a Bargaining Conference in May, 2024. While it may seem that bargaining doesn't really ever end, it's really just that we need to be well-prepared for both local and provincial bargaining in advance of the contract expiring in the next school year.

I do hope these first few days contain some joy for you at seeing all the young people again. One of my favourite things to do is visit an elementary school during "Welcome to K" in the Spring. Now all the little ones seen there are here for real! The work, as always, will pose challenges but, being able to work with children remains a great gift and the principal attraction of this profession. Take a moment to find that joy in the often chaotic first week back. Also, know we are here to support you with any questions or concerns you may have. If we can do anything to make your return easier or better, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Lastly, a belated happy Labour Day, since this is our first official communication with all of you.

In Solidarity, Ken

THIS GAL'S
RETIRED



After 27 years of dedicated work at the Coquitlam Teachers' Association, Pat Adolf is retiring !

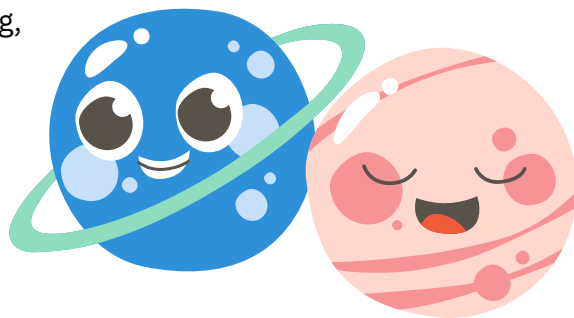
Pat began working at the CTA in October of 1996 and has been an integral part of the operations of the association ever since. She has supported members on the phone, organized staff and PD rep training, sorted the details of inductions and retirements, been the wizard behind the February PD Day, kept committees up and running and so much more. Pat's kindness, compassion, sense of humour and the heart she puts into everything she does will be sorely missed at the office. We hope that Pat will enjoy time with her husband, and their two children as she heads into this next chapter. The CTA fondly wishes Pat nothing but the best!

If you too have fond memories of Pat please send your message to [Kelly Roberts](#) so we can compile them and make sure your kind words reach Pat!

Please complete this brief Failure to Fill Tracking Form each time prep or service time is lost or recovered.

When having our ongoing discussions with the Board regarding TTOC shortages our biggest tool is data.

If you have any questions on filling out the form please contact Diether Malakoff, 2nd Vice President
dmalakoff@cta43.org or 604-936-9971



Fun Space Fact:
Researchers believe the Milky Way smells like rum and raspberries!!

BCTF GROUP RRSP INFORMATION

One of the benefits of being a BCTF member is the ability to contribute to a group Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) through payroll deductions. All BCTF members have access to group RRSPs.

BCTF Group RRSPs offer four distinct advantages:

1. They allow contributions at source, which is a convenient way to invest.
2. No tax is paid on the monies invested, so there is no waiting period for getting the tax deduction.
3. Invested funds earn interest throughout the year.
4. The plans available to members offer a variety of investment options, including funds not available otherwise.

Pursuant to *Article B.5* of the provincial collective agreement, BCTF members in all school districts have access to a group RRSP. The majority of school districts will have access to "the BCTF Plan", which is administered by the Royal Bank of Canada. Employees have the opportunity to enroll or re-enroll in the BCTF Plan:

- a. *between September 1 and September 30 or December 15 and January 15 in any school year;*
- b. *no later than sixty (60) days following the commencement of employment.*

A limited number of school districts have access to a group RRSP administered by Sun Life, which was negotiated in 1993.

Once the employee initiates payroll deductions, they are deemed continuous from school year to school year unless the employee requests a change or cancellation, or until the employee is no longer in receipt of pay. Employees are responsible for determining payroll deduction amounts that do not exceed their maximum allowable RRSP contribution limits, as determined by the Canada Revenue Agency. Employees wishing to make additional lump-sum contributions and withdrawals should make arrangements directly with the financial institution administering the plan.

For information on BCTF Group RRSP enrollment and availability in your school district, please contact your school district's payroll department.

Negotiations Committee

Our Collective Agreement is up for re-negotiation in 2025, and a new Negotiations Committee is required.

Elections will be held at our CTA Rep Assembly, Wednesday, September 27, 2023.

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

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- Appointed EC Member
- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as a Person of Colour
- 1 Member who identifies as Black
- 6 Members At Large

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 submit a CV to Corbey corbeyhj@cta43.org

before 4:30 PM September 22, 2023.

If you have any questions please contact Ken Christensen, President kchristensen@cta43.org or 604-936-9971

SUMMER PD DEADLINES

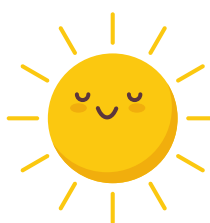
All yellow forms needing approval for summer PD MUST be in the office no later than 4:30pm

Friday September 8, 2023

Receipts and Conference Reports for summer PD must be received before 4:30

Friday October 6, 2023 they can be dropped at the office or emailed to pd@cta43.org -

only PDFs will be accepted **NO images, links or forms in body of email will be accepted.**



PD Power

Welcome back to school! As your new Pro-D Chairperson, I'm here to help you explore the many ways that you can engage in Professional Development and grow your teaching practice. Please note that Meggan Crawford has moved to CTA 2nd Vice President, so please forward any Pro-D inquiries for this year to Bree-Anna Weir: bweir@cta43.org. I will be available in the CTA office on Mondays and Tuesdays.

For anyone who chose to engage in Professional Development over the summer break, remember to submit your Yellow PD Assistance Forms (for Pro-D events July 1 to Sept. 22) to the CTA office by Fri. Sept. 8th 4:30pm! If you are unfamiliar with the Yellow Forms, ask a colleague at your site or call the CTA office before the deadline. If your PD Rep for this year has not yet been elected and your last year's Rep is available, they can sign summer PD Forms. Note: Courses and/or workshops that provide any credits for post secondary education are not eligible for PD reimbursement. The Course Fee Assistance Fund, administered by the board office, may provide financial assistance. Selecting Site-Based Pro-D Reps – Important Reminder for This Year!

Last year the CTA updated its policy around the selection of PD Rep (and of Staff Rep) and now has clear guidance in CTA Policy 51. PD Reps must be elected by the CTA members at your site.

To elect your site's PD Rep:

1. You will need two colleagues who are not running for the position to send out an email inviting CTA members at your site to put their name forward.
2. Those two people will then run an election by secret paper ballot and share the results with the CTA office (email Kelly – kstewart@cta43.org) no later than September 15. This is an important process to ensure that everyone's voice is included in the selection of this Rep and that everyone has equal opportunity to put their name forward for these positions.

Please start this process ASAP and try to allow several days of voting to provide equitable access for part-time colleagues to participate!

Training sessions for elected PD Reps are planned for the afternoon of Sept 26th & 27th (Reps attend one of these afternoons with release time/TTOC provided).

The PD Rep is the chairperson of your site-based PD Committee and receives training to support their work. These Reps keep PD Committee meetings running, keep an eye on the budget, check/sign reimbursement forms, and help to share opportunities with colleagues. Experience is not needed, and Early Career Teachers are always welcome!

Anyone who is interested in this role is encouraged to put their names forward. Every site requires an elected PD Rep for CTA members at your location to access reimbursements from the PD Assistance Fund (to complete the Yellow Forms).



Canadian
Cancer
Society

**CIBC RUN
FOR THE CURE**



Join the Coquitlam Teachers' Association Team for the October 1, 2023, Run for the Cure!

The CTA will cover the initial sign up cost – all you need to do is provide your information via the form:

<https://tinyurl.com/cta-runfortheure> and we will

complete your registration. Your team Co-Captains, Meggan Crawford and Kelly Roberts, are looking forward to some preparatory walks in our community this September and would love for you to join us in raising funds to fight cancer. If a friend or family member would also like to join, but they are not a CTA member they can join our team at their own cost by registering at <https://tinyurl.com/runfortheureteamcta>.

Unceded x̱m̱əθḵw̱əy̱əm, Sḵwx̱w̱ú7mesh,
and səliwətəl lands / Vancouver

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE

#ENDFOSSILFUELS
#FASTFAIRFOREVER

September 15 2023

1pm / Vancouver City Hall
1:30pm / March Begins
3pm / Van Art Gallery
(speakers, performances, and activities)

Teachers interested in participating or doing classroom activities in solidarity with this event can [see a supporting document here](#).

COMMITTEE FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE CASJ



The Committee for Action on Social Justice (CASJ) is a group of dedicated CTA members who meet monthly to discuss current social justice topics and how they apply to education. With topics including climate justice, antiracism, equity, sanctuary schools, and much more, there are countless important conversations that can happen here! In the past few years CASJ has hosted numerous book clubs, movie nights, and a game night or two and is also active on the CTA Teams. If you'd like to become a member of CASJ please reach out to Melissa Illing (CASJ Chairperson) with any questions or fill in the CTA CV linked on the last page of the newsletter. If you'd like to attend as a guest, please keep an eye on the newsletter for meeting dates coming in the next edition!

No experience necessary, NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!!
Please contact [Melissa Illing](#) with any questions.

BCTF Summer Conference

From August 21-25 eight CTA members attended the BCTF Summer Conference at UBC. With two full days of workshops on various advocacy topics, an opening plenary panel discussing the experiences of early career teachers, and an evening social, the delegates were kept very busy as they learned more about the important work of the BCTF and its locals (including the CTA). Thank you to those who attended for giving up a week of their summer to do this learning! If you are interested in attending the BCTF Summer Conference in the future, please make sure to read the June CTA newsletters, as that is often where vacancies are advertised.



TTOCs & New Teachers

The TTOC Committee is a group of teachers who work to support and protect the rights of teachers teaching on call. With opportunities for advocacy work as well as a space to connect with colleagues, the TTOC committee provides a comfortable access point to union work. The committee can organize events, contribute to shaping professional development, submit motions to the BCTF, and be a strong and important voice in many conversations in our district. We are currently seeking any interested teachers who are teaching on call for any portion of their time to join this committee and help the CTA ensure that our TTOCs are aware of their rights and the supports available to them. If you'd like to become a member, please submit a CV or contact Meggan Crawford (mcrawford@cta43.org) with any questions.



CTA Retreat

Your CTA Executive Committee gave up two days of their summer break to get a head start on the work of the association. This past week, eleven members of the Executive Committee met at a summer camp in Mission to review CTA Principles & Priorities, Policies & Procedures, PD Funding Options, Benefits Information, Budget, and more. It was two long days of work, but a great deal of discussion, collaboration, and more than a bit of laughter helped to pull everyone through it and ensure that the association starts off prepared to best support teachers. A big thank you to Kelly Roberts, Heidi Davis, and Corbey Heyes-Jones for their contributions to organizing the retreat!

Contact Us: www.coquitlamteachers.com

CTA Office: 604-936-9971



Please see the list below for the officer or staff member best able to help you.

Ken Christensen, **President** kchristensen@cta43.org

Meggan Crawford, **2nd Vice-President**, mcrawford@cta43.org

Diether Malakoff, **1st Vice-President** dmalakoff@cta43.org

Bree Weir, PD Chairperson, bweir@cta43.org

CTA Administration

Kelly Roberts, Executive Director - kroberts@cta43.org

Membership, Website Access, Committees

Kelly Stewart, Office Clerk - kstewart@cta43.org

Accounting/Finance - PD, Scholarships & Newsletter

Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator - hdavis@cta43.org

CTA PD Day, Website Updates, CTA Lending Library

Corbey Heyes-Jones, Office Clerk - corbeyhj@cta43.org

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

CTA Standing Committees

CTA PD Committee

- 1 Middle Rep, 1 TTOC Rep, 1 CASJ
- 1 Learning Services Rep,
- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

- 8 Members-at-Large,
- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

CTA Committee of Action on Social Justice (CASJ)

- 1 Secondary, 2 Middle Reps, 1 Member-at-Large rep ,
- 1 Elementary Rep, 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous, 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

School District Advisory Committees

- Student Services Advisory** - 2 CTA Reps
- Student Achievement Advisory** - 1 CTA Rep
- District Student Wellness & Safety** - Currently Full
- District Indigenous Ed Advisory** - Currently Full
- District French Advisory** - Currently Full
- District Technology Advisory** - 1 CTA Rep
- District Accessibility Advisory** - Currently Full

CTA Adult Educators

Currently Full

CTA Policy and Procedure Committee

- 1 CTA Member-at-Large
- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

CTA Scholarship, Awards and Bursary Committee

- 1 Cont. Ed. Rep, 1 Alt Ed Rep, 2 Additional CTA Members
- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

CTA BIPOC Educators' Committee

For more information, please email Ryan Cho.

New Westminster and District Labour Council

5 CTA reps

Teachers interested in any of these committees should go to our website or [click here](#) for a curriculum vitae form and submit it to the CTA Office (kstewart@cta43.org). If you have questions, call the CTA Office at 604-936-9971.

CTA Website Access

Information is posted on our website as quickly as we have it.

Please make sure you are able to access the site. SD43 email security settings may not allow a password reset online.

If you need to reset your password, please contact [Kelly Stewart](mailto:kstewart@cta43.org)

CTA LENDING LIBRARY



For information about the CTA Lending Library, email lendinglibrary@cta43.org



1-800-663-1142
TTY: 1-888-384-1152
International (Call collect):
604-689-1717
HomeWeb.ca

Employee and Family Assistance Program
Coaching | Counselling | Support
Confidential | Available anytime