

COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

2026-2027 ELECTIONS CTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following CTA Executive Committee positions will be filled at the
CTA Year End General Meeting Wednesday, May 6, 2026

- President
- Second Vice President
- First Vice President
- Local Rep to the BCTF (1) who identifies as Black, Indigenous or a person on colour
- Local Rep to the BCTF (1)
- Members - at - Large (6)
- Member-at-Large who identifies as Indigenous (1)
- Member-at-Large who identifies as a person of colour (1)

Those interested in running for any of these positions should go to coquitlamteachers.com for a CV form.

Please submit forms to corbeyhj@cta43.org before 4:30pm on Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Accepting Applications for Professional Development Chair

Release time for this position is currently 0.4 and the responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- chairing the PD Committee, and the CTA PD Day Committee
- 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 and will be well organized.

Members interested in this position should go to our website for a [curriculum vitae form](#) (Forms & Scholarships), which must be submitted to kroberts@cta43.org at the CTA before 4:30 pm on Monday, April 13, 2026.

Interviewing will take place Monday, April 29, 2026 after school.

REMINDER

Coquitlam Teachers' Association

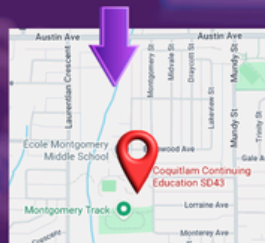
YEAR END GENERAL MEETING

- Call to Order
- Finance Motion
- Election of 2026-27 CTA Executive Committee
- Leadership Report
- Proposed Bylaw & Policy Changes
- Ratification of Committee Chairpersons for 2026-2027
- New Business
- Prize Draw
- Adjournment

All CTA members are invited to attend the meeting

For more information: 604-936-9971 or kroberts@cta43.org

May 6
4:00pm at
Montgomery
Centre Gym



President's Message

Welcome back!

We have had one of the cool years where Easter is not embedded in the Spring Break so, it's almost like two Spring Breaks, although, I'll admit, it makes calendar setting in the District more difficult (see another article in this newsletter about that!). I hope the break(s) were rejuvenating for you as we settle into the last stretch of another busy school year. A number of your colleagues and the officers of the Association spent the first part of the Spring Break at the BCTF AGM, electing an Executive, passing a fee and addressing many concerns from locals across the province. This is my 22nd AGM so, I am still a noob when some of the delegates there, including my friend, Gavin, were at their 35th! It was great to have a bunch of folks at their first AGM, in our delegation and the room.

In Solidarity
Ken



CTA Negotiations Committee

As the 2025-2029 Collective Agreement was ratified that means a new CTA Negotiations Committee is required.

Elections will be held at our CTA Representative Assembly on Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

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

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- Appointed EC member
- 1 member who identifies as Black
- 1 member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 member who identifies as a person of colour
- 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 a member-at-large please submit a CV to Corbey at corbeyhj@cta43.org by 4:30 pm, Wednesday, September 16, 2026.

CTA Negotiations Committee

With the ratification of the Provincial Agreement in Committee the CTA Negotiations Committee is officially dissolved and will be re-formed before the next round of bargaining.

The Negotiations Committee has been working hard in the background for several years, both on local bargaining, and for improvements at the provincial level.

With the end of their 'term' we want to extend our gratitude to the members of the CTA Negotiations Committee: Ken Christensen, Meggan Crawford, Catherine Hodges, Diether Malakoff, Ronak Pahlevanlu, Amanda Roberts, Kate Russell, Ben Whipps, and Jennifer Whitcher.

Thank you for your time, efforts, and the added work you took on to seek bargained improvements for Coquitlam Teachers!

REMINDER

If you were working as a TTOC between April 1, 2022, and June 30, 2024 and are planning to submit an application for payment of past ESA sick leave through the Hall award, you must do so by the deadline of April 22, 2026. The link to the application can be found in a February 6 email with the subject "TTOC ESA Historical Sick Leave Application".

REMINDER



BCRTA Pre-Retirement Online Workshops

You get planning materials along with answers to questions you have about your retirement.

The agenda includes: TPP, CPP, OAS and voluntary group benefits. We show some of the differences between the plans and help equip you to select the plan that best suits your needs.

To register for a [free online workshop click here](#) or go to the BCRTA website for more information.

DISTRICT CALENDAR AND SCHOOL SCHEDULES

People do often come to us at this time of year, as they are setting up their instructional schedule for their school and they point at the Collective Agreement and see we are working more than what is stipulated there.

I want to clarify why that is. The Collective Agreement minutes of instruction are obsolete, as they come from a time with a one-week Spring Break, moving book ends to the year and uneven school schedules across the District.

Many years ago, we started a project to set all this to rights. We now have a two-week break, we pinned the employer down to a fixed 180 day school year and rationalized all the disparate school schedules across the district. It was a large project and we control school calendars with a Letter of Understanding that we sign in three-year chunks.

We are working the absolute minimum that the School Act allows for in terms of minutes of instruction. The most important thing was to ensure we were in compliance but we aren't taking random pay cuts when the year calendared out longer, as used to occur, frequently.

The President personally inspects every school schedule to ensure it is in compliance. I have been doing this with an Assistant Superintendent for many years now and I very much value the effort expended at school sites to come up with a schedule that works.

Please complete this brief [Failure to Fill Tracking Form](#) each time prep or service time is lost or recovered.

If you have any questions please contact Diether Malakoff, 1st Vice President dmalakoff@cta43.org or 604-936-9971.

2026 BCTF AGM News

This Spring Break (March 14–17, 2026) delegates from across the province met at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver for the BCTF's 110th AGM. Coquitlam's delegation numbered 23.

BCTF President Carole Gordon opened the meeting, noting the new collective agreement, acknowledging those affected by the Tumbler Ridge tragedy, and urging engagement ahead of municipal (school board) elections that are becoming more fraught. Guest speakers included Premier David Eby, who faced tough questions and left wearing a red "Kids Matter Teachers Care" T-shirt.

Delegates reviewed reports and carried several resolutions, including adding a designated seat for a member with a disability on the BCTF Executive Committee, maintaining the current membership fee, reviewing post-COVID supervision practices province-wide, and advocating for clear AI guidelines to protect teacher autonomy. A Haida Gwaii resolution endorsing BDS as a non-violent human-rights framework for Israel and Palestine was carried; a similar Coquitlam motion was ruled dealt with. Coquitlam's SIP change resolution was referred to the BCTF Executive Committee; a resolution requesting funded in-service and release time for new literacy screeners was opened but left as unfinished business to be moved later.

2021-2025 Course Fee Assistance Eligibility

Members who were eligible for, but did not receive Course Fee Assistance between 2021 and 2025 for courses beginning May 1 to August 30, are reminded that they may now be eligible to submit an application and receive reimbursement.

The deadline for these historical applications is April 30, 2026.

Questions can be directed to coursefeeassistance@sd43.bc.ca.



BCTF 2026 Executive Committee Elections

The 2026 BCTF AGM elected the following new executive members:

Carole Gordon (President; Central Okanagan),
Robin Toszczak (First Vice-President; Greater Victoria),
Winona Waldron (Second Vice-President; Greater Victoria),
Alex Adhikary (Member-at-Large; Peace River North),
Jatinder Bir (Surrey),
Brenda Celesta (Kamloops-Thompson),
Shawn Holland (Comox),
Franco Marsic (Richmond), and
Chris Perrier-Evely (Nanaimo).

Returning members completing their two year terms:

Shannon Bowsfield (Mission),
Adrienne Demers (Fernie),
Mary Lawrence (Prince George), and
David Peterson (Nechako).

Here are four ways you can get support from your Employee and Family Assistance Plan:

1. Talk to a Mental Health Counsellor.

Visit your Homeweb dashboard and complete the intake process online or contact by phone to book an appointment.

2. Use Homeweb's Self-Directed Tools.

These include: Daily Wellness Check; personalized tips and recommendations; Online Cognitive Behavioural Program; Sentio iCBT; and mental health articles to enhance your learning experience.

3. **Book a Professional Coaching Session:** financial planning; nutrition and fitness; career planning; child and elder care and much more.

4. **Download Homewood Health App** from your phone or tablet & sign up today for quick access to your Mental Health & EAP benefits, whenever you might need it.

For more information or to access, contact Homewood Health 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Get set up online: [HomeWeb.ca](https://www.homeweb.ca)

Your customer account name is **School District No. 43 (Coquitlam)**. Your invitation code to set up your Pathfinder account is **SDN498**.



1-800-663-1142

TTY: 1-888-384-1152

International (Call collect):
604-689-1717

[HomeWeb.ca](https://www.homeweb.ca)

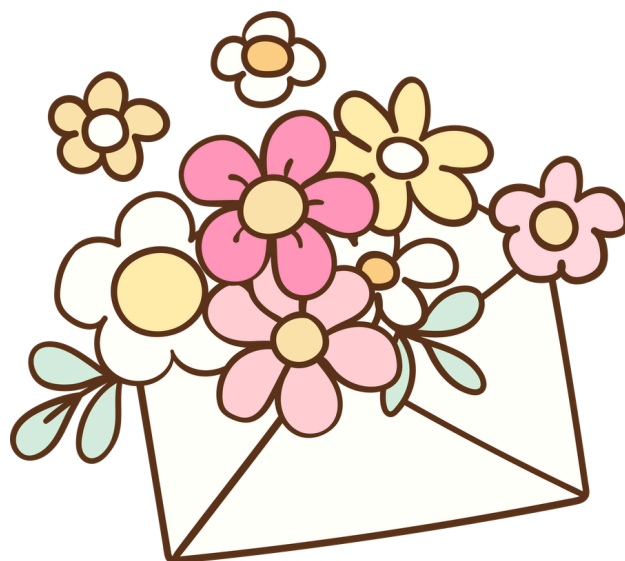
ARE YOU THE SITE SOGI LEAD?

If you are your site's SOGI lead, you will find lots of resources and guidance from SD43's internal SOGI Guidelines document.

This document provides clarity and direction on addressing SOGI related issues in the district and to help foster an inclusive and informed approach to such issues. **Note: you must be signed in to access the document.**

Link to guidelines:

<https://sd43bccs.sharepoint.com/sites/LSAntiRacism/SiteAssets/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FLSAntiRacism%2FSiteAssets%2FSitePages%2FHome%2FSOGI%2DGuidelines%2DSD43%2DJune%2D2025%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FLSAntiRacism%2FSiteAssets%2FSitePages%2FHome>



BCTF 2026 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit

The BCTF is seeking members to participate in the 2026 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit Session for members who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, to be held on May 29–30, 2026, in Vancouver, BC.

The goal of the 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit is to provide opportunities for BCTF members who identify as part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community to; strengthen connections, build relationships, capacity, and community, build capacity for sustained meaningful member engagement and build leadership capacity in the community of BCTF members who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

This 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit session will consist of 10 individuals from the membership who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+ persons, plus two members of the Committee for Action on Social Justice 2SLGBTQIA+ Action Group.

The following will be used as criteria for selection; individuals must be active BCTF members, have experience teaching Grades K–12, a balance of diversity—gender, regional representation, etc., will be sought, and priority will be given to members from equity-deserving groups, new teachers, and members new to engaging with union.

Members will be contacted by the last week of April 2026 if selected for the 2SLGBTQIA+ Summit Session.

Please see the [BCTF Postings and Opportunities](#) page to complete the application form.

The deadline to apply is Monday, April 20, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

PD Power

The CTA is excited to host IGNITE43 on May 27 at Samz Pub in Port Coquitlam.

Doors open at 4:30 p.m., and the event will officially run until 8:30 p.m. Attendees can expect to enjoy great ideas, engaging conversations, and memorable moments in a relaxed setting with food provided.

We're currently looking for 10–12 presenters who want to speak to colleagues around the theme of "Reality." Each presentation is just 5 minutes long and follows the Ignite format: 20 slides that advance automatically every 15 seconds, designed to spark new thinking and possibilities.

Have you had an experience, idea, or moment that made you feel more confident or empowered in your professional life? What insight or story could you share to help others feel more capable and inspired in their work? This is a chance to encourage creativity, confidence, and a willingness to try new approaches as an educator. If that sounds like you, IGNITE43 is a great space to share your voice with a supportive and engaged audience.

If you'd like to present on the 27th, please email pdchair@cta43.org with a short description of your idea. Tickets for attendees will be available soon—keep an eye on your email and the next CTA newsletter for details.



Save the Date:

The CTA will be offering Mental Health First Aid training, facilitated by the Mental Health Commission of Canada, for up to 25 CTA members.

Date: Saturday, May 30th

More info and registration link coming soon—stay tuned!



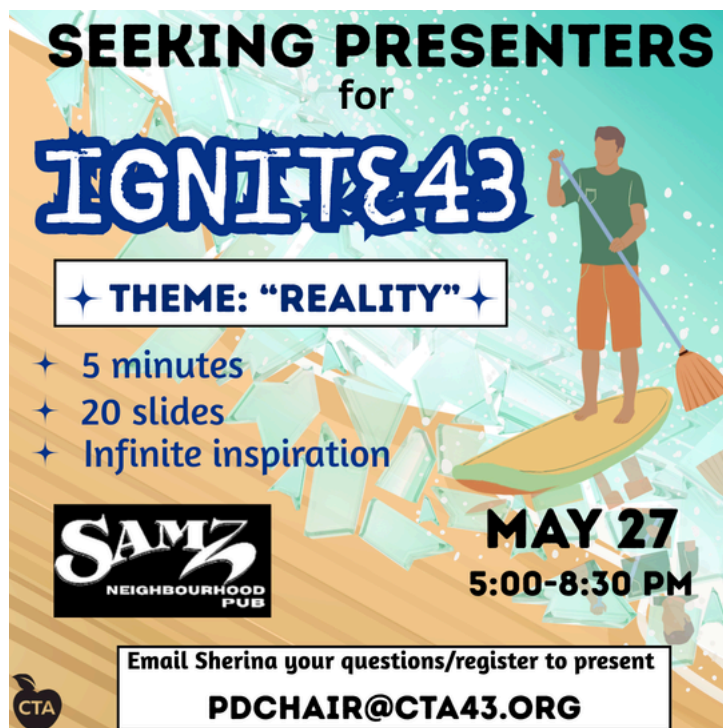
The Adult Centred Education (ACE) Conference 2026 will take place on May 14, 2026, at

the Executive Plaza in Coquitlam, bringing together adult educators for a full day of learning, connection, and inspiration.

Running from 8:15 AM to 5:15 PM, with an optional evening networking and social component, this in-person conference offers a thoughtfully curated experience for those working in adult education.

The conference will feature keynote presentations from Dr. Shimi Kang and Dr. Ken Beatty, along with engaging lightning talks from Angela Ma Brown, Nathan Hall, and Ernie Cardinal. Attendees can expect meaningful discussions, practical strategies, and opportunities to explore important topics such as equity, mental wellness, and innovative teaching practices. The day will also include concurrent sessions, networking opportunities, and a lively evening program with dinner, prizes, and trivia.

Registration is available at www.aceconference.net. The conference is sponsored by Coquitlam Continuing Education and the BC School District Continuing Education Directors Association.



SEEKING PRESENTERS
for
IGNITE43

◆ **THEME: "REALITY"** ◆

- ◆ 5 minutes
- ◆ 20 slides
- ◆ Infinite inspiration

SAMZ
NEIGHBOURHOOD PUB

MAY 27
5:00-8:30 PM

Email Sherina your questions/register to present
PDCHAIR@CTA43.ORG



The CTA has Teacher resources, such as technology, educational theory texts, and publications covering personal growth, labour history, and social justice topics to loan to interested members.

For info about the CTA Lending Library, or to check out materials email lendinglibrary@cta43.org.

COMMITTEE FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE CASJ



The Coquitlam Committee for Action on Social Justice met on Monday, March 9th. At the meeting the committee discussed the upcoming BCTF Social Justice conference and social justice grants that the committee would like to apply for. The committee also began brainstorming ideas about a social justice based Ignite event. Our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 20th at 4pm at JJ Bean in Suter Brook. At the meeting, the committee will go over information gathered from the BCTF spring Zone meeting, look more closely at the BCTF social justice grants, and continue planning the social justice based Ignite event.

Social Justice Resource Spotlight:

This month, the committee would like to highlight the website for the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities. The Sherlock Center provides adapted and accessible versions of popular literature (<https://sherlockcenter.ric.edu/resources/online-adapted-literature-lessons>). The Center offers different adaptations for a variety of disabilities. The Center has also created accessible and adapted lessons on various subjects.



Our next meeting will be in May! Check back for a date and location!

We'll have snacks and refreshment and discuss current issues racialized teachers are facing in Coquitlam. Hope to see you there! The CTA BIPOC Educators' Committee is for any Coquitlam teacher who identifies as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Colour. BIPOC teachers can join our email list without regularly attending meetings or joining the committee. No CV needed. Contact Anna Razzell at bipoceeducators@cta43.org for more information.

Ministry of Education and Child Care (MECC)- Racism Response Guidelines

Did you know that the MECC, in consultation with SD41 and other educators, created a Racism Response Guideline document in 2025? This resource includes types of racist incidents, how to respond to them, resources, and more! As stated in the document, this resource can "help educators understand the impacts of incidents of racism and hate on school communities," and offers "pathways towards inclusion and healing." Read the guidelines here.

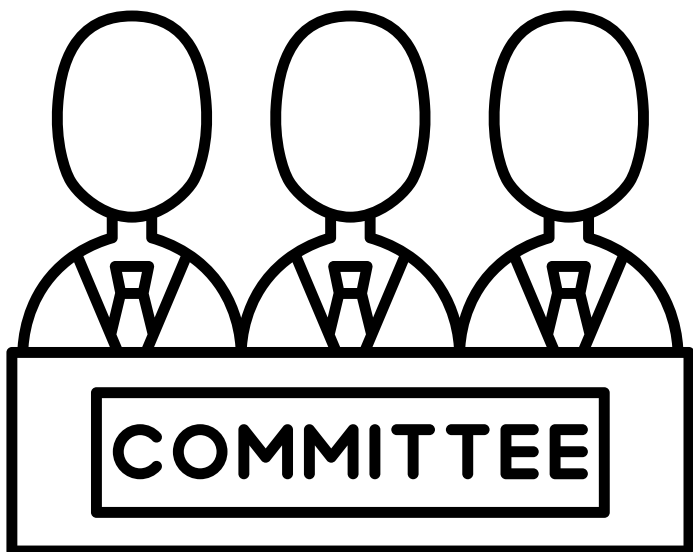
TTOC'S & New Teachers'

The Teachers Teaching on Call Committee will meet next on April 14 at 4:00 on Zoom! Please join us if you'd like to help with decision making for TTOC Appreciation week and more! We are still hoping one more member (it could be you!) will officially join the committee so we can move motions and make official recommendations! If you're interested, but have questions about what this involves (spoiler alert: it's not too much!), please reach out to Meggan (mcrawford@cta43.org or 604-936-9971).



April is Sikh Heritage Month, celebrating Sikh arts, culture and heritage of the Canadian Sikh community. Click above for a list of events and more information.

COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES



School District Advisory Committees

- District Student Services** - Currently Full
- District Student Achievement** - 2 Elem. Reps
- District Student Wellness & Safety** - Currently Full
- District French Committee** - 1 CTA Rep
- District Education Technology** - 1 CTA Rep
- District Accessibility Committee** - Currently Full
- District Anti-Racism Committee** - Currently Full



New Westminister and District Labour Council

4 CTA Representatives

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 (corbeyhj@cta43.org). If you have questions, call the CTA Office at 604-936-9971.

Standing Committees

CTA Negotiations Committee

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

CTA Adult Education Committee

- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous, 1 LINC Rep,
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

CTA Policy and Procedure Committee

- 1 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 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 CTA Rep.

CTA BIPOC Educators' Committee

For more information, please email [Anna Razzell](mailto:Anna.Razzell).

CTA PD Committee

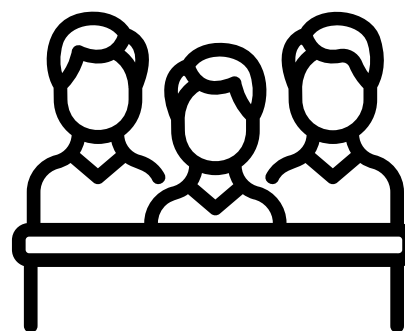
- 1 Elementary Rep, 1 TTOC Rep, 1 CASJ Rep, 1 LSA Rep,
- 1 Middle Rep, 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

CTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee

- 6 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)

- 2 Secondary Reps, 1 Middle Reps, 3 Elementary Reps,
- 1 Member-at-Large
- 1 Member who identifies as Indigenous
- 1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour



Contact Us:

www.coquitlamteachers.com

CTA Office: 604-936-9971



Please use the links to contact the officer or staff member best able to help you.

Ken Christensen, President

kchristensen@cta43.org

Diether Malakoff, 1st Vice-President

dmalakoff@cta43.org

Meggan Crawford, 2nd Vice-President

mcrawford@cta43.org

Ronak Pahlevanlu, Labour Relations

rpahlevanlu@cta43.org

Sherina Chandra, PD Chair

pdchair@cta43.org

CTA Website Access

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**



1-800-663-1142

TTY: 1-888-384-1152

International (Call collect):
604-689-1717

HomeWeb.ca



Kelly Roberts, Executive Director

CTA Administration
kroberts@cta43.org

Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator

Accounting, PD, Scholarships & Newsletter
hdavis@cta43.org

Kelly Stewart, Admin. Associate

Membership, Website Access, Staff Reps
kstewart@cta43.org

Corbey Heyes-Jones, Admin. Associate

CTA PD Day, Committees, CTA Lending Library
corbeyhj@cta43.org