



SAANICH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

January 2021

S.T.A. in TOUCH

A Newsletter of the Saanich Teachers' Association -- BCTF Members of Local #63 (Saanich)

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President's Report

The Use of Masks:

Please keep in mind that the encouragement from the BCTF is that teachers wear masks at all times. Though this is only encouragement. It is not a requirement. Teachers are free to wear a mask at anytime that they please; however, it is important to know when you are required to wear a mask. During these times it is not an option, it is a requirement.

If you are teaching students who are not in your cohort and you are not able to stay distant from your students, you **MUST** wear a mask. If you are working with staff or around people who are not in your cohort, you must be wearing a mask as well.

I have received feedback from some members that some people are not wearing masks when they are required to wear a mask. This provides a tricky situation for the Association as ultimately, it is up to the Employer to enforce the mask requirement. The Association can only inform members of the requirement.

Please note, that if you are not wearing a mask when you are required to be wearing a mask, there will be fellow colleagues that you work with that will be uncomfortable about the situation.

If you are not sure of the exact requirements given a particular situation, please err on the side of caution by wearing your mask, and then reach

out to your admin, staff representative, Health and Safety representative, etc. for feedback for similar issues.

Remedy

Remedy emails have recently gone out. Many of you will have noticed that you received the email from Christine McTavish instead of Savannah Handyside. Unfortunately, Savannah is on a leave, and we hope that she will be able to return soon. For now, Christine has taken over all remedy related items. As usually, please raise any

concerns that you may have about any remedy calculations; however, I request that there be a little more patience than normal, as remedy issues has a very steep learning curve! Feel free to CC me on any communication to Christine about remedy, so I can follow along in the conversation.

STA Special General Meeting

- The Notice of General Meeting will be emailed out on January 20, 2021
- Attendance request will be emailed out next week.
- Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021
- Time: 4:15 pm
- Virtual meeting – a Zoom link will be sent out to members

105th BCTF Annual General Meeting (March 20th – 23rd, 2020)

As usual, the BCTF will be holding its Annual General Meeting during Spring Break. Unfortunately, the meeting will be online, but have you ever attended a 600+ member online meeting that has vigorous debate? This year, the meeting will be on a new platform that will allow members to see who is speaking and to see the chairpersons as well. I should say that the chairs are amazing. The main purpose of the AGM is to cover these items:

- Election of the BCTF Executive Committee
- Setting the direction of the BCTF for the 2021-2022 year
- Setting the Annual Fee for the 2021-2022 year
- Making major decisions on behalf of the members of the BCTF
- Debating motions presented by locals

If you have not attended a BCTF AGM, this could be the year for you to attend. Please see the attached “Call for Interest”, if you would like to attend the meeting.

BCTF AGM past delegate Jessica Morgan says: *“It was my first AGM, and I would say it was still a great experience, especially the background chatter on WhatsApp that kept our group cohesive and also having fun. It is a great ‘warm up’ to being able to attend a live AGM (probably 2022). I learned a lot about how the debates take place; the rules can get pretty detailed and I truly enjoyed the experience.”*

Committee Appointments:

- Don Peterson, and Jeffrey Bishop were appointed by the Executive Committee to be on the **District Budget Advisory Committee**.
- Don Peterson, Jeffery Bishop, Nadine McIntyre, Michael MacEwan, and Elaine Ting were appointed by the Executive Committee to be on the **Association Budget Advisory Committee**.
- Elaine Ting, Rebecca Rashleigh, Ruth Wadsworth, Michael MacEwan, Shelly Black, and Denise Jones were appointed by the Executive Committee to be on the to the **Mentorship Planning Committee**

Contract Awareness Seminars:

We currently have one scheduled. It is as follows:

- **TTOC Question and Answer Period:** January 20th, 2021 - 4:00 pm
 - Join your TTOC and New Teacher Advisory Committee and your Association president for a short presentation on Collective Agreement rights for TTOCs and a Question and Answer period
 - Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3694192344?pwd=bmFyTG9zZFh1RGFIUGFzRGs5dG1Kdz09>

Don Peterson, STA President

Calls for Interest

CALL FOR INTEREST

Group:

2021 BCTF - AGM Delegates (8 positions)

Purpose:

- Election of the BCTF Executive Committee.
- Setting the direction of the BCTF for the 2021-2022 year.
- Setting the Annual Fee for the 2021-2022 year.
- Making major decisions on behalf of the members of the BCTF.
- Debating motions presented by locals.

Composition:

- 10 Members from the Saanich Teachers' Association.
- 600+ Members from around the province.

Commitment:

- **Optional Pre-AGM Meeting:** A meeting with the South Island locals.
- **AGM Dates:** Saturday, March 20th – Tuesday March 23th held on-line

Selecting Body:

- **February 3rd, Special General Meeting @ 4:00pm, online**

To Express Interest:

- Contact Don Peterson, if you have any questions about this event.
- Declare your interest at the **February 3th, Special General Meeting**, or
- Send an email to the **STA February General Meeting**, care of Don Peterson, lp63@bctf.ca by, or

Put "**2021 BCTF AGM**" in the subject bar.

Please write the following:

- Name
- School

***** Thank you! *****



CALL FOR INTEREST

Group:

Secondary Interim Report Card Advisory: 8 Association positions available

- 2 members from Claremont
- 2 members from Stelly's
- 2 members from Parkland
- 1 member from SIDES
- 1 member from ILC

Members will be selected according to above, but to also allow for diversity in the departments that are represented.

Purpose:

- To work jointly with the Employer on developing a new interim report for secondary schools.

Composition:

- The members listed above
- Instructional Support teachers
- Admin Representatives
- Carly Hunter

Commitment:

- No experience necessary.
- At least 3 meetings during the remainder of the school year.
- Meetings will be released and a TTOC will be supplied.

Selecting Body:

- February 1st, 2021, Executive Committee

To Express Interest:

Send an email to the Executive Committee, care of Don Peterson, lp63@bctf.ca by February 1st, 2021, 12:00 pm.

Put "Secondary Interim Report Cards" in the subject bar.

Please only write the following:

- Your name
- School
- Nature of your Teaching/Specialty/Area(s) of Qualification
- A paragraph describing why you are interested in participating and what you feel you have to offer the committee.

Pro-D – February 12, 2021

by Ruth Wadsworth

Register now for the Tapestry Online Conference

On **February 12, 2021**, the Cowichan Valley, Greater Victoria, Saanich, and Sooke Teachers' Associations proudly presents the Tapestry Online Conference. Educators from Southern Vancouver Island and beyond will come together to connect and learn online together. In addition to amazing professional development opportunities there will be social and wellness sessions.

You can start your day by joining keynote speaker and workshop presenter David Bouchard, a Métis author and educator. David will focus on the spirituality of Indigenous people and how it can be the perfect building block for schools and teachers to tackle the challenge of implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He will also present his workshop, Storytelling - The Importance of Oral Language, twice-once in French and again in English.

Choose from over 60 K-12 workshops from a variety of subject areas including: ADST, Art, French and English Language Arts, Science, PHE, and much more. Register now at <http://tapestry.ourconference.ca>.

- ★ Advanced registration required.
- ★ Early bird rate until January 24.
- ★ Please note: Saanich teachers attending a virtual conference on Feb 12, 2021 can work remotely in a location of their choice.

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY COWICHAN VALLEY GVTA STA Sooke Teachers' Association

T A P E S T R Y

FEBRUARY 12 K-12 EDUCATORS SOUTH VANCOUVER ISLAND ONLINE CONFERENCE

**REGISTER NOW!
EARLY BIRD
REGISTRATION
PRICING ENDS
JANUARY 24**

Pension Seminars

The BCTF has been working with the Pension Corporation to provide a new information product that is suitable for teachers within five years of retirement.

TPP Approaching Retirement - Webinar - BC Pension Corporation

Are you planning for or within five years of retirement? This 75-minute webinar will help you learn more about your pension. The decisions you make about your pension as retirement approaches are important, and planning for retirement now can make your transition easier.

pensionsbc.arlo.co

Here are the dates (dates will be added each month): <https://pensionsbc.arlo.co/w/tp/events/101-tpp-approaching-retirement-webinar>.

If you are interested in an individual pension consultation with Victor Choy, BCTF pension specialist, the STA will be organizing one-on-one Zoom meetings for May. Look for an announcement coming in April.

Aboriginal Advisory Committee

by *Shelly Black*

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the newly formed Aboriginal Advisory committee started 2020/2021 school year. Presently there are 5 members serving on the committee. They are as follows: Shelly Black, Ginny Underwood, Dania Stachiw, Lorelei Mcevoy, and Christa Cowie.

ÍY SZAĆEL HÁLE HÍELWET FE NE SNÁ. WIL, NEW SEN ĆSE LÁE, SEN ET WSÁNEĆ. IYES SEN ŽNES ALE. JÁN U ÍY NE ŚWKÁLEŽENSs I AXEN I ŚCA ĄLE TFE NE ÁLENENEŹ. Hello, everyone. Indigenous name is Hielwet and my English Name is Shelly Black. I am a local First Nation who lives and works in WSÁNEĆ. I am Coast Salish and Nez Perc, I am a traditional powwow dancer. I take pride being able to teach in my homelands and incorporate as much local indigenous context in all areas of my teaching assuring I respect my cultural protocols as well following the curriculum. I am thankful to be a member of the newly established Aboriginal Advisory Committee and also this is my second year serving on the STA Executive as the Aboriginal representative. I want to take this time to thank the rest of the First Nation Advisory committee members for your time, knowledge and expertise. I am looking forward to working as a team. We had our first meeting by Zoom in December.

Hi there! I am Ginny Underwood and I am one of several members on the Aboriginal Education Committee that was formed this year. I was on the STA Executive for 14 years and I co-chaired with Shelly Black last year. But now here I am on the Ab Ed Committee and I am excited and honoured to be involved in some capacity again. Having done the job for 13 years alone was daunting, but as a committee, we can accomplish more and create a collective Vision/Plan for the future. There is much work to be done and I will put forth my best efforts to help make a continued difference for our Saanich School District. I suggested names and was involved in the finding an artist who created our STA Retirement gifts. I also "untabled" the Employment Equity Plan with our District and I was involved on a committee to help "make it a reality." I am in my 33rd year of teaching elementary school and I still love it! I have taught at all levels in various capacities as a home school teacher, First Nations' Integration Support Teacher, and currently as a classroom teacher. I am privileged to be able to teach my own people and my own family at KELSET Elementary. I was on the Steering Committee when KELSET was being built. I worked with Grant Franceschini to help make more of an Aboriginal presence by having a centralized Cultural Center within the school and by showcasing prominent, local artwork and carvings, etc. I have taught at KELSET as a grade two teacher since its opening and I will teach there for my remaining teaching years.

Dania Stachiw is an English and Indigenous Support Teacher in the Saanich School District. She taught for fourteen years in the Mission School District before moving to the Island. A Canadian and Indigenous Literature enthusiast, Dania is always reading and thinking of ways to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into the school curriculum. She loves nature, animals, her family and friends, and - you guessed it - literature!

ÍY, SƆÁCEL SEXSOXELWET TƆE NE SNÁ. ƆSE LÁ,E SEN ET WŚÁNEĆ. IYES SEN ƆNES ÁEE. Hello, my name is SEXSOXELWET (Lorelei McEvay). I am Straits Salish from WŚÁNEĆ (Saanich). I am very happy to be a teacher within the Saanich School District. I am the Indigenous Support Teacher at Brentwood Elementary and I work as an itinerant SENCŌFEN teacher within SD63. I teach SENCŌFEN at both Brentwood & KÉLSET for all grades, and for the kindergarten students at the rest of our elementary schools within the district.

Monthly Contest



This challenging question can be answered by reading the current edition of the STA-in-Touch. If you answer the contest question correctly, you will be entered in the draw for the monthly prize.

QUESTION
OF THE
MONTH

This month's question: What is the Early Bird deadline to register for Tapestry?

Please email your answer to Deryck Ball dball@saanichschools.ca by **Monday, February 1, 2021**.

Good Luck!

Notes from the STA Office

by Audrey Hayes & Marg Carr



Emailing the STA Office?

Need to email the STA office, but not sure who to email?

We have **two** email addresses:

- ★ If it is highly confidential, email Don Peterson at: Lp63@bctf.ca
- ★ If it is confidential and you do not wish it to be sent through the district email account, email us at: staoffice@saanichteachers.com
- ★ Want to send an email to our (non-confidential) Outlook account (replacing the Zimbra address): sta_office@saanichschools.ca





Are you moving? Has your name changed?

Are you moving or have you moved in the past year? Have you changed your name?

Don't forget to let the us know.

★ Please send the STA office an email with your new name and/or contact information. sta_office@saanichschools.ca

★ Also, be sure to update your personal information at:

- BCTF Member Portal
- School District 63
- Teachers' Pension Plan
- Teacher Regulation Branch



Are you retiring this year?



Don't leave without saying good-bye! Let the STA office know when you are retiring and be sure to give us your forwarding email address so that we can send you details about the STA Retirement Banquet in June.

Let's Get Social!

The STA is getting more and more connected to the world of Social Media. Join us!

Our **website:**



www.saanichteachers.com

Follow us on **Facebook:**



Saanich Teachers' Association

Follow us on **Twitter:**



@BCTF63

Phone us:



778-426-1426

Our **mailing address is:**



**6843 Central Saanich Rd.
Victoria, BC V8Z 5V4**

Email us:



**staoffice@saanichteachers.com
sta_office@saanichschools.ca**