



COQUITLAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION



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

Celebrate Diversity!



Spring Break

The Office Staff will be in the office for the first week of Spring Break March 17 - 21, 2025. Our Officers will be attending the BCTF AGM. Urgent messages will be forwarded when possible, emailing officers directly is best. The Office will be closed the second week of break, reopening on Monday, March 31, 2025. If you have an emergent situation during this time, please email the appropriate Officer. Contact information is on the final page of this newsletter and can also be found on our website www.coquitlamteachers.com

Interested in working with the CTA?

The CTA Professional Development Chair and Labour Relations Officer positions are filled on an annual basis. The CTA is now seeking members interested in these positions for 2025-2026.

Members interested in either of these positions should go to our website for an application package (Forms & Scholarships), which must be submitted to Kelly Roberts at kroberts@cta43.org before 4:00 pm, Monday, April 7, 2025

Professional Development Chairperson

Release time for this position is currently 0.4 FTE 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, and 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.

Labour Relations Officer

Release time for this position is currently 1.0 FTE 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, and working with members through investigatory/discipline process. The successful candidate will have excellent presentation skills and the ability to deal effectively with confrontational and stressful situations.

President's Message

Trustee By-election Coquitlam

Rosey Manhas has been elected in the by-election held last Saturday to fill the Trustee position vacated by Jennifer Blatherwick, who was elected as an MLA in the last Provincial Election. Rosey will serve out the remainder of Blatherwick's term, approximately one year, before the next Municipal government elections. Congratulations to Rosey and respect to all the candidates that put their names forward for this position.

Tri City News

It is deeply saddening to hear the news about the closing of our local legacy media, the Tri-City News. The closure comes as part of several local papers that are shuttering print and online versions. The TCN has been a trusted source for local news and information for decades. I know I very much valued my relationship with Diane Strandberg, who worked the education beat for a long time at the TCN. While I don't consume a lot of legacy media, it's definitely concerning that the local lens is going away, increasing the risk of misinformation and poor quality or irrelevant media filling the void. Thank you to all those who worked for the TCN, historically and currently and I wish you well in new endeavours.

In Solidarity - Ken



Local Matters Agreement

The CTA and the Employer have signed off on a Local Matters Agreement (LMA) and are now seeking ratification of this local bargaining agreement. The LMA is posted on the CTA website behind the secure portal – **you must log in** and then visit the Bargaining page to read the details.

We encourage all members to attend one of these sessions to fully understand the impact of these proposed changes, ask questions, and inform themselves before the local ratification vote, planned for late April.

MARCH
4

INFO SESSION
[ZOOM LINK INFO](#)
4:00-6:00 pm



JOIN OUR TEAM

Executive Committee Vacancy

The following position is still vacant One (1) Member-At-Large who identifies as Indigenous.

If you are interested in running for this position please go to our website, to get and submit a CV (Forms & Scholarships) to Corbey at corbeyhj@cta43.org

There's an App for that!



The CTA is excited to now have our Union Strong app up and running for our members!

Turn notifications on to stay up to date with the most current information - bargaining, meetings and so much more!

Use the QR code to download the Union Strong app today!

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

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

Understanding Your Pensions and Benefits:

An Essential Retirement Workshop from BCRTA



The important decisions that will determine your retirement lifestyle should not be made at the last minute as you fill out your forms.

This seminar will prepare you to confidently make choices that are right for you. All teachers age 50+ should plan to attend one of BCRTA's Pre-Retirement online (Zoom) workshops.

The workshops are free.

Please pre-register at <https://bcрта.ca/register>.

The agenda includes: Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and voluntary group benefits.

Information about choosing your group benefits (dental, extended health and travel). We show some of the differences between the plans and help equip you to select the plan that best suits your needs.

February 19, 2025 @ 7.p.m.

March 5, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

April 3, 2025 @ 4 p.m.

April 23, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

May 14, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

June 5, 2025 @ 7.p.m.

PD Power

We are in the final few days before Friday's CTA PD Day, Empowered Educators: Compassion, Care & Curiosity!

It is shaping up to be a stellar day, with over 100 workshops and 1400 Coquitlam teachers registered. Many of the workshops are being put on by our own CTA members, highlighting the depth and breadth of the expertise and experience of our colleagues. Thank you so much to those who have offered to present.

A final reminder about parking – Riverside's parking lot will be reserved for presenters with parking passes. While we encourage you to carpool or transit, there is street parking in the neighbourhood and parking available at Gates Park. As with the previous number of years, we will be offering coffee, tea and healthy snacks, you will be responsible for bringing your own lunch.

That's pretty much all that can be said until we have a chance to come together, learn and have the rare opportunity to be surrounded by colleagues from all around the district, and from all different levels. We look forward to seeing you on Friday!

CUE43 Lunch Meeting – Feb 28 @ CTA Pro-D

Want better access to technology in your classroom? Join CUE43 for a lunch meeting at the CTA PD Day on February 28! We advocate for equitable tech access for CTA members and support educators by adding to the CTA library. Connect with colleagues, share your needs, and help shape how technology is used in SD43 schools. Room 120. Bring your lunch and be part of the conversation!

✉ Contact: Kekeli@sd43.bc.ca or cng@sd43.bc.ca

💻 Join our Teams: Code: p7eno9i



Disability Justice Summit 2025

The BCTF is looking for people to attend a Disability Justice Summit. This is an opportunity for a person who identifies as disabled to learn advocacy techniques, shape policy and meet other committed disability advocates. See the information provided by the BCTF to apply.

The BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has committed to working towards an equitable and inclusive union. The BCTF is furthering this commitment during the 2024–25 school year by engaging and connecting members toward recovery, strength, and solidarity.

The BCTF is seeking members to participate as part of the Disability Justice Summit session for members who identify as being a person with a disability and/or identify as being neurodiverse. The Disability Justice Summit session is taking place on April 25–26, 2025.

Disability Justice Summit goals:

Provide opportunities for BCTF members who identify as persons with a disability to:

- strengthen connections
- build relationships, capacity, and community
- build capacity for sustained meaningful member engagement
- build leadership capacity in the community of BCTF members living with disabilities and/or identify as being neurodiverse.

Disability Justice Summit session selection criteria:

This Disability Justice Summit session will consist of 10 individuals from the membership who identify as persons with a disability, including those who identify as being neurodiverse, plus two members of the Committee for Action on Social Justice Disability Action Group. Please see further information related to attendees below:

- active BCTF members
- experience teaching Grades K–12

- balance of diversity—gender, regional representation, etc., will be sought
- priority will be given to members from equity-seeking groups, new teachers, and members new to engaging with union.

You will be contacted by the last week of March 2025 if you are selected for the Disability Justice Summit Session.

To apply:

Complete the online Application form [here](#).

Deadline for application:

Monday, March 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.
(Late applications will not be accepted.)

For any inquiries, please contact Karen or Heather:

Heather Kelley
Assistant Director, PSID
Social Justice
hkelley@bctf.ca

Karen Chong
Assistant Director, PSID
Social Justice
kchong@bctf.ca

COMMITTEE FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL JUSTICE **CASJ**



CASJ invites all interested teachers to join us for a coffee and chat at JJ Bean Coffee Roasters at Sunwood Square (#940 – 3025 Lougheed Hwy, Coquitlam) at 4:00 on Thursday, March 13. Any teachers interested in sharing their thoughts on social justice topics and how they affect our local or who have questions about the Committee are invited to join us for a casual visit and discussion! All CTA members are welcome to attend. If you plan to join us, please RSVP to Meggan (mcrawford@cta43.org) by no later than 8:00am on Thursday, March 13.

TTOCs & New Teachers

As we head into March the TTOC committee is putting together plans for TTOC Appreciation week in May! In the meantime, the committee is still looking for at least one more member to join us in doing this important work. The committee often meets via Zoom and there are additional opportunities made available to committee members to attend things like BCTF Zone Meetings or the BCTF Summer Leadership Conference. If you're interested in being a part of this friendly group, please fill in a CV (link on the final page of the newsletter) and join us!

Our next meeting will be in April – stay tuned for details!



In honour of March 8th, we're diving into the history and significance of International Women's Day. The New Westminster & District Labour Council is pleased to join WTC (Women Transforming Cities) for Accelerate Action for International Women's Day workshop. We will examine the evolution of feminism, learn ways to address unconscious bias, and explore how to become active allies in advancing gender equity.

This workshop will explore:

- The roots of International Women's Day
- The landscape of current challenges women face
- Strategies on how to take action to advance gender equity.

When: Monday, March 10, 2025, 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Where: Online – register [here](#)

is hosting:

Self Care: Teacher Rejuvenation in a Time of Burnout

A workshop presented by members of

Join us for a delightful discussion on why you love teaching, and the real-life barriers that interrupt your joy in the classroom. From failures to fill, to demanding paperwork, teachers experience many challenges in the field of education. We hope to explore and discover with you, how resistance, and boundaries can help all teachers establish joy in the classroom and their school communities.

- Monday April 14, 2025, 4:00-6:00pm
- CTA Office: 208-2502 St Johns St.
- Please [RSVP here](#) by April 9, 2025
- Refreshments & door prizes available
- While space is limited, this workshop is open to any teacher regardless of racial identity. A love of teaching is a way for us to build solidarity together!

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



COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES



New Westminister and District Labour Council

4 CTA Representatives



School District Advisory Committees

Student Services Advisory - 1 CTA Reps

Student Achievement Advisory - Currently Full

District Student Wellness & Safety - 2 CTA Reps

District Indigenous Ed Advisory - 1 CTA Rep

District French Advisory - 1 CTA Rep

District Technology Advisory - 1 CTA Rep

District Accessibility Advisory - Currently Full

District Anti-Racism Committee – Currently Full

SANCTUARY SCHOOLS WORKING GROUP

The CTA is seeking 6 CTA members to form a working group to inform the CTA Executive Committee's work on engaging the district on the matter of adopting a Sanctuary Schools Policy.

If you have any questions about the working group, please contact Diether Malakoff, 1st Vice President.

Please submit a CV form to the CTA office.



Standing Committees

CTA Negotiations Committee

1 Member at Large

CTA Adult Educators

1 Member who identifies as Indigenous

1 Member who identifies as Black or a Person of Colour

1 Learning Services Rep.

CTA Policy and Procedure Committee

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, 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.

CTA PD Committee

1 Elementary Rep, 1 TTOC Rep, 1 CASJ Rep, 1 LSA 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)

3 Secondary Reps, 3 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

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.

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

Ryan McMahon, PD Chair

rmcmahon@cta43.org



1-800-663-1142

TTY: 1-888-384-1152

International (Call collect):

604-689-1717

HomeWeb.ca

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



Kelly Roberts, Executive Director

CTA Administration

kroberts@cta43.org

Heidi Davis, Finance Administrator

Accounting, PD, Scholarships & Newsletter

hdavis@cta43.org

Kelly Stewart, Admin. Assistant

Membership, Website Access, Staff Reps

kstewart@cta43.org

Corbey Heyes-Jones, Admin. Assistant

CTA PD Day, Committees, CTA Lending Library

corbeyhj@cta43.org