



Important Update: Bill 33 Consultations

A ruling was brought down on August 21 by the arbitrator, Jim Dorsey, regarding the class size grievances (which were initiated by local teacher unions) from 2006-07 and 2008-09. The facts brought before him from those years involved 1,666 classes from 17 districts. There were a far greater number of classes which actually exceeded the supposed limits around the province, but which were not reported to the BCTF, or for which the reported facts did not adequately support advancement. Dorsey's findings and subsequent decision contain many rulings that are favorable to the BCTF

The arbitrator describes the "consultation process" (as distinct from a single consultation meeting) and sets out the following elements:

- Consultation must occur with every teacher (grades 8-12) of the class when class size limits are exceeded (*more than 30 students*) or the limits on the numbers of students with IEPs are exceeded (*more than 3 students*).
- The principal must notify the teacher of the time and place of the consultation meeting.
- Teachers are expected to participate in consultation when scheduled.
- The principal has to ensure that *new teachers* are aware about all relevant matters specific to the school and how it operates.
- The principal must gather information for the consultation meeting, including class lists and IEPs.
- The consultation meeting must be thoughtfully, carefully organized, and conducted in good faith.
- If the teacher sincerely believes that there may be difficulties in meeting the prescribed learning outcomes of a course, it must be discussed with the principal.
- If a teacher believes a class is not appropriate for student learning, s/he *"is expected to articulate some basis for forming the opinion why the organization of the class will likely adversely affect the normal learning expectations for a class that meets the class size and composition standard."*
- Teachers must participate fully in the consultation process, including advising the principal if they disagree with the organization of the class by the end of the process (though not necessarily at the consultation meeting).
- At the end of the consultation process (though not necessarily the consultation meeting) the teacher must be advised of the result of the consultation process.

IMPORTANT: Consultation forms and information regarding the revised consultation process will be made available at a training session for Staff Reps on Tuesday, September 15th at the VSTA Office (8:30-11:30 am). Registration materials will be forwarded to all school sites this week.

Application Process for Change of Salary Category for Teachers

Please be advised that Human Resources printed and distributed revised copies of "Information Regarding Teacher Salary" to all schools and sites. It is **very important** that this information is relayed to all teachers in order for them to be aware that there is a procedure in place and an application form required in order to get retroactive pay when they apply for a new TQS card for their salary change. Please post a copy in the staff room and/or main office and communicate this information with all teachers at a Staff Organization meeting.

School Team Elections

Elections to fill all School Team positions should be completed by Wednesday, September 23rd. Please ensure that a Staff Organization Meeting is held to elect or acclaim all reps. Even if there are no contested positions, it is essential that the process be open and inclusive, and that all teachers have the opportunity to participate. The following positions are available in each school:

- Staff Reps (1 per 25 staff, or fraction thereof)
- Working and Learning Conditions/ Bargaining (2 reps)
- Professional Development Rep
- Health & Safety Rep
- Social & Eco-Justice Rep
- Parent Contact Rep
- Staff Committee Chair

Phone (604-873-5570, fax (604-873-3916) or email (mo@vstaweb.ca) your school's results.

First Council Meeting

Important Reminder...The first VSTA Council Meeting of the year will take place on **Wednesday, September 23**, at 4pm at the VSTA office, 2915 Commercial Drive (@ E. 13th). Meetings from October 2009 to June 2010 will be held on the last *Thursday* of each month.

Executive Committee Vacancy

Currently there is one vacancy for Member-at-Large on our Executive Committee. Members interested in being elected to this position will need to be nominated and elected (or acclaimed) at our upcoming Council meeting on Wednesday, September 23rd. This is a great opportunity to be involved, contribute to public education, and improve the working lives of colleagues. If you are interested in this position, or would like more information, please contact us at the office.



School Team Training

will take place on **Wednesday, October 14th** at the Holiday Inn, 711 West Broadway. Registration and workshop details will soon be available.