

February 7, 2017

## Canadians stand in solidarity

Since January 29, 2017, Canadians from coast-to-coast have been both horrified and moved to take action in light of the killing of six men at the masjid in Quebec City. These men left home to pray in their house of worship and were killed because they were Muslims. Over the last week, there have been condemnations, outpouring of emotions, candlelight vigils, and community events at masjids across Canada as hundreds and thousands stand in solidarity and focus on love over hate. Considering the rhetoric and action in other countries, it is critical for us to ensure students feel safe both at school and in their communities. During these emotionally charged times, teachers play a critical role in opening conversations to help students feel safe and secure.



The BCTF has [resources available on Islamophobia](#).

## Education change and the use of professional development days



A reminder that teachers should not be agreeing to the use of professional development days for implementing Ministry initiatives such as MyEducation BC and the new curriculum. The Ministry or employer need to provide release time and resources for in-service training of revised curriculum and new assessment/reporting.

We have been successful in securing two additional non-instructional days this year to assist with the implementation of the new curriculum. This would not have been possible if teachers had offered their professional development days to do this work.

When the government or the employer initiates a major change, the onus is on them to provide the necessary time, training, and supports. Teachers shouldn't need to forfeit their professional development days for this purpose, nor should there be pressure to do so.

Most locals have Collective Agreement provisions that specify consultation and support for technological change and implementation. Many agreements have language that empowers a joint Curriculum Implementation Committee to make recommendations to the board regarding conditions for support and implementation. Such conditions could include, but are not limited to, adequate and

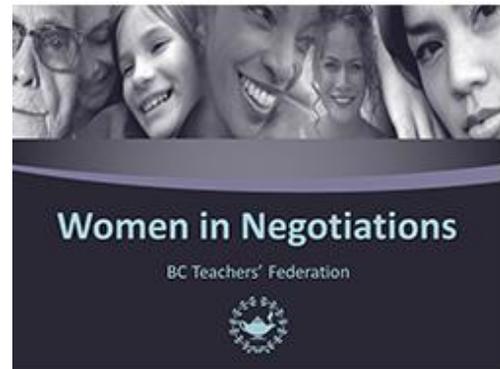
appropriate funding, in-service training, release time, materials, resources, space, facilities, equipment, and timelines.

Teachers are advised not to embark upon implementation of Ministry initiatives until a local plan with adequate funding and support is in place.

Please take note the provisions in the Collective Agreement that apply to technological change and curriculum implementation.

## Women in negotiations

The BCTF has trained a cadre of women facilitators to deliver a three-hour School Union Rep Training (SURT) Program workshop to engage more women in negotiations and leadership roles both in the local and the BCTF. As we prepare for the challenges of the next round of bargaining/negotiations and contract administration, it is critical to foster and grow active engagement in the work of our social justice union of professionals. Many women in current and past leadership roles at the local- or BCTF-level have participated in similar training and extol the benefits to their professional growth. You are encouraged to book this dynamic workshop.



[Book the Women in Negotiations workshop here.](#)

## Professional development: Professional Specialist Associations (PSA)

Save the date for the **PSA Super Conference: October 20–21, 2017.** [See the invitation here.](#)

## Resources for Black History Month

February is [Black History Month](#). This is an important time for teachers to focus on the contributions of Afro-Canadians and raise awareness of the historical injustices they have faced. Visit the BCTF Antiracism Action Group's Black History Month [web page](#) for information and resources.





There are great resources available on [TeachBC](#). Please take a few minutes to upload your favourite lesson to gift to your colleagues. Teachers teaching and helping other teachers has helped so many of us through our careers. I know you are busy and the job expectations are challenging, and this is the very time teachers can support each other by sharing “gems” with colleagues.

**Below are the resources highlighted this week:**

- [Hell's History: The USW's Fight to Prevent Workplace Deaths and Injuries From the 1992 Westray Mine Disaster through 2016](#)
- [SOGI 123: Blow the Whistle on Name Calling](#)

## McGill University survey

**This survey from McGill University is not a scam. This has been approved by the BCTF Research Department.**

*Dear teachers,*

*This email is to inform you of an opportunity to participate in our McGill Teacher Study in exchange for the chance to win up to \$1,500. The study is completed entirely over the Internet and consists of 3 phases. The only requirement for participation is that you have recent in-class teaching experience as a K-12 teacher.*

*In Phase 1, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire concerning your motivation and emotions in class. The survey in this phase will take you approximately 15-25 minutes. In Phase 2, you will be asked to fill out a very brief survey (approximately 2-3 minutes) each working day over a two-week period (e.g., 10 working days) concerning your teaching-related emotional experiences. Phase 3 of the study will occur in approximately 4 months and will once again involve completing the short survey from Phase 1.*



*Participants who complete each study phase will have their names be entered into a draw for \$500 following that phase (approx. odds of winning: 1 in 100), with participants who complete all three phases thus eligible to win up to \$1,500 for their participation. For Phase 2 participants, the number of daily mini-surveys completed will correspond to the number of ballots entered for the Phase 2 prize draw (e.g., if you complete 8 of the 10 possible mini-surveys in Phase 2, your name will be entered into the Phase 2 draw 8 times).*

*If you are interested in participating, please click the link below to access the study website:*

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/mcgill-teacher-study>

If you have any questions about the study, please feel free to contact the principal investigator Hui Wang at [hui.wang4@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:hui.wang4@mail.mcgill.ca) or the study coordinator at [nathan.c.hall@mcgill.ca](mailto:nathan.c.hall@mcgill.ca). Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Hui Wang, Ph.D. Candidate  
McGill University  
Achievement Motivation and Emotion Research Group  
Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology

## Women's Memorial March

**February 14 is the 27th Annual Women's Memorial March** (there are similar marches organized in communities across the province). [This annual event](#), organized and led by women of the Downtown Eastside, brings participants together on Valentine's Day to express compassion, community, and caring for all women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and unceded Coast Salish Territories. It also serves to continue to honour the lives of missing and murdered women, and all women's lives lost in the Downtown Eastside. The public is invited to join in a march and hear speeches by community activists at the intersection of Main Street and Hastings Street, followed by a healing circle at Oppenheimer Park at 2:30 p.m., and a community feast at the Japanese Language Hall.

### Event information

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 12:00 p.m.  
Carnegie Community Centre  
401 Main Street (Main St and Hastings St)  
Vancouver, BC



## Professional development opportunities

Here is an interesting professional development opportunity:

- [“Eros and Education”](#) with Sam Rocha



## Summer professional learning programs at UBC

UBC Faculty of Education is announcing the lineup of [2017 Summer Institutes](#) and professional learning programs designed specifically for educators. Program details are being developed, but here's a sneak preview of what's coming to help with your summer learning plans.

Courses include:

- [Peru Summer Institute: Ecology, Technology, and Indigeneity in the High Amazon](#)  
Lamas, Peru | June 4–24
- [Institut de Francais, UBC à Québec](#)  
Quebec | July 3–21



- [Inquiry and Innovation for School and System Leaders](#)  
UBC Vancouver | July 7–8

View more courses, workshops, and specialized institutes [here](#).

## Summer Institute in Education at UBC Okanagan

[The Summer Institute in Education \(SIE\)](#) offers excellent learning opportunities for all educators, as well as Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) upgrading and graduate electives.

Courses include:

- **Additional Language Teaching and Learning**  
Online | July 4–21
- **Designing Inclusive Assessment**  
UBC Okanagan | July 31–August 4
- **Introduction to Creative Coding**  
UBC Okanagan | July 4–7
- **smartEducation: Developing a Pedagogy of Well-Being**  
UBC Okanagan | July 4–21

View the courses [here](#).

## M.Ed cohort programs—Online and off-campus

In addition to the summer programs, UBC is also accepting applications for various part-time M.Ed. cohort programs.

Programs include:

- [M.Ed. in Curriculum Studies](#)  
[Health, Outdoor, and Physical Experiential \(HOPE\) Education](#)  
Location: Lower Mainland  
Apply by January 31
- [Master of Educational Technology](#)  
Location: Online  
Apply by May 15
- [M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Leadership](#)  
Location: Richmond  
Apply by March 29



View all the part-time M.Ed. cohort options [here](#).

## UBC Pro-D programs—Be informed

Did you know you can subscribe to the UBC Pro-D Newsletter to be notified each month of professional learning programs designed for working professionals in education?

Subscribe [here](#).

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