



February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Volume 3, Issue 14

# Report From Henning Drive

## COVID LEAVE

A few weeks ago the Ministry of Education added a new leave provision for teachers who are required by public health officials to self isolate. While, we already had a similar leave in Burnaby, this does provide more assurance that sick days will not be used when required to self-isolate for COVID-19 related reasons. **Additionally, with this leave, teachers who are COVID positive but are asymptomatic (are able to work) can also access this paid leave without using sick time.** Where an employee is directed by a public health official to self-isolate due to potential exposure to COVID-19 and is asymptomatic, they should:

1. Log in the ADS system under Paid Leave-COVID (this will be added to the options)
2. Call your principal to let them know. They may provide remote work for you or direct you to contact Rogene Swanson at HR. The work provided could be at the school level or you may be redirected to the District at Home learning program.
3. If there is no work available, the teacher would remain on paid leave (not required to use sick days) until work became available or the isolation period was over.

Additionally it is important to remember that this leave does not apply to members:

- who are required to quarantine because they travelled
- who are COVID positive with symptoms or have other COVID like symptoms
- who chose to self isolate and were not recommended by a public health official.

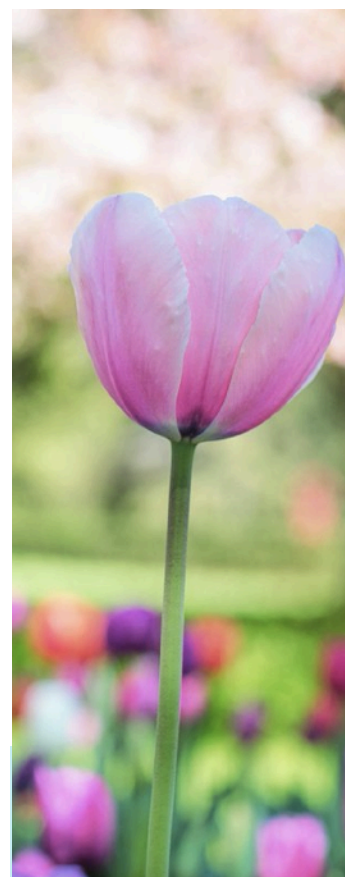
TOCs may also access this leave for days where they are scheduled to work (if required to isolate). It is important that you phone HR and the BTA office as soon as you receive a recommendation from health authorities to self-isolate.

## DAILY HEALTH CHECKS

The district is now requiring staff to indicate, on a daily basis, if they have completed the "daily health check list", which can be found in the Burnaby School district health and safety handbook on page 32

(<https://burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BSD-Stage-2-Return-to-School-Staff-Handbook-COVID-19-for-2021-02-18.pdf>). This is a requirement from WorkSafe.

The process of how staff will complete this check in, has been left to a site by site decision. Please do not hesitate to contact the BTA Office if you have any further questions or concerns.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- District Pro-D Day  
February 26
- RA  
March 2

## BTA Office Hours

8 am - 4:30 pm

604-294-8141

[bta3@bctf.ca](mailto:bta3@bctf.ca)

[www.burnabyteachers.com](http://www.burnabyteachers.com)

## COVID-19 HANDBOOK

The District has updated the health and safety COVID handbook to reflect the recent ministerial changes. These changes are highlighted in yellow. You can access the document here <https://burnabyschools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/BSD-Stage-2-Return-to-School-Staff-Handbook-COVID-19-for-2021-02-24.pdf>

## TEACHER' PENSION PLAN

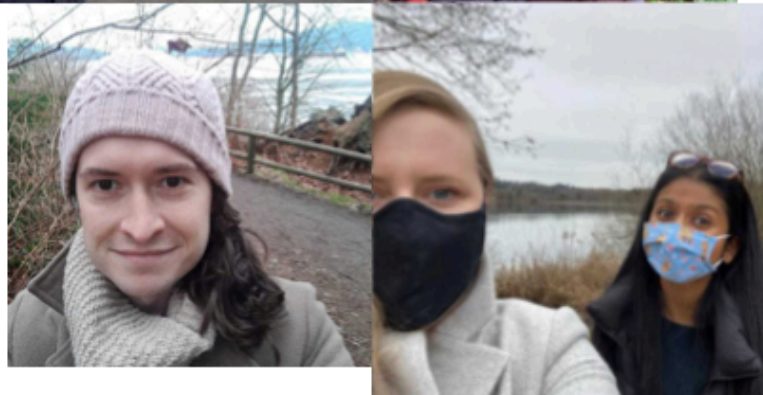
As you may know, a very valuable part of employment compensation for teachers is enrollment in the Teacher' Pension Plan (TPP). Through the BC Pension Corporation service provider, the TPP is offering online pension courses, as well as a new service of instructor-led webinars, as follows:

- Getting to Know Your Pension is an introduction to the TPP in a 15-minute online course.
- Making the Most of Your Pension is for the mid-career member. Take a 45-minute online course or a 75-minute instructor-led webinar.
- Approaching Retirement is for members within five years of retirement, also offered as a 45-minute online course or a 75-minute instructor-led webinar.

Further information and registration is here: [www.tpp.pensionsbc.ca/online-courses-and-webinars](http://www.tpp.pensionsbc.ca/online-courses-and-webinars).

## COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

The BTA Social Justice Committee once again participated in the Coldest Night of the Year event. Due to COVID, the committee participated by walking 5 km in small groups on February 20th in order to raise money and awareness on housing and homelessness issues in Burnaby and across the country. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated money.



### BTA Contacts

#### Daniel Tétrault

President  
[lp41@bctf.ca](mailto:lp41@bctf.ca)

#### Heather Skuse

First Vice-President  
[lx41vp@bctf.ca](mailto:lx41vp@bctf.ca)

#### Shanee Prasad

First Vice-President  
[lx41vp2@bctf.ca](mailto:lx41vp2@bctf.ca)

#### Holly Lloyd

Pro-D Chair [bta3@bctf.ca](mailto:bta3@bctf.ca)

### BTA Office

604-294-8141  
[bta3@bctf.ca](mailto:bta3@bctf.ca)  
[www.burnabyteachers.com](http://www.burnabyteachers.com)

## TOC CORNER

Did you know....

- That TOCs can attend and receive pay for the Joint District Pro D Day in February. To qualify, a TOC would need to have been employed on fifteen out of the thirty school days prior to the District Professional Development Day or have taught ten consecutive teaching days prior to the Professional Day. This [form](#) has to be filled out and returned to the District Office within two weeks of the District Pro-D event.

## TEACHER MAGAZINE

Check out the most recent edition of Teacher Magazine which features a piece on the Burnaby North Access program and the most recent book they published.

[https://issuu.com/teachernewsmag/docs/march\\_2021\\_teacher\\_mag\\_-\\_issuu?fbclid=IwAR3s-Bzjgb\\_avtxcJEi9uv-PJpE8ag9yOBvoQ2Q\\_GvL1E7DiX5xsB3Emc18](https://issuu.com/teachernewsmag/docs/march_2021_teacher_mag_-_issuu?fbclid=IwAR3s-Bzjgb_avtxcJEi9uv-PJpE8ag9yOBvoQ2Q_GvL1E7DiX5xsB3Emc18)

Pay attention to the last page of Teacher Magazine, you will see more great work by Burnaby students!

## MASKS IN SCHOOLS

While we were disappointed that the announcement last week did not go nearly far enough for increased health and safety measures in our schools, here is a breakdown of some of the changes we support and some of the outstanding concerns.

Here are some of the changes the BCTF supports:

- The increased clarity for key safety measures that will reduce uneven implementation across the province.
- The stronger mask mandate for middle and secondary schools.
- The removal of the term “not recommended” for mask wearing in elementary schools.
- The clear emphasis on the importance of all safety measures and the need for improved layers of protection like barriers for those that need them. The BCTF has had to take the issue of barriers to the Labour Relations Board troubleshooting process because some districts refuse to provide them.
- The additional guidance for physical health education and music classes that address key concerns and allow those classes to proceed in a safer manner. These changes were done in consultation with the Federation’s Provincial Specialist Associations and set a good example of how health officials can work with the expertise within the teaching profession.
- The emphasis on a positive and inclusive approach to enforcement that focuses on prevention and not punitive or stigmatizing approaches.

The BCTF’s outstanding concerns include:

- The stronger mask mandate does not apply to elementary students. However, the removal of the term “not recommended” will make it easier for teachers and school staffs to encourage more mask wearing. Parents and caregivers can help by ensuring their children go to school with masks. Districts should supply additional masks to students and staffs.
- The lack of action to reduce school and classroom density will not help staff and students maintain physical distancing. However, it is good to see the recommended distance revert to two metres after public health changed it to one to two metres in the fall. Despite that positive change, distancing rules still don’t apply in classrooms.
- The learning group cohort model has not changed and has proven to be a weak safety measure.
- The absence of clear directives to improve ventilation.
- The inaction on improving the contact tracing system.

More information can be found here:

## EDUCATION LEAVE

Reminder that the deadline for applying for Education Leave is **March 31, 2021**. An [Education Leave form](#) has been added to our website for your convenience and can also be found on the District Staff Portal/Human Resources/Forms/BTA.





## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is [Black History Month](#). While it is important to embed anti-racist education into our classrooms all year long, teachers can use the [BCTF's Black History Month Resources](#) to focus on these issues throughout the month.

This is also an important time for teachers to consider deepening our understanding of these issues. The following resources are recommended for teachers' who would like to learn more about Black History and anti-Black racism in Canada:

- Many of us are proud of our role in the Underground Railway. The CBC podcast, [Canada's slavery secret: The Whitewashing of 200 years of enslavement](#), is a must-listen for those unfamiliar with Canada's role in exploiting Black and Indigenous slaves.
- [Being Black in Canada](#) is a selection of CBC articles and videos highlighting stories of the Black experience
- We are in the middle of the United Nations International decade for People of African Descent. Learn more [here](#).
- The BCTF Equity and Inclusion [Raising Awareness](#) and [Delving Deeper](#) webpages feature additional videos, articles, and books addressing racism.

Check out these resources for ideas on how to counter anti-Black racism:

- The Broadbent Institute's [Black History Month policy series](#) will feature blog posts throughout the month with leading Black thinkers' recommendations for policy changes to address anti-Black racism in Canada.
- The [BCTF Equity and Inclusion Tools](#) webpage features resources and workshop to help teachers contribute to antiracist and inclusive classrooms and communities.
- The [Anti-Oppression Educators Collective](#) (AOEC) also has a wealth of anti-Black racism resources available.
- Alanna Sawatsky (Moscrop): <https://moscropsocialstudies.weebly.com/28-days-of-excellence-challenge.html>
- Donna Morgan: Black in STEM calendar <http://blogs.sd41.bc.ca/science/>