

NOSTA NEWS

Welcome to January and a brand-new year, teachers!

We're hopping back on the bus and heading into the next part of our learning adventure! January brings **fresh** starts, new possibilities, and a chance to try something a little bold (or at least a new seating plan).

Learning isn't just for students! Your creativity, care, and commitment continue to make a real difference every single day, even when the days are dark and the coffee is working overtime.

As we move forward together, we encourage you to check the BCTF website regularly for bargaining updates, so you stay informed as this important work continues. Your awareness and engagement help strengthen our collective voice.

Your union is right beside you as we roll into this new year—supporting, advocating, and cheering you on through **every** twist and turn of the journey ahead. Here's to curiosity, courage, and a whole lot of collective strength in 2025.

In this newsletter you will find:

TTOC's - Request them!

Reconfiguration Update

Cyber Hero Training

Staff Committee - what it is and why you should have one

NEW TEACHER
CONFERENCE

MAY 9TH

APPLICATIONS
ACCEPTED UNTIL
JANUARY 16TH

BCTF New Teachers' Conference -
May 09, 2026



LAST MONTH'S WINNER

CONGRATS KAREN KEHL FOR SOLVING DECEMBERS' RIDDLE. Arrange the bold words in this month's newsletter into a familiar phrase. E-mail Deb your solution at officemanager@nosta83.com to be entered into the January contest.



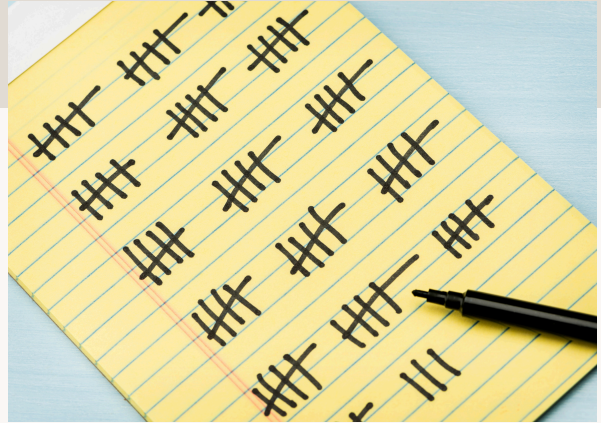


Non-Enrolling Teachers

YOU GET COVERED

As we navigate the school year together, it's important to ensure that learning continues smoothly, even when you are away.

For Non-Enrolling Teachers, D.27.3 of the Collective Agreement outlines that when you are absent, you are covered by a TTOC. Ensuring you always request this helps maintain continuity for students, supports safe and effective supervision, and ensures workloads are appropriately covered. Thank you for helping keep our classrooms running steadily while you take the time you need to be away.



Room Clear Tracker

[HTTPS://NOSTA83.COM/ROOM-CLEAR-TRACKER](https://nosta83.com/room-clear-tracker)

The Room Clear Tracker plays an important role in supporting student safety and staff communication. Consistent use helps ensure that room clears are documented accurately, allows patterns or concerns to be identified, and supports timely follow-up and appropriate supports for students and staff. Thank you for using the tracker to help maintain safe, responsive learning environments.

Snowball Social Sign Up Feb 28th,
2026



Snowball Social

REMINDER!

February 28th @ the Salmon Arm
Curling Rink!

Reconfiguration

The Reconfiguration Agreement (LOU) was signed in June and is now part of our Collective Agreement. It is available for your viewing pleasure on the NOSTA website (Under Collective Agreements). When schools undertake reconfiguration, such as adding new grades or changing a school's structure, the LOU is needed to outline how staffing adjustments related to those changes are to be handled.

Here's the key takeaway on this journey: many of your colleagues are currently having to contemplate forced career changes over the next two years. As you can imagine this comes with a lot of stress and uncertainty. NOSTA continues to work with SD83 to address concerns as they're identified and adjust the LOU as needed and we ask that all NOSTA members be aware and mindful of the emotional toll that this is taking on their colleagues.

We understand the upheaval this is causing and as always, your union is here to help interpret the language and support you through any questions or transitions.



Cyber Training

A JOURNEY, NOT A RACE

A quick reminder about the SD83 security training: there are no penalties or repercussions for not having it completed yet, and there **is** no expectation that this training be done on your own time. For contract staff, schools should be providing time during monthly staff meetings to complete training. TTOCs, if you're called in for a teacher and find yourself with a prep block and no work left, this can be a great opportunity to tackle some training. Part-time staff who do not work on staff meeting days are encouraged to connect with their administrator to see if time can be provided during the workday. If you are on leave, there is no expectation that you complete training during that time. We also continue to advocate for the district to develop a plan to provide release time for teachers who have been unable to complete the training due to these challenges.



Staff Committee

A staff committee is a democratically chosen group of teachers that creates a formal space for staff voices to shape important school decisions. It's not just a meeting, it's a way to ensure that teaching staff have real input into how things work at your school, from school routines and policies to staffing structures and communication processes.

Under our Collective Agreement (A.21), every school has the right to form a staff committee that promotes a collegial and democratic decision-making process.

The committee:

- Develops and maintains effective communication processes throughout the school, ensuring all voices are heard;
- Reviews and makes recommendations on school procedures and policies that affect daily life and work;
- Receives concerns from staff and brings them forward in a structured way;
- Supports the establishment of other important groups such as Professional Development and Health & Safety committees.
- Should have your NOSTA staff rep on it

Having a staff committee means that decisions aren't made in a vacuum. They're explored, discussed, and shaped by the people who live the teaching experience every **day**. It's a powerful tool for transparency, collective wisdom, and shared leadership, and it helps keep our schools thoughtful, responsive, and collaborative learning communities.

Tips:

- Many schools have informal staff committee meeting after the monthly staff meeting
- All teachers can present items to discuss at the staff committee meeting
- Choose who will chair your meeting and who will take minutes in advance.
- Your NOSTA Staff Rep is a good **start** for organizing a Staff Committee meeting.



Teach and Trowel Dates: January 20th, February 17th,
March 12th, April 21st, May
18th

