

# Maple Ridge Teachers' Association Memorandum

To: Teachers  
From: MRTA Office  
Date: March 24, 2020  
Topic: Timely Update

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Dear Colleagues,

We wanted to provide an update for you, despite the fact that we do not have all the answers nor a clear picture of what work will look like come next week. Penny is speaking with Sylvia Russell on a daily basis in regards to the plans that are being developed. We have frequent communications with the BCTF, in the form of conference calls with all of the local presidents and leadership.

Teri Mooring has made it clear that ALL stakeholder groups are working cooperatively and with compassion as we try to deal with this situation. It has also been made very clear that health and safety is of the utmost importance. Continuity of learning opportunities will happen in time, once health and safety matters are in hand.

After reading this memo, please read the attachment: BCTF INFORMATION DOCUMENT. This provides comprehensive information on a variety of topics from the BCTF.

We want to address several major topics that are the front of members' minds:

1. PAY/EMPLOYMENT: It is government's expectation that pay will continue, "for employees whose work would not otherwise have been interrupted save for the pandemic response." This declaration by government was made through to the end of April because they did not want to infer timelines of which they are uncertain. There has been no insinuation that we will not be paid after that, nor is that expected. To resolve any confusion, last night Teri Mooring

sent a message: "Teachers will continue to work till the end of June and continue to be paid." (For teachers at Kanaka, that would mean the end of July.) If you want the complete explanation, please read the attached email from Teri Mooring that outlines these and other matters to do with employment.

We are still waiting for further clarity and guidance regarding the situation for TToCs and will provide this as soon as we have it.

2. HEALTH AND SAFETY: As plans are being created and put into place for return to working next week, health and safety is the top priority. No one will be expected to return to a work site until a plan is put into place that we are satisfied will protect our members. We are very aware of members who are vulnerable, who have their own children to care for, as well as those who believe that working from home is necessary. We will continue to advocate for flexibility for our members.

3. PROVIDING SERVICES TO CHILDREN OF ESSENTIAL WORKERS. We do not know how this will happen yet but we know that the district is gathering the information that they need in order to make plans. Teachers will choose to do this work; it will not be a direction.

We will continue to communicate with you as we have information. All information and memos will also be posted on the home page of our website:

<https://www.mrtaoffice.com>

Please feel free to reach out to us at any time. We will get through this extremely challenging and uncertain time together.

Penny Morgan, Kaitlin Thorarinson, Trevor Takasaki  
**Attachments (2)**

PM & KT/em

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Teachers Timely Update March 24, 2020/Teachers/Bulletins & Memos/HD