



## Learning Assistance Teachers' Association

a Provincial Specialist Association of the BCTF

### Upcoming Events

Note: The following data are provided for information only.

LATA does not endorse or support any of the following:

\*\* Hyperlinks active

#### **POPARD - December 1, 2021: Autism in the Teen Years**

<https://www.actcommunity.ca/special-needs-community-events/autism-in-the-teen-years>

#### **DSRF's (Down Syndrome Research Foundation) Winter Festival Express in Burnaby! December 10, 2021**

<https://www.dsrfg.org/events/events-calendar/dsrf-s-winter-festival-express>

#### **POPARD - December 15, 2021: Supporting Autistic Girls**

<https://www.actcommunity.ca/special-needs-community-events/supporting-autistic-girls>

#### **FASD Symposium January 25, 2022**

<https://www.able2.org/fasd-symposium-registration-information/>

#### **National Center on Intensive Intervention (US)**

<https://intensiveintervention.org/resource/self-paced-introduction-intensive-intervention>

#### **CANCHILD Webinars (McMaster University)**

<https://canchild.ca/en/research-in-practice/f-words-in-childhood-disability/webinars>

#### **International Dyslexia Association:**

<https://dyslexiaida.org/webinars/>

#### **IMSE Orton-Gillingham on Youtube**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPJqkhSNKynPzgLj4Xuqp9g>

#### **Experience Dyslexia - IDA**

<https://norcal.dyslexiaida.org/experience-dyslexia/>

#### **Florida Center for Reading Research**

<https://www.fcrr.org/>

#### **Reading Simplified: How to Start with the Science of Reading**

<https://readingsimplified.com/science-of-reading-foundational/>

No Newsletters July or August

## NEWS & FEATURES

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**Editor:**

**Michelle Redman**



# Teacher Profile: Nona Navin

Richmond School District – SD 38

School Board Office - Inclusion Support Teacher

Low and High Incidence students



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**Question:** Is there any kind of disability you have strategies you've found successful that you would love to share with members?

- I am a big fan of Sarah Ward's work about Executive Functioning and Emily Rubin's SCERTS framework. Sarah Ward has created a set of tools to support executive functioning that are easy to implement and honour the age and stage for students. The SCERTS framework is designed to support students with autism but I think all educators could benefit from learning about the cognitive science that supports this approach. Additionally, the SCERTS framework values appreciative inquiry for team members that can facilitate for healthy and productive working relationships. These relationships are key to being effective with all learners.

**Question:** What information or what processes help you best prepare to support students?

- I love this question! As I am typically working with school teams, I start with what their lens is: what strengths and stretches does the student have and where does the team want to start to support the student. I then look into the student's file to see what other information I can gather from past assessments, report cards and doctor information. My next step is to observe the student in the class and see what is already working for the student. We then sit down as a team to lay out an action plan for what practices and tools can be implemented for student support.

**Question:** How do you know when you've been successful as a Learning Assistance teacher?

- I know that I have been successful as a Learning Assistance Teacher when I see students and teachers using strategies on an ongoing basis in the classroom. If I see tools being used effectively then I feel like I have done a good job of listening to the concerns of the student and teacher and finding a tool that is within the reach of the classroom teacher and student.

**Nona is a LATA member-at-large**



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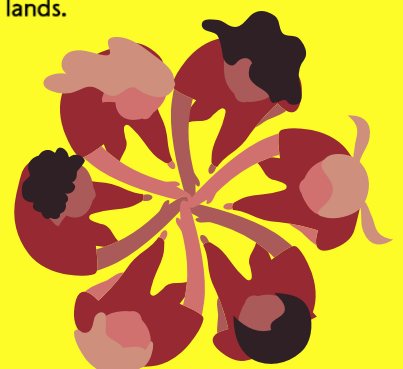
## Indigenous Resources and Inclusive Initiatives

- **The First Nations Education Steering Committee** (FNESC) is a policy and advocacy organization that represents and works on behalf of First Nations in British Columbia. FNESC has a mandate to support First Nations students and advance First Nations education in BC.
  - <http://www.fnesc.ca/>
- **Indigenous Education** seeks to improve success and supports for Indigenous students, and increase the presence of Indigenous culture, languages and history for all students. It also aims to help teachers bring Indigenous knowledge into their teaching practice.
  - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/administration/program-management/indigenous-education>
- **The Imagine a Canada 2021-2022** program invites Canadian youth from K-G12 and CÉGEP to envision a Canada reconciled.
  - <https://nctr.ca/education/educational-programs/imagine-a-canada/>
- **Strong Nations Gifts, Books, and Publishing**
  - <https://www.strongnations.com/>

**Tle'ushut shqwaluwun ct kwthu shxwimélu ct**  
**We invite you to our store!**

Strong Nations would like to recognize that we are on traditional Snuneymuxw territory and give thanks for the opportunity to live, work, play and learn on their traditional lands.

- **A World Map of Indigenous Languages**
  - <https://native-land.ca/>





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# BCTF

**Explore resources on a variety of Social Issues available for both professional growth and classroom use on TEACHBC - BCTF. Exploring a variety of issues including a wide variety of time topics.**

As educators, we accept our broad responsibility to build a better world for future generations

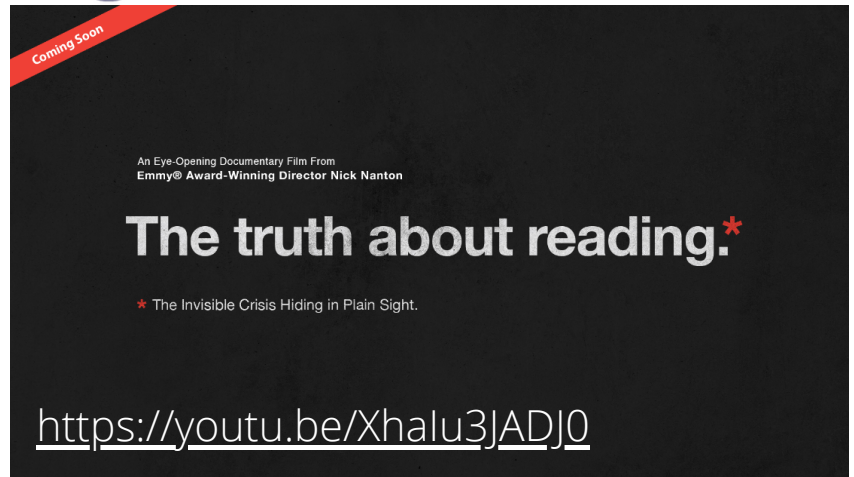
- Aboriginal Education
- Antiracism
- Disability Justice
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- Gender-Based Violence
- International Solidarity
- LGBTQ2S+
- Peace and Global Education
- Status of Women

<https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/social-issues#aboriginal-education>



## From Nora Chahbazi of **EBLI**

*Thank you for your contribution this month*



In this day and age, no one—child or adult, regardless of their circumstances or background—should lack the ability to read and write. However, illiteracy and sub-literacy are so prevalent that actually, the majority of children and adults are not proficient in reading. The Truth About Reading documentary, currently under production, has a mission to greatly accelerate the acquisition of high-level literacy for all while also supporting devoted educators, the children they teach, and the parents passionate about their children's literacy success. The film will outline the causes of literacy insufficiency, through stories of educators who facilitated the realization of 95-100% of their students proficient in reading and adults who successfully learned to read later in life. This will be conveyed in the film with a focus on hope and without assigning blame. Researchers, educators, and others will share solutions and the evidence behind them. The goal is to ignite a movement so the masses are empowered to participate in promoting and working toward the mission of high-level literacy for all.

Literacy is a top priority for so many; the teaser video was viewed almost 100,000 times in the first few weeks after it premiered! This literacy mission is one that everyone can get behind.

The following resources will give you an in-depth dive into the documentary including the people behind it, details about production to date, the timeline, how to contribute, and more. You are integral to the success of this mission; please share these links with your network to help spread the word!

·**Website** > <https://thetruthaboutreading.com/>

·**Facebook** > <https://www.facebook.com/thetruthaboutreading>

·**Podcast of a documentary team interview** >

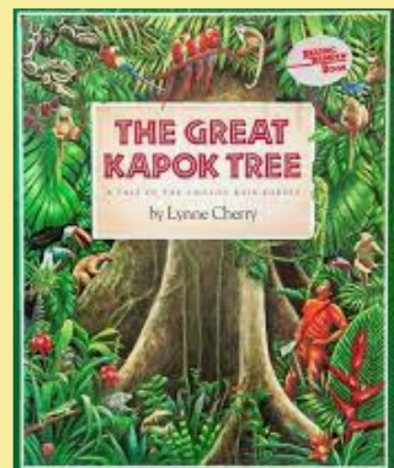
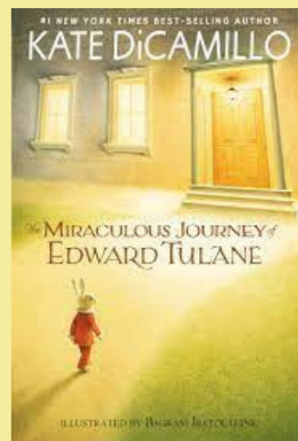
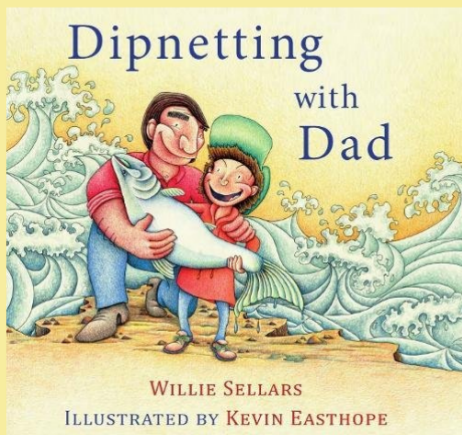
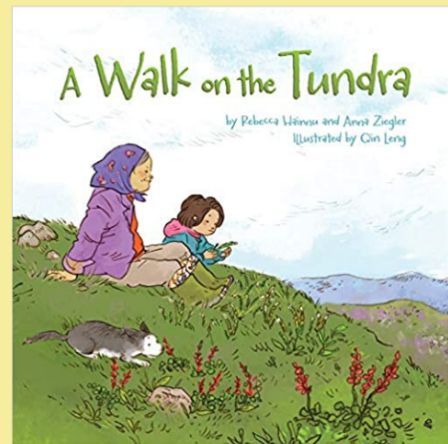
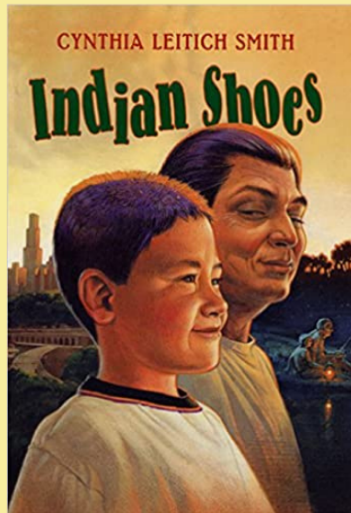
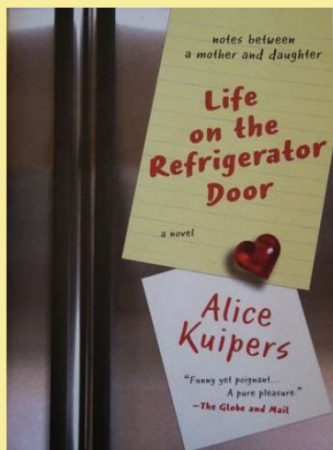
<https://www.literacypodcast.com/podcast/episode/4c5e3bde/ep-65-talking-with-the-literacy-documentary-team-the-truth-about-reading>

·**Information and Fundraising** > <https://eblireads.com/?s=the+truth+about+reading>

·**Contact us** > <https://thetruthaboutreading.com/resources/>

This issue has gone under the radar and negatively impacts people from every walk of life as well as society as a whole. We appreciate you joining us in being a change agent and advocating for this high-level literacy cause to create awareness and drive meaningful action to fix it.

# BOOK LOOP > CONNECTION



Thanks to LATA Treasurer, Sylvie Alfial for this update!

On November 5th, I attended an all day workshop hosted by IDA-Ontario on the science of reading in French called “Des fondements progressifs pour la réussite en lecture et en écriture dans la salle de classe” with Dr Michele Minor-Corriveau, Lise l’Heureux and Ron Cadez.

It was a pleasure to participate in French around this topic with peers who also teach in French Immersion. Dr Michele Minor-Corriveau, a Speech and Language therapist (orthophoniste), was a dynamic speaker who spoke about the importance of developing in students’ oral competencies as a key to success in reading. Another message was that structured literacy must be anchored in oral language development as one teaches in an additional language.

Lise l’Heureux is a Learning Assistance teacher (orthopedagogue), founder of La faculté de Lexie & Graphie. She provides services, is a consultant and a conference speaker. She spoke about all the different challenges ones encounters when learning another language such as French or English. She also shared how she is working on a scope and sequence to teach sounds in French. She shared many resources on the topic of phonemic awareness in French.

Ron Cadez is a divisional principal of instructional services in Winnipeg. He shared a project he led in which he worked with teacher colleagues to identify students at risk in French Immersion. Then working with researchers in the field, they came up with an approach to best support those learners. This was done over a few years and they were happy that with the changes in teaching strategies and Learning Assistance co-teaching, they were able to help students at risk make noticeable progress in reading.

It was a wonderful day of learning and rediscovering!

# Cool Tools!

## Strong Nations Gifts, Books, and Publishing

### Contact:

Strong Nations Warehouse  
2595 McCullough Rd  
Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9S 4M9  
Toll Free: 1.888.278.2202  
contact@strongnations.com



Collection Corbeau  
Ensemble de titres uniques

## A BC Company!

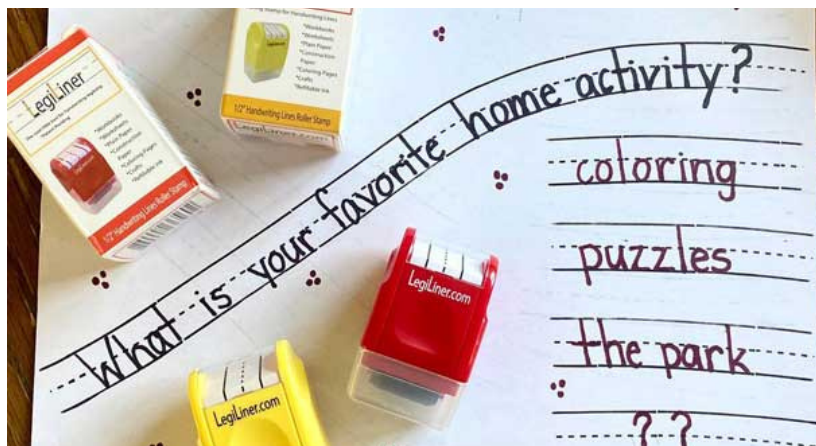


ON SALE! Holiday Gift Bundle: Welcoming Winter  
\$22.06

Grade Levels: Kindergarten; 1; 2;

Synopsis: A winter-themed gift bundle for children  
perfect for welcoming winter and celebrating the  
winter solstice!

**Woo Hoo!** One of our members has secured a Canadian supplier of this handy tool!!! Great for in-class support, intervention, and adapting materials. The Legiliner™ comes in multiple sizes and is refillable.



<http://www.faststamp.ca/>

### CONTACT:

Fast Stamp  
250-861-9121

[faststamp@shaw.ca](mailto:faststamp@shaw.ca)



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Do you know a local supplier we should highlight? email psac53@bctf.ca





## Association links and Post-Graduate programming

### **Provincial Outreach Program for Autism and Related Disorders:**

<https://autismoutreach.ca/>



### **Autism Awareness Centre Inc.:**

Check out the recorded webinars available through this Canadian site:

<https://autismawarenesscentre.com/product-category/past-webinars/>



### **Autism Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Awareness - Find resources through**

#### **POPFASD:**

<https://www.fasdoutreach.ca/resources/>



### **Get Involved with Special Olympics BC !!**

<https://www.specialolympics.ca/british-columbia>



### **Vancouver Island University Graduate Diploma in Special Education:**

<https://www.viu.ca/programs/education/inclusive-education-special-education-graduate-diploma>



### **University of Northern BC MEd. in Special Education:**

<https://www2.unbc.ca/calendar/graduate/education>



### **University of British Columbia MEd. in Special Education:**

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/prospective-students/graduate-degree-programs/master-of-education-special-education>



## **December Question:**

What is your MUST-HAVE resource?

Please email [psac53@bctf.ca](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)

We are continuing to look for your recommendations for Level A and Level B assessment resources!

Please email [psac53@bctf.ca](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)

We are excited to begin building a resource bank as part of the LATA website!

**Check out the following groups on Facebook and let us know who else to follow:**

[LATA BC](#)

[Canada's Science of Reading - What I Should have Learned in College](#)

[Special Education Resource Teachers](#)

[Special Education Teacher Leaders](#)

[Math Intervention Matters](#)

## **Members' Questions:**

Please send your recommendations to [psac53@bctf.ca](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)

Do you have a question that we can put to members?

Send us an email: [\*\*psac53@bctf.ca\*\*](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)

## **Join the Executive:**

Volunteering as a member-at-large on the LATA Executive is a great way to build cross-district relationships, to share ideas for great resources, to support others in the field, and to bring speakers to your colleagues through invitation at our annual conference in October.

***Please contact us if you are interested in joining the Executive.***



# FREE RESOURCES!

Visit these blog posts for information and free resources:

1. <https://sites.google.com/pattan.net/pattan-literacy/2020-pattan-literacy-symposium/language-comprehension-strand>
2. <https://www.idaontario.com/french-sl-resources/>
3. <https://sarahsnippets.com/>
4. <https://thisreadingmama.com/>
5. <https://www.themeasuredmom.com/>
6. <https://www.mrsdscorner.com/>
7. <https://www.oneroomschoolhouse.net/>
8. <http://www.breezyspecialed.com/>
9. <https://mrspspecialties.com/>
10. <https://www.earlywood.org/domain/159>
11. <https://sharemylesson.com/collections/special-education>
12. <https://learn2teachwithbrandie.com/resources-teachers/>
13. <https://specialneedsforspecialkids.org/resource-library/>
14. <https://do2learn.com/>
15. <https://autismclassroomresources.com/free-special-education-webinars/>
16. <https://education.ufl.edu/ufl/virtual-teaching/main/>
17. <https://www.reallygreatreading.com/heart-word-magic>
18. <https://www.carlasiravo.com/music>
19. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPJqkhSNKynPzgLj4Xuqp9g>

Do you know of free resources we should add to our list??  
email [psac53@bctf.ca](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)



# LATA Goals

The LATA Executive continues to work towards the goals identified below:

- 1. To increase engagement with LATA members by using effective communication strategies**
  - a. Website, Email, Newsletters**
  - b. Social Media**
    - i. Twitter and Facebook to support**
- 2. To support and to provide mentorship for those moving in to the Special Education field**
  - a. Scholarship - application available on <http://www.latabc.com/>**
  - b. Connecting with new-to-district and mentorship organizations within various school districts**
  - c. presentation at New Teachers' Conferences (e.g., BCTF New Teachers' Conference, January 2021)**
- 3. Continue offering Learning Support/Inclusive Education professional development opportunities for members (service to members)**
  - a. Collaborative Teacher Inquiry Project (TIP)**
    - i. We are fortunate to work alongside Catherine Quanstrom and Jessica Willows, BCTF Facilitators, for five half-day meetings to discuss**
      - 1. The goal of this project is to collect data from BCTF Learning Assistance Teacher members on**
        - a. the challenges faced by them in this role**
        - b. to identify areas/resources/supports for members**
        - c. seek guidance on ways to improve and increase support for students with learning disabilities/challenges/exceptionalities.**
      - 2. Thank you for supporting future surveys and for reaching out to us via email with any suggestions and supports on this topic. See the BCTF Inquiry cycle.**
    - b. Seeking out new and diverse speakers for workshops and the annual LATA conference.**
    - c. Engage with Ministry of Education staff, University departments, etc., as appropriate.**
    - d. Network and Collaborate with other PSAs**
    - e. PSA Council meeting update**
      - i. Three times a year, the Presidents of the 32 Provincial Specialist Associations (PSA) meet to discuss issues of importance to the membership and to represent issues faced by members. The next PSA Council meeting is on March 4. Please send your Executive ([psac53@bctf.ca](mailto:psac53@bctf.ca)) any issues of importance so that we can discuss possible ways for changes to be brought about in working and learning conditions.**
    - f. Workshops offered through district-based conferences (e.g., Surrey Teachers' Association (May), Victoria Teachers' Association (Feb 12, 2021))**

