



WORKSHOP

Union Power: Organizing for Public Education

Teachers play a pivotal role not only in shaping young minds but also in advocating for systemic change. This workshop will equip educators with the tools and strategies needed to harness their collective strength and enact meaningful change in their schools, communities, and beyond. We will explore different models of unionism with a focus on shifting away from a business union model towards an organizing for power framework.

FACILITATORS

Liam Patterson-Morris (he/him/his)

Liam is a union activist and organiser with VEAES (Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educators Society) and a grade 7 teacher in East Vancouver. He was born on the unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations and raised on the unceded territories of the Okanagan-Sylix Nation and the Kanien'kehà:ka of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Liam received his BA from Concordia university in History, and his BEd from Simon Fraser University. He serves as the chair of the VEAES staff representative assembly and the steering committee for the same body. At home you can find Liam playing board and role playing games, any sport he can get his hands on, and hiking.



Paul Falardeau (he/him/his)

Paul is an educator, writer, union activist and organiser. Of French and German Mennonite ancestry, he was born on the ancestral lands of the Sto:lo nation and now lives and works on the the ancestral lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. He is grateful for his life on these unceded, stolen and occupied territories and will use his privilege to work towards justice, equity and liberation for all. Paul completed his undergraduate degree in English Literature at the University of the Fraser Valley and his Bachelor of Education from Simon Fraser University. Paul is currently teaching English and ELL at



Killarney Secondary in Southeast Vancouver and works as a TTOC in the Vancouver district. He is a Member-at-Large on the executive committee of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers Association, and the chair of the BCTF TTOC advisory committee. Paul loves camping, writing poetry and cooking for his friends and family.