

Student Teachers Auxiliary

The Vancouver/Burnaby Branch of the BCRMTA has had an active Student Teacher Auxiliary (STA) for decades. While the group has fluctuated in its membership, it has consistently mirrored the parent branch with monthly meetings, guest speakers, and student recitals.

The first hint of the STA came in **1952**, when a Vancouver Branch delegate reported to the Provincial Council that, "Our members seem to favour adding an Auxiliary section to the Branch". After this pithy statement, the topic did not surface again until **1959** when Provincial delegates were asked to take the question of a proposed Auxiliary program back to their members.

The wheels of change moved more quickly this time and at the **1960** Provincial Council meeting, Eleanor Harkness of the Vancouver Branch moved, "That any branch that feels the time is opportune to organize a Student Teacher Auxiliary be allowed to proceed". There were still no specifics, but from this point, it seems that the Vancouver Branch STA was either already formed, or at the least close to being established. Either way, the Branch's report to Council in **1962** stated that, "The Vancouver Branch of the STA is functioning most successfully, regular meetings are being held".

Apparently, the Vancouver STA's success inspired other Branches to form their own groups. In **1966**, the Provincial Council suggested that an outline of the Vancouver STA be sent to all branches to help initiate their own programs, and in **1967** a freshly minted BCRMTA Student Teacher Auxiliary Constitution was proposed. This one-page statement outlined the objects of the group, the membership criteria, the bylaws, and the annual fee per member of \$4.00!

1970 was marked with highs and lows for the BCRMTA. While the September Council Meeting saw the adoption of the Provincial STA Guidelines, it was a stressful time for the Vancouver Branch and the STA was one of the casualties. The group collapsed and was refashioned in March **1971** as an "Advanced Students' Club" with a focus on performance instead of pedagogy. This situation continued until **1980** when the STA was reformed with eleven members. In **1984**, the Vancouver Delegate to the Provincial Council reported that the STA group was once again going strong with fourteen members who held monthly meetings and two recitals a year. The STA has continued in more or less the same fashion to the present day, supported by the parent Branch with a succession of dedicated Liaisons.

Student Teachers Auxiliary Liaisons

1982	Peggy Prior, Erika Galinskya
1988	Elizabeth Lee
1990	Ethne Moore-Stevens
1993	Colleen Muriel
1994	Rebecca Kelly
1995	Cheryl Carruthers, Ginny Lowry
2000	Mary Tickner
2005-present	Dr. Carla Dodek