



TODAY

President's Column

Date: May 19, 2011

Issue: #6

The Term of the Provincial Collective Agreement Ends June 30th

The current five-year term of the present Provincial Collective Agreement as it applies in Delta will come to an end on June 30th.

Over the course of the current school year, the DTA full-time table officers and other members of the Executive Committee have visited Delta schools and worksites in two rounds of school visits: once in the Fall, on the topic of provincial bargaining items; and again in the Spring, on the topic of local bargaining.

In addition, the input of teachers has been solicited on provincial and local bargaining in two on-line surveys.

In anticipation of bargaining, the DTA Bargaining Committee has met, and a bargaining team has been appointed to represent teachers in local bargaining with our employer, the Delta Board of Education Trustees. The DTA has now had its first bargaining meeting with the employer after local bargaining objectives were ratified at the Annual General Meeting on May 17th.

The last time teachers in Delta met to negotiate local provisions with our employer was in the 1990s, so the DTA welcomes the prospect of sitting down in good faith with our employer, to bargaining our local provisions, many of which have not been addressed since then.

Staffing Season

For teachers, the date at which teachers are issued "Notice of Layoff" by the employer marks the official beginning of Staffing Season.

This year, April 29th was the day when teachers with aggregate seniority of 3.99 years or less received notice that they would be laid off, effective June 30th. On May 5th, comparatively fewer DTA members,

mainly first time recipients of "Notice of Layoff" letters, attended the DTA's Annual Layoff Meeting. This may be an indication that many DTA members have, unfortunately, become accustomed to being laid-off.



Anticipating that many teachers who have received "Notice of Layoff" will actually be laid-off, the DTA Teachers Teaching on Call Committee is sponsoring a BCTF workshop, EI for TTOCs on May 26th. Contact the DTA to signup.

Likewise, all teachers with questions relating to the posting and filling process in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd rounds of staffing are encouraged to contact the DTA for answers to any and all questions they may have.

BC Supreme Court Affirms teachers' Right to Bargain — No Appeal by Government.

On April 13, Madam Justice Griffen of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, in an affirmative ruling for teachers, upheld our claim that the provincial government had no right to strip class size and composition language from our Collective Agreements, as was done in 2002. In the words of M. Justice Griffen:

As held in Health Services at para. 86, recognition of the right to collectively bargain as part of the freedom to associate "reaffirms the values of dignity, personal autonomy, equality and democracy that are inherent in the Charter"

On Thursday, May 5th, the BCTF received notification from the Minister of Education that government would not appeal the decision.

The judgement provides for a one year period for the parties to come to resolution of the matter, with recourse back to the Supreme Court if the parties are not successful.

2011 - 2012 DTA Executive Committee Elected May 17, 2011

President	Paul Steer
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Simon Isbister
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Arabella Bowman
Treasurer	Matthew McKay
Executive Secretary	Vacant
Local Reps: 1 year	Toby Mundy
2 year	Pat Truelove
2 year	Karen Symonds
Alternate Rep	Elen Nikas
Members at Large	Annie Coblin
	Elen Nikas
	Reece Papin
TTOC Rep	Marianne D'Souza
Adult Ed Rep	Peter Yang

Committee Chairs:

Professional Development	Paul Leroy
Public Education Advocacy	Darren Ursulak
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Janice Falk



Condolences

The DTA sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Robert (Bob) Ohl** who passed away on April 12th. Bob taught at Seaquam Secondary .

EI Workshop

The DTA TTOC Committee is sponsoring this BCTF facilitated workshop which is open to all teachers.

Thursday, May 26, 2011

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Delta Manor Education Centre

This seminar will help in understanding the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI Benefits.

Please register with Debbie at the DTA by May 24th:
debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391

Refreshments will be available.



A teacher is a compass that activates the magnets of curiosity, knowledge, and wisdom in pupils. ~ *Ever Garrison*

DTA Retirement Reception

Monday, June 13, 2011

4:00 - 5:15 pm

Delta Town & Country Inn

All district employees are invited to attend this reception to honour our retiring colleagues.

A dinner for retirees, their guests and all DTA committee members will follow.



"TAD" BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$800.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org, under Forms.

Deadline is June 30, 2011

Thinking of Retiring? Planning a Leave of Absence?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the School Board and submit your paper work ASAP. This will be helpful for next year's staffing needs.

Delta Teacher Writes Grammar Book Series

The *Tricky Grammar* book series offers teachers a new and innovative method for turning students into grammar experts! Written by Alex Shirran of Seaquam Secondary School, this three-part book series blends amusing facts, jokes, and whole language text with traditional grammar rules to motivate reluctant and struggling learners from ages 8 to young adult. Each 128-page book includes a skill index, pre-test and post-test, and review pages.

Available at amazon.com. The list price is \$16.99.