

Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



TODAY

President's Column

Date: November 1, 2012

Issue: #1

The Year of Provincial Action 2012/2013

Last March, the BCTF Annual General Meeting designated the 2012/2013 school year as a Year of Provincial Action. The overall purpose of the Year of Action is to engage members, to demonstrate teachers' unity, and to earn attention in local and provincial media for issues of importance to. Each month of the school year will see teachers highlighting one aspect of teachers' work; each monthly theme will see teachers across BC taking action in ways meant to be relevant, engaging, different, and fun. This month's theme will focus a light on the social issue of Child Poverty. Activities are not limited but will include teachers wearing 'band-aid' stickers with "End Child Poverty" printed on them, as well as the collection of signatures on petitions for delivery to elected politicians. The goal: to persuade government to launch a comprehensive and accountable child poverty reduction plan.

DTA Motions for BCTF 2013 AGM

The DTA's September Staff Rep Assembly passed a resolution providing a mechanism and timeline for endorsement of school/worksite resolutions. DTA members are reminded that if colleagues at their school/worksite would like to send resolutions to the BCTF for inclusion on the Agenda for the 2013 AGM, and to have these endorsed by the DTA, they should submit these to the DTA no later than **Friday, November 16**, for inclusion on the Agenda of the November DTA Staff Rep Meeting. Resolutions received after November 16 (but before December 15) may still go forward to the AGM, but will not be endorsed by the local.

BCTF Representative Assembly/Bargaining Conference

The BCTF Fall Representative Assembly and an 'embedded' Bargaining Conference has been scheduled for this Friday and Saturday, November 2 and 3 in Richmond. With Provincial Bargaining set to resume on March 1, 2013, three months ahead of the expiry of the current Provincial Collective Agreement, local officers and representatives will be meeting to debate what priorities for next years' bargaining will be adopted. Many DTA members have provided input via our local bargaining survey; those who have not yet signed in to the DTA online bargaining survey still have time to do so, at www.surveymonkey.com/s/vw8rzff.

Silhouette Concerns

Several teachers have recently contacted the DTA to express concerns arising from their use of the District's "Silhouette" reporting system. One teacher in particular, attempting to access Silhouette using an off-site Mac computer, reported trying to utilize the program for a couple of hours without success. She reported trying again in the morning, but with no more success than she'd had the evening before. This teacher also reported

that Silhouette generated report cards take 2 to 3 times the amount of time to generate than they should, once 'redos' and re-entering of data that does not 'stick' is taken into account. A final comment from this frustrated teacher: "We should go back to writing report cards by hand. It's less frustrating and *much* faster than using Silhouette."



Teachers wanting to report their own difficulties and/or successes with Silhouette, or any other District software system should contact the DTA. We'll compile results we receive and present teachers' experiences, both positive and negative, to the employer.

Teachers' Pension Plan Increase

In a bulletin sent to Teachers' Pension Plan employers on October 29, the Pension Corporation has reported on the independent actuarial valuation of the Teachers' Pension Plan as of December 31, 2011. As a result of the valuation, both member and employer contribution rates will rise by 1.3 per cent of salary effective July 1, 2013.

The plan's most recent valuation was reported as showing the plan's basic account with assets of \$19.8 billion, with liabilities of \$20.7 billion, reflecting an unfunded liability of \$855 million.

The bulletin reports an unfunded liability occurs when the money projected to be available for future pensions is less than the projected costs of paying those pensions. The bulletin attributes three factors at work within the valuation as leading to the need for a contribution increase: lower than forecasted investment returns; increase in average plan member's life expectancy over the past 12 years; and a decline in active plan members of three percent; the plan received less in contributions than expected in respect to the previous unfunded liability.

District "LIF" Funding Update

This past month, the DTA has met twice with Senior District Administrators to review the requests of teachers, and District allocations of the limited Learning Improvement Fund (LIF) resources. A portion of available LIF funding was held back in the Spring, to address new or unforeseen needs in the Fall. Evidence collected via DTA staff reps, combined with information provided by the District, show that on the whole, the District has done a creditable job of distributing a limited amount of funds for new staffing, resources, and some E.A. support. The DTA will continue to advocate with the employer for improved working conditions for teachers, learning conditions for students, and for renewal and reconstruction of the system as a whole.

“Factor 88” ~ Withdraw from Long Term Disability Plan

Teachers aged 64 or whose combined age plus years of service equal “factor 88” are entitled to withdraw from the Long Term Disability Plan provided they have enough sick leave. The combination of short-term disability and 100 sick days will be sufficient to carry them through until they are either 65 years old or have reached “factor 90”. At this point they will be ineligible for long-term disability. Contact the DTA or phone the BCTF at (604) 871-1921 for an application form.

Category 5+ (PB+15) Information

The new provincial language term for Delta’s PB+15 salary category is **Category 5+**. As a result of TQS issuing Category 5+ status three times a year, the Board will now upgrade teachers’ salary categories for this certification three times a year - August 31, December 31 and April 30. Once you receive your TQS card, forward a copy to the Board immediately. Your pay will be retroactive to the date the card was issued. For example, if your TQS card arrives at the end of May and is dated May 6, you will be paid retroactively to the beginning of May. Remember to have a copy of your transcript sent to the Board for their records.

DTA Scholarship Winners

Burnsview	Jillian McMullen
Delta	Tara Azizi
Delview	Jaskaran Dhanda
North Delta	Tejdeep Grewal
Sands	Jaffa Winick
Seaquam	Allen Yieh
South Delta	Meghan Ayers

“Tad” Boyes Scholarship

Congratulations to Lauren Bourgeois, 2012 DTA recipient of the \$800.00 “Tad” Boyes Scholarship. Lauren is the daughter of Jeff (Hawthorne Elementary) and Sharon (Cliff Drive Elementary) Bourgeois.

Her career goal is to work in animation for television and film.

Retiring This Year?

CHECK LIST

- Contact the Teachers’ Pension Plan at 1-800-665-6770 for a Retirement Application Package. Send the completed application form to the TPP no later than the end of the month in which the pension is to start (preferably at least two months earlier) to ensure prompt pension payment.
 - Contact the Delta School Board payroll to find out when your current health benefits end to ensure you have continuous coverage until the Teachers’ Pension Plan benefits begin.
 - Consider converting your current group life insurance to an individual life insurance policy.
 - Join the BC Retired Teachers’ Association (telephone 604-871-2260/2262 or 1-877-683-2243, or go to the website at www.bctf.ca/rta). Contact the BCRTA re: starting/continuing Medoc travel health insurance.
 - Apply to the BCTF for Associate Membership.
 - Contact the Teacher Regulation branch of the Ministry of Education to see your options regarding maintaining your BC Teacher’s certificate if you intend to teach after retirement (www.bcteacherregulation.ca).
 - At age 60, if you are not working, consider applying for your Canada Pension Plan pension. For an application kit, visit the CPP web site at www.sdc.qc.ca/en/isp/cpp/cpptoc.shtml.
 - At age 65, apply for Old Age Security (OAS). For an application kit, visit the OAS web site at www.sdc.qc.ca/en/isp/oas/oastoc.shtml.
- Contact the BCTF Income Security Staff if you have questions related to any of the above. Phone: 604-871-1921; toll-free 1-800-663-9163, ext. 1921.

Committee Vacancies

Executive Committee

- Social Justice Chairperson

Please call the DTA office if you would like to let your name stand for this position.