



## President's Column

Date: April 3, 2014

Issue: #5

### Provincial Bargaining update

For BCTF members, a confidential report from the provincial bargaining table is always posted on the BCTF website, usually on the same day. Here is the link to that information:

<https://bctf.ca/myBCTF/default.aspx>

Recent bargaining sessions have not been characterized as terribly productive, but the recent Provincial Strike Vote which showed 89% of teachers voting "Yes" in response to the question, "Are you in favour of a strike?" will apply tactical pressure on the both parties at the provincial table toward a negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues. For teachers with questions or concerns that are not addressed in these confidential reports, please contact the DTA. Both Paul and Arabella have access to the most up-to-date information available.

### Preparing for job action

With the announcement of the results of last month's Provincial Labour Relations Board supervised Strike Vote, the BCTF and its locals now turn to the task of preparing for the possibility of provincial job-action. While a settlement of all outstanding issues, negotiated at the bargaining table, is what Our Union is striving to achieve, it is still necessary for the local leadership – table officers, E.C. members, Staff Union Representatives – to communicate reliably and effectively with teachers in every school and worksite in the event job-action becomes necessary. With this in mind, at today's Special Staff Representative Assembly, we have asked Staff Union Representatives to prepare 1) an accurate, up-to-date DTA members telephone 'tree', and 2) an accurate and up-to-date list of all DTA members' non-district email address. Please verify that the information your school's Staff Rep. has is accurate, as this will assist the DTA in communicating directly with you, as necessary. Please also be advised that there will be increased email communication with teachers via the DTA Members' email list.

### The BCTF Annual General Meeting – delegates vote for Stability and Change

As happens each year, Delta delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting in Vancouver participated in the elections for our Union's table officers and Executive Committee members-at-large. The BCTF President, and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents are each elected to 1 year terms, while candidates for members-at-large vie for up to 4 2-year positions.

This year, a majority of delegates voted for stability among the full-time released leadership, returning President Jim Iker, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Glen Hansman, by acclamation. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

President, Teri Mooring, whose candidacy for re-election to a second 1 year term was the only table-officer position to be contested, was also re-elected to a 1 year term.



All of the 2 year Member-at-Large positions were contested. The meeting returned none of the incumbents, electing four newcomers to the Executive Committee, including Kelowna teacher Carole Gordon; Comox teacher Karen Langenmaier; Boundary District teacher Norm Sabourin, and Burnaby teacher James Sanyshyn.

### BCTF fee set to rise – Legal fees, cost of past & future job action cited

The BCTF Annual General Meeting also voted to set Membership fee for 2014/15 at 1.79% of a teachers' actual salary, an increase of .12% over last year, allocated as follows: 1.38% to the General

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## DTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2014

4:00 pm - Seaquam Secondary Theatre

### Executive Elections:

President  
1st Vice-President  
2nd Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Executive Secretary  
Members-at-Large (3)  
BCTF Local Representatives (1)  
Alternate Local Representative  
Professional Development Chair  
Social Justice Chair  
Public Education Advocacy Chair  
Health & Safety Chair  
Teacher on Call Rep  
Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep

### Committee Members:

Bargaining Committee  
Professional Development Committee  
Social Justice Committee  
Public Education Advocacy Committee  
Health and Safety Committee

Please contact Debbie ([debbie@deltateachers.org](mailto:debbie@deltateachers.org) or 604-946-0391) at the DTA office if you are interested in running for an executive or committee position.

Operating Fund; 0.03% to the Public Education Defense Fund; 0.25% to the Collective Bargaining Defense Fund; 0.08% to the Provincial Bargaining Fund; and 0.05% to the Contingency Fund. In the annual BCTF budget setting process, members of the Executive committee will also be seeking opportunities to cut expenditures, not only for the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year, but also within the current budget year's expenditures. Our Union's financial obligations have included advancing legal challenges to unconstitutional legislation over the past decade, have made this fee increase necessary, but the eventual success of our union will depend not only on our ability to win in the courts, but to reduce total expenditures and to effect real savings in the short, medium and longer term.

### Remember, it's a 'bargaining' year

So far, in this 'bargaining year', teachers in Delta, like their colleagues across British Columbia have had to cope not only with the daily stresses and strains of their teaching jobs, but also with all of the uncertainty that comes teaching without a contract, with the added pressures of possible job action to think about. As stressful as this may be, remember that these stresses are normal for employees working in a unionized, public sector environment. While no Delta teacher would actually prefer to go on strike, the possibility nevertheless exists, and that is why it is prudent for every teacher to take certain precautions now.

Reducing or eliminating debt and spending on non-essential items are worthwhile precautions during good times, but are even more valuable during a bargaining year, especially when government seems so unwilling to commit to a renewal of the terms and conditions of teachers' employment; for some, taking employment outside of teaching may be a good way of off-setting the uncertainties that come with the prospect of going on strike.

In this 'bargaining year' I urge every Delta teacher to offer support and encouragement to each other. Our unity in the face of difficult circumstances is one of our most valuable assets.



### "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](http://www.deltateachers.org) under Forms.

**Deadline is June 27, 2014**



**Happy Easter**

## 2014-2015 BCTF EXECUTIVE

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>President:</b>          | Jim Iker (Burns Lake)  |
| <b>1st Vice-President:</b> | Glen Hansman (VESTA)   |
| <b>2nd Vice-President:</b> | Teri Mooring (Quesnel)   |
| <b>Members at Large:</b>   | Gail Chaddock-Costello (Langley)<br>Carole Gordon (Kelowna)<br>Teresa Grandinetti (Coquitlam)<br>David Komljenovic (Kamloops)<br>Karen Langenmaier (Comox)<br>Norm Sabourin (Boundary)<br>James Sanyshyn (Burnaby)<br>Paul Steer (Delta) |

## Part-Time & Job Share Meeting

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

4:00 pm

DTA Office, 110 - 4977 Trenant Street, Ladner

### Agenda:

- \* Collective Agreement Provisions
- \* Personnel Practice
- \* Components of a Successful Job Share Partnership
- \* Time to Network

Please contact the DTA office by phone (604-946-0391) or email ([marilyn@deltateachers.org](mailto:marilyn@deltateachers.org)) to confirm your attendance.

## DAY OF PINK

by Trevor Spilchen, Social Justice Chair



Anyone know what is special about April 9th? No it's not that it's your grandma's birthday or the day you adopted your amazingly cute and adorable pet snookums (although that is pretty special). April 9th is the international day of pink. Now you may be thinking wait a second didn't we already wear pink shirts and think about bullying in February? Of course you did but did you know that this day was started as a grassroots response to the homophobic bullying of a gay high school student in Nova Scotia who wore a pink shirt to school. Two of his classmates decided to buy and pass out pink shirts to friends as a symbolic gesture and before they knew it the whole school and community was involved.

It is important to remember that this day was intended to draw attention to homophobic bullying and homophobia in general. Bullying is a problem but when it is connected to homophobia it is different and this distinction is important. We on the Social Justice Committee encourage you to talk about this day in your classes, discuss homophobia with your students, and wear pink shirts and/or rainbow ribbons to show your support. Other ideas, free posters and info kits are available by visiting [www.dayofpink.org](http://www.dayofpink.org).