



President's Column

Date: May 15, 2014

Issue: #6

By now, every DTA member will know that the escalation of job-action to Stage 2 will begin on Monday, May 26th, with teachers in all BCTF locals walking off the job for 1 full day. Teachers in Delta will be walking picket lines on Wednesday, May 28th.

In a media conference on Tuesday, May 20th, BCTF President Jim Iker announced that after 16 months at the bargaining table and several weeks of low-level Stage 1 job-action, the parties remain far apart – a long way from the fair deal necessary, one that includes a reasonable salary increase for teachers, something to address class size and composition issues, and other important learning conditions for students.

How did this come about?

After 16 months at the bargaining table, even with two affirmative judgements in the BC Supreme Court, government, through its bargaining agent, the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association, has consistently refused to offer the improvements that teachers know are so necessary, so vital to the success of our students.

Three facts

1. At the bargaining table, government still refuses to remove tabled language to reverse the BC Supreme Court ruling that restored class size, composition and staffing levels.
2. BC student funding is \$1000 less than the national average.
3. Governments bargaining proposals still include significant demands for concessions from teachers, including unfair salary proposals going forward, especially after two years' of legislated zeros.

The current situation

Finally, last week, Government moved to a 6-year term from their wildly unrealistic 10-year term proposal. And in what at first looked like a move toward the middle, government's proposal of a \$1200 salary signing 'incentive' was quickly displaced by a threat to 'roll-back' teachers' salaries, lock-out secondary school teachers, and to cause other significant disruptions during the last weeks of school.

Escalation puts pressure on everyone

Even though teachers are stepping up staged job-action, the truth is our **first** preference has always been to negotiate a fair deal at the table, one based on mutual respect for all concerned, teachers, students and their families.



The prospect of escalating job-action puts teachers under direct financial pressure, and also, in the case of teachers who are also parents, under the additional pressures of having to make different arrangements for childcare and transportation.

Being on strike is not easy. But neither is teaching through more than a decade of many, many incremental cuts to facilities, programs and staffing.

Teachers are on the right side of these issues

The time has come for teachers to assert the truth of our strong moral position, in support of the idea that it is the primary responsibility of any Just society to educate the young. For unionized teachers in negotiation with their employer for a renewal of all the terms and conditions of their Collective Agreement sometimes this means we have to act on the courage of our convictions, and put our feet on the street.

Support one another; support our union

At the DTA offices, Paul and Arabella are busy answering questions from staff reps and teachers, responding to calls from individual teachers, media, and members of the public. At the same time, we are preparing a schedule for strike-day picketing which will allow DTA members to fulfill their Stage 2 by signing up for one of three shifts at most school locations.

This schedule and other materials will be shared and discussed at Monday's Staff Representative Assembly at DSS in Ladner.

Though stressful and inconvenient, remember that staged job-action is quite necessary in the current context. Remember to support one another by referring any and all

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questions to your school's DTA Staff Rep, or directly to the DTA. And continue to rely on both the DTA and the My BCTF portal for the most recent, accurate and up-to-date information.

What's next?

If government is serious about labour peace, they will come to the table in good faith and negotiate the fair deal for teachers and better support for kids that everyone wants, needs, and deserves. In the meantime, continue to be the dedicated principled professionals that you are.

Continue to be steadfast in our devotion to our profession, our students, and our society.

In solidarity,



**2014 - 2015 DTA Executive Committee
Elected May 13, 2014**

President	Paul Steer
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Arabella Bowman
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Simon Isbister
Treasurer	Vacant
Executive Secretary	Kathleen MacFarlane
Local Reps:	
1 year	Simon Isbister
1 year	Trevor Spilchen
2 year	Susan Yao
Alternate Rep	Toby Mundy
Members at Large	Annie Coblin
	Janice Falk
	Elen Nikas
	Kim D'Souza
TTOC Rep	
Adult Ed, Itinerant and Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep	Peter Yang

Committee Chairs:

Professional Development	Fiona Higgs
Public Education Advocacy	Vacant
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Janice Falk

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." ~ Henry Adams

***DTA Retirement Reception &
New Teacher Induction Ceremony***

***Monday, June 9, 2014
4:00 - 6:00 pm***

Delta Town & Country Inn

All district employees are invited to attend this reception to honour our retiring Colleagues and welcome new teachers to the district.

A dinner for retirees and invited guests 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 printed from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org, under Forms. **Deadline is June 27, 2014**

PD Reminders

Have you attended a course, workshop, or completed a course and have not received your reimbursement?

Please make sure you submit your receipts to the DTA office **after** you have attended your workshop or conference. If you have completed a credit course you need to submit your grade and proof of payment. A cheque will be issued to you once we have received the required documents. The deadline for submitting receipts is **June 20** if you wish to receive a cheque before the school year end.

Are you planning on attending a course, conference, or workshop during the summer or the first week of September?

If you are, you need to submit your application to the DTA office by **June 13** for workshops and conferences, and by **June 27** for credit courses.

Thinking of Retiring? Planning a Leave?

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