



President's Column

Date: February 12, 2015

Issue: #3

BCTF AGM Delegates Elected

At Tuesday's DTA General Meeting fifteen delegates and two alternates were elected. Delta teachers can be confident in the group who will be representing us this year, with most but not all areas of teaching specialty represented. Among the 10 women and 5 men elected we see both elementary teachers from the intermediate and primary levels as well as secondary teachers from select subject areas, the humanities primarily. Areas of specialty represented include E.L.L., Special Education, secondary counselling, and one teacher teaching on call. Thank you to all who volunteered and allowed their names to stand for election.

BCTF AGM to set Fee

Consistent with the requirements of BCTF By-law No. 4, Fees and Levies, the Annual General Meeting is charged to debate and set the annual percentage membership fee. Last year, the fee was set at 1.79% a rise over the previous year. This year, after considerable debate at Representative Assembly, a fee recommendation of 1.79% was passed. At the AGM, it is possible that amendments to the fee-setting recommendation will be attempted. All delegates to the AGM will have the opportunity to attend and speak, and ultimately to vote on next years' fee, so if you feel strongly on the issue, please offer delegates your words of encouragement, advice and support.

BCTF Grievance Fund Allocation Settlement Cheques

In December, approximately 90% of the Grievance Fund Allocation Cheques payable to BCTF members were mailed to teachers across B.C. Since then, in what has been a very time-consuming process, anomalies, including errors in payroll information, unregistered changes to addresses, absent information, and misplaced or misdirected cheques have been tracked down and rectified, and additional cheque runs have been made and processed.

In Delta, where employer payroll information submitted to the BCTF was quite complete and accurate, there have been comparatively few problems reported by DTA members. Nevertheless, weekly reminders to 'report problems' have gone out to DTA members as well as a special notice for DTA members to report problems to the BCTF before the February 13th deadline, which has just now passed.

Grievance Fund Allocation cheques were mailed in the same envelope as the tax with-holding receipt. Many, many teachers, in their hundreds, seeing that the BCTF envelope contained what appeared to be a tax-reporting form simply placed the unopened envelope into their household 'Income Tax' folder without opening it, not realizing that there was also a cheque inside. This was just one example of one of the orders of problems reported.



Teachers coping with stress, illness and/or disability

Since the beginning of the school year the DTA has become increasingly aware that many teachers are coping with symptoms frequently associated with stress. We know that teachers cope with short, medium and long-term stress in a variety of ways. We also know that some strategies for coping with stress tend to be more effective than others. If you are a teacher, or if you are a colleague of a teacher who is coping with stress, the important thing to remember is the importance of not living and working in isolation from others. It's OK to rely on trusted colleagues, to share your concerns about such things as the difficulties of your assigned classes, and the importance of seeking support and not trying to 'tough it out' alone.

There are many, many people who are ready and willing to help. The Employee and Family Assistance Plan, The BCTF Health and Wellness Program, as well as advice from community based outside agencies and professional organizations are readily available to all DTA members. Just call the DTA and we will describe all of the options available – confidentiality assured.

**STARLING MINDS**
An online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Program
Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) is a proven treatment for depression and anxiety. Participants will learn skills to manage stress and be given practical strategies for dealing effectively with emotions, thoughts and behaviours.
<https://starlingminds.com/#start>

2015 BCTF AGM DELEGATES

Arabella Bowman	DTA
Annie Coblin	McCloskey
Janice Falk	Hellings
Jeremy Glass	Seaquam
Nicole Jarvis	TTOC
Susan Jeffery	Devon Gardens
Jessica Le Brun	Delview
Kathleen Macfarlane	NDSS
Tanis Maxfield	Sunshine Hills
Trish McCullough	McCloskey
Toby Mundy	Seaquam
Avtar Randhawa	Sands
Alison Roche	Pinewood
Viji Shanmugha	Special Programs
Greg Stafford	Richardson

Alternates:

Meriel Abrahamson	Ladner
David Bennett	Delview

Local Representatives:

Simon Isbister	NDSS
Trevor Spilchen	SDSS
Susan Yao	DSS

TEACHERS ON LEAVE

If you are currently on leave, please let the District know your intentions by emailing Rod Allnutt.

If you wish to apply for a personal leave for the 2015-2016 school year please do so by March 31, 2015.

PAID EDUCATIONAL LEAVE

Teachers interested in making application for Paid Education Leave (60%) for the 2015-2016 school year must submit an application to the Human Resources Division by **MARCH 31, 2015**. The application form will be posted on First Class.

One of the main criteria for this leave is that the candidate shall have been employed continuously by the Board for five (5) years prior to being granted Educational Leave.

Please review Article G.29 of the current Collective Agreement to ensure eligibility.

JOB SHARE INFORMATION MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2015

4:00 pm - DTA Office

#110 - 4977 Trenant Street, Ladner

Contact the DTA office if you are interested in attending.

STAFF REP/HEALTH & SAFETY REP TRAINING

Thursday, April 23, 2015

8:30 - 3:00

Delta Manor Education Centre

WORKSHOP: Joint Health and Safety Committees/ Worker Representatives. This workshop highlights the member's role on the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Call Marilyn at 604-946-0391 or email marilyn@deltateachers.org to confirm your attendance and obtain your release code.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

Pink Shirt Day

February 25, 2015

Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and over the Internet. Each year, on Pink T-Shirt Day, people are encouraged to wear something pink to symbolize that we as a society will not tolerate bullying anywhere.

International Day of Pink

April 8, 2015

International Day of Pink is a day against homophobic, transphobic, and all forms of bullying. Celebrate diversity by wearing pink and challenge stereotypes with special activities on that day.



Be Creative!

bctf.ca/DayofPink • DayofPink.org

PENSION SEMINARS

Pension BC offers free retirement seminars:

YOUR PENSION, YOUR FUTURE. This seminar is aimed towards new – and mid-career plan members. Join us as we explain your pension benefits and help you understand how decisions you make today can impact your future pension income, no matter how far into the future it may be.

THINKING ABOUT RETIRING. If you are within five years of retirement, then this seminar is for you. Thinking about retiring and starting your pension may raise many questions for you. We can help you with this period of change.

Pre-registration is required. To register online and to view available dates and locations visit the Teachers' Pension Plan website at www.tpp.pensionsbc.ca.