



## President's Column

Date: October 29, 2015

Issue: #2

### Curricular change: the potential, the pitfalls

Most every Delta teacher is likely now aware of the joint announcement by the Ministry of Education and the BCTF that a process of curricular change has begun and will be underway for the next several years. Teachers are keenly aware of the fact that curricular change is not a calendar-driven series of externally-mandated events, but is in fact a highly dynamic process requiring the active involvement of the time and energies of many, many people over a long period of time.

As teachers, we know that for any new educational initiative to be realized requires the knowledge, skills and experiences of teachers. Teachers also know that successful curricular change also requires more than positive language and good intentions; it requires time, employer-provided 'in-service' training, and resources in the form of new textbooks, resource guides, and other elements.

Through the contractually-mandated Joint Educational Change Committee, the DTA has met with the employer to discuss curricular change, and how best to make that process a successful one for everyone working and learning in Delta.

As we wait for the Ministry-release of the so-called "framework" document, meant to guide locals and districts in planning and preparation, the DTA will continue to monitor and advocate on behalf of teachers, and to work with the district in making the curricular change process as successful and worthwhile as possible.

### BCTF Pension Consultation

The BCTF Pension consultation which was held in Delta on October 14<sup>th</sup> at the Delta Manor Education Centre was very poorly attended, especially by new and early career teachers. This is unfortunate, especially knowing that for many, many BC teachers, their funded pension will potentially be the largest single asset of their entire working lives – especially among those who may not own real estate in the Lower Mainland. As such, it's particularly important that every teacher pay the closest attention possible to the decisions that we, as joint-trustees with government, make in respect of our pensions. Fortunately, there are still many Lower Mainland pension consultation meetings that Delta teachers might attend. Please refer to

the schedule of these meetings on the BCTF website and make a special effort to attend one of them in the next several weeks. Look at the schedule of remaining Pension Consultation meetings <https://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/SalaryBenefits/Pensions/ConsultationSchedule2015%20.pdf>.



### The Professional Development "Lens"

At one of the recent BCTF Zone meetings, an important distinction was made between Professional Development and In-Service training. There continues to be a lot of confusion among teachers and employer representatives, about what these two terms mean, so let's strive for clarity and definition.

The BCTF Professional Development lens is very helpful in helping everyone understand how a teachers' Professional Development differs from employer-provided in-service training and support. A good, shared understanding of the difference between the two realms of activity will be helpful, especially as we proceed along the path of systemic change.

The BCTF Professional Development lens, available <https://www.bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/ProD/PDLens-EnglishPoster.pdf>, supports teachers' pedagogy and describes a diverse, collaborative, but individually-chosen, autonomous process of teacher-learning and improvement.

In contrast, 'inservice training' primarily describes employer-mandated and provided support for teachers working on employer-mandated, curricular priorities.

Teachers are encouraged to reflect carefully on the importance and need for both professional development and in service training and support, especially as the curricular change process continues.

### DTA listening tour: table officer visits to schools at lunchtime

Paul, Arabella, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Susan Yao, have been continuously visiting Delta schools at lunchtimes in what we have come to describe as our 'DTA Listening

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Tour'. By not arriving with a pre-set Agenda of information to deliver, we have found that teachers are able to raise concerns and ask important questions about the all-important school-based issues that arise every day.

I really appreciate the willingness of teachers to vary their usual routines at lunchtime to accommodate a visit from their union, and I know I'm not alone in the belief that these visits help us to represent teachers more effectively. Remember that no issue is too small to raise with your local union and that if you need us to visit your school or work-site sooner rather than later, your DTA is only a phone call away.

### Canada's Federal Election

Throughout the extraordinarily long Federal Election campaign which concluded on October 19, teachers representing the full Canadian political spectrum voted, and in doing so supported Canadian Democracy in the most basic and fundamental way possible.

Now that the result are in, the votes counted and the outcome known, the particular responsibility of teachers will be to help their students understand – in an age and developmentally appropriate way -- the Canadian political process and to help them to someday participate by voting -- as well educated citizens -- in our precious Canadian democracy.

It's a huge responsibility and one which all teachers share – irrespective of what grade or subject area we teach. Please take the time to acknowledge the efforts of colleagues who you have seen to be effective in their teaching around the Federal election, an event which doesn't happen every year.




### Dates to Remember November/December 2015

- **November 17** - DTA Executive Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, DTA Office
- **November 30** - Staff Rep Meeting, 4:00 pm, Seaquam Library
- **December 8** - PD Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, DTA Office
- **December 15** - DTA Executive Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, DTA Office



### DTA Scholarship Winners

<b>Burnsview</b>	Monica Szakun
<b>Delta</b>	Taylor Brown
<b>Delview</b>	Simi Dhaliwal
<b>North Delta</b>	Kamalpreet Puaar
<b>Sands</b>	Ritu Jassal
<b>Seaquam</b>	Sean Allen
<b>South Delta</b>	Thea Wessler

### "Tad" Boyes Scholarship

Congratulations to Emily Willcox, 2015 recipient of the \$800.00 "Tad" Boyes Scholarship. Emily is the daughter of Janice Willcox (Devon Gardens Elementary). Emily's career goal is to become a teacher or a psychologist.



### BCTF Conference for New Teachers, New TTOCs and Student Teachers

**February 26 – 27, 2016**

Radisson Hotel, 8181 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC V6X 3X9

**Workshops  
Networking  
Resources fair**

For information: [bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2016](http://bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2016)



**Registration opens mid-January 2016**

For more information contact:

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