

# Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



# TODAY

## President's Column

Date: April 7, 2016

Issue: #5

### Registration opens for April 18<sup>th</sup> Professional In-service Day

On Tuesday this week, links to Session Descriptions and Registration were posted on the DTA website under the pull-down menu-tab, April 18 NID.

Mandated by the Ministry of Education back in September, the April 18<sup>th</sup> Professional Inservice Day is devoted to the topic of Curriculum Change in BC. On Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, teachers from across Delta will be involved in discussions and activities with their colleagues in many, many work-a-like sessions being presented by District Staff as well as presenters from the BCTF and the Sierra Club.

On behalf of the DTA, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the many, many teachers who, over the past six months, have so graciously volunteered their time to plan, organize, schedule, arrange, and implement these two Professional In-service Days that the Ministry of Education has provided. I sincerely hope that every DTA member will take every opportunity to register and participate in these sessions to the fullest extent, and will contribute the best of their knowledge, experience and intellect to the benefit of their colleagues, their students, and the people of Delta.

### DTA Table Officers Meet at Tsawwassen First Nation

The DTA Full-time Table Officers travelled to Tsawwassen First Nation to Meet with TFN Education and Administrative Staff this past Wednesday, the first of at least three meetings which we are hoping to have with representatives of the three Salish Nations, Musqueam, Sto-lo, and Tsawwassen. Our hope is that these meetings will the DTA, on behalf of teachers, identify areas of mutual concern, and will enrich our collective ability to better meet the learning needs of all our students. A full report on our meeting will be given to the next DTA Staff Rep. Assembly.

### Lunch time listening tour meetings continue

Through the Winter term, Arabella and I have continued to visit schools, for informal lunchtime visits with teachers, who have



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## DTA Annual General Meeting Tuesday, May 10, 2016 4:00 pm - Seaquam Secondary Library

### ELECTIONS

#### Executive Committee

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  
Aboriginal Education Chair  
Health & Safety Chair  
Teacher on Call Rep  
Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep

#### Committee Members

Bargaining Committee  
Professional Development Committee  
Public Education Advocacy Committee  
Aboriginal Education Committee  
Social Justice 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.

*Daycare available upon Request*

graciously consented to vary their usual lunch-time routines to include a Union meeting. As of last week, we are able to report that we've now been able to deliver a pretty comprehensive report to secondary teachers about our efforts to work through to an eventual resolution of the challenging Collaboration Time Grievance. Collaboration time has been of benefit to teachers: affording increased time for face to face meetings among teachers at schools during certain workdays, but not without additional cost – in the form of extra workload and loss of access to contractually guaranteed Professional Development.

### Be careful when opening cans of worms!

It's a strength of our union that our membership is comprised of intelligent and actively engaged teachers who devote a lot of time and mental energies to ways in which enhancing the overall learning and professional experience of the school workplace. Rarely a day goes by where teachers don't talk about ways to make the overall experience of school better for everyone. As Union members, employees covered under the provisions of a Collective Agreement, it's extremely important that our enthusiasm for new and prospectively better ways of doing things be carefully discussed and considered beforehand, so that bargaining unit members suffer no loss of contractual rights or benefits as a result. Before implementing any change to policies and procedures at the school or worksite, always, *always* involve the DTA at the earliest possible opportunity. This is the best way to make sure that good ideas, new initiatives and enhancements to our workplaces do not come at an unanticipated cost to the contractual rights and benefits teachers already have. The best solution to any 'problem' is to prevent it from arising in the first place.



### Notice of Constitutional Change

The following change to the Delta Teachers' Association's Constitution was passed at the Staff Rep Meeting on February 29, 2016:

#### 12:04 Appeal Process

**Step 2:** If dissatisfied with the committee ruling, the colleague is entitled to a final and binding ruling by a special panel composed of *the DTA President, plus two members of the Executive Committee who have not heard the original appeal, such appeal to be made within 30 days of the step one denial letter.*

### 2016-2017 BCTF Executive Committee

**President:** Glen Hansman (VESTA)  
**1st Vice-President:** Teri Mooring (Quesnel)  
**2nd Vice-President:** Clint Johnston (Chilliwack)  
Jim Iker (Past President)

**Members at Large:** Mike Ball (Nanaimo)  
Rae Figursky (Burnaby)  
Carole Gordon (Central Okanagan)  
Norm Sabourin (Boundary)  
James Sanyshyn (Buraby)  
Robin Toszczak (Victoria)  
Kip Wood (Nanaimo)

### "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 30, 2016**

### Thinking of Retiring?



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

### Remembering our Colleagues

The DTA extends our deepest sympathies to the family, friends, and colleagues of retired members who recently passed away:

- Darlene Buchanan— February 2016
- Beverly Lees—February 2016

*"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."*

~ Nelson Mandela ~