



President's Column

Date: October 27, 2016

Issue: #2

You're telling us and we're listening

We're now into the third week of our Fall round of 'listening tour' visits to Delta schools and worksites. From our perspective, these informal lunch time visits have been really useful. They have given the full-time table officers a better sense of current areas of concern, the issues that teachers are talking about.

Here are some of the themes that teachers have identified so far this year. It's amazing how many of these concerns are shared among teachers at elementary and secondary schools. We're finding out that what may be an issue for teachers at one school is often an issue at other schools as well. Are any of these issues being talked about at your school/worksites?

1. Prep time coverage of colleagues classes when lack of TTOCs

There should be an agreed upon protocol for how teachers asked to provide coverage for an absent colleague during the teachers' scheduled preparation time. Teachers providing coverage should be compensated either with compensatory prep-time, or failing that, time off in-lieu, or additional salary. In addition, an equitable distribution of coverage-requests should be in place, so that the same teachers are not asked to provide coverage time after time.

2. Staff & student access to safe drinking water

With residual lead being discovered in some of the water lines in some Delta schools, teachers' have legitimate questions arising from these situations, especially in circumstances where student drinking fountains have been sealed-off, but the sinks in the staff-room have not been. Teachers' questions should include requesting the history and schedule of lead testing in the school, and that these results be shared with teachers. Similarly, questions about lead-mitigation need to be asked. What exactly is being done to address the problem of lead, which is a neuro-toxin, in the water that students and staff drink on a daily basis. In cases where water filtration is being considered or implemented, teachers should ask questions relating to the schedule of installation and maintenance of these filters into the future. This information should be made available, but we must ask for it.

3. Access to start up time/prep for K teachers versus K/1 teachers

In September, teachers of Kindergarten classes are able to do additional planning and preparation during the period of the graduated-entry period during the first week or so of school, but teachers of K/1 classes are deprived of this additional support. Are you a K/1 teacher who is still struggling to catch up? Make sure you contact the DTA to let us know what your situation is.



4. Summer school: quality of instruction with limited hours, lack of administrative presence and support, and other concerns

While the Provincial Collective Agreement applies to teachers who work in Summer School, there are, increasingly, professional and employment concerns being expressed by teachers. Some of these have to do with the amount of time made available for instruction and a perceived lessening of curricular quality and rigour; others have to do with concerns about the absence of student support services, sick leave, and other basic provisions. If you've worked in Summer School and had concerns, don't let them go. Make sure you call us. Let the union know so that we can continue to work for necessary improvements, remedies and solutions on your behalf.

Remember. When, in the course of your teaching work you run into an issue, encounter a problem, or become aware of a concern that interferes with your ability to do your best work, ask for help. Contact the DTA without delay. There is advice and support for you.

As our Fall schedule of visits to schools continue, busy as we know you are, please make sure you try to attend the lunch time meeting to ensure that you have let your local union know of what issues rank first on your list of priorities.

Here is a further list of issues that teachers have mentioned so far:

- Changes to aboriginal education itinerant worker staffing and assignments
- Expansion of PTI meetings and meet the teacher nights, with other "events" (e.g. BBQs, etc.)

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- Communication with teachers, parents, admin with regard to school events, etc.
- Staff meetings (once/month or once/week)
- LSTs providing coverage due to TTOC shortage
- Pigeon-holing of teachers/qualifications issues
- Bereavement leaves and changes (lack of awareness of CA)
- Setting up/use of Staff Advisory Committees
- TTOC shortages!
- Use of sick days for medical/dental

As the DTA Fall schedule of listening visits to schools continues, make every reasonable attempt to attend when Paul and Susan stop by. And if you are unable to make it to the meeting, just send an email, call, or contact us directly. It could very well be that the issue you raise is one of importance to colleagues in other schools as well. We do not work in isolation!



DTA Scholarship Recipients

Burnsview	Rachel Kennedy
Delta	Taya Bremner
Delview	Rahnuma Sara
North Delta	Julia Sandie
Sands	Andrea Tabo
Seaquam	Cassandra Clarke
South Delta	Emmeline Dykstra

“Tad” Boyes Scholarship

Congratulations to Ryan Chan, 2016 recipient of the \$800.00 “Tad” Boyes Scholarship. Ryan is the son of Jacqueline Yip (Pebble Hill Elementary). Ryan’s career goal is to become a clinician-scientist.

Factor 90 or 65 years of age? Don’t wait

You can save the long-term fee (approximately 1.2%) from the date you reach age 64 or “Factor 88.” Members are no longer entitled to long-term benefits under the Salary Indemnity Plan once they hit “Factor 90” (age plus cumulative service) or age 65. The BCTF does not have access to your personal pension information, so it is up to you to apply to withdraw from LTD.

How and when to apply

A member who has attained age 64, or has reached “Factor 88,” or is in receipt of a retirement pension under a registered pension plan, may voluntarily withdraw from the long-term portion of the Salary Indemnity Plan. In making application for withdrawal, you should ensure that in the event of serious illness or accident you have sufficient accumulated sick leave, which, when combined with 120 days of benefit from SIP short-term, will protect your salary to the end of the month in which you reach “Factor 90” or the end of the month you attain age 65, whichever comes first.

To get an application, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/7qrrnxx> or call the BCTF Income Security Division at 604-871-1921.



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

February 24–25, 2017

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

**Workshops
Networking
Resources fair**

For information: bctf.ca/NewTeachersConference2017

Registration opens mid-January 2017

For more information contact: Cecilia Huard de la Marre
604-871-1869 or 1-800-663-9163 Local 1869
or via email at chuarddelamarre@bctf.ca



DTA Calendar November/December 2016

- **November 3** - Maternity Leave Workshop, 4:00 pm, DTA
- **November 9** - BC Pension Workshop, 4:00 pm, DMEC
- **November 15** - DTA Executive Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm, DTA Office

