



## President's Column

Date: April 6, 2017

Issue: #5

As British Columbia Provincial Election approaches, there have been four broad areas of social concern that most teachers would recognize. The lack of **affordable housing** for families is placing more and more people under increasing economic and social pressure. **Economic and tax inequality** is creating prosperity and wealth for those at the highest income levels, but increased challenges for working families who struggle daily to earn enough just to get by. The absence of a coordinated, provincial **public transportation** system has meant that more and more private vehicles compete with increasing volumes of commercial traffic on our maxed-out roads and bridges. As well, demographic pressures, as post-war baby-boomers advance into older-age makes timely access to excellent **healthcare** for all citizens at every age and stage of life an ongoing concern. Significantly, the issue of providing a fully funded public education system is currently *not* at the top of the popular Agenda, which obviously is of great concern to us.

Teachers know that decent housing, good jobs, reliable transportation and effective healthcare are basic needs that tend to take precedence for many people right now. We also know that public education is an essential part of every social improvement plan.

What then should be the role of teachers in the days leading up to the Provincial Election on May 9<sup>th</sup>? Here are a number of suggestions:

1. **Defend.** We are committed to the institution of Public Education. Stand up and stand out, not only at work, but also in public, in conversation, in letters to the editor, in public meetings and events, and do this consistently from now on. When we express our beliefs with intelligence and insight, we create a safe-zone of solidarity – common ground which makes it easier for others to support us, and for us to support them Teachers as volunteers are prized highly by candidates from all parties.
2. **Listen.** Never before in the mighty arc of political discourse has so little been said by so few to so many. Listen carefully to what others say, especially neighbours, co-workers and friends, even if your first

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**DTA Annual General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 16, 2017**  
**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 (2 for 2 years)  
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  
Teacher on Call Advisory 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*

response is to disagree with them. Try hard to find areas of common ground. Build trust on bedrock of shared understanding. At the same time, be especially sensitive to the presence and use of jargon: empty buzzwords, tossed-off slogans, and *ad hominem* attacks.

3. **Ask.** Direct questions are catalysts for thought and they are always in short supply. Time spent informing yourself through reading, thinking and reflecting is time well spent. Spend quality time with yourself. At election time, too, many questions fail to challenge the status quo or stimulate discussion. Do we not think of ourselves as experts at this?
4. **Act.** Get outside and participate in the political process. Turn off the TV. Get up and go to a meeting, accept an invitation or issue an invitation yourself. Nothing ever got better by people sitting on their assets. Take friends with you to a meeting, a march or a political assembly and participate vigorously to our democratic traditions, remembering always that whatever it is will be better with you than without you. Work on behalf of the candidate of your choice. When it comes to the nuts and bolts of political work during an election, teachers are prized by all candidates because they exemplify all of the best attributes of volunteers. Whatever the party, candidates with teachers walking through walls for them are candidates headed for election. The opposite is also true.
5. **Vote.** Teachers are busy people, so visit the Elections BC website now. Register to vote, update your registration information, find out the exact locations of advance and e-day polls. Voting in the advance poll on a weekend makes a lot of sense for teachers, most of who will be in the classroom on Election Day.

### The Metro Vancouver Alliance Provincial Accountability Assembly

On Tuesday, the 40 Delta teachers who registered to attend the Metro Vancouver Alliance Provincial Election Accountability Assembly traveled by car, bus, and train on a dark and stormy Tuesday night to hear provincial party leaders respond to our requests for support of our efforts on Economic Justice, Affordable Housing, Accessible Transit and Healthcare at the Provincial level. This was an excellent example of 'corporeal politics' at its very best.

Thank you to everyone whose presence and participation made all of the difference!



## 2017-2018 BCTF Executive Committee

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

### Members at Large:

- Rory Brown (VSTA)
- Rae Figursky (Burnaby)
- Carole Gordon (Central Okanagan)
- Shawn Gough (Vancouver Island North)
- Carolyn Pena (North Vancouver)
- Jody Polukoshko (VESTA)
- Robin Tosczak (Victoria)
- Kip Wood (Nanaimo)



## "Tad" Boyes Scholarship



Class of  
2017

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$900.00 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, 2017**

## 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.



## DTA Calendar of Events April/May 2017

- **April 19** - Pension Workshop, 4:00 - 6:00, DMEC
- **April 24** - Staff Rep Meeting, 4:00, DSS Library
- **May 9** - **PROVINCIAL ELECTION**
- **May 16** - **DTA Annual General Meeting**
- **May 29** - Staff Rep Meeting, 4:00, DSS Library