



Happy Holidays from all of us at the DTA!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Alison Kerr

President's Message - Alison Kerr

The struggle is real. You have made it to Winter Break and each and every one of you deserves to find some peace and relaxation over the next two weeks. As I've noted before, teachers are much like students the week before the break. Small irritants become big deals, an ongoing unresolved issue will come to a head, and teachers make minor and major mistakes as the pressure mounts. While you're off this season, think about what you might need to get yourself to Spring Break. This may involve reaching out for support from the various services offered to you by the Union and the District. This could involve Telus Health supports that could get you free short-term counselling, free organizational advice, free advice from a lawyer etc. You could also think about the BCTF Health and Wellness programme. Perhaps you need some ergonomic equipment in your classroom, or some mental health support suggestions paid for by your extended health benefits. A consultant from Health and Wellness can even attend doctor appointments with you and help you with a return-to-work plan. Here are the links to these two services:

Telus Health: [TH-EAP-Poster-SharedLogin-US_CAN-V2-2023.07.26-scaled.jpg \(1982×2560\)](#)

BCTF Health and Wellness referral: [Health and Wellness Program](#)

I've been at two meetings now where I've realized that the DTA often has more information on a topic or major event than the District, just by the nature of the way the District is compartmental and hierarchical. And a lot more people work as employers. As the two and a half released officers of the Delta Teachers' Association, we don't specialize. We have to know a little bit about everything that goes on in the district, and we are lucky enough that when we need to ask more questions in an area, the District is responsive to those inquiries. We also have the voices of teachers on the ground, who are necessary in order for us to know the reality of the situations that are ongoing. Staff reps are the key people who pass us information in order to make us aware of issues and provide feedback to our work. If we don't hear from reps, we don't have an accurate picture of the ground floor. We also know that reps tend to reach out when there's a problem, so if you don't, we assume everything is fine. If it's not fine, reach out! And don't assume your admin knows the answers to your questions, particularly around HR concerns. You should always call us for accurate information.

School visits have been completed, and the feedback received centered around reporting and workload issues in Secondary, and a lack of supports for students, particularly in Elementary. Shortages are better this year so far, and this is mainly due to the fact that HR decided to hire twice the number of District on Call Teachers, with 27 ready to be deployed at all times to sites, and 17 currently having been placed into temporary positions. We have requested a meeting after the break to review the reporting issues with the district. Contrary to some quotes by admin, the DTA is not preventing teachers from using MyEd for informal reporting. All we ever asked for was for PTIs to count, and flexibility for teachers to follow up with the parents who missed the PTIs. Unfortunately, the lack of supports for students has no easy solution. We continue to urge sites to file D.2 requests for supports from the District,

and document conversations with admin as to why such requests aren't being fulfilled. Let us know when you don't get what you ask for.

I hope you have a great holiday season and are surrounded by family, friends or solitude if that's what you're craving. Take care of yourselves!

Elementary Teachers with a Combination LST/ITT/ELL Job

If this applies to you, please be clear as to how much FTE each portion of your job has. Your administrator has this information. We are currently negotiating a settlement around our grievance on failure to fill, and part of that will require the district to track how often it happens. We are seeing that ITT is often taking precedence over scheduled LST or ELL blocks due to behaviours. This means students aren't receiving service when they should, and the district will start tracking that. ITT doesn't require a formal schedule, but the other groups do. No schedule means it won't be recorded.

Casting Call for BCTF Ads

[Read More](#)



DTA General Meeting - Tuesday, Jan 28, 2025

[Find out more information here!](#)



Delta Teachers' ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025
4:00PM - SEAQUAM SECONDARY IN THE LIBRARY

PRIZE DRAWS!

Agenda Items

- Election of BCTF AGM Candidates
- Local Bargaining Update
- Prize draws of 6 x \$25 gift cards
- Grand Prize draw of one \$200 gift card

SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS!

IMPORTANT
We cannot accept BCTF AGM candidates after this meeting. Please put your name forward prior to the 4th or run from the floor.

TELL US IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND USING THIS QR CODE OR USE THE LINK IN THE EMAIL.



WANT TO PUT YOUR NAME FORWARD AS A BCTF AGM CANDIDATE? EMAIL JANE.

For More Information Email: jane@delateteachers.org

Stocking Stuffers!!

Delta teachers, let's come together for a fun-filled hockey night at the Abbotsford Canucks' Teacher Appreciation Night on Saturday, January 11, 2025!

[Read More](#)



Casting Call for BCTF Ads

As part of our ongoing advertising campaign in support of the upcoming round of bargaining, the BCTF will be filming a new series of teacher testimonials in February. We're looking for our new stars from within the membership! We need folks who will be available February 7–9, 2025. Any necessary release time, travel, per diem, and accommodation costs will be covered by the Federation.

The testimonials involve individual members being interviewed on set in a school with a professional production company. Each interview is about 45 minutes long and the content will be used to make ads of different lengths for TV and digital media. Each teacher also films “B-roll” with actors that show them interacting with students. The topics and questions will be workshopped with our bargaining team early next year to help connect our teachers' stories to our objectives.

Here are our testimonials from the previous series for you to see what they will look like:

- [Keane](#)
- [Marilyn and Tammy](#)
- [Lena](#)
- [Jessica](#)
- [Sam](#)

We will be casting five members for these ads and looking to represent the diversity of our membership in terms of job (classroom and specialist teachers), geography, equity-seeking identities, and experience with the profession.

For those responding to the casting call, please send an email to BCTF Director of Communications, Rich Overgaard at rovergaard@bctf.ca. Please use the subject “BCTF Casting Call” with a brief description of yourself, your work, and why you want to be involved in these ads.

DTA General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Location: Delta Secondary Library



Delta Teachers'
ASSOCIATION

Agenda:

Election of BCTF AGM Delegates for the BCTF Annual General Meeting, March 15–18, 2025

Why Attend the BCTF AGM?

- Learn about your union and its governance.
- Discuss and debate issues that matter to you and your colleagues.
- Hear from guest speakers on education and labour topics locally and globally.
- Elect members to the Executive Committee.
- Network with teachers from across the province!

Interested in Running for a Delegate Position?

If you would like to stand for election as a delegate, please email **Jane** at jane@deltateachers.org.

Preparatory Meetings for Elected Delegates:

- **Thursday, February 13, 2025** | 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- **Thursday, February 27, 2025** | 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Delegates are encouraged to attend both preparatory meetings.

Notice of Motion to DTA General Meeting

At the DTA General Meeting in January, there will be a motion to amend the DTA Constitution. According to Article 7 of our Constitution and By-laws:

7.01 The Association may, in a general meeting, amend the articles of the Constitution and the By-laws provided that notification has been published on two previous occasions at least twenty-eight days apart. Such amendment shall be passed by a three-quarters majority.

Therefore, this is the first publishing of the following resolution:

That an elected position be created on the DTA Executive specifically to represent Adult Educators.

This resolution will be debated at the General Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at Delta Secondary School at 4:00 pm.

Please mark the date in your calendar now so you can attend the meeting and join in the debate.

[Continue reading for more engaging and informative articles](#)

BCTF Women's Institute

Please join us in congratulating **Pam Bahia** of **Seaquam Secondary** for being chosen by the BCTF as one of the additional delegates to attend the BCTF Women's Institute. We look forward to hearing about Pam's experiences at the conference.

BCTF New Teachers'

Conference: Registration is open!

Early bird pricing is available until December 31, 2024. Space is limited.

[Read More →](#)

BCRTA - Online Retirement Planning Workshops

Teachers aged 50+: Attend a free BCRTA Pre-Retirement Workshop (via Zoom) to plan your retirement, including TPP, CPP, OAS, and group benefits

[Register Here →](#)

Secondary Assessment Practices Committee Member - Second Call Out

The District is looking for five (5) more secondary teachers to join the Secondary Assessment Practices Committee to support effective assessment practices and enhance student learning.

[Read More →](#)

Calendar of Events - January 2025

Jan 13 - Social Justice Mtg - Virtual
Jan 14 - Executive Committee Mtg - Virtual
Jan 16 - Staff Rep Training - DMEC
Jan 20 - Staff Rep Assembly - SDSS

Jan 22 - PD Committee Mtg - DTA
Jan 24 - Non-Instructional Day
Jan 28 - DTA General Meeting - DSS
Jan 31 - Feb 1 - BCTF Winter Rep Assembly



Delta Teachers'
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