

# DTA Monthly Update

SEPTEMBER 2026



**Delta Teachers'**  
ASSOCIATION

## Presidents' Message – Alison Kerr

I was hoping to write that start up was a little quieter than usual, but that blew up this week when several sites had to either declare, or threaten to declare, Unsafe Work using WorkSafe policy. This mainly affected our CUPE colleagues, but that can leave teachers taking on the hazardous situation, and so they too need representation. Surprisingly, it was mostly programs and specialized classes talking about extreme EA shortages. Safety plans for students requiring 1-1 were not being adhered to. Both Daun Frederickson and I are working closely together on this and have talked to many levels of employers about the shortages, including Inclusive Learning, Superintendents, and the Secretary Treasurer. Increased funding needs to go to Inclusive Learning so that needs can be met. WorkSafe coming in is costly to the District.

Unfortunately, a lack of leadership and planning before school start up is causing a lot of the problems. This brings in the age-old issue of not enough time for staff to get ahead of things, particularly in elementary. We have asked the employer to consider students arriving in the afternoon instead of the morning on the first day. This allows staff to have paid time to review and plan. So far, the employer is not interested in this. How do you protect yourself? By contacting us. Sometimes constant communication is needed to get the situation resolved while it's ongoing, especially when safety is at risk.

If you need to declare unsafe work, please contact us as soon as possible before you do it. Here is the process, found on our website:

<https://deltateachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Refusal-of-unsafe-work.pdf>

If you're more visual, here's the flowchart:

<https://deltateachers.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Refusal-of-unsafe-work-flowchart.pdf>

### In this update you can expect:

President's Message

Trustee Elections

ERIP Grievance Settled

Truth and Reconciliation Day

Scholarship Winners

Calendar of Events

In Memorium

**NATIONAL DAY FOR  
TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION**



September 30

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## Trustee Elections! Lock in Everyone



October draws near, and political distractions and chaos have ensued. Personal attacks between mayor hopefuls, loudspeakers disrupting learning and even a provincial election called. We need to stay FOCUSED. DTA members remain strong and LOCKED IN on school board elections on OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup>. What will matter most is getting all our members to the polls! Our members at the polls matters!

There are forces in the province that would like to turn our school board elections into an arena to gain an audience for hateful rhetoric making our students and colleagues feel unsafe. Meanwhile other issues that need to be addressed in our schools do not get surfaced for the public to understand. The historically low voter turnout makes school boards an easy target, so let's show up in full force and have every teacher in this province voting on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **How will I know who to vote for?**

1. Talk to a staff rep or EC member who attended the coffee house chat with candidates. Staff reps and EC members along with DPAC and CUPE 1091 members were able to engage candidates in conversations about issues facing school sites. Those in attendance were able to get a sense of which candidates understood or were willing to learn the practical issues facing school sites right now, all while demonstrating a commitment to upholding the human rights code.
  2. Attend one of the forums either at DSS or NDSS. You can write a question down to be handed to the moderator to be posed to candidates and then hear their response on the spot. "See it to believe it" and collect the "quoteable moments" of the night.
  3. The DTA will let you know who the endorsed candidates are in Delta. Once you know the endorsed school board candidates you are free to share that information almost any way you like in your person-to-person communication. You could copy and paste, post on your personal social media or even go analog by writing on a sticky note and handing it off to a neighbour.
  4. The BCTF has created this password protected website [www.bctf.ca/school-board-elections](http://www.bctf.ca/school-board-elections) once you are logged in to your BCTF account it will take you to a page where you can see the endorsed candidates by area (example: if you live in Richmond you can see who the local there endorses and who the labour council endorses).
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# DELTA SCHOOL TRUSTEE **ALL CANDIDATES FORUM**



**Monday,  
September 28**



**7:00 – 9:00 pm**



**North Delta Secondary  
School Theatre**  
11447 - 82 Avenue,  
North Delta



**Thursday,  
October 1**



**7:00 – 9:00 pm**



**Genesis Theatre**  
(Delta Secondary School)  
5005 - 45th Avenue,  
Ladner

 Remember, elections take place  
**≡ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 ≡**

**MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!**

Join us at one of these important meetings. Come out and hear what the candidates have to say about the issues in public education in the Delta School District

*Co-sponsored by CUPE Local 1091, Delta DPAC and the Delta Teachers' Association*



**Delta Teachers'**  
ASSOCIATION



**CUPE** | Canadian Union  
of Public Employees  
Local 1091 - Supporting Delta Schools

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## ERIP Grievance Settled!

As the saying goes, a successful mediated settlement means both parties walk away slightly unhappy. We have been keeping members apprised of this grievance that was first filed May 2024. It went all the way to arbitration, which took place at the start of the school year. During that arbitration, we switched over to mediation (which failed originally) and finally reached a deal. Both sides had a lot to lose. Let's be clear that H.1 Early Retirement Incentive Plan has been significantly altered in the sense of how much money members can receive. But to get this up and functional, when it has been dead for over 25 years, is definitely a win for the DTA. It also creates budget certainty for the District moving forward.

The pot of money to be accessed has been reduced but is tied to salary increases at a step and category. The ratio will remain with limits to the overall amounts. It's going to depend on how many people retire in a year. Because the district had not budgeted for this, we have agreed it will start in the 2027/28 school year. If you retire at the end of this year, ERIP is not in effect.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of Kathy Macfarlane, First Vice-President. It was her decision to move on this and successfully bring it forward. She spent hours researching bargaining notes and digging through policy from the 80's and 90's. Congratulations to her for bringing this article back to life.

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## Truth and Reconciliation Day *Trevana Spilchen, DTA Aboriginal Education Chair*

Hey folx, my name is Trevana Spilchen (they/them) and I'm the new Aboriginal Education chair for the DTA. I'm very excited to take on this important role. I will do my best as a settler to honour the position, and to work hard to provide support, as best I can, for our members. On this note, I thought I'd provide some thoughts on the upcoming TRC day next Wednesday. Also, I would like to provide some resources to help you honour the day with your students, and ideas for you to honour it with your family on this day of reflection.

It is crucial to remember that there are many ways to honour the day, and every person and family has a unique connection to it. Personally, as a spouse of an Indigenous person who has faced extreme generational trauma, our way of marking the day is to avoid any of the ceremonies and do something fun instead. I say this to remind you that for the many students of Indigenous ancestry you may teach, we need to be mindful of varying connections to the day. Having said this, I feel it is important to take time on this day to reflect on our connection to, and position in moving truth and reconciliation forward.

However, you end up marking the day, both personally and with your students, I hope it is a meaningful and restorative time for you.

### Here are some resources to consider for the classroom:

1. The BCTF has an extensive collection of Aboriginal Education resources available at this link: <https://www.bctf.ca/topics/services-information/aboriginal-education>.

### Two that I will highlight are:

- Project of Heart, which has lessons for grade 4-12 classes
  - The National Film Board section, which has some amazing films that are great for various grade levels and specific topics
2. The National Centre for Truth & Reconciliation Free Education Programming offers a free, virtual education portal with curriculum for students in Grades 1-12 to unlearn the myths of colonial history in Canada. You can find resources here: Truth and Reconciliation Week – Taking Truth to Action.

### Here are some local ceremonies you may consider attending to mark and honour the day:

1. Tsawwassen First Nation community walk for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On September 30 at 9:30am, join Tsawwassen First Nation for a Community Walk to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. All are welcome. The location is the TFN recreation centre folx are encouraged to wear orange as a visible expression of support, remembrance and commitment to reconciliation.
2. See this article featuring other events in various locations in the Lower Mainland: <https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/truth-reconciliation-day-events-metro-vancouver-2026>.

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### DTA Scholarship Winners

This scholarship is for teachers in Delta who have children graduating from any public school in the Lower Mainland. It is an academic scholarship based on the average of all grade 12 courses. In an amazing turn of events, there is a tie between two students with a 97.44 average. After some discussion, we decided to find the money and honour both families with the \$1,200.00 scholarship. Congratulations to **Arianna Varga & Kai Vuorela!**

### Secondary School Scholarship (June 2026)

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| EMILY MACDONALD       | BURNSVIEW |
| KYLIE FRANTA          | DSS       |
| MADELYN HODGINS       | DELVIEW   |
| URVI GHAI (SHE/HER)   | NDSS      |
| AUBREY SALLINEN       | SANDS     |
| MADELEINE KALF        | SEAQUAM   |
| RYAN ASSALY (SHE/HER) | SDSS      |

## SEPTEMBER

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## OCTOBER

Sept 28 – All-Candidates Forum – ND Secondary Theatre  
Sept 29 – Staff Rep Assembly – Delta Secondary Library  
Sept 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation  
Oct 1 – All-Candidates Forum – Genesis Theatre  
Oct 8 – Training for New Staff Reps – DMEC  
Oct 12 – Thanksgiving Day  
Oct 13 – Executive Committee Mtg – DTA  
Oct 16 – PD Contact Training – DMEC  
Oct 17 – Municipal Election – Voting Day

Oct 20 – PD Committee Mtg – DTA  
Oct 21 – FFWL Committee Mtg – DTA  
Oct 23 – Non Instructional Day  
Oct 24 – Provincial Election  
Oct 26 – Staff Rep Assembly – Seaquam  
Oct 27 – District Triad Training

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**In Memorium**  
John Anderson