



February 26, 2004

Issue 10

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

This week, the DTA, along with five other teacher groups, made presentations to the Delta School Board in the public consultation segment of the 2004 – 2005 budget setting process. Last year at this time, the Board was anticipating a shortfall of \$1.446 million. This year, the Board has not released any budgetary predictions. With a surplus of \$2.2 million and the \$85 million earmarked for education in last weeks provincial budget, the DTA is hopeful the Board will not need to make any cuts in next years budget.

During the presentation, the DTA reiterated the need for reasonable class size and composition as essential components of student success. Among other issues highlighted were the importance of non-enrolling teachers, support for north end schools undergoing reconfiguration to grades 8 – 12 and continued DTA opposition to mandatory professional development in the summer.

The DTA encouraged the Board to release a needs budget that accurately reflects what Delta school district requires to support Delta students. We stated that if school boards continue to comply with government directives on balanced budgets without revealing the true needs of their districts, the public and parents will believe that funding for public education is adequate. As teachers, we know this is not true.

The DTA budget presentation as well as the other DTA LSA presentations can be found on the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org.



AGM DELEGATES

Listed below are Delta's BCTF AGM delegates, Local Reps and alternates.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| David Bennett | Delview |
| Leon Cooper | Hellings |
| Joanne Crandall | Sands |
| Sukhy Dhillon | Gibson |
| Jan Eastman | DTA/ND |
| Gurpreet Gill | TOC |
| Linda Hoepfner | Chalmers |
| Brenda Khoo | DSS |
| Paul LeRoy | ND |
| Dewey Lucas | Delview |
| Jeanie Lucas | Ed Leave |
| Jacque Schierer | Hellings |
| Paul Steer | ND |
| Bill Tereposky | SDSS |
| Pat Thiesen | Cliff Drive |
| Pat Truelove | Sands |
| Colin Vint | ND |
| Val Windsor | DTA |
| Alternates: | |
| Sylvia Bishop | Beach Grove |
| Lynda Coplin | Jarvis |

The DTA General Meeting unanimously endorsed Jan Eastman in her candidacy for BCTF President and Val Windsor in her candidacy for BCTF Member at Large.

Delegates Meeting Date:

Wednesday, March 3rd at the DTA Office 1-5:30 p.m.

Delta teachers are invited to drop by the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver March 13-16th to join the DTA delegates at Table 18 to see how the Annual General Meeting of the BCTF works. As a BCTF member, you have a right to speak at the AGM but the elected delegates will do the voting. See BCTF Teacher Magazine for times.

"HELLO HEALTH"

As you work, do you think about ear safety? Wear hearing protection if you work in a shop, loud gym, or music room, and take the audiometric test that Delta school district offers each spring. If you believe that you are at risk for hearing loss due to your work situation, please speak with your principal so Laurie Stowe (Health & Safety, SBO support staff) can schedule a test for you. If you have a T. A. working with you in the loud environment, please also remind them to speak with the principal. Tests will be scheduled for early April.

Happy Hearing!
*Jeanie Lucas, 2nd VP &
OH&S chair*
jlucas@deltasd.bc.ca

JOB SHARE MEETING

Teachers interested in job sharing next year are invited to an information session **Thursday, March 11th, 4:00 p.m. at the DTA office.** Job-shares have to be renewed annually.

SYLVAN LEARNING AWARDS

The DTA is opposed to the Teacher of The Year Award being offered by Sylvan Learning Centres, a for profit business. In response to a DTA request, the Board has informed us that the School District will not be participating in these awards.

New on DTA Website

- PD Bulletins which include Calendar of PD offerings

Education Week

March 1-5 is **Education Week** in BC. which provides an opportunity to remind the public and the government of what teachers do and of the need to invest in public education.

Thank you to those members who have provided information about the many exciting events and programs going on in your schools. The DTA Public Education Advocacy Committee (PEAC) is using this information to help inform the local media of the many ways in which Delta teachers are supporting children under increasingly adverse conditions.

If you have a story to share, this weekend would be a great time to e-mail your inspirational anecdotes to; *pattrue-love@hotmail.com*.

The PEAC committee will make sure they get maximum circulation. The media is also interested in student submissions in the same vein. (Make sure, of course, that you obtain the parents' written consent.)

Thank you for your continuing efforts. The more people know about education, the greater the support.

Patrick Truelove
PEAC Committee Chair

Dates to Remember

- BCTF Pension Seminar Sat. March 27th Abercorn Inn, Richmond 9-4 p.m.
- DTA Staff Rep Training March 30th & 31st
- Education Leave deadline March 31st.



International Women's Day March 8, 2004

On March 8, Canadians, together with others around the world will celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). Established by the United Nations in 1977, this special day provides an opportunity to celebrate the gains women have made and to reflect on the work and challenges that remain.

The Honourable Jean Augustine, secretary of state (multiculturalism and status of women), announced in March 2003 that the Canadian theme for IWD/IWW 2004 would be "World-Wide Women (www); surfing the Digital Revolution!" She stated that the theme will encourage Canadians to take a closer look at the impact of information and communication technologies on women and ICTs' use as tools to empower women and to promote women's equality.

Ideas to celebrate can be found in the BCTF Gender Equity Guide available from BCTF Lesson Aids. Also check the Status of Women web site at www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd/index_e.html#calendar

To celebrate International Women's Day, the DTA & CUPE are encouraging our members to donate goods or money for "My Sister's Closet", a women's centre that works closely with the Battered Women's Support Services to provide goods to women and families leaving situations of abuse. A list of what is needed has been sent to all schools and Staff Reps. We encourage you to support this worthwhile cause. **Pick-up of goods is March 8th.**