



President's Column

The battle with the government over the College of Teachers is heating up once more. Although former Education Minister, Christy Clark promised that legislation would be introduced to reverse the number of elected college councillors from 8 to 12, there is no sign of any legislation being introduced in the spring sitting by the new Minister, Tom Christensen. Inflaming the situation are actions being taken by the political appointees to the college who have been making changes to college by-laws at warp speed, changes that include moving the date for payment of college dues from the end of October to the end of May each year. Christy's appointees also passed a motion at a recent meeting recommending to the minister that the 12 elected members consist of 8 elected from among the membership with one each from the principals and vice-principals, superintendents, First Nations schools and the independent schools (who do not have to belong to the college to teach in that system!). It is imperative that members have the ability to make changes once the appointees have been dismissed by the Minister, and that will only happen if elected members make up 2/3 of the council.

The following motion was overwhelmingly passed by almost 700 teachers at the BCTF AGM last week:

1. That the Minister of Education be urged to meet with BCTF representatives to resolve the outstanding BC College of Teachers issues as soon as possible.
2. That the BCTF insist at least two-thirds of the college councillors be elected by teachers.
3. That in the event that the outstanding college issues are not resolved, all members be encouraged to act collectively to achieve changes to the BC College of Teachers by refusing to pay the 2004-05 fee to the college and instead contributing the fee to the BCTF Democratic College Fund, until the conditions adopted by the January 22/23, 2004 Representative Assembly have been achieved.

Note: The RA and AGM conditions are:

- Two thirds of the councillors to be elected,
- The duty to report should be consistent with other professions, and
- That any by-laws introduced by the political appointees must be ratified by the elected council.

On March 19, 2004, Justice Stewart of the B.C. Supreme Court ruled against the BCTF constitutional challenge to the composition of the BCCT, giving few reasons for his decision. The BCTF launched an appeal the same day. The appeal is scheduled to be heard on June 4, 2004.

The DTA Executive Committee unanimously passed a series of motions adopting an action plan to support the efforts of the BCTF to resolve the outstanding BC College of Teachers issues through a negotiated resolution. Teachers are encouraged to talk to parents and PACs about the importance of having this issue resolved before it heads into its second year of conflict, wasting time and energy that could be better used in service to students. By remaining united teachers **can** impact change.

Together we can protect our profession.

“HELLO HEALTH”

Back, knees, ankles, wrists, shoulders; although this may be a list of things that ache every morning when you awaken, it is also a list of body parts that teachers injure on the job. Remember to look out for yourself and your colleagues by putting thought into your actions. Move that desk with a partner; put your garbage into reasonable loads; use a cart with wheels to carry your storage boxes; wear sensible shoes. Do fill out an accident form if you have injured one of these precious parts, and ask for an ergonomics assessment so you don't re-injure yourself. It should appear as a recommendation in the accident investigation that your joint Health & Safety Committee is required to perform. Any lost time at work will be covered by WCB, so don't use your sick days. Protect yourself before you get injured.

Jeanie Lucas, 2nd VP and
OH&S Chair

jlucas@deltasd.bc.ca



TAD BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are available from the DTA office for the above scholarship. Applicants must be the son or daughter (graduation from a public school in BC) of a Delta teacher. The scholarship is \$500.00 and the criteria is based on academic excellence. The deadline is June 25th.

Teachers' Pension Plan Address change

The mailing and e-mail address of the Teachers' Pension Plan have changed.

This is all part of the Identity Project which makes members more aware of the TPP and the Pension Corporation less noticeable.)

The Pension Corp. is contracted by the Teachers' Pension Plan to do administrative work such as keeping track of pension service, collecting contributions, and issuing members benefits statement.

Members will in the future be communicating with T.P.P.

New Address:

PO Box 9460, Victoria, BC
V8W 9V8.

Victoria 250.953-3022

Vancouver 604.660-4088

Toll Free 1 800 663-8823

Fax 250.356-8977

tpp@pensionsbc.ca

The TPP web site home page will soon have a new address as well.

**DTA Annual
General Meeting
Tuesday, May 11th
Seaquam Secondary
4:00 p.m.
Daycare Provided**

**This is the first call
for nominations.**

MARKING

NEW GRADE 10 EXAMS

Responding to an inquiry by the BCTF as to whether teachers will be responsible for marking the new Grade 10 provincial exams, the Ministry stated:

- The marking model for next year's Grade 10 exams has not yet been decided.
- The Grade 10 exams administered this year as a "trial administration" will be marked provincially.
- It is up to schools whether or not the exam marks from the "trial administration" count towards students' marks.
- If a school decides to have the marks from the "trial administration" of the exams count towards students' marks, the school will have to make arrangements at the school level to get the exams marked.

With instructions like the above, teachers can add "workload" to an already long list of reasons why this "trial administration" exam should not count towards student's final marks.

BCTF EXECUTIVE ELECTED

President Jinny Sims
1st V.P. Irene Lanzinger
2nd V.P. Susan Lambert
Members @ Large
John Chisamore
Jim Iker
Fran Robinson
Kathleen Thomson
Val Windsor

