



TODAY

October 9, 2004

Issue 3

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

On October 7, Jan Eastman, DTA 1st Vice-President and I met with Superintendent, John Calder to present to the Board, the form letters of more than 80% of our membership whose College dues are normally automatically deducted at the end of October. In signing these letters, Delta teachers have voiced their opposition to the legislation that created "Christy's College."

Members of the DTA EC visited every school site in the district to speak on the College. A massive phone-out to Teachers on Call last week found TOC's to be very responsive to opposition to the College legislation.

I attended the 3 hour public session of the last BCCT meeting on September 26, 2003. The meeting took place in a locked room; those who arrived after the 8:30 am start time were locked out until the break at 10 am. Council member, George Puil, who received \$250 for his appearance, left at the break, 1½ hours into the meeting. The longest discussion that occurred at this meeting was about the brochure "Do You Have a Concern About an Educator?" The document will be approved at the October meeting and distributed province-wide for parents and the public to read and act on. Transitional College members must feel this is good use of members' dues as none of them voiced any concerns about either the topic or the brochure.

We are moving into Phase 2 of the campaign. What happens next? At the Special General Meeting on Tuesday, Delta teachers will be giving direction to the Local Representatives who will attend the BCTF meeting in early November.

The DTA is making a presentation on Bill 51 to the School Board at its meeting on October 14. Teachers are invited to attend this meeting.

DTA

Special General Meeting

Tuesday, October 14th, 2003

4:00 p.m. Seaquam Secondary

Jinny Sims, BCTF 1st VP, will be in attendance, speaking on the College of Teachers.

Highlights of Agenda:

- President's Report – Val Windsor
- Address by Jinny Sims, 1st Vice-president, BCTF
- BC College of Teachers

Report on Phase 1

- DTA Executive Committee Recommendations

1. That Delta teachers unite with the teachers of BC to express our opposition to the undemocratic College of Teachers created by Bill 51.
2. That DTA express its determination to not allow Bill 51 and this government to undermine teachers' professionalism and destroy teacher professional autonomy.
3. That the DTA call on the Minister of Education to meet with the BCTF to discuss amendments to Bill 51.

Phase II Timeline and Options for Consideration:

- Withhold the college fee.
- Pay the college fee into a trust fund.
- Pay the college fee.
- Pay the college fee in a prescribed manner.
- Protest by withdrawing service.
- Other.

The BCTF Representative Assembly on November 7 & 8 will decide what options to recommend to members based on input from all members to Local Representatives. Ensure we have your input, that your voice is heard.

Please plan to attend the meeting on October 14.

FACTOR 88

Withdrawal from long-term section of Salary Indemnity Plan

The Salary Indemnity Plan provides that a member who has either attained the age of 64 or has reached factor "88" (age + contributory service) may withdraw from the long-term section of the plan.

If one of the foregoing conditions occurs during a school year, you may apply to withdraw at any time during that school year. Applications received in September will be effective September 1. Applications received in other months will be effective the first day of the following month or the first day of a subsequent month, if so requested.

In making application for withdrawal, you should ensure that in the event of serious illness or accident you have sufficient accumulated sick leave which, when combined with 120 days of benefit from SIP: Short Term, will protect your salary to the end of the school year in which you attain the age of 65 or reach factor "90."

Please Note: As per the Salary Indemnity Plan – Regulation 21. *Duration of Benefits* members are not eligible for Long Term disability coverage beyond the end of the month they reach factor "90" or the end of the month they attain age 65.

If you have questions or to request an application form, please phone Income Security Division of the BCTF at 604.871-1921.

PB + 15 Information:

Article G3 of the Collective Agreement states that, salary category changes as a result of the completion of PB +15 (category 5 +15) will be effective at the beginning of the term following notification from you to the Board that you have completed PB + 15. This means that if you are completing PB + 15 in the summer, you must notify the Board before school starts in September in order to be placed in your new category for September. The same applies if you finish your PB +15 in the fall; you must notify the Board before the end of December. **Teachers newly hired to the district are also responsible for applying for PB +15, the board does not automatically grant this category.**

Calendar Events:

- October 14 School Board Meeting
 - October 15 PD Rep Training
 - October 17/18 DTA Exec member at BCTF Zone Mtg
 - October 27 Staff Rep Assembly,
- Patti McLaughlin, BCTF Income Security Division will attend the Staff Rep Assembly October 27th @ DSS. Members are welcome to attend.

Retirement Seminars:

The BCTF will again be offering seminars to assist teachers and their partners to prepare for retirement. No charge or pre-registration is required. All sessions start at 9 a.m. and finish at 4:00 p.m. In the Metro area you can attend a seminar at any of these locations:

<i>Nov. 1/03</i>	<i>Burnaby, Radisson Hotel</i>
<i>Jan. 10/04</i>	<i>Coquitlam, Executive Plaza</i>
<i>Jan. 17/04</i>	<i>N. Vanc., Holiday Inn</i>
<i>Jan. 31/04</i>	<i>Delta, Town & Country Inn</i>
<i>Feb. 7/04</i>	<i>Vanc., Plaza 500 Hotel</i>
<i>Feb. 14/04</i>	<i>Surrey, Aston Pacific Resort</i>
<i>Mar. 27/04</i>	<i>Richmond, Abercorn Inn</i>

Remember to bring your latest pension statement and a calculator.

Beginning Teacher Workshops

- October 16 Communicating with Parents
- November 13 How to Maintain a Balanced Life
- February 19 Teaching for Success
- February 20/21 BCTF Beginning Tchrs Conf.
- April 22 Possibilities in the Field of Education