



November 20

Issue #6

## NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

### President's Column

*A strong YES vote makes the BCTF Democratic College Fund a reality. Almost 20 000 of the 22 500 teachers who voted, supported the BCTF Representative Assembly recommendation. School Staff Reps will be organizing a Cheque-In at your school. I urge you to join me in taking the next step in opposing this oppressive legislation and writing a cheque payable to the **BCTF Democratic College Fund**.*

*The greatest strength we have is when teachers stand together for a just cause. The restoration of the BCCT as a democratic, self-regulatory, independent body with a majority of elected members fits this criteria. Fighting to have the legislation changed may well be the one opportunity we have to impact change **before** the composition of the college and other changes initiated by Bill 51 are cast in stone and teachers have to live by their dictates.*

*I attended the College meeting on October 31<sup>st</sup> where the **Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in British Columbia** were introduced for the first time and immediately endorsed by the college council, Christy's appointees. When asked how this document would be used, Marie Kercham, Registrar, responded that colleges and universities would use it with student teachers as well as anyone reporting an alleged professional misconduct. The Preliminary Investigation Sub-Committee (PISC) of the college would also use the standards in discipline cases. In other words, these are the standards by which you will be judged and disciplined! This document has had no consultation. The 100 standards are highly subjective and open ended, leaving teachers open to a high degree of arbitrary scrutiny on both a professional and personal level. The document assigns an exceptionally high degree of responsibility to teachers but makes no allow-*

*ance for factors affecting teaching performance that teachers cannot control.*

*Delta teachers have asked where our school board stands on the college issue. In spite of a DTA request that the Board pass public motions of support for Delta teachers, trustees have chosen to remain silent. In a letter to the DTA on September 11, 2003, Dale Saip, Board Chair, indicated that Delta school trustees supported the position of the BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA). The BCSTA has passed two motions. One urges all parties to work together to address disagreements regarding legislation about the BCCT before issues like teacher fee payment affect students and learning. The second urges the Minister of Education to introduce revisions to legislation compelling teachers to exhaust local complaint policies before accessing the BCCT process and encouraging the public to do the same. A motion urging the minister to allow for a majority of college councilors elected by their peers was tabled because it arrived too late for trustees to obtain input from their school district colleagues.*

*The BCTF and the DTA will continue to speak out in protesting Christy's Undemocratic College. We also need you to speak out. Although the fall legislative session ends on November 27, MLA and school trustees should still hear what teachers think. Letters to the Editor in local newspapers from concerned teachers are an effective way of getting the message out to the public. If you go to the BCTF website [www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca), you can Lobby Your MLA and School Trustees online. The Liberal government is not winning the public relations battle on this issue; recent polls indicate a surprising degree of support, even among Liberal supporters!*

*Next week, bring your cheque book and your Social Insurance Number to school.*

***Let the Cheque-In begin!***

## "HELLO HEALTH"

Now that ache and sniffle season is upon us, Vancouver's medical health officer Dr. John Blatherwick says that adults should definitely get flu shots as it promises to be a bad year for influenza. If you missed the district flu jabs, think about getting one from your doctor. Temperature affects our health too. If you get overheated in your classroom you open your window, right? Nope! We have learned that if you are too hot, you need to close your window so that the HVAC system can regulate the temperature. Open windows tell the sensors that the room is colder, so MORE heat is sent your way. Check that sensors and door grills are not covered by student artwork (sensors look like little beige 6x8 cm rectangles on your wall). If your door has a grill it is part of the school's heating plan, and if each component can operate as designed, the whole building will be more comfortable.

With the loss of CUPE custodial hours, our colleagues are not always able to get the desktops cleaned as frequently as is optimal (for political discussion on education funding cut-backs, please write to your MLA (Reni Masi) so we often find ourselves bringing in the Mr. Clean. Did you know that we must avoid purchasing our own cleansers, ant killers, carpet cleaners, etc? More frequently than we realize, the residue from our cleaning efforts can combine with that of the chemicals that our custodians use, causing highly toxic and/or unstable compounds that are dangerous.

Do you have other health and safety concerns or questions? Write to me, and I'll address them in future columns. If I pick your topic, I'll put your name into a draw for an ultra-cool rolling stool for your classroom. Hello Health's "Safe Scooting" draw will take place just before our final newsletter in June. (Put "OH&S in the subject line so I don't delete your message by accident.)

Jeanie Lucas, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and OH&S Chair  
jlucas@deltasd.bc.ca



## UBC

Master of Education  
In  
Early Childhood Education  
Langley  
Beginning May 2004

Information Meeting  
Tuesday, December 2, 2003  
4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Milner Education Centre  
6656 Glover Road  
Langley

For more information, call:

Joan Ross, Langley, 604.530-4060  
Elaine Decker, UBC, 604.874-9804

## BENEFITS INFORMATION BEING UPDATED

Before Christmas the Board will provide staff with copies of the new benefits information (the same as with Manulife but with a different name – Maritime) and a wallet ID card. Please remind your colleagues to inform their dentists of the change in benefits carrier; the Board is receiving up to 10 returned forms a day from Manulife (which no longer pays the bills) and it is taking longer for dentists to get paid. None of us needs an angry dentist working on our teeth! All teachers need to do is to take a blank Maritime dental form, which has the plan number on it, and give it to their dentist.

## TOC HANDBOOK

The Board is printing more copies of this handbook and will give the DTA enough copies for the Staff Rep binders. They will be available in January.

**New Teacher  
Induction & Social  
Thursday,  
December 4, 2003  
4-6 p.m.**

## Resource Centre

All classroom teachers and Teachers On Call who are new to the profession are invited to attend the New Teacher Induction and Social event. DTA members are invited to attend this function to welcome our newest members. Invitations are being sent to our inductees; however, if an invitation is not received, we may not have your correct address. Please let the DTA know by December 1<sup>st</sup> if you plan to attend.



**November 27, 2003**

## UBC Graduation

The Board is anticipating a heavy TOC call-out for this day. If you are going to be absent on this day, please book your TOC immediately!

**The PD Cheque is in the Mail!**  
The DTA office is working hard to process almost 500 cheques from the October 24<sup>th</sup> PD day. Please be patient.

**Congratulations!** To Susan Anderson and Susan Earles from Beach Grove Elementary on receiving the Governor General Award.

