



December 11, 2003

Issue 7

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

On December 4, the DTA inducted twenty new teachers into the profession. Our newly retired colleagues provided advice for the inductees – everything from letting common sense prevail to getting tetanus shots. Jinny Sims, BCTF 1st Vice-President shared a special moment in her teaching career with the assembled guests. The induction ceremony provided a good opportunity for the experienced teachers in attendance to be reminded of why they chose teaching as a profession. We wish our new colleagues a long and rewarding teaching career in Delta!

As one retired Delta teacher wrote to the inductees: Support your union – the DTA and the BCTF – it's the most effective voice you have. Everyone else out there thinks you are under worked and over paid! Enjoy your holiday - you earned it!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Christy Clark Promises Revisions to BCCT

You all know by now that Education Minister, Christy Clark, announced on Wednesday, she will introduce legislation in the spring to change the representation on the college council to 12 elected and 8 appointed councillors. This decision, announced at an open cabinet meeting, was handled in typical Ministry fashion – with no consultation and no advance notice to those impacted by the impending changes.

Why the sudden change of heart by the Minister? Did the government realize that the constitutional challenge, scheduled for December 11 and 12 could end in victory for the BCTF? Would the collective resolve of 24,000 BCTF members resisting paying dues to Christy's College cause some concern? The potential of school boards having to fire thousands of teachers in January or be fired themselves if they didn't posed a serious problem to the government. In short, the government created a mess and they are trying to clean it up!

BCTF members are still being urged to send their cheques to the BCTF Democratic College Fund instead of to the college. Many unanswered questions have arisen since the Minister's announcement. For example, are there any conditions attached to the 12 elected

councillors? How will they be elected? Can the elections be moved up; the current process would see the "real college councillors" assume their positions August 1, 2004 and the interim college can make even more changes in that time. By-laws passed by the appointed college cannot be easily undone – a 2/3 majority is required to make By-law changes. What of the other issues that the BCTF has expressed concerns about – such as the "snitch clause" and the independence of the college?

The BCTF and the Ministry are meeting on Friday, December 12 to continue discussions; the BCTF will explain to government what our timelines are for membership input. A BCTF Representative Assembly is scheduled for January 23 – 24, 2004, and a membership vote would follow that meeting. The BCTF will request that the government use its influence to ensure the college does not create a disruption to education.

It is essential that we get it right! We have forced the government to capitulate on the composition of the college but before our money is sent to the college, we need some guarantees. This can be accomplished more readily when the money remains in the BCTF Democratic College Fund. Now is the time to remain united for the desired outcome – a democratic college!

"HELLO HEALTH"

During December we often put up decorations, have extra practices for the Christmas concert, and come in to work sick because we want the kids to be ready for the last test. Remember to help each other decorate, ensuring that you utilize the stepladders available in each school. If you are singing, playing, or talking more during practices, use a portable microphone or wait for silence before demonstrating. (Vocal dysfunction is a WCB claim, don't use your sick leave.) Priding yourself in not staying home sick in years is not a healthy practice for your colleagues, and delays your own recuperation. Make a lesson plan, drink plenty of fluids, and please stay home from work. Going into the holiday healthy will make your break all the more healing and restful.



Important Date:

Monday, January 26th, DSS cafeteria, 4:00 p.m.

A representative from the WCB has been invited to make a presentation to DTA Staff Reps and other interested members about changes in the law that affects our compensation coverage. The regular Staff Rep meeting will follow the presentation. If you plan to attend the meeting and are not a Staff Rep, please RSVP to Debbie at the DTA office at deltateachers@telus.net. Staff Reps will receive a new chapter for the Staff Rep binder that will guide teachers through the process of reporting an accident and filing a claim. New teachers or teachers injured at work may find this presentation very helpful.

Do you have other health and safety concerns or questions? jlucas@deltasd.bc.ca I'll be happy to help. Make sure you put "OH&S" in the subject line so I don't delete your message by accident.

Jeanie Lucas, 2nd VP and OH&S Chair

As Dickens said, "Have yourself a merry little Christmas!" or was that Kermit? Hmmm

DTA General Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

4:00 p.m. Seaquam Secondary

The primary purpose of the meeting is to elect AGM delegates.



Teacher On Call DTA/ School Board Orientation Meeting

Thursday, January 29, 2004
Delta Secondary School
Staff Dining Room
4:00 p.m.

An information meeting that should not be missed.
Please RSVP to carol-dta@telus.net

Reminder:

Pension Seminars on the Lower Mainland

- **January 10th** Coquitlam
Executive Plaza Hotel
- **January 17th** North Vancouver
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites
- **January 31st** Delta
Town & Country Inn
- **February 7th** Vancouver
Plaza 500 Hotel
- **February 14th** Surrey
Aston Pacific Resort
- **March 27th** Richmond
Abercorn Inn

**Please note: All of the above listed seminars are
9:00 – 4:00 p.m.**



Please remember to recycle your DTA envelopes.

Quote for the Holidays:

*If at first you DO succeed, try not to look
astonished!*