



January 15, 2004

Issue 8

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Happy New Year!

College Update

By now, you all know that the Minister has "come to the rescue" of members whose dues were in arrears. The BCTF Winter Rep Assembly will deal with the College issue on January 23. The main topic of the day will be the College. The RA may make a decision or a recommendation to members about whether or not to turn over the money in the BCTF Democratic College fund. Members will make the final decision in a province wide vote.

On January 14, 2004, Tarry Grieve, chair of the appointed College counsellors, issued a press release that blatantly implied BCTF members would put loyalty to the union above protection of children. We know but the public may not understand that a Code of Ethics has governed teachers since 1943. The Code clearly identifies a members' responsibility in standards of professional service and conduct toward students, colleagues and the professional union. Furthermore, we know we **must** follow legal requirements or official protocols in reporting child protection issues.

The contentious clause, Section 27.1 of the Teaching Profession Act, requires reporting by anyone who has **reason to believe** rather than **evidence of misconduct**. The law requires union representatives to report on teachers who come to them for advice and help in their teaching or employment. It compels teachers to report on one another's teaching practice rather than helping each other in a collegial way, which goes far beyond actual protection issues. In addition, it requires married teachers to report on one another. This law will certainly undermine collegial relationships in schools and elsewhere.

Teachers are willing to accept provisions that echo those in other professions but these current requirements are far more sweeping than elsewhere. Creating the safest possible learning environment for students has always been and will continue to be a top priority for teachers.

Budget Good News

On a more positive note, the School Board announced at its meeting on January 12, 2004, that it anticipates ending this school year with a \$2.5million surplus. A number of factors including increased student enrollment, helped boost the budget. Barring unknown factors such as unduly cold weather and increased use of sick leave, this is good news for Delta. Having a \$2.5 million cushion should help the Board in its deliberations for next year's budget!

DTA General Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2004
Seaquam Secondary School
11584 Lyon Road
4:00 p.m.
Daycare Available

Purpose:

Elect BCTF AGM delegates
DTA Audited Financial Statements
Current Issues

BCTF AGM

If you are interested in letting your name stand for election as a delegate to the BCTF AGM, March 13 – 16th, please contact the DTA office at 604.946-0391. Candidates are encouraged to forward a statement (max. 100 words) to the DTA by January 30, 2004. Information will be sent out to schools on February 5, 2004.

BCTF NEW TEACHERS' CONFERENCE
February 20 & 21, 2004

Delta Airport Hotel & Marina, Richmond
To register, visit the BCTF website @ www.bctf.ca Professional Development for your registration form. Registration deadline is Friday, January 30th

"HELLO HEALTH"

Happy, safe and healthy New Year to you!



Is your site experiencing renovations?

Having an active site OH&S committee is a proactive way of easing tensions and addressing problems that sometimes arise during these stressful months. During renovations your site committee works to inspect air and sound quality, paint fume potential, truck traffic problems, and any other potentially problematic factors. The committee members need your help though. Report safety concerns and questions as they arise, and you will have better control over your experience. Do you know how to contact your first aid attendant in an emergency? Do you know the protocol for getting first aid to the injured worker immediately? Ask your site committee to go over these important steps at your next staff meeting.

Have you received worker's compensation before? If you have a past workplace injury that may reoccur, you need to know that some WCB coverage has changed potentially impacting your future income. We have invited specialist Andy Butterfield from the WCB to address DTA staff reps and members about changes to the legislation that will affect the way injured teachers are compensated in the future. Even if you have not been injured, this presentation will provide useful information for staff reps and for DTA members of site joint OH&S committees. The presentation will take place:

Monday, January 26th
4:00 – 4:30 p.m.
DSS Staff Dining Room

Do you have other health and safety concerns or questions? Write to me, and I'll address them in future columns. (Put "OH&S in the subject line so your message is not accidentally deleted.)

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

DTA Executive & Committee Vacancies

The DTA is currently seeking members to sit on the following committees:

Executive

- Adult Educator
- Teacher on Call Representative

Committee vacancies

- Social Justice - 1
- PD - 1 Adult Educator
- Bargaining-1 Elementary, 1 Secondary
- Health & Safety (5)
- PEAC (3)

Joint Ed Change

- 3 positions

Interested members should contact Val or Jan at the DTA office 604.946-0391 for more information.

DTA/Delta School District Orientation Meeting for Teachers new to Delta Including Teachers on Call

Thursday, January 29, 2004

4:00 p.m.

Delta Secondary
Staff Dining Room

Refreshments Served



Teacher On Call Meeting

The next TOC meeting is scheduled for
**Thursday, February 26th 4:00 p.m. at
DSS Staff Dining Room.**

Know Your Contract ▶ **D6.6. Staff Meetings**

All Staff meetings shall be held no earlier than one (1) hour before the commencement of school and no later than two (2) hours after the end of the instructional day, during the normal instructional week, but not normally during recess or lunch hour unless by mutual agreement.