

January 29, 2004

Issue 9

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

New Minister of Education:

This much we know: Christy Clark is out as Minister of Education (MoE) and Tom Christensen is in. The BCTF phoned Mr. Christensen on Wednesday and he answered his phone! Let's hope this is the beginning of the dialogue that is needed to help resolve the college dispute.

DTA Presentation to DPAC:

On January 19, the DTA gave a presentation to Delta DPAC on the B.C. College of Teachers (BCCT). Also presenting was Marie Kerchum, registrar of the BCCT, who in a slick one hour power point presentation, focused mainly on the discipline process. The DTA voiced its concerns about government legislation that changed the BCCT and the work being done by the current appointed councilors. When Ms. Kerchum was asked by the DTA to clarify how a group of political appointees would be able to act with impartiality and independence, she indicated the appointees would have no problem doing the work for which they were appointed because they owed no allegiance to any group. The logic escapes me!

Christy Clark on "The Voice of BC":

Last week, former MoE, Christy Clark, appeared on "The Voice of B.C." where she told Vaughn Palmer that an elected council would not be put in place until the bylaws had been "cleansed," obviously referring to the work of teachers on the previous college. Who says the appointed college is working independently?

BCCT Open Meeting January 23:

BCCT appointees gave notice of motion at this meeting that they intend to make sweeping amendments to all college bylaws and policies (more than 140 pages). Proposed by-law changes include the college: establishing policies for the continuing education of members, giving itself the power to assess a levy on members, maintaining a registry of members on the

BCCT web site (public and member access) and establishing Standards for the Education, Competence and Professional Conduct of Educators in B.C. (not currently by-laws). This group will "cleanse" the by-laws as directed by the former Minister unless the new Minister intervenes.

BCTF Representative Assembly:

The BCTF Representative Assembly (RA) met last weekend, in part to deliberate on a series of motions regarding remitting the money in the BCTF Democratic College Fund. After hearing a report on the open meeting of the BCCT on January 23, the RA voted to intensify resistance to Bill 51.

So – the money in the BCTF Democratic College Fund stays where it is until:

- *Government dismisses the politically appointed council and holds elections for a democratic college*
- *The democratically elected council is in place*
- *There is a guarantee that by-law changes made by the appointees not come into effect until ratified by the democratically elected council; and*
- *The requirement to report on college members is amended to be similar to those pertaining to other professional bodies*

College Concerns?

If you receive a letter from the BCCT that indicates a concern – discipline or qualifications, contact the DTA immediately. The DTA does not always receive copies of letters the college sends to teachers and we can more readily provide advice when we know about the issue and the timelines involved.

BCTF AGM

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

"HELLO HEALTH"

At a Staff Rep meeting on January 23rd, Andy Butterfield, from the WCB, explained changes to the Act that affect worker compensation. Claims and appeals now have a very short legislated timeline, and are final. When injured on the job the timeline begins, therefore, there is a need to ensure that the reporting process is done correctly the first time. Consult your Staff Rep or call the DTA office for help. 604.946-0391

Health and safety should also be part of your day plan for TOC's. Make sure your classroom has emergency procedures and exits posted near the door, and ensure that the information about who/how to contact First Aid is in your day planner or visible on your desk or wall. If you have a student who bites or hits, make sure that you have a way of alerting and protecting your TOC while honouring the confidentiality of the student.

Looking for a grade 11 CAPP work shop? The BC Fed and WCB offer a one-hour workshop about occupational health and safety in new jobs. Many young workers are killed or injured each year because of lack of safety information. Facilitators can do three or four sessions over a day if you need them. Contact the BC Fed about their "Young Worker Project" 604.430-1421.

Jeanie Lucas, 2nd VP and OH&S Chair
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PAID ED LEAVE REMINDER

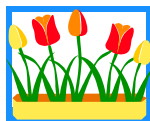
The deadline for letters of application to the Board is **Wednesday, March 31st.**

Teachers On Call Meeting

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

To all Teachers interested in Action Research and Peer- Observation

The District and the DTA will provide a training session on Peer Clinical Observation Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28, if numbers justify. Teachers interested are asked to register with Janet Mossman at the Resource Centre, no later than February 19th at 4 p.m. jmossman@deltasd.bc.ca or 604.596-7101 Ext 231. In addition to the training, participants get release time to observe and research. For additional information email Guillermo Bustos gbustos@deltasd.bc.ca



CONDOLENCES

The DTA sends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Rhoda Lank who passed away on Monday, January 26, 2004 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Rhoda served the district as a former teacher and principal in Delta.

PENSION INFORMATION WORKSHOP

Ken Smith, retired BCTF staff person, will be conducting a small group workshop to answer specific questions about pensions for Delta teachers. Dates to choose from:

- Wednesday, February 11
- Tuesday, March 2nd
- Wednesday, March 24th

All workshops are being held at the DTA office. The cost is \$20 (partners are welcome). Call the DTA office 604.946-0391 to sign up.

NDSS OPEN HOUSE Thursday, February 26th 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

"Moving Forward Together"
Enjoy an evening of entertainment and informative demonstrations in the new and improved HOME OF THE HUSKIES. All members of the community are invited.