



NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

What Strike Vote?

Premier Gordon Campbell's outrageous statement five days prior to the election that the BCTF was conducting a strike vote among members on May 19 and that teachers in the province had plans to disrupt student exams at the end of the year were totally false. The BCTF is launching a lawsuit against the Premier for uttering such provocative, untrue statements. As a democratic organization, the BCTF consults and communicates with members in many different ways - indeed some members believe there is too much consultation! Had the BCTF been planning a strike vote, members would have been very aware of the vote because members would have directed the BCTF to take such a vote through the Representative Assembly (RA).

It would be incorrect to state a strike vote has not been mentioned as part of the regular bargaining process along with other actions that might help further the union's cause in its deliberations with the employer at the bargaining table. We have been without a contract for almost a year; the current imposed contract ended June 30, 2004. Little progress is currently being made at the bargaining table with BCPSEA seeking concessions in areas such as sick leave, and a mandated net zero increase in cost to the employer.

At the BCTF AGM this year, delegates once again passed motions that the goals of BCTF bargaining be to regain all of the stripped language while obtaining a fair and reasonable salary increase. Legislation by the previous government of Gordon Campbell removed the right of teachers to bargain learning and working conditions, such as class size.

The BCTF Executive Committee is recommending a motion to the June 3-4 RA that will direct the full time table officers to arrange a meeting with government officials in order to discuss a bargaining process that

may help resolve the issue of the salary impasse while encouraging the restoration of the stripped language. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain by reaching out to government.

The RA will also be discussing a bargaining strategy that includes a comprehensive action plan and members are asked to provide feedback to LR's for the upcoming Spring RA.

One way to ensure that the DTA has your feedback is to attend the Annual General Meeting this Monday, May 30 at Seaquam. This is a busy time of year but it is extremely important for Delta teachers to attend the AGM. Other agenda items include the election of a new executive committee and the setting of a DTA fee and budget for the upcoming year. If you attend only one union meeting this year, please make sure it is the AGM; if not, others will speak and vote on your behalf.

The following members have let their names stand for the DTA AGM - May 30, 2005 at Seaquam Secondary 4:00 p.m. Social to follow.

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | Val Windsor |
| 1 st Vice President | Paul Steer |
| 2 nd Vice President | |
| Treasurer | Pat Thiesen |
| Secretary | |
| Local Rep. | Jacque Schierer |
| Local Rep. | Colin Vint |
| -2 yr. term | 1 - 1 yr. term |
| Alternate Rep. | |
| Member at Large | Bill Tereposky |
| Member at Large | Sukhy Dhillon |
| Member at Large | Gurpreet Gill |
| Adult Ed. Rep. | |
| PEAC Chair | Pat Truelove |
| Health & Safety Chair | Greg Stafford |
| Social Justice Chair | |
| PD chair | Paul Leroy |
| TOC Rep. | Dawn Van Skive |
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Public Education Advocacy News

Provincially, the BC Liberals are leading or elected in 46 constituencies, the NDP in 33. Seven local races are being recounted. The final results will be known on June 1.

Thanks again to the many Delta teachers who participated in this campaign, in various ways, over the course of the last two years. As a result of your efforts, education became a central issue, both locally and provincially. The DTA, like the community we serve, contains great diversity in thought and opinion. The democratic process is served well by this diversity. It is my belief that teachers can and do raise the level of debate when we participate.

Pat Truelove, PEAC Chair

"HELLO HEALTH"

Several sites have recently been informed that asbestos is in some of their ceiling tiles. While the word "asbestos" raises serious concerns, it is important to understand that the asbestos poses no risk as long as the ceiling tiles are not disturbed. The District is currently creating a plan of action to remove and replace the affected tiles in compliance with safety regulations of the WCB. For now, if you have projects attached to your ceilings, at year end, just clip off the strings. Our WCB officer recently indicated that the risk of exposure has been negligible over the years, and indeed standing on a street in Vancouver would give you a higher exposure. Please be assured that the safety of all is of the highest priority in this district. I will answer any questions that your site committee has. Why not consider joining our DTA OH&S committee this year?

Jeanie Lucas, DTA 2nd VP & OHS



TAD BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are available from the DTA office or online at www.deltateachers.org/

BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS' FEE FOR 2005-2006

Your college fee must be paid by **June 30, 2005**. Check your **May 31, 2005 pay stub**.

The text message on the bottom of the stub reads: *Please check this statement to confirm appropriate deduction of BC College of Teachers' dues. Dues have been deducted only for those teachers who requested such deduction.*

IF PAYROLL DID NOT DEDUCT YOUR DUES OF \$90.00 IN MAY, 2005, YOU MUST PAY THE DUES BY JUNE 30, 2005.

See Virtual NEWS May 26, 2005, for more explanation.



DTA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 10

Tsawwassen Golf Course
\$30.00

This is a fun event, open to anyone who has played golf at a basic level. Format is "best ball". There are lots of prizes to be won. Organize your team or phone the DTA office 604.946-0391 for more details.

DTA RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Monday, June 13, 2005

4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Delta Town & Country Inn

To honour our retiring colleagues.

All district employees are invited to attend this reception.

A dinner for retirees, their guests and all DTA committee members will follow.

DTA

Regional Meetings

For Discussion of
Bargaining/Action Plan

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

4 p.m.

DSS and **Seaquam** (not NDSS)

N.B. This is not a decision-making meeting.

