



# TODAY

Issue # 9

April 14, 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

## President's Column

### DTA Letter of Understanding – Reconfiguration

*One of the most pressing issues the DTA has been working on this year has been around the reconfiguration of the four north end secondary schools. As the collective agreement has no language to deal with school restructuring, the DTA has negotiated a Letter of Understanding (LOU) with the Board to help address members concerns about staffing issues related to reconfiguration. Also, given the size of Delta's declining student enrollment, this LOU provides a blueprint for discussion and negotiations should the Board decide, some time in the future, to permanently close any Delta schools. The Staff Reps ratified the LOU on April 12. A General Meeting has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, April 19 at 4 pm at Seaquam Secondary.***

### DTA AGM – May 3

*It's that time of year again when the DTA is looking for members for the Executive and other committees for election at the Annual General Meeting. The AGM also sets the membership fee for the upcoming school year. Due to the increasing number of issues the DTA is expected to deal with each year and due to the rising costs (almost double) of employee benefits, the Staff Rep Assembly is unanimously recommending a fee increase this year. The DTA represents your interests; please make sure your voice is heard by attending the AGM on May 3 at Seaquam at 4 pm.*

### BCTF AGM Makes Demands of Government

*At the BCTF AGM this year, the meeting overwhelmingly passed a motion calling upon the provincial government to restore the stripped language to our collective agreements, to ensure that teachers have full, free collective bargaining rights that include the right to strike and to provide funding that will ensure a fair and reasonable salary increase for teachers. Further, that these conditions be in place by the beginning of the next school year, September 6, 2005. Regardless of which party forms the next government, teachers are sending a clear message of our priorities.*

### Provincial Election Looms

On Tuesday, April 19, the election writ will be dropped and the election race will officially begin. Unless you support what the Liberal government has done to teachers and students in this province over the last four years, there is only one way to make a difference – get involved. The level of commitment each of you can make will vary. Do the following: **Talk to Five** (tell your stories), **Take a Sign** (contact the DTA office), **Give an Hour** (the DTA can use your assistance, so can the party of your choice) and **Take Five** (drive five others to the polls on May 17.) Teachers have made education an election issue; let's build the momentum!

## DTA AGM

### Executive Committee Elections

It is time to think about submitting your name for election at the AGM to the DTA Executive or other committees. This is an opportunity to get involved and to serve your colleagues. If you are interested in letting your name stand, please e-mail [carol-dta@telus.net](mailto:carol-dta@telus.net) or call the DTA office 604.946-0391.

**Tuesday, May 3, 2005**

**4:00 p.m.**

**North Delta Secondary**

**Daycare provided upon request**

### BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS DUES FOR 05-06

The fee for membership for 05-06 is \$90. It is due by June 30, 2005. Check your October pay stub – the message on the bottom will indicate if the Board is automatically deducting from payroll for you or not. If you wish the Board to do other than the October message indicates, you must make that request to the Board in writing by April 30. Automatic deductions will be made May 31.

## Public Education Advocacy News

Nothing brings quite the same kind of thrill as a general election. With the official campaign now just days away, the game is on!

With assistance from the BCTF, your PEAC/LEC committee is producing print ads, signs, mail-outs, non-English radio ads, and sponsoring public meetings. All DTA members have been polled to provide feedback on the types of message we want to put out. Members have volunteered to take pro-education lawn signs, write letters to the editor, make phone calls and work on all-candidates meetings. Also, all members who have expressed a wish to volunteer or contribute to individual candidates have been put in touch with the appropriate people.

We welcome communication from all political parties. Notices regarding fundraisers, meetings and such will simply be passed on to our members as they are received. No one knows what the shape of the new legislature will be, but education is sure to remain the subject of major policy initiatives. This is our one chance to have a real and powerful influence on the future of our profession. If you have not yet done so, please take one of the many opportunities to get involved.

Patrick Truelove, PEAC Chair

### “HELLO HEALTH”

I hope that your spring break was happy and healthy, and that it set you up for the exciting slide into June. Two quick notes that arose in our District meeting this week:

1) If you are injured at work and require medical help beyond your school first aid attendant, remember to fill out the first page of the yellow District Incident/Injury Report Form and fax copies immediately to the SBO, DMI, and the DTA. (Fax numbers are on the form) Timing is VITAL because WCB can deny late claims.

2) Could you please take a moment and check the chairs in your room? It seems many are missing bolts and/or important weld spots, and they can collapse causing painful tailbone injury or worse. Injury prevention is the most important part of our safety program – let’s look after each other! Remember, think safety first!

Jeanie Lucas, DTA 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
OHES committee chair

### CONDOLENCES

The DTA sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

*Elaine Brown &  
Donna Tyson*

Elaine taught at McCloskey Elementary for many years. Donna is a former retired teacher from Ladner Elementary.

Both will be greatly missed.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming DTA Golf Tournament

JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>

Details to follow

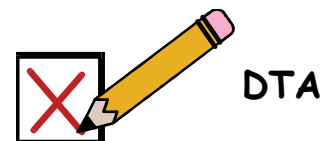
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### BCTF EXECUTIVE

President: Jinny Sims  
1<sup>st</sup> VP Irene Lanzinger  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP Susan Lambert

Members at Large

- John Chisamore
- Jim Iker
- Jill McCaffery
- George Popp
- Fran Robinson
- Kathleen Thomson
- Linda Toews
- Val Windsor



DTA

### ALL CANDIDATES' MEETING

Delta South:

Wed. April 27

7 - 9 p.m.

DSS

Delta North:

Wed. May 4

7 - 9 p.m.

NDSS