



TODAY

Issue # 1

September 2, 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

“Teachers Exchange Class Size for Money” “Teachers Want Wage Freeze Axed”

Welcome back! Like many of you, I was interested to read the headlines of local papers while listening to radio broadcasts in the last few days. And, like you, I don't believe that this news has anything to do with the upcoming strike vote that teachers will be taking later this month – NOT!

*I would like to reassure Delta teachers that the BCTF has **not** abandoned the objectives of the Annual General Meeting of March, 2005 that include securing learning condition guarantees for students as well as a fair and reasonable salary increase. Teachers throughout the province understand that those articles stripped from our collective agreements in 2002 cannot be bargained at the table with BCPSEA. Instead, the BCTF will continue to urge the government to provide a venue for discussions about these issues with the intention of having them returned to the negotiating table.*

In a meeting on August 31, 2005, BCTF President, Jinny Sims, impressed upon the education minister that teachers have

*placed a priority on improvements in learning conditions **and** on a salary increase, not one or the other.*

The BCTF bargaining team met with BCPSEA on September 1 and five more dates are scheduled in the first two weeks of school. Local offices, in the meantime, are gearing up to take a strike vote between September 20 and 22 with the results to be announced publicly on September 23.

*It is important that teachers remain united in this critical time in our history as we attempt to achieve a negotiated settlement. **I urge you to attend the DTA Special General Meeting on Thursday, September 8 at 4 pm at Seaquam** to hear a more complete version of why teachers are taking a strike vote, to ask questions and to provide you with background information on teacher bargaining in BC.*

DTA Special General Meeting

Thursday, September 8, 2005
4:00 p.m.

Seaquam Secondary Theatre

Guest Speaker:

Jim Iker, BCTF Member-at-Large

On the Agenda:

The Upcoming Strike Vote
Daycare Provided Upon Request
Please call the DTA

Teachers' right to speak to parents upheld

In July, the B.C. Court of Appeal reaffirmed that teachers have the right to discuss learning conditions during parent-teacher interviews. The court said, “. . . it is difficult to see how discussion about class size and composition in relation to the needs of a particular child by an informed and articulate teacher could do anything but enhance confidence in the school system.” (Madame Justice Huddart, Mr. Justice Donald concurring).

Consider also the result of the Mustel Omnibus Poll of June, 2005: “Not only do teachers have the right to speak to parents, 88.2 percent of

members of the public and parents expect teachers to speak out.” [BCTF]

The educational work of teachers is not confined to the classroom, but extends to the informed and respectful dialogue between teachers and the parents of their students. It is for each individual teacher to decide how best to communicate with the parents of their students. Parents deserve to know about the conditions that affect their children's progress in school. Who better than their child's teacher to give them this information?

PB+15 Information: Article G3 of the Collective Agreement states that salary category changes as a result of the completion of PB+15 will be effective at the beginning of the term following notification from you to the Board that you have completed PB+15. If you know you will complete your PB+15 during the summer, please notify the Board before school starts in September in order to be placed in your new category for September. You can forward your transcript to the Board once you receive it.

DTA EXECUTIVE VACANCIES: **Executive Secretary** **TOC Representative**

If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact the DTA office at 946-0391.

Condolences

The DTA sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mary Green who passed away on July 28, 2005. Mary last taught in Delta at Delta Secondary School.

FACTOR 88

Withdrawal from Long Term Disability

Teachers aged 64 or whose combined age plus years of service make “factor 88” are entitled to stop contributing to the Long Term Disability Plan provided they have enough sick leave. Phone 604.871-1921 for an application form.

New Name, Phone number, Address?

If you have changed your name, address or phone number over the summer, please contact the DTA office at 604.946-0391 so we can update our records. Also, please inform the BCTF Member Records Dept. at 604-871-2192.