



TODAY

Issue # 10

May 18, 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Provincial Bargaining:

On Monday, the BC Public School Employers' Association tabled its so-called "serious" offer.

Teachers have seen many public sector unions successfully negotiate collective agreements this spring that include increases to salaries and benefits for the members of those unions. In addition to salary improvements, teachers have seen workload issues acknowledged and addressed within the recently concluded Nurses Union negotiations. Our hope has always been that teachers will overcome the real and growing discrepancies between salaries and benefits for teachers in BC and those of teachers in other Canadian jurisdictions – Alberta and Ontario to name but two. Unfortunately, BCPSEA's "serious" offer falls far short of what teachers see as fair, reasonable and necessary.

What BCPSEA has proposed is an 8% salary increase spread over 4 years as follows: 1.5% in year 1, 2% in years 2 and 3, and 2.5% in year 4. This offer includes a one time lump sum incentive payment if a settlement is reached before June 30.

BCPSEA included the \$70 million Ready settlement that ended our October action. The cost of provincial salary grid harmonization and the improvements to TOC salaries and benefits has been carried forward by BCPSEA into this round of bargaining. Both the BCTF and The provincial government accepted the Ready recommendations as a means of bringing the October protest to an end; teachers did not return to work last October 23 expecting to renegotiate in this round what had previously been agreed to.

Teachers expect to see improvements to their salaries and benefits as a result of these negotiations. The B.C. economy is robust and healthy; the usual excuses of government no longer apply. Teachers remain willing to bargain in good faith and to see their expectations met.

Bill 33 – Class Size and Composition:

Now that Bill 33 has passed third reading in the Legislature, what can teachers expect their classrooms to look like this September? Firm limits for K – 3 classes still remain. Grade 4 – 7 teachers have a limit of 30 students in their classes, a limit that can be exceeded only with teacher consent. Consent requires a teachers' voluntary agreement to a proposal made by a Principal. (BCPSEA Administration Bulletin May 9, 2006). The district average in grades 4 – 7 cannot exceed 28 students which means that for every class with 30 students, there must be another with no more than 26 students. Teachers of grades 8 – 12 must be consulted if the Principal wants to exceed the limit of 30 students. Consultation requires that the teacher be involved in a meaningful discussion in good faith.

The number of students with special needs that can be placed in each classroom is three. These are students for whom the board must design an IEP. This limit may be exceeded in the following circumstances: The superintendent and principal are of the opinion that the learning situation is appropriate. In the case of grades 4 – 7, the teacher must consent to the placement and in grades 8 – 12, the teacher must be consulted.

*DTA Staff Reps will be meeting on May 24 to discuss the ramifications of Bill 33. **The DTA is requesting that teachers refrain from participating in discussions with Principals about exceeding any of the class size and composition limits imposed by Bill 33 until Staff Reps have had an opportunity to study the language and report back to their schools.***

All teachers need to share a common understanding of the meaning and implications of the legislation as provided for in Bill 33.

Val

Teachers' Pension Plan

Purchase of Service

Don't Miss the Deadline

You may be able to increase your future pension benefit by purchasing service for periods of employment that have not been counted as service with the Teachers' Pension Plan.

You must apply to purchase certain types of service by the March 31, 2007 deadline or lose the opportunity forever.

Phone 604.660-5299 or go to www.pensionsbc.ca select Teachers' Pension Plan.



Wetland Adventures in Burns Bog Summer Day Camp 2006

- Explore the Nature Reserve.
- Track animals.
- Feed insect eating plants.
- Learn first aid & wilderness survival in Burns Bog.

For more information contact Burns Bog Conservation Society 604.572-0373.



"TAD" BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Application forms are available from the DTA office or online at www.deltateachers.org. The deadline is June 20, 2006.



Please recycle your DTA envelopes.



DTA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 9

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.

Support Team Diabetes

Lyn Parsons, a teacher at Devon Gardens has committed to raising \$6,000. for the Canadian Diabetes Association.

For more information contact Lyn at school 604.581-6185, or online at www.teamdiabetes.ca to make a pledge. All donations of \$15.00 or more will receive an income tax receipt.

DTA RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Monday, June 12, 2006

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.



Annual Members' Benefit Statements

The district will be distributing pension statements by May 26th. Look for yours in the school board mail.