



TODAY

Issue #3

October 27, 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

In today's Vancouver Sun newspaper, the front page features an article with the following headline: "Trustees defy Victoria, seek ways to help teachers bear strike costs". Based on the information in the article, the DTA and CUPE have arranged a meeting with Superintendent, John Anderson for 3:30 pmtoday to discuss ways that Delta, too, may find creative ways to help both employee groups' deal with the financial repercussions of our job action. Although the Board was interested in discussing further a DTA request to spread out the overpayment of the mid-month advance to teachers over the next few months, a letter to Superintendents from Deputy Minister, Emory Dossdall, prevented the discussion from happening. Dossdall justified his directive based on the judgment issued by Justice Brown that stated in part: "employees should not benefit from illegal activity". Dossdall then informed Boards that:

- all employees who participated in the "illegal strike" were not to be paid for time not worked,
- payroll adjustments had to be made on the end of October payroll, and
- district grants would be reduced by an amount equal to the salary savings accrued during the strike.

This move by the Deputy Minister appears mean spirited and vindictive and does nothing to promote the new spirit of cooperation and communication within the education system that the Premier has touted.

Two school boards, Victoria and Gold Trail, have said they won't follow Dossdall's missive. Coquitlam has agreed to pay the mid-November advance on the 10th instead of the 15th and New Westminster trustees will issue a pay advance on November 1st instead of the 15th. John Fryer, an industrial relations professor at the University of Victoria, said such financial accommodations after a strike are not unusual in the public or the private sector. Indeed, during the CUPE

job action in 2000, Delta school board spread out the salary deductions over three months.

There is a school board meeting this Tuesday, November 1 at 7:30 pm. I intend to be there and I urge those of you who are able, to please attend, too. A large teacher presence will demonstrate to the Board our request that they, too, find creative ways to help assist Delta employees through the next month. Why? Because it's the "Delta way"!

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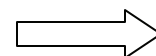
Post Job Action Comments:

One button reads: Proud to be a Teacher! Another states: Kids Matter, Teachers Care, Taking a Stand. Our two-week job action has demonstrated to the government and the public that teachers **can** and **will** do more than talk the talk in support of public education! We have served notice to the Liberal government that their bullying days are over and we expect to **negotiate** a settlement the next time we appear at a bargaining table.

Teachers are contacting the DTA office with many questions. In particular, teachers are wondering if the Minister of Education will be extending the school year or adding minutes on to school days to make up for the ten days of lost time. The BCTF position is that this does not need to happen as teachers will see that students receive the instruction they need to complete the curriculum. Some of the larger school districts have told the Minister that they do not want any additions to the calendar because of the complicated nature of district calendars and school timetables. As further information is available, the DTA will pass it on to Staff Reps to share with their colleagues.

Three initiatives are available to help teachers struggling to make ends meet as a result of this job action:

- \$50 Food Vouchers – these were provided by the Federation of Post Secondary Educators
- Canadian Teachers' Federation Hardship Fund - \$500 grants available on a first-come, first-served basis to those in most **dire need** of financial assistance www.ctf-fce.ca **Deadline for applications is November 4, 2005.**



- *Joint CUPE/DTA Hardship Fund – we are seeking donations of food vouchers in any denomination from those CUPE/DTA members who are in a position to assist their colleagues. We will also be asking for the support from other district employees such as management and excluded staff. See further information in this Newsletter.*

Finally, thank you to our CUPE brothers and sisters who not only honoured our picket lines but also walked with us in solidarity. As workers within the school system, they are knowledgeable about the learning conditions of students that teachers were seeking to address. This Liberal government will be held accountable for the improvements it said it would make to the education system. We are watching!

Canadian Teachers' Federation Hardship Fund

This fund is intended to help those teachers in dire financial need and is limited in resources.

The deadline for applications is November 4, 2005. Applications must be faxed to the DTA office (604. 946-1629) for processing and will be faxed from the DTA to the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

Joint CUPE/DTA Hardship Fund in the Works

The DTA and CUPE 1091 are encouraging members from both unions, as well as all Delta School District Employees to contribute grocery vouchers to a hardship fund.

The DTA is asking Staff Reps from each school to collect grocery gift vouchers and certificates in any denomination. Contact the DTA (604.946-0391) for pickup and distribution.



DTA ALL CANDIDATES MEETING

**Seaquam Secondary Auditorium
Tuesday, November 8th
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Come and meet your school trustee candidates running in the civic election on Saturday, November 19th.



"Tad" Boyes Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Curtis Manning, son of Sandi Manning (Heath Elem.), DTA recipient of the \$600.00 "Tad" Boyes scholarship. His career goal is to become a physician.

Dates to Remember:

- Mon. Oct. 31st A brief Staff Rep Assembly
- Tues. Nov 1st, 7:30 p.m.– School Board Meeting.
School District flu shots – Nov. 2, 3 & 9th

Lower Mainland Pension Seminars 2005 - 2006

- Nov 19/05 Surrey
- Jan. 7/06 Burnaby
- Jan. 21/06 North Vancouver
- Feb. 4/06 Richmond
- Feb 11/06 Coquitlam
- April 1/06 Delta
- April 22/06 Vancouver

Check BCTF web site for locations

www.bctf.ca/pensions

No registration required.



Condolences

The DTA sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Ken Van Camp**. Ken was a much loved drama teacher at SDSS. He will be greatly missed by all.