



TODAY

Issue 4

November 9, 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Many teachers are asking what the BCTF will be doing to ensure that the Ready recommendations are carried out and the issues of class size and composition continue to remain at the forefront. Another issue continues to be whether teachers will be making up instructional time lost as a result of the political protest.

At the BCTF Representative Assembly November 4-5, the following motion passed unanimously: "That teachers will not agree to any adjustments to the school day or the school calendar to make up for time and days lost due to the recent political protest." The BCTF position is that teachers will ensure that Provincial Learning Outcomes are taught within the current school calendar. Teachers will do what they normally do to assist students who require extra help.

This week, the BCTF will be continuing the dialogue with Vince Ready about his recommendations. Details concerning harmonization of salary grids and the remainder of his grid-related recommendations remain for the BCTF to bargain with BCPSEA. Ready's recommendations call for this to be in place after the end of the current fiscal year (March 31, 2006) and before the end of the present imposed collective agreement (June 30, 2006). The BCTF goal is to have the grid harmonization in place by April 1, 2006.

Also consistent with the recommendations of the Industrial Inquiry Commission, the BCTF has written to government requesting payment of \$40,000,000. This sum was recommended by Vince Ready as the means to provide teachers with a holiday from payment of the Long Term Disability fund premium. Once received, the BCTF intends to process this fund in an expedient manner and get it out to members as soon as possible.

With regard to Teachers on Call, considerable work needs to be done on the provincial language that

provides for TOC seniority rights. Across the province, TOC's are placed on their salary grid after three continuous days on any assignment. Currently in Delta, when a TOC receives a continuing contract, the days they have accrued while working in Delta apply toward accumulated seniority. Any matter pertaining to TOC seniority that remains outstanding as of December 31, 2005, may be referred to the Industrial Inquiry Commission (IIC = Vince Ready) for a binding arbitration. The increase in the daily rate to \$190.00, however, will apply as of April 1, 2006.

The BCTF participated in the Roundtable in Victoria on October 24, 2005. The next meeting is November 14 and it will be at the government's Vancouver offices. Premier Campbell intends continue to chair the meetings and to be involved in them. The Roundtable is one venue where the BCTF will continue the education of government that it began four years ago. Class size and composition will feature prominently at these meetings.

While the Roundtable is one arena for our learning/working conditions concerns, there are other plans to continue keeping these issues at the forefront of public consciousness. A concerted effort by the BCTF, local associations and individual teachers will see that our sacrifices through job action produce beneficial results.

*Municipal elections take place on November 19, 2005. Every teacher should make sure they vote for school trustees who will not only hold the government accountable for its promises to teachers, students and parents, but will also fight for strong, autonomous school boards that represent their communities. Given the poor turnout of voters at municipal elections and the critical nature of electing supportive trustees in the future of public education, **I urge you to exercise your civic duty on the 19th. Every vote counts!***

**"A Pittance of Time"
by Terry Kelly**

Remembrance Day video clip on DTA website
www.deltateachers.org

Public Education Advocacy News

Saturday, November 19 is Municipal Election Day!

Please don't forget to vote, in particular for School Trustees who are committed to support teachers and public education. As the province prepares to implement the recommendations of Vince Ready, school trustees will be an important part of the process. If you live in Delta, you will soon receive a package in the mail containing candidates' responses to questions from the DTA. This information will be also posted on our website: deltateachers.org.

There is an All Candidates' Meeting, sponsored by Delta DPAC, on Monday, November 14th at 7:00 PM at the Resource Centre. Everybody is welcome. This is a chance to interview our future employers!

If you do not live in Delta, you will receive information from the local teachers' association where you reside.



Paul Leroy,
PEAC Chair

CLASS SIZE VIOLATION REPORT FORMS

Staff Reps have received class size violation forms from the BCTF. If your Kindergarten class exceeds 22 students or your primary or split 3 / 4 class exceeds 24 students, please fill in the form as instructed and give it to your Staff Rep for processing.



TEACHERS ON CALL

Please mark your calendars for the next TOC meeting to be held **Thursday, November 24th** at Delta Secondary staff dining room.

Teaching Opportunities in Europe

Qualified candidates interested in being considered for a National Defence Loan of Service Assignment in Belgium or in the Netherlands must complete and mail their application and evaluation forms by **November 30th**. Check your staff room bulletin board for more information or visit this web site www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/educat

FOOD VOUCHERS

Vouchers are still available. Please call the DTA office 604. 946-0391

Committee Vacancies

The DTA has the following vacancies:

- Executive - TOC Rep. & Adult Ed Rep
- Committees –
 - Social Justice, Health & Safety and Public Education Advocacy.

