



# TODAY

Issue # 5

December 8th, 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

## President's Column

*Although I sent out an email to the various DTA list serves and asked for the information to be shared with colleagues earlier this week, I feel it is important to recap the information about the Ready recommendations, especially the payment of the \$40 million Salary Indemnity Plan Rebate.*

*At a BCTF executive meeting on November 25th, a motion was passed that clarified how the \$40 million in SIP funds is to be paid out. Every member who pays into the fund will receive a rebate of the amount they will pay into the plan in the 2005 - 2006 school year as per their September 30th pay statement. Those teachers who pay the full 2% of gross annual salary will receive a cheque for that amount and teachers who have reached "factor 88" and have withdrawn from the long term portion of the plan will receive 0.4% of gross annual salary. Teachers who have withdrawn from long term SIP are not required to contribute to the long term salary indemnity plan as they no longer qualify for long term benefits. This saving equates to 1.6% of gross salary annually. When I informed Delta teachers at the General Meeting on October 23, that everyone who paid into the SIP plan would receive money, I understood at the time that the money would be shared evenly. In clarifying this position, the executive committee decision treats the rebate as a rebate and not a "signing bonus." I regret that my earlier statements raised the expectations of Delta teachers who have already withdrawn from long term SIP.*

*When will the cheques arrive? The government has paid the money into a special BCTF account and agreement has been attained from BCPSEA to submit payroll information electronically to the BCTF for processing the cheques. A request went out to school boards around the province on December 5th for this information. Each cheque will need to be processed individually as each teacher in the plan pays according to their salary and SIP contributions. The BCTF will make every effort to process the cheques and mail them out as expediently as possible*

*once information has been received from school boards around the province.*

*Grid Harmonization will be discussed at the BCTF executive meeting December 7 - 9. The bargaining team is meeting with researcher, Colleen Hawkey. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss proposals to raise those salaries that are below the provincial average to the provincial average while shortening the number of steps on the scale from the current 12 steps in Delta to 8. At the same time, PB+15 is being looked at and scales 2 and 3 are proposed to be eliminated. Once the BCTF executive decides on the proposal that they feel provides the greatest benefit to the greatest number of teachers, the proposal will be taken to a bargaining table to be negotiated with BCPSEA. At this point, BCPSEA has not yet revealed its proposal for grid harmonization.*

*One meeting has been held regarding the Teacher on Call seniority issue and more have been scheduled for the future. We will post any information to the TOC list serve to keep these members up to date on the specifics as they appear.*

*Class size and composition remains at the forefront of BCTF discussions with the Ministry and the Roundtable. A process has been agreed to regarding allocation of the \$20 million provided for in Ready's recommendations. The DTA has scheduled a meeting with Delta Superintendent, John Anderson next week to discuss ways to best spend the funds to alleviate difficult classroom conditions. The intention is to get these funds allocated prior to the holidays so that any staffing changes could take place effective January 1, 2006.*

***Those of us at the DTA office hope that the holidays will provide each of you with the time to connect with family and friends and that the break will refresh and rekindle your spirits. We wish you a happy holiday and all the best for 2006!***



# BCCT VACANCY

*Are you interested in becoming the BCTF-endorsed candidate for the BC College of Teachers in Zone 9, Lower Mainland South (Delta/Surrey)?*

The BC College of Teachers is the regulatory body of the teaching profession in BC. The college has a focused mandate: teacher education, teacher certification, and member discipline.

Responsibility for governing the college rests with the 20-person council. Twelve of 20 council members are elected by the membership. Eight council members are appointed by the minister of Education.

The role of a council member is to make policy decisions, to make quasi-judicial decisions concerning individuals and institutions, to represent the college on various external committees, and to communicate with members. BCCT Election procedures information and the official nomination forms required are all located on the BCCT website. [www.bcct.ca/about\\_us/elections.aspx](http://www.bcct.ca/about_us/elections.aspx) Contact Alice McQuade at NDSS for first hand information about the nature of this job.

This is a 3 year term. Teachers interested in submitting their name for BCTF endorsement will have the opportunity to speak at a Surrey Teachers' Association General Meeting on January 18<sup>TH</sup> and at the DTA General Meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. An endorsement vote will take place at each meeting. The candidate with the greatest number of votes will receive the endorsement of both Surrey and Delta.

## **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. The same applies if you finish your PB+15 in the fall; you must notify the Board before the end of December.



## **Health & Safety Tip**

Always report a workplace injury, no matter how insignificant it seems at the time. Timelines for processing claims are strictly adhered to by the WCB. For more Health & Safety information, look at the BCTF website for the Teacher Health and Safety Bulletin.

**Reminder:** If you need information on counselling services, please call **Interlock 604.431-8200.**



## **NEW TEACHER INDUCTION AND SOCIAL EVENT**

**Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>  
4-6 p.m. DSS Staff Dining Room**

All classroom teachers and Teachers on Call who are new to the profession are invited to attend the New Teacher Induction and social event. Please call the DTA office 604.946-0391 to register.



## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - PD Contacts Training @ R/C
- Jan 25<sup>th</sup> Staff Rep Training @ R/C
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> - DTA General Meeting @ Seaquam School
- Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> - TOC meeting @ R/C

For more information call the DTA office 604.946-0391.