



Issue # 7

February 9, 2006

**NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

## President's Column

*Our job action in October awakened an interest among younger teachers to become more knowledgeable about and more involved in the union. At the DTA General Meeting on February 7, a number of colleagues new to the profession were elected to attend the Annual General Meeting of the BCTF. With many teachers in Delta retiring soon, it is encouraging to see these newer teachers stepping up to the union plate!*

### **BCTF AGM:**

*This year's BCTF AGM will be held at the Hyatt Hotel in Vancouver (March 11 – 14). Delta teachers are welcome to join our delegation during the meeting. All BCTF members are entitled to speak at the AGM but only those who have been elected as delegates can vote. This year's AGM will be dealing with a proposal to increase the membership fee by 0.04 of 1% to partially cover the projected deficit in the General Operating Fund. The average cost to members will be around \$25 per year – pre-income tax deduction. Another issue is our continuing affiliation with the BC Federation of Labour, to be voted on after Spring Break and before the end of May. A recommendation is going to the AGM that would see a further increase in member dues by 0.03 of 1%, or about \$20 per year if the affiliation vote passes. This sum would pay the dues associated with membership in the labour movement. The BCTF Executive Committee is also recommending a reduction in the Salary Indemnity Plan fee from 2.0% to 1.7%, which will add about \$190 per year to teacher's salaries. Please read the March issue of Teacher for a more detailed explanation about these recommendations and other AGM information.*

### **Grade 8 – 12 Reconfiguration:**

*An issue that is causing secondary teachers in North Delta much concern is the review by the current school board of the grade 8 – 12 reconfiguration*

*process. DTA full-time table officers met with staff at all four schools and participated in a meeting with trustees and representatives of each school at the Board offices. We have also attended all of the public meetings. Later in February, a survey of parents and students will be conducted after which the Board will make its final decision about school configuration. In the meantime, each school community experiences uncertainty concerning plans for the 2006/07 school year. Whatever the eventual decision of the Board, the DTA has urged trustees to make a decision effective September 2006.*

### **BCTF AGM DELEGATES**

Listed below are Delta's BCTF AGM delegates and Local Reps.

Dan Burgess	SDSS
Gail Crawford	Burnsview
Sukhy Dhillon	Gibson
Angelika Hedley	Burnsview
Patti Hillary	Cougar Canyon
Linda Hoepfner	Chalmers
Ed Hsu	Delview
Richard Kirincic	SDSS
Toby Mundy	Seaquam
Tashi Papau	SDSS
Reece Papin	Seaquam
Greg Stafford	Richardson
Paul Steer	DTA (LR)
Bill Tereposky	SDSS
Pat Thiesen	TOC
Pat Truelove	Sands (LR)
Colin Vint	NDSS (LR)
Phyllis With	Cliff Drive

The DTA General Meeting unanimously endorsed Val Windsor in her candidacy for BCTF Member-at-Large.



### Health Hint

In this season of virus and communicable diseases, wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.

### Your Rights

The Occupational Health & Safety Act provides workers with specific rights. Some of your rights are as follows:

### The Right to Know:

Workers have the right to know about potential hazards to which they may be exposed. This includes the right to training and to information on machinery, equipment, working conditions, processes and hazardous substances. WHMIS plays an important role in giving workers the right to know.

To be continued.....

**PAID EDUCATION LEAVE  
FOR  
2006-2007**

Teachers interested in making application for Paid Ed Leave (60%) for the 2006-2007 school year, are instructed to contact the Board for the required application form. **Deadline is March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2006.**

Check out the World Community Film Festival Feb 10-12 at Langara College [www.codev.org/filmfest](http://www.codev.org/filmfest) or contact [filmfest@codev.org](mailto:filmfest@codev.org)

### Are You Vulnerable to Investment Fraud?

A new heading has been added to the Pensions and Income Security web page on the BCTF web site ([www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca)) directly following the information on Pension Seminars.

Links are provided for advice from the BC Securities Commission.

Thinking about investing  
Investing now  
After you've invested  
Making a complaint

Carolyn Prellwitz, BCTF  
Assistant Director, Income Security

**JOB SHARE MEETING**

Teachers interested in job sharing next year are invited to an information session **Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m. at the DTA office.** Job share approvals have to be renewed annually.



### THINKING OF RETIRING?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the Board and submit your paper work ASAP. This will be helpful for next years staffing needs.

### EDUCATION WEEK IN DELTA

**March 6 – 10**

#### March 6 & 7<sup>th</sup>

“Teach In” at Scottsdale Mall  
If you are interested in teaching your class in the Mall for an hour during the school day, please contact the DTA

#### March 8<sup>th</sup>

Science Fair – Scottsdale Mall

#### March 9<sup>th</sup>

Tables at Ladner and Tsawwassen Libraries – Distribution of apples and book marks.



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

#### MEMBER:

March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women’s Day – more details to follow

June 9<sup>th</sup> DTA Golf Tournament, Tsawwassen course – more details to follow

June 23 – 28<sup>th</sup>, World Peace Forum, Vancouver  
[www.worldpeaceforum.ca](http://www.worldpeaceforum.ca)

**WORKSHOP FOR  
TEACHERS ON CALL  
Employment Insurance and  
Income Tax  
Thursday, February 23  
Resource Centre,  
4:00 p.m.  
RSVP to the DTA office  
604.946-0391**