



# TODAY

Issue # 9

April 6, 2006

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

## President's Column

### *BCTF AGM Decisions*

#### **Accountability Agenda:**

*The AGM voted to have teachers withdraw from participation in School Planning Councils and other accountability measures such as school growth plans and district accountability contracts. Given the increased focus on standardized testing and government mandated accountability, teachers are feeling that they are part of an agenda that does not include them. The AGM did not set a timeline for implementation of this withdrawal, leaving the decision to the BCTF Executive Committee.*

#### **BCTF Fee Increase:**

*The most hotly debated issue at the AGM was the proposed fee increase, which, after taxes, will work out to about \$2 per teacher per month. Even with the fee increase, the projected budget – a status quo budget, will require trimming almost half a million dollars from the current operations. In the end, the fee increase passed by a two-thirds majority. Most Delta delegates voted in opposition to this increase.*

#### **Affiliation with Labour:**

*The three-year trial period of membership in the BC Federation of Labour ends this year and BCTF members are faced with a decision to remain in the house of labour or to withdraw from it. AGM delegates voted overwhelmingly to recommend continued affiliation. They also voted that the costs of affiliation be absorbed by the BCTF directly through a 0.03% fee increase (\$20 per member per year) instead of through the locals. Delta will have an advanced poll at the DTA office on April 24 and votes will take place in four secondary schools on April 25 and 26. Further information will be shared with your staff in school visits.*

#### **Salary Indemnity Plan Fee Reduction:**

*The AGM voted to reduce the SIP fee from 2% to 1.7% which means that members will see an increase in their income of approximately \$175 per year.*

#### **Grid Harmonization:**

*The BCTF, unable to reach an agreement with BCPSEA, has turned the final decision on grid harmonization over to Vince Ready. The proposal that BCPSEA put forward would have seen half of the teachers in the province receive an increase and the other half a decrease in income. In a letter to Ready, the BCTF reiterated its position that the harmonization should be retroactive to April 1, 2006 when the money first became available.*

#### **Provincial Bargaining:**

*The BCTF AGM established bargaining objectives and a bargaining team has been selected. Several bargaining dates have been proposed to BCPSEA, commencing April 11, 2006.*

#### **Signing Bonus:**

*Many teachers have contacted the DTA about the signing bonus that other unions have received. As our contract does not expire until June 30, 2006, the government has set aside money for teachers. The BCTF is committed to reaching an agreement prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. If that should occur and a signing bonus is part of the memorandum of settlement, existing members of the bargaining unit would receive the bonus. If an agreement is reached after June 30<sup>th</sup>, the current position of government is that the bonus money is lost. It remains to be seen if the government will hold fast to its position. There is a possibility, but certainly no guarantee, that a signing bonus after June 30<sup>th</sup> could be negotiated and retroactively applied – say as of June 15<sup>th</sup>. If that happens, those who were in the bargaining unit as of that date would receive the bonus even if they were to retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*There are no iron-clad assurances concerning a signing bonus that we can give members who are currently considering retirement.*

#### **DTA Budget:**

*Although the DTA was proposing a status quo budget, the Interlock fee will increase \$0.60 per year so the budget and fee will need to be adjusted accordingly.*

# DTA AGM & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

It's time to think about submitting your name for the DTA AGM. This is an opportunity to serve your colleagues and vote on issues that will affect you. If you are interested in letting your name stand, please phone the DTA office 604.946-0391 or email [carol-dta@telus.net](mailto:carol-dta@telus.net)

## DTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

4:00 p.m.

Delta Secondary School

(note change of location)

Daycare provided upon request

### DTA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, June 9

Tsawwassen Golf Course

\$30.00 per person

This is a fun event open to DTA members and guests. First tee-off 3:30 p.m. "Best ball" format. As usual there will be lots of prizes. Register early by phoning the DTA or fax in your registration form.



### Newly Elected BCTF Executive

President     Jinny Sims  
1<sup>st</sup> V.P.       Irene Lanzinger  
2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.       Susan Lambert

#### Members at Large

Jim Iker  
Kathleen Thomson  
John Wadge  
Val Windsor



Canadian Cancer  
Society

### Relay for Life

Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m.

### South Delta Secondary

This is a 12 hour overnight celebration of survival, a tribute to the lives of loved ones and a night of fun, friendship and fundraising to beat cancer.

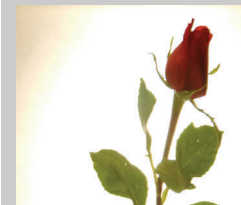
The DTA "Chalk Walkers" (in memory of **Colin Vint**), challenges each school to start your own team or join an existing team.

To register, contact Neil Corbett at [ncorbett@bc.cancer.ca](mailto:ncorbett@bc.cancer.ca) or 604.202-7007.



### Congratulations Jan Eastman

On your appointment as Deputy General Secretary, Education International in Brussels, commencing May 1st.



### IN MEMORY OF COLIN G. VINT

There will be a Special Event in Commemoration of the life of **Colin Vint** being held at NDSS on Saturday, **April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m.

A unique web site – legacy.com, is available for colleagues to sign an online "Guest Book". The URL is <http://www.legacy.com> if you would like to read what others have posted, or to leave a note of condolence yourself.

TGCOYs