



Issue # 12

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Supreme Court Decision

It's great to end the school year on a positive note! The recent Supreme Court of Canada ruling that collective bargaining rights are protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms was received as welcome news throughout the labour movement, including teachers. This decision, considered one of the most important in Canadian labour history, ruled against the B.C. Liberal government stripping, in January 2002, provisions in the collective agreements of healthcare unions. At that time, contracts of healthcare workers were thrown out, and many found themselves unemployed unless they agreed to return to jobs that were non-union and with salaries and benefits greatly reduced. In the Supreme Court challenge to these regressive changes, the BCTF applied for and was granted intervener status. Arguments supplied by the BCTF played a role in the court's recent decision.

Teachers will remember that the B.C. Liberal government also stripped our contracts in 2002. Collective agreements were stripped of negotiated language on class size, on class composition and on support for students with special needs. Now, the BCTF is interpreting the decision, assessing its potential effect on the teaching profession.

Teachers, perpetually on or very close to the leading edge in advocacy for public education, take great heart from the most recent Supreme Court of Canada decision. The right of workers', including teachers' right to bargain collectively, have been acknowledged as an expression of Canadians' Charter Right to Freedom of Expression. Perhaps you share the point of view expressed by at least one DTA colleague who, upon hearing of the Supreme Court decision, acknowledged an

unexpected feeling of pride in being a citizen of a free country like Canada, where it is possible that such a ruling can be made.

Bill 33

In September, if your classes exceed the maximum student numbers or the number of students with special needs, teachers will once again be asked to deal with consent/consultation forms from the district. The DTA urges teachers who have concerns to ensure that the forms reflect an accurate record of their classes. Forms are expected to be completed by September 15th, which means that there is a short window of opportunity for "meaningful consultation" to take place. The Liberal government is convinced that it has dealt with teachers' concerns about class size and composition through Bill 33 legislation. Having the stripped language restored to our collective agreement would provide better access for **all** students to improved learning conditions. Teachers would see workloads improved, and would enable them to better meet the needs of students.

As I reflect on the end of this school year, I continue to be impressed with the ability of teachers to put the interests of students first, while continuing to face ongoing challenges in maintaining a quality public education system.

Summer Vacation

All of us at the DTA office wish you a relaxing, refreshing, well-earned holiday!

DTA Annual Golf Tournament

By James Brown, SDSS

The tournament was played at the Tsawwassen Golf Course on Friday, June 1st. A total of 8 teams were entered in the Texas Scramble format, with South Delta Secondary foursome of James Brown, Rex Hayes, Steve Cowan and Richard Kirincic defending their title with an 11 under total score. Great fun was had by all, both during play and afterwards at the 19th hole. Thanks to Richard Kirincic for organizing the event and all of the great prizes. For those of you who have not participated in this event, think about getting a group together for next year. We know there are a lot of golfers out there, and in fact, for some the golf is not even that big a priority! The organizers would like to see a few more teams involved, to reflect the collegial nature of our fine district.



James Brown, Richard Kirincic, Rex Hayes, Steve Cowan

Delta Teachers Hire 6½ Afghani Teachers!

By Richard Kirincic, 2nd Vice-President

After tallying up the results from the Breaking Bread for Women fundraising event, Delta teachers have a lot to be proud of! Together we raised close to \$5000.00 in funds to help teachers get hired and girls get educated in Afghanistan. With the success of this year's event, the DTA Social Justice Committee is excited about the organizing of next year's campaign and the possibilities that await. The DTA would also like to thank all of the teachers who helped organize the event at each school. Your efforts were crucial to such a success. Way to go Delta Teachers!

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 in writing 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.

DTA HONOURS RETIREES: On Monday, June 11, the DTA held a celebration honouring teachers who have retired effective June 30. Retirees had the opportunity to share their retirement plans and their most memorable teaching moments.

The DTA wishes the following colleagues a happy, healthy retirement.

Doug Alexander
Christine Allen
Sharon Austin
Margaret Behenna
Guillermo Bustos
Darlene Cassell
Tanya Cook
Debra Coventry
John Cummins
Susan Davidson
Carolyn Dodds
Bill Edwards
Sandra Galiot
Donna Gatley
Susan Gracie
Ann Gray

Mel Haber
Steve Hannah
Joan Hansell
Denise Harry
Susan Henderson
Ann Hildred
Vigdis Jauck
Tod Jensen
Judith Klang
Lynn Knight
Bonnie LaSuta Lespinay
Meryl Lawrence
Neil Londry
Jennifer MacArthur
Sparkie MacVeigh

Anna Magryta
Suzanne Mah
Patricia Martin
Leanne McKerlich
Jim McMillan
Ron McNeill
Karen Miller
Moira Minns
Gail Misek
Lynn Moses
Susan Ness
Carol Ogilvy
Sherry Parrott
Joyce Perrot
Hallie Peterson

Linda Pollock
Deanna Singleton
Lorraine Spicer
William Stebbings
Cheryl Steinhauer
Jean Stobie
Joyce Takahashi
Marilynn Turner
Margaret Van Loon
Heather Walker
Ron Warner
Darlene Wiebe
Linda Williams
Maureen Willie
Rita York