



TODAY

Issue # 7

January 18, 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Happy New Year!

DTA to Purchase Building?

The DTA is involved in negotiating the purchase of office space, which is located in Ladner. Once an agreement has been reached, the DTA will send information and photos of the building to Staff Reps to share with their colleagues. Completion of the purchase includes a vote of the membership at a General Meeting which is scheduled for February 6th at Seaquam. Further information will be provided as available.

Outstanding Provincial CA Issues

Irene Holden has finally delivered her decision on implementation matters referred to her in October 2006 by the BCTF and BCPSEA. The issues include: one time incentive payment (signing bonus), portability of seniority, portability of sick leave, elementary prep time, and 12 month pay plans. The BCTF is analyzing the data and the DTA will send information via our list serves when the BCTF releases the information.

School Board Budget

Delta School Board will begin budget deliberations for the 2007-2008 school year in early February. The DTA will be making a presentation on your behalf. Some of the concerns the DTA is hearing include: limiting class size in secondary classes, lowering the number of students with special needs in classes by hiring more teachers, limiting the number of students that non-enrolling teachers work with, removing prep time from elementary teacher librarians and increasing the use of specialist teachers in elementary schools (i.e. Music, PE). If there are other concerns that you believe can be addressed through the budget, please let the DTA know. The Executive Committee will discuss all ideas that may be included in the presentation.

Graduation Portfolios

A decision on the fate of graduation portfolios is expected between now and the end of February. The decision to cancel the requirement for this year's grade 12's mid summer caused great confusion throughout the district. Foremost in the minds of district officials are budget and staffing implications while schools are concerned with potential course selection and scheduling issues.

DTA General Meeting

Tuesday, February 6th

Seaquam Secondary Library

4:00 p.m.

Agenda Items

Election of BCTF AGM Delegates

DTA Audited Financial Statements

Current Issues - Potential Purchase of
DTA Building

If you require daycare, please call the
DTA office at 604 946-0391.

BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hyatt Regency Hotel

March 17 - 20

Contact the DTA if you are interested
in letting your name stand for election
as a delegate.



SATISFACTION SURVEYS

The Ministry of Education's Satisfaction Survey for parents, students, and all public school staff begins this month. However, the survey carefully avoids asking for feedback on key issues in education such as the availability of materials and resources, funding levels, support for students with special needs, class sizes, and access to neighbourhood schools. **Teachers are advised not to participate in this annual public relations exercise.**

For your reference, the relevant BCTF procedure statement is 9.A.22, page 56 of the Members' Guide: *That teachers no longer participate in the government's satisfaction survey.* (RA Nov 03)

***Kids Matter. Teachers Care.
The Joy of Teaching***

**BCTF New Teachers' and Student Teachers' Conference
March 2 - 3, 2007
Radisson President Hotel
8181 Cambie Rd, Richmond**

Conference information is available on the BCTF Web site: <http://bctf.ca/NewTeachers.aspx>

Register online: go to the [Teacher registration form](#) or the [Student teacher registration form](#) and click on "Sign up now".

**Space is limited
so register now.**



Pension Contributions Increase Effective July 1, 2007

In a memo to the BCTF Executive Committee dated December 7th, 2006, Carolyn Prellwitz, Assistant Director, Income Security Division, conveyed news of the most recent actuarial valuation of the Teachers' Pension Plan as of December 31, 2005. An unfunded liability of \$904 million in the Basic Account was identified as a result of the valuation. An unfunded liability means there is a shortfall between the benefits promised and the assets available to pay for these benefits. The following is excerpted from that memo:

Although the pension fund's investment returns in recent years have been strong, average returns are still recovering from downturns in the markets in 2001 and 2002. The last valuation assumed that the average investment returns would be 7.25% per year. In fact, the fund only earned an average of 5.4% during the previous five years.

*On the recommendation of the actuary, and pursuant to the Pension Benefits and Standards Act, the trustees determined that an increase in contribution rates was necessary for the plan to maintain its financial viability. **Effective July 1, 2007, plan member and plan employer contribution rates will each increase by 1.61% of salaries to pay down this unfunded liability over the ensuing fifteen-year-period [DTA emphasis].** The trustees and the plan actuary have also acted prudently in reducing their expectations for future investment returns.*

The pension plan continues to be financially sound and basic pensions are secure.

The full report of the 2005 actuarial valuation may be found on both the BCTF and the TPP websites. DTA members will find additional information in the next *Teacher* newsmagazine.

TPP 2005 Actuarial Valuation is available on BCTF site

The full copy of the TPP 2005 Actuarial Valuation has been posted on the BCTF web site.

In the upper right hand corner of the BCTF home page at www.bctf.ca, there is a grey-shaded area entitled "Site Search" which contains two dialogue boxes. The second of these two boxes, which contains a pull-down menu, is entitled "Quick Links". Using the "Quick Links" pull-down menu, teachers may click on *Pensions*, then scroll down to *TPP Reports and Announcements*, where the full copy of the TPP 2005 Actuarial Valuation has been posted, about half-way down.

"What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to a human soul." ~ J. Addison