



TODAY

Issue # 1

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NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Calvert Moore 1935 – 2007

Cal Moore was president of the DTA from 1981/82 and 1983/84. After fighting a courageous battle with cancer for the last two years, Cal passed away on September 1, 2007. Past DTA President, Alice McQuade, shared the following recollection of Cal's work on behalf of Delta teachers.

In 1987 teachers finally received full collective bargaining rights which meant that the employer had to talk about more than just salaries and benefits. Cal had already been bargaining chair and DTA President and ably served his time but I think he had unfinished business. He became bargaining chair at one of the most crucial times in BCTF history. Everything we did in that round set a precedent for the future. Teachers who enter the profession now have a myriad of rights and benefits including maternity leave, seniority provisions, class size limits, guaranteed prep time, duty free lunch hours, etc. that were established

in those early rounds. We owe our contractual rights to hundreds of volunteer teachers who gave up thousands of hours and fought on our behalf; Calvert was one of those teachers.

He drew on his martial arts training and taught us that not all questions deserve answers and that silence can be intimidating. Cal's silence at the bargaining table scared the Board more than Cal speaking. He was dogged in pursuing issues and only compromised when he knew it would not imperil the integrity of the collective agreement.

One of my best memories of Cal was his commitment to negotiating the clause "Discipline and Dismissal for Cause". It was not a clause that would affect most teachers and it was not high profile like salary increases, which quite frankly are settled by forces away from a local table, but it was one that showed his humanity. This clause would protect our most vulnerable members and he kept at it until there were measures in place that afforded those protections for teachers. In many ways it was his finest hour.

On behalf of all the Delta teachers whose working lives you have improved, thank you Cal.



President's Column

Welcome back! Like every school year, this one will have its share of great moments as well as controversies and frustrations. That's what teaching and education are all about!

As we enter the second year of a five-year contract, there is still work to be done. The most pressing issue is to integrate the Delta collective agreement with the new provincial language into a single document and to make it more readily accessible to teachers.

The most important issue at this time of year is the completion of the class size and class composition documents, the legacy of last year's Bill 33 legislation.

Class Size

Kindergarten classes cannot exceed 22 students and Grades 1 to 3 are capped at 24 students. Split/combined grade 3/4 classes cannot exceed 24 students. Teachers of grades 4 to 7 must give their consent to exceeding 30 students. At the secondary level, teachers must be "consulted" if a class is expected to exceed 30 students. In both cases, the superintendent and the principal must agree that *"the organization of the class must be appropriate for student learning."*

Class Composition

No more than 3 students with individual education plans and that are ministry identified students can be placed in a class unless the principal has consulted with the classroom teacher and in the opinion of the superintendent and the principal, *"the organization of the class is appropriate for student learning."*

Many teachers experienced the "consent and consult" process last year. This year, the DTA is encouraging teachers to be even more forthright in indicating concerns they may have about the configuration of their classes. If you have any suggestions about the kind of support that would be helpful for your class, make sure they are written on the form. If no assistance is requested, none is likely to be supplied!

The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



Welcome to a new year! This year Delta teachers will be having five out of the six allotted days as common Professional Development days. The opportunities are endless and we hope that you will make the most out of them. Consider collaborating with teachers of the same grade/subject from another school for a different perspective. Invite a whole school over to share a speaker for a fun filled learning day. What ever you decide to do, whether as a group or as an individual – it is YOUR day – use it wisely and to enhance your own learning. Please remember that PSA day is just around the corner so fill in the newly revised forms available on line and send them in with your conference info and registration. Have a great start to the 2007 – 2008 school year!

Consider attending the following conference:

The UBC School Leadership Centre (SLC) is sponsoring a **Teacher Induction and Mentoring Conference** in BC on October 26-27, 2007. The conference will be held at the Delta Airport Conference Hotel in Richmond. The BCTF is supporting the conference.

The conference includes:

- a. Keynote Addresses:
 - Jan Miles, New Teacher Centre, University of California at Santa Cruz
 - Gary Little, Associate Superintendent, Vancouver School Board
 - Richard E. Lange, ASCD Mentoring Leadership and Resource Network
- b. Panel presentation
- c. Networking opportunities
- d. Concurrent workshop sessions
- e. Poster sessions

Program information can be found at:

<http://www.slc.educ.ubc.ca/JoiningHands/October2007Conference/JoiningHands-ConferenceProgram.htm>

Inquiries about poster sessions/concurrent workshops should be sent to: slc.edu@ubc.ca



DTA TOC List Serve

This summer we had a catastrophic failure of the TOC list serve and have lost all the data. If you would like to be placed on this list please contact the

DTA by phone (604 946-0391) or e-mail (deltateachers@telus.net) with your name and e-mail address.

F.Y.I.

Pension Seminar Schedule October 2007

Seminar 1 – Your Pension, Your Future

- Oct. 11, Richmond, WCB Auditorium, 5:00 – 6:30 pm
- Oct. 13, Richmond, WCB Auditorium, 9:00 – 10:30 am

Seminar 2 – Thinking About Retiring

- Oct. 11, Richmond, WCB Auditorium, 7:30 – 9:00 pm
- Oct. 13, Richmond, WCB Auditorium, 11:30 am – 1:00

More information can be found at:

<http://www.tpp.pensionsbc.ca>