



TODAY

Issue # 2

October 4, 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Salary Increase / Pension Contributions Increase

This year's 2.5% salary increase effective July 1, 2007 has partially offset the 1.61% increase in pension contributions, also effective July 1, 2007. Both teachers and employers are required to pay this increase. The increase is intended to correct the unfunded liability of the pension plan over the next 15 years. While the pension fund's investment returns in recent years have been strong, the fund's average returns are still recovering from downturns in the markets in 2001 and 2002. The Annual Report notes that "the pension plan is secure." The complete Annual Report is available at www.pensionsbc.ca/pls/portal/docs/page/pencorcontent/tpppage/publications/annualreports/tpp_ar_2006.pdf

Collective Agreement Update

Portability of Sick Leave

A teacher has 90 days from the date of hire to request to transfer up to 60 days of sick leave from other districts. Should a teacher choose to return to their original district, they can transfer the unused sick leave back again.

Portability of Seniority

When hired to a continuing contract in Delta, a teacher can transfer up to ten years of seniority from one, two, or several districts. When that teacher subsequently leaves Delta to accept a continuing contract in another B.C. school district, the teacher can once again carry up to ten years' seniority with them.

Preparation Time

All elementary teachers are entitled to ninety minutes of preparation time per week. Time lost due to interruptions however, such as statutory holidays, does not have to be made up.

PB+15 (Category 5+)

Any teacher who has begun university course work leading to a PB+15 is advised to notify the Board of their intentions in writing. Teachers who have begun their program of studies prior to September 1, 2007, will

have until June 30, 2011 to finish under the old rules. Teachers completing their PB+15 requirements are advised to apply directly to the Teacher Qualification Service (TQS) for the Category 5+ designation. Delta teachers who fail to receive Category 5+ approval from TQS may still apply directly to the Delta Board to receive district PB+15 recognition. Effective September 1, 2007, teachers commencing their course of studies must apply directly to TQS for the Category 5+. In both situations, teachers are advised to notify the Board upon completion of their studies, and to provide university transcripts to the Board.

e-FSA and FSA

Two Delta elementary schools are among one hundred schools across the province randomly selected to participate in a mid-October field test of "e-FSA". The intention is for the multiple-choice section of FSA to be administered electronically. Grades 4 and 7 students and their teachers who are obliged to participate in this electronic test will lose valuable learning and instructional time twice: once in October during the pilot test, then again in February when the "real" FSA test will be administered. In addition, FSA test questions will be marked by teachers, but not exclusively by grade 4 and 7 teachers. Emery Dossdall, the Deputy Minister of Education has stated that, "FSA isn't just the responsibility of grade 4 and 7 teachers . . . a broader cross-section of teachers will become familiar with provincial scoring guides . . ." According to the Deputy Minister, the, ". . . goal of local marking is, ". . . to build capacity by increasing teachers' knowledge of provincial expectations." The Ministry of Education appears to be passing on the problem of FSA testing onto the shoulders of school districts.

BCTF on YouTube

If you haven't seen the two humorous BCTF videos on the underfunding of public education and the new superintendents of achievement, you are invited to point your web-browsers to <http://www.youtube.com>. Once there, enter BCTFvids into the search bar.

"Tad" Boyes Scholarship



Congratulations to Ryan Buchanan, 2007 DTA recipient of the \$750.00 "Tad" Boyes Scholarship. Ryan is the son of Jack Buchanan (North Delta Secondary). His career goal is to become a history teacher.

Factor 88

Withdrawal from Long Term Disability Plan

Teachers aged 64 or whose combined age plus years of service make "factor 88" are entitled to stop contributing to the Long Term Disability Plan provided they have enough sick leave. Contact the DTA or phone (604) 871-1921 for an application form.

BCTF Open House

The BCTF will be hosting an **open house party** to launch the Federation's brand new affinity plan, **BCTF Advantage** <http://bctf.ca/BCTF-Advantage.aspx>

When: October 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Where: BCTF Building at 100 – 550 West 6th Avenue, Vancouver (corner of 6th and Ash)
Who: Open to BCTF members and their families

There are many reasons to attend:

- Special deals and discounts on travel offers
- Lots of prizes to win (a bike, \$100 worth of gas, and more)
- Free gifts and goodies to take home
- A delicious and discounted lunch with proceeds to charity
- Interactive stations for children, fun for the whole family
- BCAA demonstration of child car seat safety
- Onsite registration for the plan with special thank-you gifts for the first 200 members to sign up
- Tours of the BCTF building

Send a note to <mailto:advantage@bctf.ca> to indicate you'll attend or to ask questions.

The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



The Provincial Specialists Association's day, Friday October 19, is rapidly approaching. (Where did Sept. go?) I have signed hundreds of forms and encourage those of you who haven't/can't decide, to think about the wide variety of conferences being offered around the province. The BCTF PD Online Calendar is a perfect place to start your search. If you are staying at school please be reminded these PD days were NOT created to do marking or classroom clean-up (no golf or shopping either!). It would be a great opportunity though to collaborate with your colleagues – further your own professional learning in a way that is meaningful to you.

Other Workshops that are being offered:

- Kindergarten – in Langley
- "Boy Smarts" – Vancouver
- Roots of Empathy – Langley
- LOMCIRA (reading) – Vancouver

NEW TEACHERS CARNIVAL COMING SOON...

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
District Resource Center

Celebrate World Teachers' Day 2007

October 5th

World Teachers' Day, held annually on October 5th since 1994, commemorates the anniversary of the signing in 1966 of UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. It is an occasion to celebrate the essential role of teachers in providing quality education at all levels.

Interested in Teaching in Europe?



The Department of National Defence has a limited number of teaching positions at two international schools located in The Netherlands and Belgium. Teachers interested in these positions are invited to check out the poster at http://www.forces.gc.ca/dgcb/educat/engraph/teacher_recruit_e.asp