



Issue # 3

October 25, 2007

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Bill 33 Consent/Consultation Process

Information being received at the DTA office about the consent/consultation process that was undertaken in Delta schools in September seems to indicate that some schools did not follow the agreed upon process. While some schools have reported there was no formal consultation process involving school principals, others indicated they did not see the form that reports the violation of class size and/or composition and provides for teacher input. Still others indicated they did not receive a copy of the form after the consultation process occurred. Teachers are entitled to a copy of the form after the principal has signed it and should request a copy for their own records. If the form does not reflect the conversation the teacher had with the principal or list the concerns or support requested, the teacher should insist that the form be redone with the appropriate information included, once again obtaining a copy of the revised form.

If a classroom violates Section 76.1 of the *School Act*, principals are required to meet with the teacher, to have a "meaningful consultation." Consultation involves more than mere notification. Consultation includes a free exchange of information, ideas, and opinions. The principal must be open to suggestions and other options and must make an effort to address the concerns raised by the teacher before a final decision is made. If teachers are satisfied that these conditions are met, the Union has no issue with the outcome of the consultation.

In order to help locals collect information on violations of Section 76.1, the BCTF has sent out a common provincial form to locals to give to teachers who are unsatisfied with the process as outlined below. Once the forms are collated, the BCTF will file a provincial grievance and seek remedies for teachers who believe the following circumstances exist in their teaching assignments:

- a. Teachers who feel that their concerns about having more than three students with IEP's in their

classrooms (on or after October 1, 2007) were not seriously considered and/or the rationale given by the principal was not educationally sound and/or

- b. Teachers who feel that their concerns about having more than 30 students in their Grades 8 – 12 classrooms (on or after October 1, 2007) were not seriously considered and/or the rationale given by the principal was not educationally sound.

School staff reps received copies of this form in the school mail on October 11, 2007. If you have not received the form and believe you should be part of the grievance, please ask your Staff Rep for a "Class Size and Class Composition Reporting Form 2007 – 2008 School Year". In order to be included in the provincial grievance, forms should be completed and **returned to the DTA office in the School Board mail on November 2, 2007.**

When principals truly believe that the proposed configuration of a classroom is educationally sound and the teacher agrees with the principal, everyone in the education community will know that the best interests of students are being served by the education system. Until then, it is incumbent upon teachers to hold the Delta Board of Education and the Minister of Education accountable for their decisions.



New Teacher Induction and Social Event

Monday, December 17th, 4 – 6 pm

DTA Office

#210 – 5000 Bridge Street, Ladner

All classroom teachers and Teachers on Call who are new to the profession are invited to attend the New Teacher Induction and social event. Please call the DTA office at (604) 946-0391 to register.

The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



I hope that you all had a great learning day on Friday Oct.19th wherever you were. I am sure those who went to Vernon had a blast as did those going to local conferences held at a wide variety of venues. It's always nice to get out of our schools, have a longer more interesting lunch break and be able to talk with colleagues from all over the province. I personally stayed close to home and saw Mary Gordon, the creator of the "*Roots of Empathy*" program. If you did not attend a "big" conference there will be more offered in February, as well there is the big science conference coming in April, in Kelowna, which our very own May Wong is helping to organize. **Keep in mind that conferences are not the only form of PD.** Having common PD days in Delta this year makes *collaborating* and *school visits* easier and is an excellent way to develop professionally.

"Professional Development must be constructed in ways that deepen the discussion, open up the debates, and enrich the array of possibilities for action". (Judith Little 1993)

BCTF Advantage

A new benefits plan for members? Check it out!

Thinking of getting away for the winter break? Wondering if you can save on insurance rates? Looking for a break on retail products? Check out the new benefits plan for members. Through *BCTF Advantage*, members have access to group-based offers on a wide range of services and products. Go to bctf.ca for more information and for easy online access to the plan.

UBC M.Ed. Programs in Delta/Boundary Bay

► M.Ed. in Language & Literacy Education K-12 – Delta (DLED):

Information Session: Thursday, November 8 (4:00 – 5:30 pm) at the Delta Resource Centre (4900 – 96th St.)

Application Deadline: February 15, 2008

Program Begins: September 2008

<http://www.eplt.educ.ubc.ca/grad/dled.htm>

► M.Ed. in Educational Administration and Leadership – Boundary Bay #3 (BBE3):

Information Session: Wednesday, November 7 (4:00 – 5:30 pm) at the Delta Resource Centre (4900 – 96th St.).

Application Deadline: January 7, 2008

Program Begins: May 2008

<http://www.eplt.educ.ubc.ca/grad/bbe3.htm>

Take Action! Contact your MLA to demand a public debate on TILMA

As the fall sitting of the legislative assembly began on Monday, October 15, I urge you to write to your MLA asking them to support the call for a **public debate** on the *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement* (TILMA).

TILMA is a top-down agreement signed in secret by the premiers of BC and Alberta that will dramatically impact the ability of governments to maintain any regulations that have been passed but are deemed by an investor to "impair or restrict" their investment. In TILMA, investors are granted the right to launch a lawsuit for up to \$5M.

Despite the lack of democratic debate involved in signing TILMA, BC is moving along with implementing enforcement mechanisms. Bill 17, which provides the enforcement mechanisms for the agreement, was left sitting from the spring session but is scheduled for discussion this month. The proposed legislation amends the act which allows judgments by courts outside of BC to be enforced.

To see Bill 17 go here: <http://tinyurl.com/ysmpen>

Municipalities recently voted at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) meeting to support a resolution which questions the need for TILMA. This near unanimous vote is a significant rejection of TILMA by municipalities in BC. In her address at the UBCM, NPD Official Opposition Leader Carole James called on the province to put TILMA forward in the legislature for a proper, democratic debate.

Contact your MLAs and encourage them to support the call for a public debate on the *Trade, Investment and Labour Mobility Agreement*. Express your concerns about TILMA's impacts on the environment, local government, and public services.

You can also phone your MLA or write to them and ask them where they stand on TILMA. A basic question to ask over the phone is: Why would a government voluntarily expose itself, local governments, hospitals, boards of education, and Crown Corporations to the extensive legal and financial risks created by TILMA?

You can find names and contact information for your MLA at: <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>

Send Campbell a Minimum-Wage Message



November 1, 2001. It was the last time BC's minimum wage was increased. To mark the November 1 anniversary, sign the \$10 NOW Petition at

http://bcfed.ca/petition/minimum_wage.

On October 31, copies of the signed petitions will be presented to the Legislature.