



TODAY

November 20, 2008

Issue #4

NEWSLETTER OF THE DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

President's Column

Get out and Vote

On December 9 and 10, every teacher in the province is entitled to cast a ballot on the BCTF Action Plan as recommended by the Annual General Meeting last March. The DTA is visiting every school to explain the purpose of the vote and to respond to members questions as they arise during the meetings. Instead of the vote being administered at selected school sites as it has in the past, the DTA Executive Committee has recommended that for this issue, voting take place at every school site. Staff Reps will conduct the vote outside of instructional time. Provincial vote results will be released by the BCTF.

BCTF President, Irene Lanzinger, will speak at the DTA Staff Rep meeting on Monday, November 24 at 4 pm at Delta Secondary School. All Delta teachers are invited to attend the meeting to hear Irene speak on BCTF concerns about the Foundation Skills Assessment exams which will be administered in February 2009. BCTF full time table officers met with Education Minister Shirley Bond on November 18, 2008 to restate concerns about FSA exams and to request that they be administered on a random sampling basis with neither schools nor students identified. While Minister Bond indicated that she did not support the Fraser Institute's ranking of schools, she also stated that her government was not about to "abandon FSAs or change to a system of random sampling". The government has given school districts a four week window to administer FSA tests. Could the numerous "glitches" that happened during the 2008 FSA tests have triggered the need for a larger window of time?

Meeting with New Delta Board of Education

Four members of the acclaimed Board of Education

met with the DTA Executive Committee on November 18. Janet Shauntz, Fabian Milat, Laura Dixon and Simon Truelove attended the meeting. Dale Saip had a previous commitment and sent his regrets. Topics that were discussed included education funding, International Students, class size and composition and Daily Physical Activity. Executive members also commented about the consent/consultation process that occurred in September. Although the meeting was brief, a lot of information was conveyed

BCTF President to attend DTA Staff Rep Meeting

Monday, November 24, 2008, 4:00 pm
Delta Secondary School in Ladner

Guest Speaker: BCTF President Irene Lanzinger
Topic: FSA testing

All members are welcome to attend.

DTA/BCTF Provincial Vote

When: December 9 & 10, 2008

Where: All Delta school sites & the DTA office

Time: From 8 am until school commences and from the end of the school day until 4 pm.. The DTA office will be open from 8 am to 4 pm on both days.

School Staff Reps will administer the vote.

Advanced Poll: DTA office Thursday, December 4 from 8 am to 4:00 pm.

Teachers who live in other districts and who are not working in Delta on December 9 or 10 can vote in the district where they reside. Please contact the local teachers' association for details

The PD Perspective

Jacquie Schierer, PD Chairperson



The Fall has been a busy time for all of us even here at the DTA office. I approved almost 400 applications to conferences and workshops from Kelowna to Salt Spring Island. It was unfortunate that there were quite a few late applications due to confusion about deadlines. Please remind your colleagues that ALL deadlines and proper forms are available on both the DTA website and First Class. I will continue to sign cheques so keep those receipts coming in! Plans for our District Day are moving along fabulously with over a hundred workshop ideas and some outstanding presenters. Thanks go out to all the volunteers and to South Delta staff who are hosting the big day. I am very pleased that we have 11 Local Specialist Associations (LSAs) this year with many of them planning professional learning opportunities for their members. A list of LSAs and their chairperson can be found on First Class – feel free to contact them if you have questions. Finally, I would ask that you watch for the upcoming PD Newsletter that will have lots of interesting articles

Attention!

**New Teachers,
Student Teachers and
Teachers on Call
Mark your Calendars**

**BCTF New Teachers' and
Student**

Teachers' Conference 2009

February 27 & 28

**Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport
8181 Cambie Road, Richmond**



CONDOLENCES

The DTA sends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of **Linda Vanderbyl** who passed away on October 30, 2008. Linda was a long time adult educator at the Delview Adult Learning Centre.

Are you interested in becoming the BCTF-endorsed candidate for the BC College of Teachers in Zone 9—Lower Mainland (Surrey/Delta)?

The BC College of Teachers is the regulatory body of the teaching profession in BC. The college has a focused mandate: teacher education, teacher certification, and member discipline.

The role of a council member is to make policy decisions and quasi-judicial decisions concerning individuals and institutions, to represent the college on various external committees, and to communicate with members.

Terms of office for elected councillors are for three years.

If you are interested in being considered as our local nominee please contact Val Windsor, DTA President, by January 9, 2009.



Personalized Purchase of Service Cost Estimator

Members now have access to a new personalized purchase cost estimator. It allows members to select prospective retirement and termination dates and see how the purchase may impact their lifetime pension, bridge benefit, and any possible reductions. The new personalized purchase cost estimator is available through the **My Account** section of the Teachers' Pension Plan website. If you are not registered for My Account, you will find your username and password on your current *Member's Benefit Statement*.

Revisions to the October 1 Memo Pensions safe in time of market volatility.

The revised memo can be found on the Teachers' Pension Plan homepage under "What's New" and also on the Pensions webpage on the BCTF website.



National Do Not Call List Effective September 30, 2008

It is designed to reduce the number of unwanted telemarketing calls and faxes. You can register your home phone, cellular and fax number(s).

Sign up online at www.LNTE-DNCL.gc.ca or by calling the toll-free numbers 1-866-590-3625, or 1-888-362-5889.