

Issue #7

May 13, 2010

President's Column

New District Superintendent Assigned

After months of speculation about who might be named as the next Delta Superintendent of Schools, the announcement finally came mid-day on May 5th that Delta Assistant Superintendent, Dianne Turner, would be appointed to the lead administrative position in the district, effective immediately. On the same day, it was also announced that Delta Assistant Superintendent Garnet Ayres would also be appointed to a newly created position, that of Deputy Superintendent.

Some teachers speculated that this recent exercise in administrative re-plating might mean that the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, made vacant by the elevation of the incumbent to "Deputy", might *not* be filled. The money thus saved might therefore have been redirected toward classrooms.

Bargaining

The DTA has recently completed a round of visits to schools and worksites to raise bargaining matters to the mind of DTA members and to receive feedback from teachers concerning those aspects of their practice they believe need to be addressed. The meetings were very well attended, as confirmed by the informal 'sign-in' sheets we asked teachers to sign as they came in. Those of us who were involved in presenting the content and in hearing your responses came away with a better understanding of where, collectively, our priorities are. We've compiled notes from many of these sessions, so we'll try to condense and report to you on these before the end of the year.

Living With Balance

Living With Balance, a six week program of information for teachers sponsored by the BCTF concluded on April 28th. As soon as I heard that this program was to be offered in Delta, I decided to register for the Delta session myself. While I had heard many good things about the intent and purposes of this new initiative, I wanted to experience the program first hand. My own view, which I shared with others at the conclusion of the series, is that the program was very worthwhile – for me, and that I would not hesitate to recommend it to other DTA members who continue to

struggle with the unceasing demands of the work-place, of home, and all the other all-consuming elements of their very busy lives.

The Rally at the Art Gallery

The Coalition to Build a Better British Columbia sponsored the April 10th Rally at the Art Gallery. It had been hoped that as many as 8 to 10-thousand citizens would have turned out to demonstrate their support for public services of all kinds, but many fewer than that, about 1500 to 2000 people turned out for this event, including 20 or so Delta teachers. Everyone who signed my commemorative "Postcard" automatically became one of the "Delta 300", three-hundred being the number of teachers that the BCTF had asked me to recruit. Thankfully, it was a beautiful day, and I don't think I was the only one who found the event enjoyable.

Staffing/Layoffs: know your rights; assert your rights; grieve if necessary.

If December is the month described as, 'the most wonderful time of the year...', then it would be fair to say that in Delta, May is the most 'sensitive' time of the year, particularly for teachers who are receiving Notice of Layoff, some for the first, second, or third time. Despite the fact that, except for Teachers teaching on-call, Delta teachers receive 'continuing' contracts, the employer, staffing conservatively, feels obliged to issue 'Notice of Layoff' to teachers each Spring. Many of these jobs are allocated among schools for assignment among teachers, first through the so-called 'collegial' internal process at schools, then through the Round 1 and Round 2 posting 'books', where they are made available for teachers returning to work from a variety of leaves. While recent practice has allowed teachers in Receipt of Notice of Layoff to post-in to jobs in the First and Second Rounds, It would be fair to say that in Delta this year, teachers with lower Seniority are coping with an extra-measure of fear that they may not be able to be recalled to a job by September.

But it is not only teachers who have received Notice of Layoff who are concerned. Continuing teachers above the 4.51 layoff-line are finding that the Staffing allocation to their school has been reduced are the possibility that a teacher or teacher may have to be made 'surplus' or 'partially-surplus' to the needs of the school.

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The DTA has been receiving numerous calls from members raising concerns about the so called 'Collegial Process' which in some schools has recently seemed far less 'collegial' than it should be. Teachers have also been asking about possible violations of the Provincial Collective Agreement, especially violations of our language concerning Qualifications, Layoff Rights and Staffing and Assignment.

Union advice: become familiar with the Provincial Collective Agreement as it applies in Delta (PCAD). In consultation with your school's Staff Union Representative, be respectful but assertive in making your issues known to admin., and in documenting your concerns. And if you believe that your contract rights have been violated or infringed, contact the DTA for further advice on whether or not you, or the union on your behalf – should file a grievance.

**2010 - 2011 DTA Executive Committee
Elected May 11, 2010**

President/LR	Paul Steer
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Simon Isbister
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Vacant
Treasurer	Vacant
Executive Secretary	Vacant
Local Reps: 1 yr	Pat Truelove
2 yr	Vacant
Alternate Rep	Vacant
Members at Large	Annie Coblin
	Elen Nikas
TTOC Rep	Marianne D'Souza
Adult Ed Rep	Vacant
Committee Chairs:	
Professional Development	Dan Burgess
	Paul Leroy
Public Education Advocacy	Karen Symonds
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Janice Falk

"TAD" BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

Applicants must be the son or daughter of a Delta teacher and graduating from a public school in BC. The scholarship is \$750 and the criteria is based on academic excellence.

Application forms for the "Tad" Boyes Scholarship are available from the DTA office or can be downloaded from the DTA website at www.deltateachers.org

Deadline is June 30, 2010

DTA Retirement Reception

Monday, June 14, 2010

4:00 - 5:15 pm

Delta Town & Country Inn

All district employees are invited to attend this reception to honour our retiring colleagues.

A dinner for retirees, their guests and all DTA committee members will follow.



Unfortunately, the DTA has had to cancel the 2010 Annual Golf Tournament. We would like to thank Richard Kirincic, the tournament organizer for the past three years, for all his hard work. If anyone is interested in taking on the position of tournament organizer for next year please contact the DTA office.



Thinking of retiring? Once you have made your decision to retire, please inform Human Resources at the Board Office and submit your paper work. This information will be helpful for the spring staffing process.



You Could Win \$500 Cash!

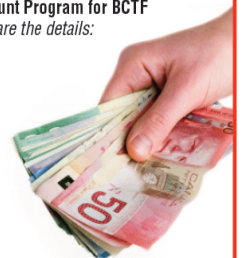
Ellis Mortgages Canada, the official provider of the Mortgage Discount Program for BCTF Advantage, is staging a fabulous Mortgage Renewal Contest. Here are the details:

PRIZES

Everyone who successfully registers receives a \$5.00 Starbucks gift card!

Earlybird Draw - May 14, 2010
Apple 8GB 5th Generation iPod nano (est. retail value \$150)

Grand Prize Draw - June 4, 2010
\$500 CASH!



How to Register: Please logon to <http://www.emcmortgages.ca/bctf/contest> to access the complete rules and regulations and to enter your contest application.

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