



President's Column

Date: April 7, 2011

Issue: #5

It's Spring: Time for an Election

As we return to our assignments after the regular five-day Spring Break, and an additional five days of district-mandated school closures, we realize that this Spring is also election season.

Both major BC political parties are busy attempting to reposition themselves in the collective mind of voters by choosing new leaders. There is a lot of speculation about when the new premier, Christy Clark, might decide to call a provincial election. Thrown into the mix has been the sudden, though not entirely unexpected, decision of the federal government to seek a new mandate through an election on May 2nd. And in November, voters will be asked to return to the polls for Municipal and School Board elections.

While Public Education is not primarily a federal election issue, Public Services in general (and the degree to which Canadians would see federal and provincial governments actively involved in providing programs and services to citizens) should be a focus of concern for all who would cast an informed ballot on each and every election day.

For teachers of social studies, April promises to be a month filled with many 'teachable moments'. The DTA encourages all teachers to get involved in the political process and to recommend similar involvement among our students, in support of whichever candidate they feel is worthy!

School visits

Earlier this year, DTA table officers visited members at their schools and work-sites on the topic of provincial bargaining. Members were also encouraged to participate in an online survey. Now, with local as well as provincial bargaining tables set to open province-wide, the DTA is scheduling another round of school visits, and a second online survey with a focus on local, rather than provincial, matters. Check with your school Staff Union Representative to see when the DTA visit to your school has been scheduled.

BC Court of Appeal Affirms Teachers



In 2009, a Port Alberni teacher, Ms. Battand, grieved the composition of her Grade 5 class, which had more than the legally allowed number of students with Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs).

At the time, the employer acknowledged the inappropriateness of Ms. Battand's class composition and assigned an EA for 'integration support'. But later that same year, the EA was frequently absent from work, which left the teacher without support and made her job much more difficult.

The recent Court of Appeal decision affirms that teachers continue to have the right to grieve untenable class sizes and compositions, not only at the beginning of the school year/semester, but throughout the year. In the words of Justices Groberman, Donald and Kirkpatrick, ". . . *the board had a responsibility to make whatever changes were necessary to bring the class back into compliance with s.76.1(2.3) -- either by making accommodations to ensure that the organization of the class became appropriate, or by transferring a student with an IEP to another class.*"

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DTA Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

4:00 pm

Seaquam Secondary Library

This is the first call for nominations. Please contact the DTA office if you are interested in running for an executive or committee position.

Daycare upon Request

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Teachers know that the school year is ten months long, and that a class size and composition that is barely tenable in September/October, can become much more challenging later on. The BC Court of Appeal decision affirms that teachers have a right to grieve class sizes and compositions if promises made in consultation are not delivered, or if the classroom situation deteriorates.

It is also fair to say that teachers who find themselves assigned to classes that are deteriorating in terms of their size or composition also have a responsibility to speak out and to advocate not only for themselves, but on behalf of their students and the system as a whole.

Staffing Season

The District's annual Staffing process will soon be underway, with Notices of Layoff set to be issued to some teachers on April 29th. The DTA's annual meeting for teachers in receipt of "Notice of Layoff" has been scheduled for May 5th. Watch for further details at your school/work site.

DTA members contemplating applying for leave for the 2011/12 school year, or who are contemplating retirement, are encouraged to contact the DTA for answers to any questions they may have. The DTA encourages members to make application or to inform the Board of their intentions as soon as they can. Doing so allows the Board to make a finer adjustment of where, exactly, they must draw the so-called 'layoff line'.



2011-2012 BCTF EXECUTIVE

President:	Susan Lambert
1st Vice-President:	Jim Iker
2nd Vice-President:	Glen Hansman
Members at Large:	Rick Guenther David Komljenovic Joanna Larson Denise Moffatt Teri Mooring Paul Steer Christine Stewart Kip Wood

"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 \$800 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, under Forms.

Deadline is June 30, 2010

EI Workshop

This BCTF facilitated workshop is sponsored by the DTA TTOC Committee and is open to all teachers.

When: Thursday, May 26
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Where: Delta Manor Education Centre

This seminar will help TTOCs understand the steps to follow in applying for, and obtaining, EI Benefits.

The BCTF requires a minimum of 15 participants so please register **BY MAY 12**. RSVP to Debbie at the DTA (debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391).

Refreshments will be available.

11th Annual Delta School District Aboriginal Youth Program



POWWOW 2011

NORTH DELTA SECONDARY

11447 - 82 Avenue, North Delta

Friday, April 22: 12:00 Noon - 10:00pm

Grand Entry - 1:00 pm and 7:00pm

Saturday, April 23: 11:00am - 10:00pm

Grand Entry - 12:00 Noon and 6:00pm

Highlights: Silent Auction, Raffles, Great Selection of Aboriginal Craft Sales, Great Food and Bannock!

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.