



President's Column

Date: June 16, 2011

Issue: #7

The term of the Provincial Collective Agreement Ends June 30th

June 30 will mark the expiration of the 5-year term of the Provincial Collective Agreement which came into effect on July 1, 2006. Consistent with the provisions of Article 46 and 47 of the BC Labour Code, both parties, the employer and the union, have been meeting at provincial and local negotiation tables. The British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the Delta Teachers' Association (DTA) have been 'bargaining in good faith'. This means we have been making – in language of the BC Labour Code -- "every reasonable effort", at local and provincial tables, "... to conclude a collective agreement or a renewal or revision of it."

The Provincial Table

As of June 15, 18 meetings of the provincial bargaining table have been held. Government's agent, the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA), has tabled bargaining objectives which would strip teachers' seniority, layoff, and recall rights; reduce our professional autonomy; restrict leaves; provide for evaluation of all teachers annually; remove protections on discipline and dismissal; link professional development to ministry and employer goals; maintain 'flexibility' [more students] and

'financial efficiency' [fewer teachers] in class size/class composition.



In response, our union, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF), has said stated that any negotiated agreement must include improvements to each of our objectives and that we will not agree to any stripping of our collective agreement. The BCTF has provided a list of provincial objectives, consistent with the Public Education Labour Relations Act (PELRA), including our proposal on the new split of issues. We are seeking improvements including but not limited to our salaries, paid leaves, hours of work including prep time, and benefits.

The Decision to take a Strike Vote

By now, most every DTA member will be aware of the decision of the BCTF to schedule a Province-wide, Labour Relations Board (LRB) supervised strike vote on June 24, 27, and 28. In Delta, voting will take place at 4 polls, 2 in the North end, and 2 in the South end of the local. There will also be an advance poll at the DTA office, further details to be announced.

The Meaning of a Strike Vote

A Strike Vote under the BC Labour Code is required before

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DTA Honours Retirees

On Monday, June 13, the DTA held a celebration honouring teachers who have retired effective June 30. Retirees had the opportunity to share their retirement plans and their most memorable teaching moments.

The DTA wishes the following colleagues a happy, healthy retirement:



John Baines
Edward Baran
Sharie Beadle
Sheryl Blaser
Geraldine Boretta
Darlene Brown
James Camps
Linda Caron
Winifred Edwards
Thomas Fuchko
Cathie Gordon
Dawn Guernsey
Marietta Hains
Wolfgang Hennig
Sherri Ho
Genevieve Huchulak
Lindsay Hughes
James Lawrence

Richard Marks
Beverly Mason
Barbara Massie
Helena McDowell
Marion McNeill
Phyllis Mitchell
Hilda Norton
Richard Pelletier
Lynne Peterson
Dinah Phillips
Lynda Philippsen
Helen Robertson
Arlene Sarvari
Alison Smith
Sandy Stanton
John Turecki
Marilyn Watts
John Westlake

any concerted action, including a slowdown, a cessation of work, or other activity that is designed to restrict or limit production or services. Even the simple withdrawal of a limited range of non-instructional duties must be preceded by a Strike Vote in which a majority of "Yes" ballots are cast. The question on the ballot for our upcoming Strike Vote will be:

Are you in favour of a strike? YES___ NO___

The Need to Vote "Yes"

The Union is asking all teachers to vote "Yes" during the upcoming strike vote. The Executive Committee of the DTA has unanimously passed the recommendation that, in the upcoming Provincially, LRB-supervised strike vote, that all DTA members be encouraged to vote "Yes". Besides conforming to the requirements of the BC Labour Code, a "Yes" vote demonstrates clear support for the union among teachers, and demonstrates our determination to negotiate improvements to the terms and conditions of our employment. An overwhelming "Yes" vote will bring pressure to bear upon the employer and government, and concentrate the collective mind of government on the advantages of a negotiated settlement with teachers. A strong "Yes" vote can actually *increase* the likelihood of a negotiated settlement; indeed, a strong "Yes" vote can actually sometimes help *avoid* the need for a full-fledged strike. Voting "Yes" will also be a "yes" to the first of three phases, the "teach-only" phase of job action.

DTA Meetings related to Bargaining and the Strike Vote

Over the current two week period, the DTA is scheduling 7 after school meetings in district secondary schools and is inviting all DTA members to attend one of them. Check with your school's Staff Union Rep for the DTA informational meeting closest to you. BCTF table officers and EC members may also be in attendance, schedules permitting.

Keeping you fully informed

As the school year draws to an end, the DTA will continue to pay very close attention to events through the end of June and throughout July and August. Our local will be sending a full delegation to the BCTF Summer Leadership Conference in Kamloops and to the Special "Bargaining-related" Representative Assembly which has been scheduled in mid-August. If need be, the DTA will communicate with members in the usual way, via our DTA Staff Rep, EC and Members' lists.

On behalf of the DTA table officers, our office staff and the Executive Committee, I wish every DTA member a very relaxing summer holiday. To the extent that you are able, relax, enjoy time with family and friends and have the very best of times.



Special General Meeting Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Seaquam Secondary Theatre
4:00 pm

- Provincial Bargaining Report
- Election of Officers to Vacant Positions

"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 \$800.00 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, 2011

Important Notice

The deadline for submitting Pro-D receipts for reimbursement is JUNE 30, 2011.

If you have attended a workshop, credit course, etc., during the year and have not received your reimbursement, check to make sure the DTA has received your proof of payment (receipt) and proof of completion. **No reimbursements will be issued for receipts received after the June 30 deadline.**

Also, if you plan to participate in Pro-D in July and August, please have your application forms to the DTA Office by **JUNE 24.**

The DTA office is closed as of June 30, cheques will be issued up to June 28. After that date, cheques will be issued when the office reopens on August 29.

In Memoriam

Hazel Boettcher ~ Retired 1998

Cecilia Lee ~ Retired 2008

David Mew ~ Delview Secondary

Cheryle Sanderson ~ Retired 2010

Summer Vacation

From the staff at the DTA office we hope you have a restful, restorative summer vacation!



-Simon-

