

# Newsletter of the Delta Teachers' Association



# TODAY

## President's Column

Date: May 10, 2012

Issue: #6

Teachers in Delta are into the final stretch of the school year. While that brings the promise of a well-deserved summer break for many, it also brings a great deal of work and stress as we wrap up a long and difficult school year. While many challenges will arise, they also present opportunities for us to be supportive of each other. The DTA encourages all members to seek out these opportunities, and to make the most of them.

### DTA Annual General Meeting

For the first time in a number of years, every position on the DTA Executive Committee was filled at the AGM, on May 8th. As well, the DTA Budget was approved, with the fee remaining unchanged from last year. Constitutional changes included several 'housekeeping' changes, as well as one to broaden the scope of the Adult Educator's E.C. contact.

### Staffing

The DTA's annual "Layoff Meeting" was held this past week. With this year's layoff line set at 4.5 years, approximately 69 Delta teachers have received "Notice of Layoff" from continuing positions. Contract teachers contemplating retirement, and teachers contemplating applying for Personal or other leaves for the 2012/2013 school year, are encouraged to let the employer know of their plans as soon as they have been finalized. This will enable some layoff notices to be rescinded before June 30th.

### Bill 22 Action Plan

Since the Bill 22 Action Plan was adopted as a collective strategy of the Union in a province-wide vote last month, the DTA has received many inquiries, especially concerning that part of the action plan which requires teachers to refrain from extra-curricular/voluntary activities.

Between now and the end of June, teachers will not be involved in extra-curricular activities. Administrators, parents and community volunteers may provide the necessary planning, sponsorship, paperwork and supervision required for the activities to continue. Teachers are not preventing these activities from taking place; we are withdrawing our participation as they are voluntary/extra-curricular activities.

Generally speaking, any activity that involves teachers working with students outside of instructional hours is an extra-curricular/voluntary activity. **Field trips** which extend significantly beyond the end of the school day are voluntary activities. **Clubs, sports and performances** that take place outside of the school day (unless in-lieu time is provided) are voluntary activities. **Graduation Ceremonies, PAC Carnivals and many other year end events** are also voluntary to plan for and participate in

outside of the school day. It may be appropriate for teachers to attend some of these events as guests, like any other member of the community, but it would not be appropriate to supervise or actively participate in them.



### The Learning Improvement Fund (LIF)

Mandated by Bill 22, the so-called "Learning Improvement Fund", or LIF, allocates a very limited amount of funding to school districts, 'to address learning improvement issues'. In Delta, \$1.6 million has been allocated for this purpose, with 12.5% of this total being allocated to CUPE.

The DTA will be asking teachers at all schools/worksites to identify the staffing needs necessary to meet the learning needs of all students, and to indicate these needs on templates provided by the union. The DTA will then consult with the employer to emphasize the importance of adequate staffing and to lobby to see more teachers hired into the system.

### Bill 36

Considering the fact that education was not a major issue in the last provincial election campaign, it is astonishing to see how zealous the government has become in bringing forward new education legislation, in the absence of a clear mandate.

Bill 36, the "School Amendment Act", is the 21st piece of BC Liberal legislation impacting the public education system. It was tabled April 26th by Education Minister George Abbott, with absolutely no prior consultation with teachers.

Changes specified in the bill allow students of all ages to enroll in online programs, not just grades 10-12. It allows fees to be charged for the International Baccalaureate program, effectively creating a 'two-tier' system: a 'private', user-pay system within the 'public' system. In addition, Bill 36 allows boards to do away with the traditional September-to-June school calendar.

### Stay the Course

As we move into the final weeks of the regular school year, the DTA encourages all members to be unified in our support for one another, and our students, and to call upon the DTA for advice on any matter of importance. We shall move ahead confidently, knowing that we will do our best in our important work in schools.

## 2012 - 2013 DTA Executive Committee Elected May 8, 2012

President	Paul Steer
1st VP/Bargaining Chair	Simon Isbister
2nd VP/Grievance Support	Arabella Bowman
Treasurer	Matthew McKay
Executive Secretary	Kathleen MacFarlane
Local Reps: 1 year	Pat Truelove
1 year	Karen Symonds
2 year	Toby Mundy
Alternate Rep	Simon Isbister
Members at Large	Annie Coblin
	Janice Falk
	Elen Nikas
TTOC Rep	Marianne D'Souza
Adult Ed Rep	Peter Yang

### Committee Chairs:

Professional Development	Paul Leroy
Public Education Advocacy	Nicole Jarvis
Health & Safety	Greg Stafford
Social Justice	Edda Stevens

## "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 printed from the DTA website at [www.deltateachers.org](http://www.deltateachers.org), under Forms.

**Deadline is June 30, 2012**

## DTA Retirement Reception

Monday, June 11, 2012

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.



## EI Workshop

The DTA TTOC Committee is sponsoring this BCTF facilitated workshop which is open to all teachers.

Thursday, May 31, 2012

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Delta Manor Education Centre

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

Please register with Debbie at the DTA by **May 18<sup>th</sup>** [debbie@deltateachers.org](mailto:debbie@deltateachers.org) or 604-946-0391

**Refreshments will be available.**

## Thinking of Retiring? Planning a Leave of Absence?

Once you have made your decision, please inform Human Resources at the School Board and submit your paper work ASAP. This will be helpful for next year's staffing needs.



This summer the DTA will be moving to its newly renovated office space and we won't have enough room for a number of items we currently have so, we're selling them at a nominal cost with all proceeds going to charity. The following is a list of items that must go:

- Folding tables
- Chairs
- Bookshelves (various sizes)
- Sofa
- Coffee table, end table, sofa table
- Filing cabinets
- Metal storage cabinets
- Two floor lamps
- Paintings
- Old school desk
- Computer desk
- Chalk board

**Come by the office and make your selection. Items will be available for pick-up the end of June.**