



President's Column

Date: June 14, 2012

Issue: #7

What Teachers Might Expect Between now and September

As teachers contemplate the approaching end of a fractious and difficult school year, many will no doubt be wondering what events in the coming weeks are likely to bring, now through September. While it is always impossible to predict exactly what will happen, it's at least possible to identify certain possibilities. Here, then, are a few possibilities:

- 1) Continuing BCTF 'discussions' with faux-mediator, Dr. Jago, will likely conclude during the Summer. Dr. Jago will make a series of 'non-binding' recommendations to government. These recommendations will likely not be successful in achieving the outstanding issues raised by the Union in nearly 80 sessions of Provincial Bargaining, and innumerable sessions of local bargaining since March, 2010.
- 2) It is therefore likely that government will then likely impose a contract, possibly including three central strips to existing provisions: evaluation, Professional Development and hiring (suitability).
- 3) The BCTF has scheduled a Special Representative Assembly for August, and will approve a plan of action in response to the anticipated government legislation. The union has already identified 2012/ '13 as a 'Year of Action'. For teachers, this will be a necessary, though not our preferred course of events.

2008-2009 Class Size Grievance Resolved - Teachers to Benefit

Hundreds of oversized/challengingly composed classes were referred by Delta to the BCTF for Arbitration in the 2008-2009 school year. In April this year, arbitrator Dorsey referred back to locals a list of classes for discussion and, hopefully, resolution at the local level. Only 42 classes, those with total numbers over 33 (the number of students plus the number of Ministry designated students requiring an IEP), satisfied the so-called "Dorsey-test".

Fortunately in Delta, and partly as a result of the employer's willingness to talk, the Union was able to negotiate a total of 109 days in lieu and/or pay for the teachers of these unreasonably large, challengingly composed classes.

Over the next few weeks, over 50 teachers will be informed of the remedial compensation they will be entitled to receive over the course of the next year.

This news should be taken as a 'win' for teachers in Delta. The DTA has heard of the arbitrator's final decisions in locals/districts where no agreement has been negotiated: arbitrator Dorsey has denied remedies in almost every single case. While the grievance process has been challenging, time-consuming and



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DTA Honours Retirees

On Monday, June 11 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:

Lynette Baldock	Dorothy Hobbs	Gail Robson
Walter Becker	Patricia Jones	Patrick Ronse
Michael Bernardelli	Donna Lipetz	Jeffery Rosenfeld
Cathy Bigmore	Doug MacLean	Andrew Salt
Jack Buchanan	Georgina MacLeod	Susanne Sanderson
Donna Chan	Roberta MacQuarrie	Cheryl Saunders
Rosy Colistro	Ian McLean	Sydney Sharp
Betty Cooper	Marijke Merrick	David Stevens
Gail Crawford	Terry Morley	Karen Suzuki
Dorothy Dobie	Jacquelyn Murray	Janice Tasaka
Jacqueline Dunn	Kenneth Nishi	Georgina Watkins
Steve Ferguson	Lyn Parsons	Wendy Woodward
Monique Gardiner	Gordon Price	Charles Wormeli
Dorothy Gray	Susan Purcell	Anne Wuitschik
Gloria Greig	Andrea Reyes	
Patti Hillary	Susan Resinger	

protracted, Delta teachers may take satisfaction in knowing that their concerns have been heard, acknowledged, and now, to an imperfect degree, remedied. Thanks to the engagement of Delta teachers in the 2008-2009 grievance process, their conscientious response to requests of the union for information and documentation, their endurance and tenacity has seen a return. The DTA also acknowledges the constructive engagement of the employer with the union in making resolution of this grievance possible.

At Years' End: Gratitude and Thanks

This has been an extremely busy and fractious school year. But despite all the additional challenges visited upon Delta teachers as a result of bargaining, including a protracted strike beginning on the first day of school, a three-day full-withdrawal job-action, and the aftermath of that job-action -- plunging morale, heightening stress, and a deteriorating working relationship between teachers and government, there remain many reasons to reflect on the past year with gratitude and thanks.

A huge thank-you goes out to DTA Staff Union Representatives. Throughout this year, you have not shirked your responsibility -- you have continued to be the legal representative of the union in schools and worksites. The role of School Staff Union Representative continues to be the most important job in the union.

A special thank-you also to DTA members who volunteered as members of the DTA Strike Committee. It was so gratifying to see all of you at the very first meeting of that committee -- and to leave that meeting knowing that Delta teachers were going to be unified and resolute once again.

Continuing thanks and gratitude extend to members of the all of our DTA standing, ad-hoc, and Executive Committees for your enduring commitment to the work of the Union in our local, to the benefit of all DTA members.

I would also like to thank those who work tirelessly in the DTA office: Debbie, Marilyn, Simon, Arabella, and Paul L., who do such a consistently excellent job of coping with whatever challenge happens to arise.

And finally, gratitude and thanks to each and every member of the DTA. You continue to persevere under difficult circumstances, always doing your best to meet the learning needs of our students, in reaction to some of the most mean and unenlightened educational legislation and policies ever visited upon teachers in British Columbia. You work in an environment of increasing stress, and shoulder more than your fair share of responsibility for an educational system under constraint, and you do so with unstinting professionalism and matchless skill. I am grateful to you all, and especially those who remain not silent, but who take action, in word and deed, in support of each other, and our students, in our efforts to build a just, more compassionate society, each and every day. I wish each and every one of you a very healthy, restorative, and stress-free Summer.

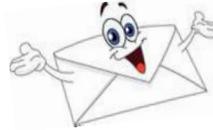


“TAD” BOYES SCHOLARSHIP

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 29, 2012



Will you be changing your name or address over the summer?

Please contact the DTA office (604-946-0391) with the information so we can update our records. You will also need to contact Human Resources at the Board office (604-936-4101) and the BCTF Member Records Department (604-871-2192).

Important Notice

The deadline for submitting Pro-D receipts for reimbursement is JUNE 29, 2012

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 29 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 20.**

The DTA office is closed as of June 29, cheques will be issued up to June 26. For receipts received after June 26, cheques will be issued when the office reopens on August 27.

Summer Vacation

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

