



TODAY

President's Column

Date: December 8, 2016

Issue: #3

Victory at Supreme Court of Canada means teachers, not government, hold moral authority for Education in British Columbia

On behalf of all of us, BCTF President Glen Hansman expressed great satisfaction after news of the 7-2 Supreme Court of Canada decision was announced.

"I am so proud of all our members, our past presidents, and executive committees for sticking with this fight for so long. It has been a tough journey and a long road, but today we finally have justice."

Handed down from the bench only minutes after the hearing ended, the decision represents both victory for teachers and vindication for their union, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

Just as the stripping of negotiated contract provisions in 2002 adversely affected the learning and limited the potential of a generation of BC students, its restoration by the Supreme Court should lead to tremendous enhancements in the ability of school districts to improve the overall breadth, depth and quality of educational experiences for students in the system and those about to enter it.

Finally: Justice. But, in the words of the old proverb, "Nothing is settled till it is settled right".

In Delta, we are pleased, but also focused with clear-eyed seriousness on what this 7-2 decision actually means for teachers and our practice of teaching, and the important question of how Justice will manifest in our classrooms.

Teachers want no delay in restoring smaller classes, more support for children with special needs, and extra one on one help for all students who need it. After all, teachers and students work along very limited timelines, 10 month timelines in elementary and linear secondary schools and a much shorter 5 month time-frame in semestered schools.

The Supreme Court decision also shows that it is B.C. teachers the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, and not the government, now hold moral authority for Education in British Columbia. The reductions in staffing, services and infrastructure experienced over the past 13 years have been severe, made at the expense of classroom teachers' salaries, workloads and in some cases their physical and psychological health.

Just as this item is being written, the BCTF table officers have reported on the progress of talks between our union and BCPSEA about how best to implement the enhanced staffing and other supports that our restored language point toward.



Look for the BCTF News in your email inboxes, or read it through the BCTF Member Portal, via this link: <http://bctf.ca/publications/BCTFnews.aspx?id=43732#1>

DTA "Listening Tour" of Delta schools and worksite concludes this week; Round 2 to begin in mid-January.

The Fall "Listening Tour" of DTA Table Officer visits to schools and worksites in Delta has now been completed. We've listened and learned a lot. We've heard teachers talk about the pressures they are under to implement changes to Reporting, Curriculum, and Delta's specialist-teacher service delivery models. At the same time, teachers, who are striving as always to meet the learning needs of students, experience self-imposed pressure when they see that despite their very best efforts, they are still unable to meet those needs, the natural consequence of the overall systemic declines over the past decade or more.

Continued on Page 2



Merry Christmas

From all of us at the DTA office, we wish you all the best for the coming Holiday Season. Remember to "Take good care of yourself". Please accept our very best wishes for a stress-free, restful and restorative Winter Holiday.

**Have a very Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**

Paul *Debbie* *Marilyn* 
Susan *Simon*  

Themes have emerged:

1. Concerns about mandated Educational Change without sufficient Educational support to facilitate that change;
2. Professional concerns about the programming and instruction of International Students;
3. Professional concerns about Summer School;
4. Professional concerns about services for refugee students, all ELL students and other marginalized populations of students in Delta.

A second round of school visits will begin in January.



The DTA is sponsoring the following Teachers' Pension Plan Workshop:

Workshop: Making the Most of Your Pension (formerly *Your Pension, Your Future*). Are you mid-career? Maximize your pension by understanding how the decisions you make throughout your career can affect your pension when you retire.

Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Location: DMEC— Action Room

Time: 4:00 - 6:00 pm

To register please contact Debbie at the DTA office (debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391) by January 18.

DTA General Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Seaquam Secondary Library

Agenda Items:

- Election of BCTF AGM Delegates
- DTA Audited Financial Statements

BCTF Annual General Meeting

Hyatt Regency Hotel
March 18 - 21, 2017

Attend the BCTF Annual General Meeting and learn about your union, discuss and debate issues that matter to you and your colleagues, hear guest speakers discuss education and labour issues locally and worldwide, elect Executive Committee members, and connect with 670 teachers from around the province!

If you are interested in letting your name stand for election to our delegation, please call or email Debbie at the DTA office at 604-946-0391 or debbie@deltateachers.org.

DTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 13	PD Committee Meeting
January 17	Executive Committee Meeting
January 24	PD Committee Meeting
February 7	DTA General Meeting



Discretionary Day and Personal Leave Day

Paid Discretionary Day (Smart Find Express Reason #02):

- Every continuing teacher (full-time or part-time) is entitled to one Discretionary Day per year.
- These days do not accumulate from one year to the next.
- The Discretionary Day can be taken for **any** purpose and can be taken at **any** time during the year.
- You do not need to apply for the Discretionary Day. Use the same process you would use if you were calling in sick, except key into the Smart Find Express System the reason for your absence is your Discretionary Day (reason #2).
- You receive full salary and benefits when you take your Discretionary Day.

Personal Leave Day at TTOC Cost (Smart Find Express Reason #07):

- You must apply to the Human Resources Department for this day. The **Request for Leave** forms are in your school, on the DTA website and First Class. Make your application as far in advance as possible.
- You receive your full salary less the cost of a teacher-on-call for the day.
- This day **cannot**, directly or indirectly, be attached to Christmas Break or Spring Break.

Unpaid Discretionary Day (Smart Find Express Reason #08):

- You must apply to the Human Resources Department for these days. The **Request for Leave** forms are in your school, on the DTA website and First Class. Make your application as far in advance as possible.
- These days may be taken on any day of the year. Three days are available per year and they do not accrue.
- These days are unpaid. Therefore, they are not considered to be pensionable time.