



## President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: December 12, 2019

Issue: #3

The dark days of December are upon us and it's good to know that the Winter Solstice will soon be here to usher in the return of more sunlight and longer days. It is a time of giving and receiving. Teachers in Delta give much to their students, their schools and their communities. On Tuesday it was the plan for several Delta teachers from the DTA Executive Committee to share some of these gifts with Delta's School Board Trustees. These are handwritten stories from Delta teachers about what they bring to education.

Members of the EC attended the December 10 School Board meeting and stayed to the end to "present" these stories to the seven trustees. While the giving and receiving of these "gifts" to education was not part of the official agenda of the School Board meeting, trustees politely paused after the meeting to allow members of the DTA's EC to hand over the packages containing personal stories from Delta teachers. It is the hope that this sharing will raise awareness of the many ways that teachers help to cover all the gaps in BC's public education. If you have a story to share with the DTA, please let us know by emailing us (email to [debbie@deltateachers.org](mailto:debbie@deltateachers.org)).

In the spirit of giving and receiving, the DTA Executive Committee passed a motion at the November 12th EC meeting to send good wishes and a donation in the amount of \$1000 to the Saanich Teachers' Association whose members were out of the classroom for three weeks without pay during the CUPE job action. The DTA has a yearly budget line for donations to non-profit organizations with a total amount equal to 0.5% percent of the annual DTA budget. At an Executive Committee meeting in May 2014 a motion was passed "that all financial donations made by the DTA be reported to the DTA membership via our newsletter, indicating the group, name or requester/solicitor, and amount donated."

So that is why I am writing here about what the EC

decided as their way to support BCTF members in another local. This action mirrored that of locals around BC who reached out in solidarity to Saanich colleagues. We know that this can be a tough time of year for so many, especially when expectations can be high and the financial realities so tough.

Last December I wrote about how we were preparing for upcoming contract negotiations. Hah! Seems so long ago. Could I have foreseen that we would still be without a contract? My crystal ball was in the shop at the time—it still is!—but it is frustrating that this process is as yet unconcluded with all the attendant benefits of a decent wage increase and other good things. When Teri Mooring, BCTF President, spoke to Delta teachers a couple of weeks ago at a special general meeting, she reported that there was still time to get a deal with government. Hmm...Still waiting for the bells to ring on this and so I'm going to put that near the top of my wish list!

Of course, this lack of a contract adds uncertainty to

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## *Season's Greetings*

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!***

*Susan Alison Jeanie  
Debbie Marilyn*

the lives of BC teachers, support staff, students and families. The debate continues on just how under-funded public education is in BC but what cannot be denied is that teacher pay in BC is among the lowest in Canada. In terms of starting salary, it is second lowest just above Quebec. Certainly it is not attractive enough to lure the requisite numbers of teachers to fill all the positions. Almost every day at the DTA office we hear from teachers about the lack of TTOCs in schools, about teachers giving up their preps to cover a colleague's class, about the cancellation of PD events because there are not enough teachers.

If this is a rural issue as BC Education Minister Rob Fleming contends, how does he account for the lack of TTOCs and the ongoing vacancies in Surrey, Vancouver and even here in Delta? Yes, Delta has large areas that are in the Agricultural Land Reserve, but since we lost our funding for rural bussing several years ago, just how rural are we?

You may have read in a recent Weekly Update about a teacher in Delta who wrote a heartfelt letter to the Powers That Be over in Victoria. Graham Harkley also sent along the reply he received from Minister Fleming. I compared it to a response I received in October from Mr. Fleming: word for word the same response. This is not surprising since we do know that Mr. Fleming and Mr. Horgan must be receiving lots of letters and emails from BCTF members and others.

Keep on with your conversations and with your commitment. We know that well educated citizens are key to any healthy society. You are doing that good work already. What we want is better funding for public education and to ensure that those of us working in the system are supported so that we can continue to do that good work.

Wishing you much health, joy and peace in this upcoming season.



## DTA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 14	Executive Committee Meeting
January 15	School Union Rep Training
January 15	PD Committee Meeting
January 27	Staff Rep Assembly (Seaquam Library)
February 4	DTA General Meeting (DSS Library)

## DTA General Meeting Tuesday, February 4, 2020 4:00 - 6:00 pm Delta Secondary Library

### Agenda Items:

- Election of BCTF AGM Delegates

## BCTF Annual General Meeting Hyatt Regency Hotel - Vancouver March 14 - 17, 2020

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 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](mailto:debbie@deltateachers.org).

Preparatory meetings for elected delegates will be held:

- **Tuesday, February 11**, 4:00 - 5:00 pm, DTA Office
- **Wednesday, March 4**, 4:00 - 7:00 pm, DTA Office, dinner will be provided.

Delegates should plan to attend both of these meetings.

## TRAINING - ALL DTA REPS & CONTACTS

### Workshop Location:

**DMEC**  
4750 57th Street  
Delta  
Action Room  
8:30—3:00

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

### Workshops:

#### Responding to Racism in the Workplace and the Classroom:

*A skills-based Antidiscrimination Response training workshop.*  
Facilitator—Kiran Sidhu

#### Capacity Building: Developing the School Leadership Team:

*This workshop looks at practical ways to use the power of the team to support and advocate for members, create positive relationships in schools, and promote teacher education agendas*

Facilitator—Kiran Sidhu

Lunch will be provided

Please call Marilyn at 604-946-0391 or e-mail [marilyn@deltateachers.org](mailto:marilyn@deltateachers.org) to confirm your attendance and obtain a release code by **December 20, 2019**. One rep per school only.

*Please advise at this time whether you have any food allergies.*



DELTA TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

110 - 4977 Tenant Street  
Delta, BC V4K 2K5

Phone: 604-946-0391

Fax: 604-946-1829

E-mail: [marilyn@deltateachers.org](mailto:marilyn@deltateachers.org)

## A Message from the Our New PD Chair

~ Jeanie McKay ~

The good news is that Delta teachers are active in their professional development! We have already approved almost \$130,000 in PD funding applications, and we have had many conversations with teachers who are really pleased with the quality of workshops and courses that they've been taking. You can find current forms at [www.deltateachers.org](http://www.deltateachers.org) under the PD tab.

We have also had many teachers applying for Credit Course funding. This is a reminder that if you are taking courses beginning in January, you need to get your application in really soon, because it must be received *before* the course begins. Send your application and course information to [marilyn@deltateachers.org](mailto:marilyn@deltateachers.org)

I have a plea for assistance. Our amazing support staff in the DTA office have finite hours as they support the work of our union, so mistakes or omissions add needless hours of extra work. Please ensure that all applications have been signed by admin, that you have signed that you have read the policies, that you have included the course/conference information, location and cost, and that you have included taxes in your calculations. Applications cannot be approved if they are late, or if information is missing. While there is an appeal process, following all the steps outlined on the form saves both you and our office support staff time.

## BCTF New Teachers' Conferences

New Teachers, New TTOCs, and Teacher Candidates



### Wellness Safety Balance

*In life and on the job*

**January 25**  
**Richmond**

SHERATON | [Mowat.com/YVRVS](http://Mowat.com/YVRVS)  
7551 Westminster Hwy.  
Richmond, BC V6X 1A3  
Richmond, British Columbia

**January 24, 2020**  
Pre-conference Welcoming  
Reception from 5pm to 7pm

**May 23**  
**Nelson**

Prestige Lakeside Resort  
and Convention Center  
701 Lakeside Drive, Nelson BC V1L 6G3  
Nelson, British Columbia

**May 22, 2020**  
Pre-conference Welcoming  
Reception from 5pm to 7pm



## Teachers' Pension Plan Workshop



**Approaching Retirement** - This two-hour workshop will help you learn more about your pension. The decisions you make about your pension as retirement approaches are important, and planning for retirement now can make your transition easier.

This workshop covers a wide range of topics, including:

- ◆ Choosing your best pension option
- ◆ Life stages surrounding retirement
- ◆ Retirement application process
- ◆ Returning to work after you have started collecting a pension

**Date:** Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**Location:** DMEC - Action Room

**Time:** 4:00 - 6:00 pm

To register please contact Debbie at the DTA office ([debbie@deltateachers.org](mailto:debbie@deltateachers.org) or 604-946-0391) by **Wednesday, February 12, 2020.**

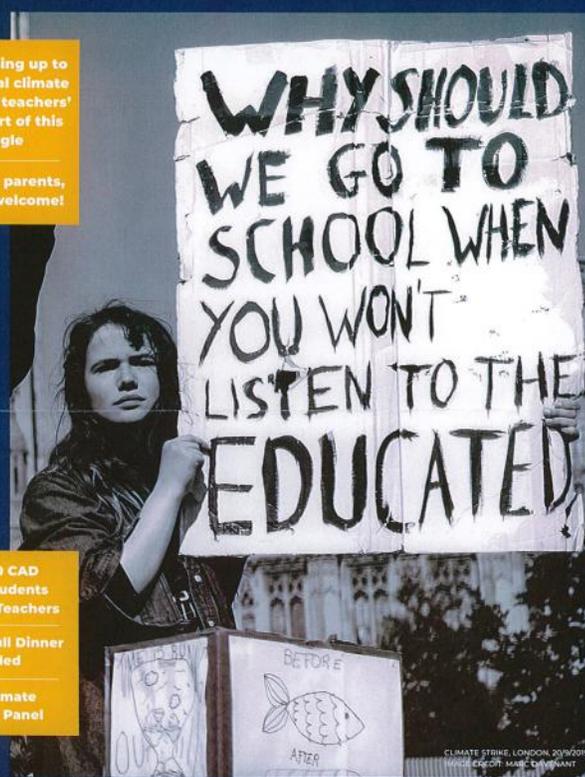
## LEAPING INTO ACTION

### TEACHERS RISE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

A SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE FOR BC, WASHINGTON, AND OREGON TEACHERS

Kids are rising up to demand real climate action, and teachers' work is part of this struggle

Educators, parents, students welcome!



Only \$50 CAD  
\$25 for Students & Student Teachers

Snacks & Full Dinner Included

Teen Climate Activists Panel

**SATURDAY,**  
**FEBRUARY 29, 2020**

12:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
KWANTLEN PARK SECONDARY  
(10441 132 STREET, SURREY, BC)



[CROSSBORDERCONFERENCE.COM](http://CROSSBORDERCONFERENCE.COM)

# Delta Teachers Wearing Red for Ed



**Beach Grove Elementary**



**North Delta Secondary**



**Jarvis Elementary**



**DTA Executive Committee**



**Sunshine Hills Elementary**

**Sandra Cadez, Mike Bylsma, Susan Yao,  
Kathleen Macfarlane, Mahima Lamba, Sarah Shove,  
Janie McKay, Kimberley Hlina, Stephen Platzer,  
Trish McCullough, Alison Roche**

**Missing: Monica Burnett, Luana Foulkes, Elen Nikas**