



Professional Development News

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2011 -2012
PD Committee



Welcome to our Winter Edition



THE HISTORY OF PD FUNDING

Paul Leroy, Chair

Special Programs

Dan Burgess

South Delta Secondary

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Christine Carriou—*DMEC*

Sherman Chan—

North Delta Secondary

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DTA 1st Vice-President

Susan Jeffery—*Devon Gardens*

Aman Sidhu—*Heath*

Favian Yee—

North Delta Secondary

Good morning colleague,

"Just received your fax for PD (received at the DTA on November 23rd and faxed from your school on the 23rd). Policy for considering a request requires that the form be submitted 14 days prior to the event. There is one exception, that being the PSA day in October. All this is written on the form. I send this to you via email as the event is next week.

Paul Leroy, Chair PD Committee, DTA"

How did we get to this point?

For the past 4 of 6 years I have been signing off on Professional Development application forms on behalf of the PD Committee of the DTA. It is a task that I truly enjoy as it supports colleagues in their pursuit of their professional development. Sending Dear Colleague letters is much less exciting. Lately there has been more than the usual Dear Colleague letters as the application has been submitted outside the articulated guidelines. In conversations with colleagues, I sense both understanding and frustration upon hearing that their request has been denied because it was LATE.

Where does this money come from and what is the history of the funding? I trust this helps explain the thought behind funding application rules.

Section H1 of our Collective Agreement set out in eight sentences the values, purpose, funding formulae, rules, guidelines, and responsibilities for the administration of the contracted funds by the "Unions Professional Development Committee." Article 12 of our Constitution defines the process under which the Committee Members are elected and functions.

So what does this really mean? This year the DTA will receive approximately \$110,000 from the School District this year. Your PD Committee that was elected at the June 2011's AGM and adopted a budget allocating the monies received to each of the funding application categories (see Forms under PD). The Committee also adopted the rules for the funding applications. These rules have been debated, modified and approved over the years. Funding categories have been expanded; Credit Course Funding Application and Group School Based PD Planning and amounts have been adjusted, and deadlines have changed. Early in the history of the Committee a decision was made to pool the money and allocate funding based upon a yearly limit and a higher limit over three years rather than to set up an account for each member. By taking this route, the Committee was able to support requests that fall within the approved guidelines. Records have supported this approach as all eligible requests have been honoured but for one year when the budget was exhausted prior to the end of the school year. For most colleagues, this appears to have work well.

Does it need to be the status quo in the future? NO, the status quo has changed most years. What will be available for PD funding applications will be finalized each September.

Paul Leroy, PD Chair

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Did you know...that all PD Forms are also available on First Class?
Follow the link: [First Class](#)→
[All Staff](#)→[Professional Development](#)→
[DTA Pro-D Info](#)→[DTA Pro-D Forms](#)...
and there you are!

Local Specialist Association (LSA) News

LSA CHAIRPERSONS 2011 – 2012

Alternate Ed	Linette Garba
Delta Elementary School Counselors	Arlene Bradley
Delta Teachers Librarians	Irene Funk
Delta Secondary School Counselors	Jill Smalley
ESL	Annie Coblin/ Sandra Chan
Kindergarten Teachers	Jacqueline Loewen
Learning Assistance	Susan Harrison/ Janice O'Brien
Mainstream	Heather Johnson
School Psychologists	Peter Yang
Speech/Language Pathology	Diane Scheuneman

What is an LSA?

An LSA, Local Specialist Association, is a group of teaching colleagues who share a common professional teaching assignment and a willingness to explore professional interest. They are the local version of the BCTF's Specialists Associations. Normally, a group of teacher realizes that there is a benefit to meeting periodically to discuss professional issues within a subject area. A budget is provided for each LSA to help offset meeting expenses. Some LSAs organize workshops and/or sponsor speakers and activities. The Professional Development Committee of the DTA helps finance such events.

To the left is a list of the active LSAs in Delta and a contact person. Get involved! Email the LSA of your choice. Participate in their professional dialogue

Upcoming LSA Workshops

Speech Language Pathologists:

January 30, 2011: Practical Autism Treatment—From Theories to Realities
Jill Calder, M.D., Clinical Director of Rehabilitation Services, Thompson Cariboo, Shuswap Region

February 17, 2011: Executive Function Skills in Children and Adolescents: Assessment and Treatment
Sara Ward, M.S., CCC-SLP

“In teaching you cannot see the fruit of a day's work. It is invisible and remains so, maybe for twenty years.”

~ Jacques Barzun

REMINDERS

Have you attended a course or conference and not received your reimbursement?
Please send in your receipts to the DTA Office, **deadline is June 30, 2012**

Do you know what the deadline dates are for submitting National/International Conferences?
July 1-Nov 30 submit by **May 10th**
Dec 1-Mar 30 submit by **October 10th**
Apr 1-Jun 30 submit by **January 10th**

Are you planning on attending a conference during the summer months?
All applications need to be in 14 days in advance, please have your application to the DTA Office by June 14th

Other things to note:

- PD funding is based on the school calendar year July 1—June 30
- You are allowed up to \$650.00 per year to a maximum of \$1300.00 over three years
- All applications need to be received by the DTA office **14 days in advance** with the exception of National/International
- Course information—including costs, date and location **must** accompany your application
- **You will receive your reimbursement once you have sent in your proof of completion and proof of payment**

ABAI Conference – Denver Colorado

This Conference was held in Denver Colorado from May 27th to 31st. This was the 37th annual convention of the Association of Behavior Analysts International. There were approximately 4000 participants from around the world.

During the conference I attended a variety of workshops on applied behaviour analysis related topics including treating stereotypic behaviour in persons with autism, generalization of skills in the community, assessment techniques for conducting a functional analysis of problem behaviour, using differential reinforcement in schools, specific training tools developed by behaviour analysts, function based approaches to problem behaviour, indirect approaches to addressing functional assessment of behaviour disorders, school consultation prac-

tices and ethical challenges faced by behaviour analysts.

I attended a panel discussion where three prominent behaviour analysts who developed early intensive behaviour intervention programs discussed the next steps for services for children who had been involved in such programs. The conclusion was that more services need to be provided but that a significant barrier is related to the high cost of these supports.

One of the most interesting presentations I attended concerned two single case studies regarding males who exhibited severe self-injurious behaviour. Both boys attended specialized autism schools for many years. While at their respective schools, structural changes were made to their daily activities and interactions, functional communication

training was provided and escape extinction methods which led to the challenging behaviour becoming irrelevant, inefficient and ineffective. One of the subject's self-injurious behaviour had been reduced over a 10 year period from 6000 incidents per year down to one last year. This young man is now able to participate in community activities, attend school and hold a part time job. The outcome for both young men was astounding and certainly provided important information regarding how to go about making significant positive changes in an individual's behaviour.

I very much appreciated the support provided by the Delta Teacher's Association in funding my attendance at this conference. I found it to be very informative and inspirational.

by: Joanne Marshall—POP

18th National Learning Disabilities Conference – P.E.I.

First, I would like to begin by thanking the DTA for giving me the opportunity to travel to Charlottetown, PEI, the home of Canada's confederation and for three days, the home of Canada's learning disabilities experts, for the 18th National Learning Disabilities Conference. Without financial support from the DTA, members like myself, would rarely have the opportunity to attend national specialist conferences. Attending any PSA conference provides attendees with new information, strategies and a renewed passion for teaching. However, attending a national conference seems to take it to a different level. It was my pleasure to attend Canada's 18th National Learning Disabilities Conference.

Knowledgeable presenters from Canada and the United States and passionate participants were given the opportunity to collaborate and expand their expertise on Learning Disabilities. Leading Learning Disabilities researchers were brought to the conference to provide their expertise and knowledge. Dr. Maggie Mamen, an award-winning clinical psychologist and best-selling author and an expert on Nonverbal Learning Disabilities; Dr. George McCloskey, Professor and Director of the School of Psychology Research in the Psychology Department at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and an expert on Executive Function; Dr. Jim Koller, Professor Emeritus and licensed practicing psychologist at the

University of Missouri-Columbia and an expert on Learning Disabilities; Yude Henteleff, a human rights advocate in Canada and internationally on behalf of vulnerable people including persons with learning disabilities and Joy Winchell, a reading clinician at the Child Guidance Clinic of Winnipeg; and Angie Demarco, Community Outreach Staff, LDA Sudbury Branch and an expert on Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction were all plenary speakers at the conference. Each plenary speaker was extremely knowledgeable and provided current and updated research on their topic and how it directly impacts people with learning disabilities.

Breakout sessions, provided a variety of speakers and topics of interest for Learning Disabilities teachers and educators. These breakout sessions provided attendees the opportunity to meet speakers in a more intimate setting. Question and answer periods were provided at the end of each breakout session where attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions and collaborate with other teachers and educators. I attended breakout sessions on Learning Disabilities: Nature or Nurture, Executive Function Development, LD Testing and Diagnosis: What are the Alternatives, The Essay Umbrella: Matching the Cognitive task to assistive technologies, From Isolation to Integration: Connecting Reading Strategies with Text-to-Voice Software, and Universal Design for Learning. Each session

was relative and informative. My students will be the beneficiaries of the knowledge gained from each breakout session. With 21st century learning being such a hot topic in Delta these days, it was incredible to learn about the changing role of Learning Disabilities teachers and educators across Canada. It became evident to me that everywhere in our country LD teachers and educators face the same curricular and technological challenges. Assistive Technologies for LD students were available for all attendees to observe, discover and utilize. It is encouraging to know that LD teachers in Delta are providing their students up to date assistive technologies to accommodate their students' specific learning needs. Software programs such as Kurzweil, Dragon Speak, Word Q and Inspiration and new hardware such as the Livescribe Pen are all readily used in classrooms throughout the Delta school district.

Undoubtedly, the landscape of education is changing. The landscape for LD students is changing as well. Opportunities are available for LD students to change the way they learn. Opportunities, such as this conference, are available for teachers and educators to change the way we educate our LD students. Thanks again to the DTA for this wonderful learning experience.

by: Bill Richards
Seaquam Secondary

Pro-D with a Rip – Seaquam’s School Based PD Day

Seaquam's school year began with two highly stimulating days of pro-d, generously paid for by DTA Pro-D funds.

Stefan Stipp from the Critical Thinking Consortium presented a hands on workshop on "Engaging Students in Learning" that asked us to think about why we do the work we do every day with our students. "Start the school year with a Sales Pitch to students" to hook them into learning, Stipp urged. Tell them what is "beautiful and true", about what we teach; describe how a knowledge of our subject has improved our own lives. He reminded us to reflect on our own excitement and love for our subjects, and encouraged us to find ways to show our students that we are excited and still love, Social Studies, English, working with wood and metal, Art, Music, Drama, Math, History, Biology, Chemistry,

Physics, Auto-Shop etc. Stipp presented a "Five Step Approach to Student Engagement": help kids see value in learning, focus on relationships, challenge kids, empower, and provide frequent, timely and constructive feedback.

Next up was Ross Laird - a Kwantlen teacher and philosopher who gave a riveting three-hour talk on Technology and the Reinvention of Teaching, outlining the landscape of how teaching is changing given the astonishingly rapid changes in technology facing us all. Laird hits with a punch. He has a deep bag of facts and statistics that he carries inside his head - and he pulls them out, one at a time, in quick succession: we are living in a watershed moment of great change, Laird says - the world is no longer run by governments, but by computer programmers. As teachers we

must acknowledge this. To prepare our students for the rapid technological changes of the late 20th century and now the 21st century, teaching content is secondary to teaching collaboration, teamwork, process and interpersonal connection. Technology is here to stay. We must embrace it, and learn to use and accept that for the first time in the history of the world we, the teachers, must be willing to not be the experts in a world where, on the technological front, our children are.

These two highly successful days, held in the last week of our summer break, significantly contributed to raising morale and reminding us all of the huge value in professional development.

by : Jeannie Stubbs

BCTF Professional Development Calendar

FEBRUARY 2012

February 2-4 Vancouver, BC. The Early Years Conference 2012, "The Development of Children's Mental Health: How Do We Become Who We Are?" This conference will stimulate dialogue, reflection, a deeper understanding of a child's total development as rooted in their earliest relationships, and may revolutionize our approaches and practices with young children, their families, and their communities. For further information, visit the conference website at http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Early_Years.htm. To register, contact us at ian.ipce@ubc.ca or 604-827-3112. The conference brochure is available at http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Brochures/Brochure_EarlyYears2012.pdf.

February 16-18 Vancouver. BCATA (BC Art Teachers' Association). The BC Art Teachers Conference--Visual Celebrations. Visual art teachers have a lot to celebrate: teaching, learning and art in our lives while host school Magee Secondary celebrates 100 years of education. Join us! This conference is for elementary and secondary teachers wanting a variety of workshops in the visual arts and media arts. Conference includes a marketplace of vendors. Visit our website at <http://visualcelebrations.wikispaces.com/>. Contact: Myra Morgan at morgan_m@sd36.bc.ca.

MARCH 2012

March 1-2 Vancouver, BC. SEA (Special Education Association) is proud to present the 37th Annual Crosscurrents Conference, at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver. Keynote: To be announced, plus a variety of quality sessions and exhibitors for regular and special education. For information, contact or visit the website www.bctf.ca/sea/ or contact Conference Chair Leann Buteau at: seaconferencechair@gmail.com.

MAY 2012

May 5 Vancouver. Investigating Our Practices 2012, 15th annual conference. Co-sponsored by the UBC Faculty of Education and the BCTF. Teachers from different educational contexts convene at UBC to share their investigations, understandings and questions. Registration fee \$25 (\$15 for students). Lunch and refreshments included. Scarfe Education Building, 2125 Main Mall, UBC. Proposals for presentations can be submitted online at <http://eplt.educ.ubc.ca/iop-cfp>. The deadline for submissions is February 20, 2012. For more information about IOP 2012, visit www.eplt.educ.ubc.ca/iop or contact Judy Paley at 604-822-2733 judy.paley@ubc.ca.

May 6-8 Vancouver, BC. Child and Youth Mental Health Matters. This conference brings together an interdisciplinary group of professionals working in the field of mental health to share knowledge and experiences related to child and youth mental health. Three themes woven through the conferences: Parental mental health, children of parents with mental illness and young carers. A forum for focusing on the needs of families as they struggle with issues related to mental health concerns across the generations. The overall goal is help us develop a common language and understanding of the needs of young people and families. By bringing together people from diverse backgrounds, we hope to enrich our collective knowledge of mental health strategies, best practices and the latest research in order to improve outcomes for young people and families. For further information please visit our website www.interprofessional.ubc.ca, or contact us at ip-cde2@interchange.ubc.ca or 604-827-3112. We are currently accepting presentation submissions until September 26, 2011. The presentations can be submitted on line at <http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/ChildandYouthMentalHealth.htm>.