



TODAY

President's Column ~ Susan Yao

Date: April 7, 2022

Issue : #5



I am happy to report that I survived Spring Break—just barely!—and also the 2022 BCTF AGM. While we did not have our full complement of DTA Delegates, the ones who were there were thoughtfully engaged and we had lively discussions on our communal WhatsApp chat group. So many of our delegates spoke at the mic, whether to ask questions, move amendments, speak for or against motions or to make points of order or privilege. I am very proud of Delta's contributions to the BCTF AGM. On a personal note, it was my promise to DTA members (as verbalized at pre-AGM delegate meetings, Staff Rep Assembly and EC meeting) that I would try to lower the BCTF fees which are set at every AGM. The last several years have seen a BCTF fee of 1.69% of salary, with a big emphasis on building the Collective Bargaining Defence Fund (CBDF). I did attempt to lower that fee as the CBDF's funds had reached their \$40M goal and there is also a somewhat healthy surplus at the BCTF; however, my amendment was defeated. That being said, the BCTF has strong checks and balances in place and the fees assessed are used in ways that support all members. It was my intention to "lighten the load" for members, at least for the upcoming year.

This AGM elected new BCTF table officers for the next school year. Congrats to Clint Johnston (President-elect), Carole Gordon (1st VP-elect), Robin Toszczak (2nd VP-elect). And several new or re-invigorated EC members: Benula Bunjun (re-elected), Lisa LaBoucane, Rick Joe, Winona Waldron, Katherine Trepanier (re-elected) and Jelana Bighorn. Violette Baillargeon, Mariah Franzmann, and Jody Polukoshko are completing the second year of their two-year terms.

It has been a tough ride for Teri Mooring (BCTF President) the last few years dealing with two bargaining rounds, a pandemic and provincial election all under her watch. We wish Teri well and thank her for her service to all BCTF members these past several years.

Some decisions from the 2022 BCTF AGM include:

- Fee of 1.69 % of the actual salary of the member, with fee for TTOCs of 1.59%.
- Changes to AGM agenda to be permitted in first session of each day of BCTF AGM and limited to 30

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**DTA Annual General Meeting
Seaquam Secondary Library
4:00pm - Tuesday, May 10, 2022**

ELECTIONS

Executive Committee

President/Local Representative
1st Vice-President/Bargaining Chair
2nd Vice-President
Treasurer
Executive Secretary
Members-at-Large (3)
Members-at-Large - BIPOC (1)
BCTF Local Representatives (1 for 2 years)
Alternate Local Representative
Aboriginal Education Chair
Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers Rep
French as First or Working Language Rep
Health & Safety Chair
Local Election Contact
Professional Development Chair
Public Education Advocacy Chair
Social Justice Chair
Teacher Teaching on Call Rep

Committee Members

Aboriginal Education Committee
Bargaining Committee
French as First or working Language
Health and Safety Committee
Professional Development Committee
Public Education Advocacy Committee
Social Justice Committee
Teacher Teaching on Call Advisory Committee

Please contact Debbie (debbie@deltateachers.org or 604-946-0391) at the DTA office if you are interested in running for an executive or committee position.

minutes. (This should be interesting for next year's AGM and already went into practice at the recent AGM).

- Member-at-Large position formerly designated for a *racialized* member changed to designated to *Member of Colour*.
- That as an objective, the BCTF achieve a balance in the CBDF of \$115,000,000 (formerly set at \$40M); this is the fund from which strike pay comes.

There were many items of business not dealt with at the AGM and a motion was passed to that all Unfinished Business be referred to the Spring Representative Assembly with the power to act. That meeting is coming up at the end of May and will be attended by Delta's three local reps: myself, Kathleen Macfarlane and Sandra Cadez. Of note, that meeting will be the first in-person BCTF meeting since the start of the pandemic.

The DTA is still considering how to roll out the DTA Retirement Social and Dinner that usually happens in June but which was canceled due to COVID-19 the last two years. Please stay tuned! We are planning an in-person AGM.

Consider putting your name forward for one of the positions on the DTA EC to be elected in May. The DTA EC has had three vacancies this year: Aboriginal Ed chair, French as a First or Working Language Chair, and Adult Ed/Itinerant/Non-enrolling Chair. While the District has an established Anti-racism Committee, the DTA's Ab Ed Chair remains empty. This is troubling since there is work to be done. If you have an interest in the work of equity and inclusion, please consider putting your name forward. Similarly, the issues of inclusive learning and French language need representation. Your work will be supported by the DTA and the BCTF.

By now your staff reps should have shared with DTA members the Draft DTA budget which will be presented at the upcoming Staff Rep Assembly (Monday, April 11) for approval in advance of the DTA AGM slated for May 10th (details soon!). The DTA is pleased to offer a zero-increase this year to our flat fee for members. The DTA continues responsible use of the DTA's funds generated by member fees, while at the same time allowing flexibility to respond to member needs.

Delta's local fee, while one of the lowest in the province, meets the minimum required by the BCTF in order for the DTA to access full BCTF grants. BCTF grants helped fund the release this second half of the year for Kathleen Macfarlane, DTA 2nd VP and Local Rep, once a week from her NDSS teaching duties. Kathy's work in the local office has provided invaluable additional support to members.

Earlier this year the DTA's executive committee passed a motion to donate to the Delta Assist Food Bank via a

labour initiative call the Union Protein Project. The DTA donation purchased 360 jars of peanut butter which will be delivered to Delta Assist. The jars will sport labels saying "Donated by the Delta Teachers' Association". Thanks to our office staff for their work. I am confident that DTA members' contributions to Delta Assist will be a welcome source of protein for families and individuals coping with food insecurity in our community.

The DTA released officers will soon begin our in-person "Listening Tour" to meet with members at every work-site. Please find out from your Staff Rep when we are coming to your school! Looking forward to meeting with you!



2022 -2023 BCTF Executive Committee

President: Clint Johnston (Chilliwack)
1st Vice-President: Carole Gordon (Central Okanagan)
2nd Vice-President: Robin Tosczak (Victoria)

Members at Large:

- Rick Joe - Aboriginal (Chilliwack)
- Benula Bunjun - Racialized (Sooke)
- Violette Baillargeon (Surrey)
- Jelana Bighorn (VSTA)
- Mariah Franzmann (Prince George)
- Lisa LaBoucane (Vernon)
- Jody Polukoshko (VESTA)
- Katherine Trepanier (Prince George)
- Winona Waldron (Greater Victoria)

"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 \$1,000.00 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 Resources/Forms. **Deadline is June 30, 2022**

Thinking of Retiring



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.