



# TODAY

## President's Column ~ Susan Yao

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Issue : #1



**Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year!**

We are three weeks in and already so much going on.

Of interest to DTA members are the upcoming municipal elections for school trustees (also elections for council and mayoral positions). Voting day is **Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** with advance polls set for **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**.

The DTA, along with CUPE 1091 and the Delta Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) will be hosting two All Candidates Meetings where the public will have opportunity to hear from candidates and to ask questions. Those dates are **October 3<sup>rd</sup> (7-9:30pm, Genesis Theatre in Ladner)** and **October 4<sup>th</sup> (7-9:30pm, North Delta Secondary Theatre)**. Come to either of these meetings and bring your friends, colleagues, family and neighbours.

The potential for political change happens every four years. The DTA will be sending out questionnaires to all of the School Trustee Candidates and then will be sharing responses to our Political Action Committee's (PAC) questionnaire when we receive them.

The DTA's constitution allows for endorsement of School Trustee Candidates "who are in support of a viable, thriving, quality public education system". Once we receive responses from candidates, the DTA Executive Committee will vote to consider which candidates, if any, merit endorsement from the DTA. Endorsement information will be posted on our website ([www.deltateachers.org](http://www.deltateachers.org)).

There are 15 candidates—two with *Independents Working for You*, seven with *Achieving for Delta*, four with *ParentsVoice BC* and two who are not attached to any particular slate. The DTA wonders what motivates each of these candidates?

Are they getting involved in order to fight for more money for the Delta School District and BC? So that our students and our educators get better supports for learning and teaching? Funding to education in BC is still below the national average! The current (ongoing!) teacher shortage has much to do with the fact that BC's public-school teachers are among the lowest paid in Canada. Is it the role of trustees to lobby the BC government for adequate funding? And if not the trustees, then whom?

The tagline for ParentsVoice BC is "Let's take back our schools". Question: take back from what? I am troubled by

the rhetoric on their website and statements such as the following:

*In many school districts, union and special interest group endorsements ensure their candidates are elected due to low turnout. It is very difficult for independent candidates to win going up against powerful union endorsements and volunteers, as well as progressive third party campaigns, training and polling data.*



These statements are misleading and cannot be proven, but sure sound convincing. The DTA does have a mechanism for endorsing school trustees but that doesn't ensure a candidate's win over others. And as educators, DTA members are stakeholders along with others, including parents.

Whatever your beliefs, if you care about the state and fate of BC's public education system, the DTA encourages you to get informed and vote!

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## Welcome back!

### Committee Vacancies

#### Executive Committee

- Aboriginal Education Chair
- French as a First or Working Language Rep
- Political Action Committee Chair
- Teaching Teacher on Call Rep

There are also vacancies on the following committees:

- Aboriginal Education
- Bargaining/Working & Learning Conditions
- French as a First or Working Language
- Professional Development
- Political Action
- Social Justice
- Teacher-on-Call Advisory

Elections will be held to fill the positions at the Staff Rep Meetings. Please call the DTA office if you would like to let your name stand for any of these positions.

By now your staff has probably convened your first DTA meeting of the year and chosen Union Representatives at your school. While I tend to limit “should” in my vocabulary, all worksites **should** elect **one Staff Rep for every 15 teachers**. It is vital that ALL members of the DTA have union representation in meetings with the Employer; having Staff Reps with training is best practice. And then there are other important roles: PD Contact, School PD Chair, Aboriginal Ed Contact, Health & Safety Rep and Staff Committee Chair.

(There are 3 training sessions for Staff Reps this year including a Rookie training day on October 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be two other Staff Rep training days: more information to follow. With the continuing TTOC shortage, codes for these are limited so sign up early!)

On the bargaining side: the DTA is keeping an eye on other public sector unions who are in bargaining at the moment. The next bargaining date for BCTF and BCPSEA is September 26<sup>th</sup> and will be the first bargaining session since August. The DTA will share a bargaining update with Staff Reps on Monday at the September 26<sup>th</sup> Staff Rep Assembly scheduled for 4pm in the Library at Delta Secondary School.

DTA Members can check out the BCTF Members Portal (<https://members.bctf.ca/>) for regular updates on bargaining as well as other information and opportunities. If you have an issue getting onto the portal, contact the BCTF contact Login Support at 1-800-663-9163 (local 2119) Monday to Friday between 8:30am and 5:00pm

**Pensions!**

For members turning 71 in 2022, they need to apply to the Teachers’ Pension Plan by November 1, 2022, for a pension effective date of December 1, 2022. Under the *Income Tax Act*, employees aged 71 must start receiving their pension no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> of the same year they turn 71; they may continue working without interruption.

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, their employer will stop deducting contributions to the Plan from the member’s pay. The employer may or may not inform the member of the requirement for them to start collecting their pension. If DTA members are 72 or older, contact the Teachers’ Pension Plan immediately!



# World Teachers’ Day October 5, 2022

Our kids and their teachers:  
**WORTH INVESTING IN**



Teachers around the province and in more than 100 countries celebrate World Teachers’ Day on October 5. World Teachers’ Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1994 to raise awareness and understanding of the challenges facing teachers every day. It’s an opportunity to thank and recognize teachers for all the work they do in classrooms and communities every day of the year to help learners of all ages.

## Cancellation of TTOCs

As part of the resolution to Grievance 130, Teachers on Call not Utilized, in September 2012, the Union and the School Board have agreed to the following:

- Teachers on call will not cancel an assignment fewer than 60 minutes prior to the start of an assignment except with extenuating circumstances.
- Teachers will not cancel a teacher on call assignment fewer than 60 minutes prior to the start of an assignment except with extenuating circumstances.

This resolution assures that TTOCs will not be cancelled as they are arriving at a school, and also that classes will not be left without a TTOC.



## *In Memoriam*

**Neil Tennant Londry** passed away on June 21, 2022. He taught for 33 years and inspired many.



## DTA Calendar of Events October

- **Oct 3 & 4** - All Candidates Debates (DSS & NDSS)
- **Oct 6** - PD Contacts’ Training, DMEC
- **Oct 11** - Executive Committee Meeting, DTA
- **Oct 18** - Rookie Staff Rep Training, DTA
- **Oct 24** - Staff Rep Meeting, SE Library