



A Message from Susan Yao - DTA President

Welcome back from Spring Break and on to the last three months to take us all to the end of the school year! Likely it feels like the break was so long ago now and the journey to summer will fly by before we know it.

The DTA delegates to the 2024 BCTF Annual General Meeting have returned. Here are some of the highlights...

Delta's own Jeanie McKay (NDSS) was honoured for the work over her career of advocating for teachers' health and safety both locally and provincially. She received the coveted Stewart Schon Health and Safety Award for her dedication to the rights and responsibilities for workers' safety. Congratulations Jeanie! Well-deserved!

Delta teacher Trevana Spilchen (Delview and SOGI Coordinator) is also in the news as they ran for a Member-At-Large position on the BCTF Executive Committee and they were elected! Congratulations to Trevana and looking forward to your contributions to the decision-making of the BCTF.

Also, a shout out to Delta's Wendy Yamazaki (Seaquam) who took the time to visit the BCTF AGM and sat with Delta's delegates on one of the 4 days of the meeting. Wendy was a delegate last year and it was good to see her there, even if just for the day. Any BCTF member can come to the AGM and can even speak if they want to. But of course, only delegates can vote.

The biggest shout-out of all goes to the 16 delegates who listened, asked questions, spoke at the mic, voted, discussed, cared and contributed to the representation of DTA members. If you have never been to an AGM, think about going next year. It is not an easy process but it is always interesting. And hearing the reality of educators from across the province is —as I have heard it said —“some good learning”!

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Susan, Jeanie, Kathy, Alison

DTA Annual General Meeting - Tuesday, May 7, 2024 @ 4 pm Seaquam Secondary Library

Please contact Jane (jane@deltateachers.org) if you are interested in running for any of the below positions

Executive Committee

- President / Local Representative
- 1st Vice President/Bargaining Chair
- 2nd Vice President
- Treasurer
- Executive Secretary
- Members-at-Large (3)
- Member-at-Large (BIPOC)
- BCTF Local Representative 2-year position
- Alternative Local Representative



Chairpersons

- Aboriginal Education
- Adult Ed, Itinerant, Non-Enrolling Teachers
- French as First of Working Language
- Health & Safety
- Professional Development
- Political Action
- Social Justice
- Teacher Teaching on Call



Committee Members

- Aboriginal Education Committee
- Bargaining Committee
- French as First of Working Language Committee
- Health & Safety Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Political Action Committee
- Social Justice Committee
- Teacher Teaching on Call Committee

Snacks & Prize Draws!

Presidents' Message cont'd

A resolution from Delta came to the BCTF AGM asking that the Federation investigate how to better support members with disabling conditions, mental illness, or brain injuries who are trying to access Salary Indemnity Plan, long-term disability, or WorkSafe, with a report back to the 2024 Fall Representative Assembly. This resolution was carried by the AGM and it is the hope of the DTA that there will be improvements for members needing supports.

2024-2025 BCTF Executives

President - Clint Johnston

1st VP - Carole Gordon

2nd VP - Robin Tosczak

Newly Elected

Members-at-Large

- Jelana Bighorn
- Brenda Celesta
- Hallan Mtatiro
- Chris Perrier-Evelly
- Trevana Spilchen
- Winona Waldron

Returning

Members-at-Large

- Mariah Franzmann
- Rick Kumar
- Marilyn Ricketts-Lindsay
- Katherine Trepanier

Salary Increase Coming!

Other news of relevance to DTA members concerns the question of the upcoming salary increase. The BCTF shared with locals that a 1% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was recently announced by the Ministry of Finance (PSEC Secretariat). It will apply to all teacher salary grids effective July 1, 2024. A link to the news release can be found [here](#). This means there is an overall 3% wage increase (2% plus 1%) for employees effective July 1, 2024. In addition, there will be an increase of 0.11% to the top step of each grid. This increase will be a welcome change for all BCTF members.



Top Ten Reasons to Join the BC Retired Teachers' Assn and the Delta Retired Teachers' Assn

- 10 - Get up-to-date info on your pension & medical coverage.
- 9 - Take advantage of group insurance rates.
- 8 - Get special rates on travel.
- 7 - Collect Affinity Partner discount coupons.
- 6 - Promotes the welfare of retired teachers, advocate for seniors and stand up for BC families.
- 5 - BCRTA speaks up for our member's rights.
- 4 - Four (4) Postscript Magazines & Six (6) Newsletters - BCTRA.
- 3 - Three (3) Newsletters - DRTA & pertinent information.
- 2 - FUN at social events with other retired colleague.
- 1 - **FREE BCTRA membership** first year - \$52 value!

Bargaining News

Speaking of wage increases does lead naturally to the topic of bargaining. The DTA's bargaining team is looking at areas to work on for the next round of local bargaining which will begin in the autumn of 2024 as our current Collective Agreement ends June 30, 2025. Members of the DTA's bargaining team will also be at the BCTF Bargaining Conference on May 22-23, 2024, at the River Rock Casino Resort. The DTA's Bargaining team will be reaching out to members for input. Stay tuned!

Solidarity

As a final note, I would like to share with members my thoughts on solidarity. As we are all individuals with unique goals and needs and wants, solidarity must be about consensus. This means that our own individual goals and needs and wants are not always met. Each of us in our own "silos" are working on things that our colleagues may or may not know about. Certainly, students and parents may know some of the work and so might our colleagues. District staff and trustees might have some idea. But because we do this thing in our classroom or in our offices, we don't always know how things are for others. We know what we are doing but does anyone else? There is a certain amount of trust that goes along with solidarity. If I show up to the work, will others? Unionism is about wanting for others what we want for ourselves. I invite you to keep showing up for each other. Together we are stronger.

Calendar of Events

April

Apr 18 - 20 BCTF Zones Mtg - Surrey

Apr 24 - Ab Ed Mtg - DTA

Apr 29 - Staff Rep Assembly - DSS

May

May 1 - Health & Safety Mtg - DTA

May 2 - BCTF Pension Workshop

May 7 - DTA AGM - SE

May 8 - PD Committee Mtg - DTA

May 14 - EC Mtg - Virtual

May 14 - SBO Meeting

May 15 - Mat Leave Workshop



**A NEW DTA
LOGO &
WEBSITE**

DTA Scholarship

Applicants for the DTA Scholarship must be the child (graduating from a public school in BC) of a DTA member. The scholarship amount is \$1,200. The receipts will be chosen based on their top Grade 12 marks.

Applications can be found on the DTA website and are to be submitted to the DTA Scholarship Committee via email (jane@deltateachers.org) by June 30th, 2024. Applications can also be faxed (604) 946-1629 or mailed.