#### Central East District Representative’s Report

**December 2015**

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| **DR Meeting Dates**December 3: Canadian Teachers’ FederationDecember 4/5: Provincial Executive CouncilDecember 8: Greater St. Paul – EPC & Park Plains East LCDecember 9: Northern Lights LC & InductionDecember 10: Greater St. Paul LC & XmasJanuary 6: Lakeland Catholic & Northern Lights EPC mtgs.January 7: Lakeland Catholic LCJanuary 9: Public Education Collective Bargaining Act Local Leader Mtg.January 14/15: Provincial Executive Council | http://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionImages/Carousel%20Items/COMM-216l-StoryofATA-campaign-box_Red-library.jpg | **Upcoming Events**A special meeting called for January 9th of Local Presidents, Economic Policy Committee or Negotiating SubCommittee Chairs, and Economic Consultants @ Barnett House to collaborate on the Public Education Collective Bargaining.Teachers’ Conventions are upcoming. Please remember that a teacher requires permission to attend alternate professional development in absence of their teachers’ convention. Deadline dates to apply: NETCA – December 15th; CEATCA – January 15th.NETCA Convention: February 11/12CEATCA Convention: March 10/11 |

***Professional Development:***

**Webinars:** are offered in conjunction with the Alberta Regional Learning Consortium. See schedule below and find archived events [here](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Pages/Webinars.aspx).

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| PRISM: Professional Respecting and Supporting Individual Sexual Minorities Part I January 11, 2016Part II January 25, 2016 | Supporting Positive Behaviours in Alberta Schools Part I March 14, 2016Part II March 21, 2016 | Unseen Hurts: Understanding Mental Health Issues in Our Classrooms Part I April 14, 2016 Part II April 21, 2016 |

[Speak Truth to Power – Defender of Human Rights](http://sttpcanada.ctf-fce.ca/) : is an amazing resource developed for teachers. It is interactive and includes lesson plans geared to different grades. Have a look!

**SLA Survey:** Over 400 teachers participated in this survey. 22% agreed and 72% disagreed with the statement “My students benefitted from completing the digital SLA.”

***Government:***

**Bill 5:** teachers’ lobbying efforts made an impact on the government and opposition. Thank you!!

This bill was amended to exclude the controversial clauses regarding teachers and their individual salaries.

**Bill 7:** on human rights. Protection for LGBTQ named in this legislation will require boards to add this to existing policy.

**Bill 8 Public Education Collective Bargaining Act:** We received an excellent briefing on this bill rooted in consultation with the legal firm our association employs – Field Law. I will provide a separate analysis of this bill.

**Alberta Catholic School Trustees’ Association meeting:**  Table Officers and ACSTA Executive met and exchanged mutual support assurances. The two associations have always worked together. All agreed that the conversation about LGBTQ had become polarized which had not been helpful in responding to legislation.

**C1 Report:** way back when, an inadequate draft was sent to the ATA. Our feedback was that teacher workload had not been reduced. Government released the draft copy as a final version!

**Malatest:** government has issued an ultimatum to the Malatest company to have a report released by Wednesday, December 09.

**Local political engagement:** MLA engagement kits have been created and a grant provided for locals to allow for MLA engagement activity. **We hope to see individual teachers meeting with their MLA to share their teaching story and put a face to public education issues.**

**100th Anniversary Celebration planning:** $397 000 approved for

* Centennial brand for ATA,
* lecture series on teacher leadership and professionalism (Cal, Ed, Fort Mac, GP, Leth, MH and RD),
* two works of art – one closed competition to teachers and one open competition,
* notebooks for delegates at 2017 ARA,
* pictorial timeline for walls of auditorium,
* display of archival artifacts and digital conversion of archival material.

***Member Services:***

**Board of Reference**: this is a critical feature for teachers. If you need an explanation, please ask.

**Online tools:**  to introduce and explain member services to teachers. This was just taped and will be available soon through our website.

***Teacher Welfare:***

**Public Education Collective Bargaining Act Meeting:** a meeting of local leaders – president, EPC or NSC chair, economic consultants, and district representatives will be held at Barnett House on Saturday, January 9.

**EPCs:** every committee has been asked to meet prior to January 11 to provide a document of additions to the “list” of all possible matters to be bargained.

**Union or corporate political donations**: no longer allowed. Locals ought to contact Dennis Theobald regarding attending political conventions and paying for this. Individuals are on their own for payment to a political convention. (Repaying the individual from the local amounts to an illegal donation.)

**Case updates:** a) taking personal leave and charged for the days but no substitute hired and no instruction provided. This is not personal leave. This situation will be grieved. B) docked a half day of pay for being 15 minutes late after a lunch hour medical appointment. Pay was reinstated.

**Lump Sum Payment & Maternity Leave:** EI sent out two different decisions on this. Finally ruling – call to report to EI in the week you receive payment. If you spoke to an EI agent in the week of November 15, you will need to call back in the week you actually received the $. Sorry for the confusion.

This is such a whirlwind time of the school year. I hope each of you has the capacity to enjoy your teaching situation as the excitement of the upcoming holiday builds for our students.

May you enjoy a peaceful and wonder-filled Christmas season in good health!

Elaine ☺