

December 2016

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District Representative Meeting Dates

12 01 - 02: Provincial Executive Council
12 06: Battle River Induction
12 13: Greater St. Paul LC
12 16: NETCA policy review
01 09: Battle River Executive
01 10: Greater St. Paul LC
01 12: Lakeland Catholic LC
01 13: NETCA Board
01 16: Northern Lights Executive
01 19-20: Provincial Executive Council



Member Services

Call trends to member services tend to fall into three categories: employment information, employer action and interpersonal relations/staff.

Of note from member services:

- The vulnerability of temporary contract teachers.
- Acknowledgement that first year teachers need support - less teaching time or a mentor.
- Representation equals advice.
- By the School At, employers must engage in protective measures for teachers.
- Defining teacher work in the context of inclusive complex classrooms.
Example: changing diapers is not teacher work.
- Sports events, likely any event needs supervision other than the coach.

Bargaining

Central Bargaining continues with upcoming meetings on December 19-20. The **initial proposal** and continually updated **Bargainer's Blog** is available on our website. Of course, teachers require an account (simple to obtain) to access this private material.

Professional Development

Walking Together consultants are available for booking through professional development branch at Barnett House.

- Consultants are hosting regional meetings of local Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- The workshops developed over three years will meet the scope of foundational knowledge required by our new TQS.
- They will create a series of one page fact sheets to support the workshop content.
- They have contextualized the Kairos Blanket Exercise for Treaty 6, 7, and 8.

Member count data sent bi-monthly to locals will now also be sent to conventions so that the two sub groups can coordinate collection of convention fees based on accurate and identical numbers.

NETCA (Northeast Teachers' Convention Association) had their constitutional amendments passed by Provincial Executive Council through Table Officers.

Teacher Welfare

Economic consultants are needed in the Central East district particularly in the Lakeland Catholic, Northern Lights and Park Plains East areas. Interested? See the ad in the ATA News.

Current grievance issues:

- Determining the beginning of 90 days for extended disability benefits,
- The meaning of being absent from school,
- Reduction in teacher workload

By the Employment Standards Code, every teacher must have **30 minutes of rest** in five hours of work. These rest periods can be no shorter than ten minutes each.

My ASEBP Mobile App

The My ASEBP Mobile App has been given a new look and feel and is now much easier to use. The app can help covered members better prepare for planned expenses and current health and wellness costs. It is available at the Apple App and Google Play Stores.

App features include the ability to:

- Submit Extended Health Care, Vision, Health Spending Account (HSA) and Wellness Spending Account (WSA)* claims,
- Submit receipts by taking a photo within the app,
- Transfer eligible unpaid amounts to Health Spending Accounts (HSA) at the tap of a button,
- View all claims as well as HSA and WSA balances on one page,
- Access up to three years of ASEBP claims history,
- View ASEBP ID cards, both on and offline, and
- View coverage details.

Using **credit cards with loyalty rewards programs**: teachers who make purchases for school events and are reimburse by the jurisdiction may collect loyalty points. See the specifics from the CRA (Canada Revenue Agency) here→

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/bsnss/tpcs/pvrl/bnfts/lylty/menu-eng.html>

Government

Just released: a new publication ***The Role of the Superintendent and the Teaching Profession in Alberta***.

Upcoming workshop: **Privacy Implications in the Networked Classroom**. Barnett House 2017 01 26. The focus is on supporting Alberta teachers, school leaders and central office staff who have an interest and responsibility in privacy as it relates to students, digital technologies and networked classrooms.

Recall from last report our government's "pay to play" in **international benchmarking activities** such as PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) and TiMS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study). Our Association will release *What You Need to Know About PISA* in February 2017. This book will closely follow the release of PISA 2015 results on 2016 12 06. Remember that ARA 2016 had an emergent resolution call for the minister of education to withdraw from participation in PISA and other international testing. Link here→ <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume-51-2016-17/Number-7/Pages/PISA-2015.aspx>

Supreme Court decision allows BCTF's appeal. British Columbia Teachers' Federation challenged the law passed in 2002 that stripped class size, class composition and specialist teacher, counsellor, teacher-librarian and special education teacher ratios from collective agreements and prohibited the future negotiation of clauses related to teachers' conditions of professional practice.

The BC government is now required to reinstate the clauses that were stripped from the collective agreements, including class size maximums in elementary and secondary schools, and the number of school counsellors in schools. This is anticipated to reinstate 3 500 teaching positions.

This decision speaks about the need to bargain in good faith. Good faith consultation involves meeting and engaging in meaningful dialogue in which positions are explained and each party reads, listens to and considers various representations made by the other. There must be an honest effort to find middle ground.

Our president, vice presidents, and executive secretary met with **ACSTA** (Alberta Catholic Schools Trustees' Association) to discuss the PRISM toolkit, inclusion policies and curriculum design.

Burden cost of the SLA program including instructional time, administrative and assessment time, and professional development/release time amounts to the vicinity of 7 million dollars according to our association's calculation.

Our association is **writing to the minister of education**, again, regarding curriculum and assessment issues.

The Alberta government has introduced Bill 35, **the Fair Elections Financing Act**, which would cap contributions to political parties and place limits on third party advertising.

Upcoming

Christmas Holidays! Enjoy a wonderful warm season with family and friends.

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