

Central East District Representative Report May 2015

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DR Meeting Dates:

- PEC – May 7-8
- PPE Executive Mtg – May 11
- GSP Local Council – May 12
- Superintendent Review Committee – May 13
- Well-Being of Children and Youth Committee – May 15
- Annual Representative Assembly – May 16 – 18
- AV Annual General Meeting – May 20
- BR Annual General Meeting – May 21
- NETCA executive meeting – May 22
- NL executive meeting – May 25
- PPE Annual General Meeting – May 26
- LC Annual General Meeting – May 27
- Curriculum Committee – May 28
- GSP Annual General Meeting – May 28
- NL Annual General Meeting – June 1
- PPE Local Council Meeting – June 4

Important Dates:

- Your Annual General Meeting!!
- Annual Representative Assembly: May 16 – 18
- Provincial Election Grant applications: June 1
- Provincial Executive Council: June 11 – 12



ARA Survival Guide



The Alberta Teachers' Association's Annual Representative Assembly (ARA) will gather more than 450 delegates, Provincial Executive Council members and Association staff in a huge room at the Westin in Edmonton for three days of presentations and policy debate over the May long weekend. For those assigned to attend the grueling three days, the key to surviving ARA is to ...

be prepared!

May Provincial Executive Council

Professional Development

- There are schools and districts who are switching convention associations.
- Some districts have schools attending different conventions. This also applies to double teacher families. These kinks are worked out through the constitution of conventions or through Patrick Loyer. Sessions presented on inclusive education at PDAC.
- An invitational symposium was hosted on April 24 - Reaching the Vision: Building Inclusive Education Together. Proceedings are forthcoming.
- The symposium was followed by Professional Development Area Conference (PDAC) which included sessions on the theme of inclusive education.

Election

- There was discussion regarding the provincial general election. We are examining ways to work with the newly minted NDP government. Likely there will be changes in Alberta Education. MUCH more to follow on this.
- We have sent a congratulatory note to Ms. Notley.
- We received thanks from CIVIX for our support of the Student Vote program. The results of Student Vote closely mirrored the actual election results.
- Tear away election material was very successful although it was noted that overstuffed classrooms are not the hot button issue in some rural schools.

Government:

- An election review committee was established consisting of the past president, three PEC members, two teachers, the returning officer, and one executive staff officer. They will examine the 2015 general election, consider matters such as balloting, timing and voting periods, review campaign and candidate funding, review campaign guidelines, and then report to PEC. Cost: 10 500.
- We will donate \$3 500 to the Solidarity with Nepal fund for relief efforts following the Nepalese earthquake.
- We will name the ATA Educational Trust bursary program in recognition of Dr Keeler. Dr. Keeler was key in establishing the Trust.
- Our provincial election grants has expended \$6 703 (thirteen locals) thus far with another seven locals having received informal approval. Deadline to apply for grant money is June 1, 2015.
- Blended Learning is a concern. The issue - this has been co-opted by the privatization movement. BL dramatically lowers labour costs - this would be teachers. A grant has been given to the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortia.

- Additional Council Resolutions for ARA: regarding review of curriculum reform processes, rejecting the provisions of the proposed budget of March 2015, and establishing ministerial orders about gay-straight alliances.

Research

- ❖ A new research report has been issued: The State of Inclusion in Alberta Schools. Four key findings have emerged:
 - a) Classrooms are large, complex communities.
 - b) Supports and resources for inclusion are in decline.
 - c) Multiple, multifaceted supports are required.
 - d) Teachers value the ideals of inclusion.
- ❖ Forthcoming will be an international study of teacher development in Alberta
- ❖ Other projects underway include Growing up Digital and the eQuality Project

Our president, Mark Ramsankar, was very active during the provincial election campaign. He engaged in various interviews raising issues of education and schools with the media and politicians.

Member Services

- Medical issues can interfere with ability to make prudent judgments in teaching situations.
- Careful! Difficult parents. When parents rally against a teacher, situations become difficult.
- Ensure you have paperwork completed on time.
- Letter of reprimand - do not want on your file! Get representation!
- Have seen a trend in conflict between EAs and teachers - collegial issues (there is a large population of EAs in schools)
- Be VERY careful on social media. Social media forms a public and permanent record.

Teacher Welfare

- ✓ All collective agreements in Central East are finalized . . .finally!!**
- ✓ Midterm bargaining: some odd requests Contact RBA for assistance.
- ✓ Ministerial Order Section 2 (assigned tasks) involves three steps:
 1. EPC reviews response to questions they asked C2 chairs
 2. If not best efforts by employer, write letter to request info on what tasks have been accomplished/reduced.

3. Depending on this outcome, possible grievance. (Employers may not like this.) So frustration with C2 with workload is being reviewed by YOU'RE YOUR Executive Staff officer (ESO)/representative of bargaining agent (RBA) will help with letter writing.
- ✓ Issues solved without formal grievance: compassionate leave, job share, accommodation, principal lieu days, maternity leave.
- ✓ Grievances: a) teaching experience for working overseas b) growing FTE b/c of student kindergarten growth to full days not paid appropriate sick leave (these are new ones). Others: a) reinstatement of sick leave after return to work; b) incorrect pay for part-timers; c) underpayment of EDB; d) sick leave on probationary contracts; e) pay for appropriate TQS;

Annual Representative Assembly

ARA will be held this weekend at The Westin in Edmonton. Every local has delegates based on population. This assembly debates resolutions, sets policy for the ATA, and finalizes and approves our budget. As well, there are awards, representation from other educational organizations and political bodies, and media present.

This is the most important democratic event of our association.

Please thank your local president and delegates for sacrificing their May long weekend to represent you and to shape our association's future.

There will be a meeting for local presidents on Friday evening, May 15th, prior to ARA.

Enjoy track and field . . .gardening . . . the long weekend!

Elaine