#### Central East District Representative’s Report

**October 2015**

Elaine Willette-Larsen

780 753 7880; [elaine.willette@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:elaine.willette@teachers.ab.ca); [amberzeroone@gmail.com](mailto:amberzeroone@gmail.com)

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| **DR Meeting Dates**  **November 1: RMEC Exeuctive**  **November 2: BR Executive**  **November 4: PPE Local Council**  **November 5: Lakeland Catholic LC**  **November 6-7: PDAC**  **November 7: NETCA Executive**  **November 9: GSP Local Council**  **November 20: NETCA Board**  **November 20-21: TWAC**  **November 23: ECACS EPC**  **November 25: AV Local Council**  **November 26: BR Executive**  **November 27: Curriculum**  **November 30: GSP EPC/PPE Executive** | [http://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionImages/Carousel%20Items/COMM-216l-StoryofATA-campaign-box_Red-library.jpg](http://www.storyofata.com/) | **Upcoming Events**  [Project Overseas](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Programs%20and%20Services/International%20Cooperation/Pages/Project%20Overseas.aspx) Apply by: Nov. 9  Professional Development Area Conference: Nov. 6-7  Teacher Welfare Area Conference: Nov. 20-21  ATA Magazine  [ead the latest issue of the <em>ATA Magazine</em>](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20Magazine/Pages/default.aspx) |

***Professional Development:***

We hired two new executive staff officers: Dan Grassick and Nancy Luyckfassel

Overall membership in specialist councils increased by 1 767 members in the 2014/15 year. If we want more monies for specialist councils, then ARA would need to approve this in the budget.

FNMI Specialist Council Conference 2015 11 20 - 21 in Calgary @ Deerfoot Inn.

**Webinars**

The Association is continuing its offering of webinars during the upcoming year in collaboration with the Alberta Regional Learning Consortium. The schedule is below, and further updates and additions, as well as archived events can be found [here](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Pages/Webinars.aspx).

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| Project-Based Learning  Part I November 10, 2015  Part II November 24, 2015 | PRISM: Professional Respecting and  Supporting Individual Sexual Minorities  Part I January 11, 2016  Part II January 25, 2016 |
| Supporting Positive Behaviours in Alberta  Schools  Part I March 14, 2016  Part II March 21, 2016 | Unseen Hurts: Understanding Mental Health  Issues in Our Classrooms  Part I April 14, 2016  Part II April 21, 2016 |

Our association is pushing for the supervision of preservice teachers to be done in person by a person.

DEHR: 40 locals have committees (two thirds of all locals).

***Government:***

Media Campaign: have you watched it on TV, at a theatre, or online?

The public relations campaign launched on October 5 in a variety of media. The Story of Education print appeared in the Calgary Herald, which included advertisements in their online edition. Grocery advertisement bars and advertisement caps will appear in 35 Edmonton and 40 Calgary grocery stores until 2015 11 08. The television advertisements will be shown 120 times in October on CTV Edmonton and Calgary on the Morning News Live, Noon News Hour, Evening News, The Marilyn Dennis Show, The Dr Oz Show, The Big Bang Theory, MasterChef Canada, News Final and weekend news rotations. On Global Edmonton and Calgary the television advertisements will appear on The Morning News, Global News, Survivor and Madame Secretary. In Lethbridge, in addition to the above-noted prime time shows, the television advertisements will run during the local evening news and News Final. The Story of ATA website went live on 2015 10 12. Radio advertisements have been recorded and will begin airing on radio stations throughout the province on 2015 10 19. The 30-second radio advertisements will be heard on nine radio stations for a total of 410 times in October and will be featured primarily in drive time spots. On 2015 11 06 the video advertisements will begin airing in movie theatres on 99 screens and the print advertisements will appear as a full page advertisements in Scene Magazine. (Since we approved $1 million for this campaign at ARA, I thought the details might be important.)

Get in to meet your MLAs! Describe your story, your situation. We have a whole new set of them. They need our voice.

Your Association continues to advocate for sound assessments that will support teachers’ work with students and parents. We invite grade three teachers participating in the SLA pilot to complete the survey by November 6, 2015. Follow the link to have your voice heard. The ten minutes it takes to complete the survey will help make a difference. [www.sla2015.ca](http://www.sla2015.ca/) For further information on this survey, contact Dr J C Couture at [jc.couture@ata.ab.ca](mailto:jc.couture@ata.ab.ca) or 780-447-9462.

#### Barnett House Building Expansion

PEC approved the formation of the Committee on the Renovation and Expansion of Barnett House.

Membership includes: four members of Council, one as chair, executive secretary or designate chief financial officer, building supervisor (observer), business manager (secretary).

The Committee will oversee the “Renovation and Expansion of Barnett House” as follows:

1. Assume overall responsibility for the renovation and expansion of Barnett House, including the expansion of Seymour Tower and the replacement of the parkade;

2. Select a project contractor(s) as may be required;

3. Approve overall plans and financial arrangements for the project;

4. Report to Provincial Executive Council from time to time as may be required.

***Member Services:***

We hired one new executive staff officer: Dave Matson

We are examining recreating a staff relations service program that we would run and fund. Independent certified mediators would be hired by our association for this work.

***Teacher Welfare:***

We hired one new executive staff officer: Sean Brown

The association is examining increasing from three to four the number of representatives supported by grant-in-aid at TWAC.

TWAC: November 20-21 at Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel.

A change of carrier (like ASEBP, Great West, Standard) can affect benefits. Does your employer seek to change yours?

Grievances are revolving around interpretations of the Ministerial Order. We are waiting on an interpretation of a few that have common features before other grievances move forward.

**School Board Surpluses reported by the Auditor General**

#### **“**Surpluses have **grown by 45 per cent in the past two years.** The majority of the province’s school jurisdictions have accumulated surpluses and operating reserves that exceed the reasonable range set out by Alberta Education. That’s one of the findings of Auditor General Merwan Saher as outlined in a quarterly report released on Oct. 6. The report includes a summary of school boards’ audited financial statements for the fiscal year that ended Aug. 31, 2014, and found that 59 of 74 school jurisdictions (including charter schools) have excessive reserves.” Read more [here](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2050%202015-16/Number-5/Pages/School-boards-carrying.aspx).

Anything else you have questions about, please chuck me a message or dial my number!

Elaine ☺