

October 2016

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District Representative Meeting Dates

Park Plains East Exec: 10/24

Park Plains East LC: 10/28

Aspen View LC: 10/28

Battle River Exec.: 11/01

Lakeland Catholic LC: 11/03

Professional Development Area
Conference: 11/04-05

Greater St. Paul LC: 11/08

Northern Lights Induction: 11/09

NETCA: 11/10

Northern Lights Exec.: 11/14

Battle River Induction: 11/15

Teacher Welfare Area Conference:
11/18-19

Northern Lights LC: 11/21

Religious & Moral Education Council:
11/26

Communications, Advocacy, and Public
Education: 11/28

Provincial Executive Council: 12/01-02



Orange Shirt Day at Edmonton's City Hall

Bargaining

Central Bargaining continues with upcoming meetings on October 24, November 2-3, November 23-24, and 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.

At the core of bargaining is **trust**. Therefore, we leave this serious matter in the hands of our central table bargainers - four district representatives plus VP Greg Jeffery as chair accompanied by executive staff officers.

Professional Development

Curriculum Review: the ATA was invited to a partnership with government to review/design curriculum. Selected teachers have committed a large chunk of time for three years to this project with four sets of meetings scheduled to date. The ATA, with specialist councils, has selected three teachers for each of the eight working groups of this project. We will be pressing to ensure that curriculum design is a viable partnership.

The online survey was created solely by government.

“The Government of Alberta is launching a new series of initiatives known as “Future Ready” that will co-ordinate and improve education and skills training to better prepare kids for success in a changing economy. The first initiative to launch under Future Ready includes an online survey to ensure that parents and other concerned Albertans have their say during a comprehensive review of the province’s K-12 curriculum.” The online survey will run from October 18 to November 18. Please provide your input and expertise! Link: <http://fluidsurveys.com/s/curriculumsurvey/>

Walking Together is our collaborative PD project involving teachers, elders, and project leaders within the three treaty areas of Alberta to **assist teachers in understanding** the history and culture of Indigenous peoples. The TRC’s final report, June 2015, outlined eleven calls to action which impact education and the new TQS includes competencies in Indigenous understanding.

There was approval for **extra short term staffing** in PD as a result of the added work on curriculum and Walking Together and because of a sabbatical taken by one ESO. This was approved as an overexpenditure.

Close to nine hundred new teachers attended Beginning Teachers Conference in Edmonton and Calgary!

Leadership Essentials for Administrators - November 21-22 features a wide range of sessions with keynotes delivered by Simon Breakspear and Carol Campbell, two renowned speakers and educators. Link → <https://atapd.ca/initiative/lea>

PRISM (Professionals Respecting and Supporting Individual Sexual Minorities) has created a Secondary Edition toolkit to help secondary schools promote safe and supportive spaces for sexual and gender minorities. The resource was created by practicing teachers in collaboration with Alberta Education and piggybacks on the original elementary edition (2014). Link → <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/Announcements/Pages/New-Association-Publications-Available.aspx>

Member Services

What follows is a summary of information, trends and concerns arising from Member Services.

- Seek assistance if asked to write a custody letter.
- Health care issues are often a complicating factors in teachers' actions.
- Employers have a responsibility to provide a safe and caring learning and work environment for students and teachers.

Government

Administrative guideline (AGs) around election rules have been approved that twin with the electoral ballots around election rules sent to locals for their approval. The AGs follow the general bylaws and allow for a cohesive set of rules to apply to the spring 2017 PEC elections. The electoral ballots will be upheld or denied at ARA 2017.

Alberta Education's latest initiative: International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS). Did you know that **Alberta Education "pays to play"** in six international benchmarking activities, three with the OECD - Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and three with IEA - International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement? We have had no meaningful consultations over the desirability, impact, cost and benefit of these imposed research studies.

Council approved \$10 000 to be disbursed to the **CTF Haiti Solidarity Fund**. Hurricane Matthew struck the town of Jeremie the hardest. Jeremie is the site of our 2016 Project Overseas. Over 80% of the town was destroyed and half of the victims come from this town.

Minister Eggen visited Council on Thursday. He listened to our concerns and expressed his.

The next phase of **The Story of ATA campaign**, which began on 2016 10 05, continues to explore topics that emerged through public opinion polling and focus groups. The Story of ATA advertisements will run on several platforms. <http://www.storyofata.com/>

Teacher Welfare

TARP is **Therapeutic Alternative Reference Pricing**. ASEBP placed this change on prescription renewals effective September 2016. Effective January 2017 members have five opportunities to renew prescriptions in a calendar year. This is an initiative by ASEBP to rein in spending (5 dispensing fees vs 12 per year).

A **benchmark decision** from a human rights tribunal held that a deaf teacher had the right to a service dog at her place of work. She was awarded damages because of a finding of discrimination on the part of the employer which resulted in adverse impact on the teacher.

It is important for teachers involved in economic planning committees to have **program certification**. These will be available at the upcoming TWAC.

Grievances: part-time teachers not properly paid for jurisdictional inservice days.

Upcoming

- Professional Development Area Conference: Lister Hall, University of Alberta, November 4-5.
- Teacher Welfare Area Conference: Chateau Lacombe, November 18-19
- Alberta Education Online Survey regarding curriculum: October 18-November 18
- We oppose the sale of public land to private schools.
- The current program of studies remain in force until curriculum design creates and the Minister approves new program of studies.
- 2017 PEC Elections: Promote, Encourage (Engage), Call

As always, if you have questions or issues you wish to discuss, please contact me. October has been filled with inductions, meeting new teachers, and questions regarding curriculum.

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