

**September 2016**  
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### **District Representative Meeting Dates**

Park Plains East Exec: 09/26	Aspen View Induction: 10/19
Park Plains East LC: 09/28	Provincial Executive Council: 10/20-21
Beginning Teachers' Conf.: 09/30	Local Presidents' Mtg: 10/21-22
Northern Lights LC: 10/03	
World Teachers' Day: 10/05	
Lakeland Catholic LC: 10/06	
Curriculum: 10/07	
NETCA: 10/13	
Religious & Moral Education: 10/14	
RMEC Conference: 10/14-15	
Greater St. Paul LC: 10/18	



### ***Professional Development***

Alberta Education is embarking on a partnership with the ATA to develop K-12 curriculum. Teachers have self-nominated or been nominated by their superintendent. There are eight working groups (subject areas) with over twenty teachers in each. These teachers will dedicate fifteen days a year for three years.

Education for Reconciliation Professional Learning Project: As part of our effort to engage in the reconciliation process, we have hired six program facilitators. Please see the article in the ATA News.

While the PGP project has closed, an independent online self-reflection tool is available. It is secure with no capacity for data-mining.

Conferences: Beginning Teacher's Conference - Edmonton, September 29-October 1; Professional Development Area Conference - November 4-5; Religious and Moral Education Council Conference, October 14-15

### ***Bargaining***

Central bargaining occurred on September 19-20. Future meetings with TEBA will be held on October 3-4, October 17-18, October 24, November 2-3, November 23-24, and December 19-20.

Bargaining is working slowly through several important issues such as time.

### ***Government***

Three electoral ballots were presented at PEC for our consideration. All deal with election rules. Information will be coming to locals on this.

We continue to work on the SLA program to achieve our goal of a formative assessment which teachers use to help students learn with the capacity for teachers to make sound professional judgments in their use of the program.

### ***Teacher Welfare***

To 907 or not 907 that is the question . . .

907 hours over 190 days is the regulation we are currently teaching under. When teachers teach a smaller number of days, then the program (hours) are squished into fewer days. Result - tired teachers.

The non-instructional days range is a low of 11 to a high of 27. Of 61 bargaining units, 9 are over 20 non-instructional days a year!

From the June survey, here is what teachers are engaged in on non-instructional days:

Individual teacher work 20%; ATA planned days 14.61%; school jurisdiction directed activities 14.3%; mandated collaboration 11.62%; group planning 8.93%; business of school meetings 8.78% and teacher directed PD 8.71%.

EPCs have been asked to collect this data again this year, on an ongoing basis.

**Grievances:** superintendents changing dates of resignations; boards denying shall grant leaves.

### ***Member Services***

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

- Human Relations directors in Central Offices not having an education background. MS helps them understand the teaching profession.

- The importance of teaching what is contained in the curriculum/program of studies.
- A Board of Reference is safety mechanism for teachers who have been fired.
- Boards can create policy around termination. This does not negate a teacher's right to a board of reference.
- Member Services can dispense advice, but teachers choose whether they will follow it.
- The obligation to be truthful on claim forms - ASEBP does check these.
- MS often helps teachers by identifying errors in the process by which they are treated.
- Breaching catholicity clauses can lead to discipline and termination.
- Perceived aggression through physical contact in teacher/student interaction can lead to employer action.

### **Upcoming**

- ✓ Orange Shirt Day to raise awareness and concern over the treatment of indigenous children in residential schools is on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Got a shirt?
- ✓ Local Presidents will meet at Barnett House to discuss issues on October 21-22. These volunteers work hard on your behalf. Please show some appreciation for your local president.
- ✓ Member-locals of NETCA will review constitutional changes to NETCA over the next month.
- ✓ Many specialist councils are holding their conferences in October. Are you interested in attending any one of these?
- ✓ Induction is being hosted in many locals this upcoming month or two. As well, new teachers are attending Beginning Teacher's Conference in Edmonton or Calgary.

As always, if you have questions or issues you wish to discuss, please contact me. I hope you have been rejuvenated by returning to classes with your students and that September, while whirlwind, remains an awesome month for you as a teacher.

Elaine Willette-Larsen