

Central East District Representative Report

March 2015

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DR Meeting Dates:

March 2-3: Provincial Executive Council
Mar. 5: BR Policy Review
Mar. 5-6: CEATCA Convention
Mar. 6: Battle River Executive mtg.
Mar. 10: Curriculum Committee
Mar. 10: Greater St. Paul LC
Mar. 13: Superintendent Committee
Mar. 13 - 14: DEHR Conference; Political Engagement Seminar
Mar. 16: AV & GSP Resolutions mtg.
Mar. 17: Battle River LC
Mar. 18: PPE Resolutions mtg.
Mar. 21: NETCA Executive mtg.
Mar. 23: NL & LC Resolutions mtg.
Mar. 25: Aspen View LC

Specialist Council Conference Dates



**Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week:
March 9 - 13**



Write your MLA now.

We've made it simple for you.

Enough is enough. It's time to make a change. Tell your elected representative exactly how you feel. Simply enter your postal code and send a letter to your MLA. We've started it for you.

ATA Elections 2015: Ensure you can vote!

Create your ATA on-line account by visiting www.teachers.ab.ca and following the "login" link at the top of the page. Use your teaching certificate number to create an account. Besides **allowing you to vote**, creating an ATA account allows you to: choose a free membership in a specialist council, access "members only" content of the ATA website, participate in collaboration websites maintained by the association, update your personal profile ensuring uninterrupted service from your association.

- **Registration opens February 27 and closes March 19th**
- **Voting opens February 27 and closes March 22 @ 5 p.m.**
- **You may register and vote on the same day, or may register and vote at different times.**
- **Election results announced March 23**
- **Candidate Videos -**
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Provincial+executive+council+elections+2015
- **You are eligible to vote in the vice-presidential election. The following four candidates are running for VP: Greg Jeffery, Myrna McLean, Katherine Pritchard, Robert Twerdoelib**

Government

- **On 2015 01 30, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its decision in Saskatchewan Federation of Labour v. Saskatchewan, ruling as unconstitutional, a Saskatchewan law that prevents public-sector employees from striking. The decision is significant as it is one of several in which the Supreme Court has advanced labour rights. Also, the ruling potentially diminishes the province's capacity to outlaw strikes without providing other mechanisms (such as a fair binding arbitration process) or to use legislation to unilaterally impose salary settlements and/or changes in previously negotiated conditions of employment.**

- The Alberta government's response is to establish a working group to modernize public sector labour groups negotiations. The government views the public sector as those employed by the government and those funded by the government.
- Court of Queen's Bench Decision regarding the ATA News publishing the names of those teachers in Central Offices who decided not to hold the highest level of membership. The decision establishes that the ATA News is a newspaper for the purposes of the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) and has the right to publish for journalistic purposes what would, in other circumstances, be protected information.
- Provincial Executive Council reviewed policy on political engagement during provincial or federal elections. "14.A.3 The Alberta Teachers' Association avoids alignment with any political party or candidate for political office." (1977) "14.A.16 The Alberta Teachers' Association and its subgroups are prohibited from making financial contributions to parties or candidates for political office."(2013)
- Response to *Education Act (2012)* Regulatory Review - Concern arising from the section on home schooling, which should be amended to include a provision requiring instruction, curriculum and resources used in home education program to be consistent with and respect the spirit of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- Election Readiness Campaign - Provincial Executive Council approved the election Readiness Plan 2015 of \$122,000. **StandUpForSchools.ca** will outline important issues in education. Embedded hyperlinks will explain where each of the political parties stand on various issues to assist voters in making an informed choice. There will also be a "pull apart" card that teachers will be asked to distribute. This campaign will **replace the Stop the Cuts ads** when the provincial election is called.
- Well-being of Children and Youth is hosting a **conference on May 1** at Barnett House for stakeholders and teacher leaders. The theme of the conference is "child poverty—the Alberta disadvantage"
- ARA will debate the proposed budget of 1.72% increase, which would increase our fees by twenty-one dollars to \$1245 per annum.
- Teacher Qualification Services Fees - All fees will increase by \$5.00

Research

- Released this month: Teaching and Learning Conditions in Alberta: A Global Perspective
- Each local has received a copy of the following research plus the one page infographic which I attached to my last report. [Digital Reporting and Digital Assessment Tools: Evaluating their Value and their Impact](#)

Professional Development

- Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) Conference, Friday, March 13, 2015 (eve) and Saturday, March 14, 2015 (all day) at Barnett House with Dr. Darren Lund. Two delegates per local are eligible to attend. A limited number of additional delegates are welcome.
- The Blue Ribbon Panel Symposium on Inclusive Education will be held in conjunction with Professional Development Area Conference (PDAC). The event will be held 2015 04 24, the day prior to PDAC, in Edmonton at the Westin Hotel. The goals of this event are to:
 - highlight the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel,
 - review the research done in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Panel,

- explore current research in inclusion in Alberta,
- discuss effective implementation and what it can look like in organizations and systems, and
- focus on the continued importance of resources needed to support inclusion in Alberta schools.
- Student Learner Assessment (SLAs) -**ISSUES**: appropriateness of a digital platform; the time required for administration and assessment; technological supports; and the fit with current curriculum.
As well, students in French immersion experienced considerable challenges given their proficiency in French. Grade 6 SLAs will not be launched in September. We are urging the government to address this issue. Important resolutions will be debated at ARA on this topic.
- Curriculum Redesign - The process has slowed due to the political changes and the economic situation.

Member Services

- Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Workshop - This workshop is being very well received throughout the province. This workshop is being hosted by many jurisdictions and/or locals for administrators.
- An unintended complication of inclusion: teacher assistant interference in special needs classrooms.
- Lack of due process. One example of this is reporting of anonymous concerns.

Teacher Welfare

- Current pension campaign: My Pension; My Future
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/IssuesandCampaigns/My%20Pension%20My%20Investment/Pages/Index.aspx>
- ATRF- There was a 19.2% return for the 2013/14 year end which was beneficial to the Plan
- Provincial Executive Council approved a recommendation to expand the Pension Campaign that encourages adequate pensions for all member of society.
- The majority of EPCs have made requests of C2 co-chairs for the following information.
 - a) Have the recommendations in the initial report been implemented and to what effect?
 - b) What further recommendations and action plans have been developed?
 - c) How are those recommendations and action plans being communicated to teachers?
 - d) How is the implementation of those post-October 31, 2013 recommendations and action plans proceeding and to what effect?
 - e) What issues are being discussed, but have not produced recommendations or actions?
- Sick Leave - many grievances have been filed around sick leave clauses
- Labour Relations Board has dismissed a case that involved a substitute teacher who did not want to be a part of ATA due to religious reasons.
- Malatest year long workload study is at a 75% completion rate as the second half of the year begins.
- Executive staff officers will be reassigned mid March as we come up to the next round of bargaining.