

The Advocate

In consensus atque unitate stat potentia

"There is strength in unity"

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue No 4 - December 2016

VICTORY IN SUPREME COURT



Stripped Language Restored

On November 10, 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada heard the longstanding dispute between teachers and the BC Government (the "Province"). This case once again raised the issue of the *Charter*-protected right to a meaningful process of collective bargaining under s. 2(d) of the *Charter*, the freedom of association guarantee. Adding a new twist, this case addressed the novel issue of whether *pre-legislative consultations* can be relied on by governments to partially justify what would otherwise be an infringement of fundamental collective bargaining rights.

Rather than reserve its judgment, in a surprise ruling from the bench (the judgment was delivered orally at the end of the hearing), the Supreme Court of Canada issued the following decision:

The majority of the Court would allow the appeal, substantially for the reasons of Justice Donald. Justices Côté and Brown would dissent and dismiss the appeal, substantially for the reasons of the majority in the Court of Appeal.

The Supreme Court of Canada reversed the BC Court of Appeal and made the minority the majority decision of the highest Court.

Read more @ BCTF Members Portal

Grades 10 - 12 Curriculum Implementation Extended One Year

This week, Education Minister Mike Bernier announced that the curriculum implementation timeline for Grades 10-12 will be extended for another year. The province has agreed to the call from the BCTF and others to push back the timelines, in particular due to the logistical considerations with preparing calendars for courses that may or may not exist, courses that still may change considerably during the revision process still underway, and other practical realities. The Federation had been pushing for this outcome for some time, and will continue to advocate for more time, resources, and support for all grade levels.

Changes to the Foundation Skills Assessment Announced...

In addition to the curriculum implementation announcement, the Minister also unveiled changes to the FSA. Unfortunately, despite many months of discussions and advocacy, the government has confirmed that it will not be going with the Advisory Group on Provincial Assessment's recommendation that FSA school and student data be protected from misuse by third parties.

ADTA Annual General Meeting Notification

Wednesday, January 11th, 2017
4:00 pm
ADTA Hall

Tentative Agenda:

2017-2018 Release Officer Election Discussion
Proposed Constitutional Changes
CA Restored Language

Teachers Asked Not to Participate in Provincial Assessment Development Teams

Given that the upcoming changes to the FSA do not satisfy any of the Federation's concerns about the misuse of school and student data, or about standardized testing, we will not be in a position to be reinstating members on the development teams—and the Federation will continue its opposition to the FSAs.

Interested in running for a position as an ADTA Release Officer?

Nominations for the ADTA Release Officers will be accepted until the 1st week of February 2017:

President

1st Vice President

Labour Relations Officer

If you have interest or questions please contact your Staff Rep or ADTA 1st Vice President - Jennifer Brooks at the ADTA office.
(604-854-1946)

Stay tuned for the upcoming proposed Constitutional Changes! To obtain details regarding these changes please contact your Staff Rep.



From all of us at the ADTA office...

Happy Holidays!

