

The Advocate

In consensus atque unitate stat potential - "There is strength in unity"

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER (MAYBE)

ISSUE NO. 6 - NOVEMBER 2015

TEACHER PENSION PLAN (TPP) CONSULTATION MEETING

Dec 2, 2015 @ 4:00 pm

ADTA HALL

Please RSVP if you would like to attend.

President's Message

Curriculum Change in Abbotsford

As you have no doubt heard, there has been a recent announcement outlining the creation of two additional in-service days this school year, and two days over each of the next two years to support curriculum implementation. While this agreement likely will not meet all of the needs of teachers, it is two days forward from where we were at last week. To be clear, these in-service days are in addition to the existing 5 professional development days and 1 non-instructional day.

This announcement is an important first step in successfully rolling out the new curriculum, as teachers will get the time they need to meet, collaborate, and incorporate the changes into their professional practice without having to do so entirely on their own time or packed into successive staff meetings.

The plan allows for release time for teachers to plan how the in-service days will be used in their local. The ADTA Executive will choose who these teachers will be in Abbotsford, and we will be putting out a call for those who might be interested in the coming days. I

Cheers,
Doug Smuland

Pension Redesign

The BCTF currently has a unique opportunity to modernize our pension plan to reflect the changing demographics in our membership. From September to December, 2015, BCTF staff, Pension Plan trustees, and Executive Committee members will visit locals to seek input on possible pension plan design changes. Whether you are new to teaching, mid-career, or close to retirement, we urge every member to participate in their Abbotsford's consultation. The ADTA will be hosting a meeting on **December 2, 2015** that is open to all plan members working in Abbotsford. Please talk with your staff representative if you plan on attending so that the ADTA can accommodate all those who are interested.

News from your ADTA Executive Chairs:

Social Justice

Teresa Hootz

NOVEMBER 25 is the beginning of the **16 Days of Action for Ending Violence Against Women**.

The Status of Women Action Group would like to raise the profile of this important issue by asking everyone to wear white on November 25. Attached is their new poster, which is being sent out to all schools and should arrive shortly at your school site. Some copies will be available at the RA, and additional copies can be downloaded. Thank you for helping to raise awareness of this important issue. For further actions that can be taken during the 16 days, please go [here](#).

TTOC News

TTOC Rep:
Sylvia Rempel

Hello TOCs! If you were working for the district in April, \$80 was removed automatically from your pay for Teacher Regulation Branch (TRB) fees on the pay stub from April 10, 2015. Keep a record of the TOC days that you have worked since the start of the school year (days of contract work don't count) - - once you have worked 40 TOC days for the district, counting from the start of the 2015/2016 school year in September, you may request that this fee be refunded to you. To do so, submit/email the written request and your pay stubs showing the 40 days work to Ben Harrison (Ben_Harrison@sd34.bc.ca) in Payroll.

If you were not working for the district in April, you have probably paid the TRB fees yourself since they were not automatically deducted. In this case, include a copy of your payment receipt with the request.

2nd Vice President

Liane Loepky

10 Guidelines for Using Facebook as a Teacher

1. Don't fear Facebook, just be aware of your online presence.

2. Security settings are there for a reason. You can set up your account so that you have some boundaries on who can find you and who can view your posts.
3. To be on the safe side, don't become friends with students on your personal or professional Facebook account. Boundaries can get blurred.
4. Create a teacher profile if you want to use it as a teaching or organization tool, but continue to refuse student "Friend" requests.
5. Pages on Facebook are public. Anyone can see them. Don't make one for classes or teams.
6. Create a "Group" if you want to connect online with students. Groups are more private, and your group members do not need to be "friends" with you. If you are making a student group, get parental consent first.
7. Make sure there are rules and guidelines for your Facebook groups, just like in our classrooms. Be prepared to moderate comments and activities.
8. A personal Facebook page is personal, but be thoughtful of what you post. Even though your security settings may be high, posts can get leaked and just because you delete something, doesn't mean it has disappeared.
9. Talk to your circle of friends about your privacy. They may post something in jest that can become public.
10. **Always remember.....**There is a higher standard of expectations for teachers, even online.

Health and Safety

Pat Smith

The school district has a "District Occupational Safety Committee" (DOHS) comprised of 2 Teamster reps, 1 administrator, 1 manager from operations, 1 representative from Human Resources and 2 ADTA members. The school district Health and Safety Coordinator also attends meetings but is a non voting member and on occasion resource people attend to facilitate discussions and provide information. This committee meets once a month unless matters of an urgent nature arise and is responsible for reviewing the site-based committee minutes, recommendations, investigations, inspections along with any other health and safety issues brought to its attention. When necessary this committee can make recommendations to the Director of Human Resources if it has district wide implications; or refer issues to the appropriate management personnel if they are site/case specific.

The ADTA member reps on this committee are Jennifer Brooks (ADTA Vice President and Pat Smith (ADTA Executive Health and Safety Rep). If you have any questions or concerns please contact one of them directly.

Prod for the Middle

Middle School Rep
Craig Hemmerich

Strike Fund Levy

Secretary-Treasurer
Casey Lindquist

Your Provincial Representation

Local Association Rep
Jef Baerg

Professional Development

Professional Development Chair
Ken Ambrose

The BCTF Needs You!

Are you interested in working and learning conditions and their connection to bargaining? Health and Safety? Peace and global education? If so, please consider applying for one of these BCTF [advisory committees](#). The application deadline is Thursday, October 8, 201

Important ADTA Dates

Nov 2 nd	H & S Rep Training
Nov 4 th	Staff Rep Meeting
Nov 6-7 th	BCTF Rep Assembly
Nov 11 th	Remembrance Day ADTA office closed
Nov 26 th	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov 27 th	PD Day (#3)
Dec 02	BCTF Pension Meeting/Consultation
Dec 09	Staff Rep Meeting
Dec 11	Rep Appreciation Christmas Banquet
Dec 18	Last Day before Winter Break

ADTA Hours

The ADTA is open 8:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday
Address: 2570 Cyril Street
Phone: 604-854-1946