

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

December 2008

***Busy, Busy, Busy! FSA Campaign, Arbitration preparation, Trustee Elections. We've been flying around in the ADTU Office.***

### **CORRECTION**

The October Newsletter contained incorrect information regarding the decision of the September General Meeting with respect to Common Grade Assessments. The correct motion that was carried is:

1. That the decision of the 2008 Annual General Meeting to not mark Mandated District Assessments be replaced with the following:
  - a) Teachers be encouraged to assert their professional autonomy rights to determine their instructional and assessment practices by:
    - i) Reporting student achievement to the School District based on a wide variety of teacher determined classroom assessment.
    - ii) If electing to attend Common Grade Marking Session, teachers will supplement the information from the Common Grade Assessment with classroom based assessment results.
  - b) The ADTU will initiate a grievance if teachers are directed to use a specified Common Grade Assessment and/or Performance Standard, and/or are directed to attend a Common Grade Marking Session.

The ADTU has two grievances regarding the requirement that teachers use Common Grade Assessments and Performance Standards. Both grievances have been approved by the BCTF for arbitration. The first arbitration will be heard on

June 23, 24 and 25, 2009. *Note: At a Step 3 Grievance Meeting, School District 70 indicated that they would no longer require teachers to participate in Common Grade Marking Sessions. Participation would be voluntary.*

Furthermore, the BCTF will provide up to \$25,000 for local initiatives such as our Professional Autonomy Campaign described above. The ADTU will be forwarding a proposal for BCTF Funding in the near future.

### **FSA – PROVINCE WIDE VOTE**

By now teachers should be well aware of the upcoming province-wide vote of BCTF members regarding the FSA. The vote will be conducted in each worksite, by the Staff Representative on December 9 and 10. The wording on the ballot is: "Do you agree with the 2008 AGM decision that unless the Ministry of Education changes to a random sampling with neither schools nor students identified, teachers exercise their professional autonomy and not prepare for, administer, or mark the provincial FSA's."

The damage caused by the FSA is well known. The FSA's disrupt teaching and learning, do not result in any additional funding for schools and/or school districts, are costly to administer –taking much needed funds away from learning resources, encourages teachers to narrow the curriculum, and provides data to the Fraser Institute to rank schools and create discontent in the minds of the public, thereby promoting private schools. The call for the FSA to be conducted on a random sample basis, if at all, is widely supported by educators across North America.

*Note: Teachers On Call can vote at any worksite. Check in with the School Staff Representative.*

## **BCTF NEW TEACHERS' CONFERENCE**

*Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28, 2009 The Radisson Hotel in Richmond*

The Alberni District Teachers' Union and School District #70 will support up to 4 new teachers to attend the BCTF New Teachers' Conference. If you are an interested new teacher please forward your name the ADTU Executive Committee for consideration. The criteria for selection include:

- ❖ new to a teaching career (in first 5 years)
- ❖ has not received the ADTU subsidy in the past
- ❖ currently employed or actively seeking employment in School District 70

Applicants must have their names to the ADTU office by 12:00 pm Wednesday, December 10, 2008, if they wish to be considered. Check out the BCTF Website, [www.bctf.bc.ca](http://www.bctf.bc.ca) for the New Teacher Conference information.

Successful applicants will be notified. The ADTU covers up to \$250 for each participant to cover registration, transportation and accommodation (receipts are required). School District #70 has agreed to provide TOC's. Teachers can claim any remaining amount as part of their Professional Development Claim.

## **EFAP COMMITTEE VACANCY**

One vacancy currently exists on the Employee Family Assistance Plan Committee

Any teacher interested in serving on this committee is asked to submit their name to the ADTU office by 3:00 pm Wednesday, December 10, 2008

## **AB ED**

Tooie Casavant, our Aboriginal Education Contact Person, is collecting ideas on how Aboriginal content is being integrated into the curriculum. Please send info to Tooie care of the ADTU office.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

We are attempting to develop a network of Social Justice Reps in each worksite. If you are interested, please forward your name to the ADTU

Office care of Tricia Hartman, our Social Justice Chairperson.

## **DPAC BREAKFAST**

It is unfortunate that so many families are having a difficult time meeting their economic needs. Teachers have noticed a significant increase in children attending school without basic needs being addressed. Increasingly, the school community is providing basic needs to our students. The ADTU is pleased to provide \$500 in support of the ADSS Breakfast Program which is providing much needed support to many students on a daily basis.

## **CURRENT GRIEVANCES**

- Teacher On Call Hiring Procedures
- Seniority List and calculations for Part-Time Teachers
- Initial Placement on the Salary Scale
- Health and Safety- Violence in The Workplace and Classroom Temperature
- Bill 33 – Timelines and De-listing of students with special needs
- Contracting Out

A grievance regarding Posting and Filling has been approved by the BCTF for arbitration.

## **Bill 33 Class Size Average Arbitration**

An Arbitration is scheduled for January 29, 2009 regarding Class Size Average Violations during 2006-07 and 2007-08 for Grades K-3.

## **BCTF INTERNAL MEDIATION SERVICE (IMS)**

IMS mediates disputes that threaten positive relationships among school personnel and others, as appropriate.

IMS mediators are experienced BCTF members from all levels of the school system. They help resolve disputes through mediation in non-threatening, neutral situations- they do not adjudicate or advocate. They do not report their findings to anyone inside or outside the BCTF. Each mediation is confidential to the mediators and the members directly involved.

### ***How to access the service***

Individual teachers, groups of members, or the local association may obtain the services of the IMS by communicating with Kelly Shields, assistant director, BCTF Collective Agreement and Protective Services Division. [kshields@bctf.ca](mailto:kshields@bctf.ca) or toll free 1-800-663-9163 local 1803.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### ***Snow Days and Refusal of Unsafe Work.***

While SD70 policy requires teachers to report to their worksite in situations of when schools are closed for students but not for staff, the school district has an obligation to ensure that walkways and parking lots are kept clear of ice and snow. If you arrive at your worksite and feel that it is unsafe you have the right to refuse unsafe work by contacting your school administrator. If you are contemplating a refusal of unsafe work please call the ADTU Office to receive advice beforehand.

## **CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECKS**

### ***How do I know if I need to do my criminal record check this year?***

Certificate holders whose official last name in the College database begins with a letter between A and E and who have not completed a criminal record check with the College in the last five years are required to give their authorization for a CRC by completing an authorization form on the College website before November 30, 2008. If your surname is within this range, you should have received a notice in early September.

### ***What happens if I don't authorize the CRC?***

If you are required to complete an authorization this year and you do not, you will not be permitted to work with children as of January 1, 2009 and you could be fined \$50 per day by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. The College is also required to issue a citation against you and refer the matter to a disciplinary hearing.

### ***When will I need to do my CRC if I don't need to do it this year?***

- 2008: Members whose surname starts with a letter from A through E and who were last checked before 2004
- 2009: Members whose surname starts with a letter from A through J and who were last checked before 2005
- 2010: Members whose surname starts with a letter from A through P and who were last checked before 2006
- 2011: Members whose surname starts with a letter from A through U and who were last checked before 2007
- 2012: Members whose surname starts with a letter from A through Z and who were last checked before 2008

You can find out more information about the criminal records check in the "Members Services" area of the College website at [www.bcct.ca](http://www.bcct.ca).

## **CONTACT US**

Office 4913 Argyle Street  
Phone 250 724-5021  
Fax 250 724-0442

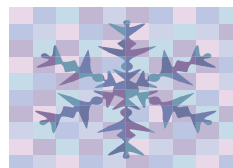
### **Email**

Ken Zydyk, President Direct email:[lp701@bctf.ca](mailto:lp701@bctf.ca)  
Christine Peffers, Office Manager email:  
[adtu@shawcable.com](mailto:adtu@shawcable.com)

### **BCTF Field Services**

Kerry Richardson 1-800-663-9163

### ***Have a relaxing winter break!***



***The Office will be closed from  
December 19, 2008 to January 5,  
2009***