



ALBERNI DISTRICT TEACHERS' UNION

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

June 2008

Tom Paul

It is with regret that we learned of the passing of Tom Paul, an Honourary Life Member of the ADTU.

Tom was a member of the Executive for several years and was active in several rounds of bargaining and was also a leader for Social Justice issues, particularly Aboriginal Education.

Tom will be sadly missed by his many friends and colleagues in Alberni. Our condolences to his family.

2008-2009 Executive

President: Ken Zydyk

First Vice-President: Ian Thomas

Local Rep to BCTF: Lisa Laslo

WLC/Bargaining Chairperson: Jackie Zydyk

Secretary-Treasurer: Deb McGill

Social Justice Co-Chairpersons: Tricia Hartman, Tooie Casavant

Member at Large: Sheila Johannessen

Positions Vacant:

Second Vice-President (Ucluelet-Tofino)
Professional Development Chairperson
Teacher On Call Representative

Please contact the ADTU Office if you are interested in one of the vacant positions.

Local Election Contact

We are pleased that Don Stevenson has accepted the position as our Local Election Contact person. Don has already attended BCTF training and will be actively involved in planning activities for the upcoming Municipal, School Board and Provincial Elections. Please consider the ways that you can also be

involved to help make public education a vote determining issue at election time.

Money Talks?

While our classrooms feel the impact of ongoing funding challenges from the Provincial Government, have a look of some of our governments discretionary funding choices (Feb 2005- Nov.2007):

Literacy BC \$1.76 million

Raise a Reader \$994,000

BC School Trustees Association \$1.86 million

BC School Superintendents Association
\$740,000

BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association
\$1.68 million

BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils
\$4.15 million

Virtual Schools Society \$12.7 million

Federation of Independent Schools Society
\$1.38 million

2008 Annual General Meeting Decisions

1. K-3 Class Size Grievance Settlement

Any unused days from the K-3 Class Size Grievance Settlement will be used to provide release time for staff representatives to attend Bill 33 meetings during the 08-09 school year.

2. BCTF/ADTU Sponsored Activities and Events

As a condition of selection, ADTU delegates to BCTF Activities and Events be prepared to attend either an ADTU Representative Assembly or General Meeting and provide a report.

3. Common Grade Assessments (Referral from April 16, 2008 Representative Assembly)

ADTU members not mark the District Assessments at any time. (Reviewable by a General Meeting or Representative Assembly)

4. Mentorship Program

Any ADTU sponsored mentorship program be voluntary, teacher initiated and uses content determined by teachers.

BCTF Summer Conference August 18-21 Kamloops

We have space for a Health and Safety and Professional Development Representative as part of our delegation to the BCTF Summer Conference. Please contact the office if you are interested.

District Assessment Campaign

Did you know that the administration and marking of District Assessments in School District 43 (Coquitlam) is entirely voluntary? The ADTU believes that teachers have the professional autonomy to determine instructional and assessment practices that best meets the needs of their students. Currently, SD70 District Assessments result in a significant increase in workloads for teachers. Thanks to the actions of teachers, we are currently in discussion with SD70 to reduce the workload of teachers by either making the assessments voluntary or by using regular classroom assessments to replace the District Assessments.

Know Your Collective Agreement

ARTICLE 51 - DEPARTMENT HEAD/ TEAM LEADER APPOINTMENTS P

Qualifications and Tenure

51.1 A Department Head should have considerable academic preparation and experience in teaching, particularly in his/her subject field, and should show evidence of ability to organize and to lead.

51.1.1 The Department Head position is a yearly appointment and must be reviewed prior to renewal.

51.1.2 In the event that a Department Head is absent from duties for a period in excess of twenty (20) consecutive school days an interim Department Head shall be selected subject to the approval of the school principal pursuant to Article 51.2.1, for the remainder of the school year or until the return of the incumbent.

Method of Appointment

51.2 The staff committee shall, in consultation with the teaching staff, recommend the subject departments which shall be allocated a department head.

51.2.1 Each department shall select from among its members its choice of department head, subject to the approval of the school principal. If the principal does not approve of the selection by any department, he/she shall meet with the department to resolve differences. If there is no resolution of

differences, the principal's recommendation shall prevail. Upon request the principal shall provide written reasons for his/her decision.

51.2.2 The principal shall provide the Board with a list of ADTU members recommended for approval as department heads and their respective Department Head allowances in accordance with Articles 93.1 to 93.3 (Allowances) by May 31st of each year.

51.3 Appointments shall terminate automatically on June 30th of the school year and appointments for the following school year shall be made by June 15th.

REMINDERS

12 MONTH PAY

If you have an assignment for the 2008-09 year, you can elect to participate in the 12 month pay program. You should have received a package from the school district. If not, contact the ADTU office.

CONVERSION TO CONTINUING STATUS

A reminder that it is your responsibility to contact Greg Smyth at SD70 if you believe that you have fulfilled the requirements in Article 40 of the collective agreement for conversion to continuing status.

PORTABILITY OF SENIORITY AND SICK LEAVE

Teachers who have gained continuing status can "port" up to 10 years of seniority from previous B.C. Public School Districts. Teachers who are hired to any contract can "port" up to

60 days of sick leave from previous B.C. Public School Districts.

Teacher On Call - Equity of Call Out

The ADTU has initiated a grievance regarding inequitable call out of teachers on call over the 2008-09 year as the School District is restricting call out for TOC's in a severe way. While we are continuing with the grievance, we are providing the following advice to teachers on call for the 08-09 year:

1. Do not provide SD70 with any information that could be used to restrict call out. Our advice is to indicate that you are available for any assignment at any time. It is better to receive a call out and turn it down rather than not receive a call out at all.
2. Keep a record of your opportunities to work (i.e. date and time you are called by the dispatcher) in your appointment calendar. In this way, the ADTU would be able to check SD70's record of call out with the information from TTOC's.
3. Forward a copy of the TTOC Information Sheet that you provide to the Dispatcher to the ADTU Office.

Seniority List

It has come to our attention that there are errors on the seniority list as part-time work has not been credited as full time work. This error appears to have impacted the seniority of those teachers who have recently converted to continuing status. The ADTU and SD70 will be correcting the seniority list in September and more information will be forthcoming.

Violence in the Workplace

According to Worksafe BC Regulations, the Employer must provide an orientation of Violence in the Workplace definitions and procedures, including identifying individuals who have a history of violence and the action plan to eliminate or minimize the risk of violence to employees. SD70 policy stipulates that this orientation must take place during the first staff meeting in September.

BCTF Pension Workshop

Coming to Port Alberni, October 30, 2008!

Employment Insurance

Teachers (including TOC's) who do not have a teaching assignment for September are advised to apply for Employment Insurance. The School District must provide you with a Record of Employment (hard copy) as part of your last pay statement. Please contact the ADTU office if there are any difficulties.

ADTU Members Retiring

Gail Abrahamson
Judy Bostrom
Clara Cauduro
Linda Erickson
Colleen Goodrich
Sharon Gowan
Dorothy Lord
Janis Nairne
Bill Nesbitt
Penny Richardson
Sandra Rideout
Julie Swaney

***Thanks to Eighth Avenue for an
Excellent Retirement Dinner!***

**The ADTU Office will be closed from
July 5 to August 26.**

Have a wonderful summer holiday!



CONTACT US

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Please Note: We do not have a SD70 email account.

BCTF Field Services

Christina Schutt 1-800-663-9163

KZ/cp/LEU/USW1-3567