



ALBERNI DISTRICT TEACHERS' UNION

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

January 2012

Welcome back from what I hope was a restful and relaxing winter break. We are back as busy as ever as we continue to engage in job action, bargaining, professional development and our many social justice initiatives. The following are some of our upcoming important issues and events:

1. Job Action Update

We continue to participate in "Phase One" job action affecting the end of First Semester at the Secondary School Level and FSA's for Grades 4 and 7:

a) Provincial Exams

With the exception of the French 12 Oral Examination, teachers will not be administering, supervising and/or marking provincial examinations. SD70 has indicated to the ADTU that administration is fully prepared to supervise and mark the exams; therefore, administrators should not be approaching teachers to supervise and/or mark. If you are approached please contact me as soon as possible.

b) Term 1 Marks

Teachers are not providing marks and/or other student assessment information to the office for Grades K-11. For Grade 12's the following applies:

- Only the final mark in a Grade 12 course and for other courses (i.e. SS11) that are required for graduation will be provided to Administration or the school office.

- Except in the case of final Grade 12 marks, teachers should not be filling out, signing or initialing marks collection forms provided by Administration, the school office or students- students may fill out marks collection forms themselves if they wish to do so.
- Students are able to self-report their standing in Grade 12 courses to universities for the purpose of entrance applications; it is not necessary for teachers or counselors to report marks to universities or to provide students with marks documents.
- Teachers are not providing any term marks, including term marks for Grades 10 or 11 provincially examinable courses, to Administration or the school office. Teachers will record and keep those marks and if a student is in danger of failing, this will be conveyed to the student and to the counselor.

Note: If requested by a student or parent, current standing may be verbally provided to them.

c) New Semester Organization of Classes

Although the Labour Relations Board (LRB) order only specified September for this issue, we agree that some time will be necessary for organization issues at the start of a new semester. Therefore, the first five days of the semester will be allowed for this purpose. That number has been conveyed to BCPSEA. This is the Phase 1 procedure for class organization for Semester 2: For Semester 2 BCTF members shall participate in the normal manner in the class/program composition and formation for the first five days of the 2012 semester for secondary students. It is understood that this may include communications and meetings of teachers with the principal for the sole purpose of organizing the class/program composition and formation.

d) FSA's

Teachers will not be administering, supervising and/or marking the FSA's. This also applies to the field test and practice FSA's.

e) Superintendent's Conference "Pathways to Personalization: Shifting Practice and Traditions"

As we are not attending events organized by Administration, teachers will not be attending the B.C. Superintendent's Conference and should decline any invitation to be part of a district "team".

Job Action and Bargaining will be part of the BCTF Representative Assembly Agenda – January 27, 28.

2. Professional Development

SD70 continues to withhold our professional development funds. As a result, our grievance on this matter is proceeding to arbitration. In the meantime, teachers continue to plan,

organize and participate in meaningful pro d activities. Congratulations to our District Pro D Reps and Pro D Chairperson Jackie Zydyk for organizing successful activities during the October PSA District Day and the November School Based day. Our upcoming February 20th School Based day is planned to allow teachers the opportunity to attend the Nanaimo District Teachers Association District Day activities. SD70 Trustees realized the value of this plan and supported it. Information regarding workshop offerings and registration will be sent to school pro d reps when we receive it. The ADTU Executive encourages teachers to not be dissuaded from attending out of district pro d events because of SD70's refusal to provide funding. Executive recommendations regarding pro d funding will be part of our January 18, 2012 General Meeting agenda.

3. Pension Workshops

By the time you retire, your pension will likely be your most valuable financial asset. The average value of pension in 2010 was approximately \$700,000. We are pleased to offer two options for teachers to attend either a Teachers Pension Plan and/or a BCTF Workshop in Port Alberni this spring. The Teachers Pension Plan is providing the "Thinking about Retiring" workshop on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at the Best Western Barclay Hotel. You can find the workshop description and registration information by this link:

http://www.pensionsbc.ca/portal/page/portal/pen_corp_home/tpp_home_page/tpp_tools/tpp_tools_seminars/TPP_SEMINAR_TAR

Additionally, Rob Taylor from the BCTF will be providing a workshop on Tuesday, April 17 beginning at 4:15 p.m. at the A.W. Neill Library. Registration

information will be distributed by the ADTU office at the beginning of March.

4. Employment Equity for Aboriginal Educators

We are pleased to announce that we have reached an Agreement in Committee with SD70 regarding an Employment Equity Program for Aboriginal Educators. This agreement was an ADTU initiative that included extensive consultation with representatives from our local First Nations communities. A recommendation for endorsing the proposed agreement will be part of our January 18 General Meeting agenda. A Key Points Summary Document and the proposed application to the B.C. Human Rights Commission are attached to this newsletter.

5. BCTF New Teachers Conference

We are pleased to sponsor Lindsay Devine, Luke McIvor, Dan Mott and Kym Shephard as our delegates to the BCTF New Teachers Conference- March 2 and 3.

6. SJ Committee

We would like a Social Justice Representative from each school. Please contact Sheila Johannessen at sjohannessen@sd70.bc.ca if you would like more information.

7. FN Steering Committee

The ADTU First Nations Education Steering committee met for the first time December 5/11 at Eighth Ave. Elementary. Objectives for the committee include: representing our growing FN culture through cultural teachings in the classroom, assisting FN families feel welcome in our schools, supporting our

FN students, and combating racism. The Committee's next meeting will be Monday, Jan.30/12. Everyone is welcome to attend and each participant will leave with a lesson plan to use in their classroom. If you are interested in receiving more information please contact our Aboriginal Education Contact Kym Shephard at kshephard@sd70.bc.ca

Important Reminders:

- ❖ **Wednesday, January 18-** 4:00 p.m. General Meeting, A.W. Neill Library and Ucluelet Secondary School
- ❖ **Thursday, February 2-** 4:00 p.m. Special General Meeting, Best Western Barclay Hotel and Ucluelet Secondary School. (Guest: A member of the BCTF Executive Committee.)
- ❖ **Wednesday, February 15-** 4:00 p.m. General Meeting (Election of BCTF Annual General Meeting Delegates).

Ken

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