



# The Alberta Teachers' Association

## ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

Jan/Feb 2022  
Vol. 3 Issue 4

HAPPY  
Valentines  
DAY

*by Murray Lalonde  
District Representative*

**THE GREAT NEWS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED! ATRF** (Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund) has announced that the **total contribution rates** as of 2022 09 01 **will be reduced** by 2 per cent (1 per cent for teachers and 1 per cent for government) of total teachers' salaries! More money to take home! The plan has a funding status of 98%, up from 75% in 2013. Strong investment returns and favorable financial position allowed the board to take prudent measures to reinforce the plans' long-term sustainability.

**MIMs** - Member Information Meetings took place this past week to inform members of the call to action to defend our Association and Public Education. If you would like to view the information, I have shortened the url to [bit.ly/33xoUC6](http://bit.ly/33xoUC6) to get you there easily. This call comes at a very stressful time, but we did not pick this time for this fight. The Minister knows how exhausted we are and continues to try to wear us down. We need to fight back to keep our discipline process. If she strips the discipline process we change from a professional association to purely a union, causing us to defend a bad teacher doing bad things, rather than removing them from the classroom like we have successfully done in the past.

**MIM en français** - Si vous souhaitez voir la version française de la présentation du MIM, veuillez me contacter. Je me ferai un plaisir de vous aider à obtenir cette information.

**Disconnecting from Social Media** - I recently left the Twitter world; I could not continue to endure its negativity. I continue to advocate for teachers and Public Education through my website ([bit.ly/molalo29](http://bit.ly/molalo29)), DR reports, letters to and conversations with GoA MLAs, and of course through liaising information between you and your provincial Association. Please feel free to contact me using the information here:

Concerns? Questions?  
Call or text: (780) 656-5952  
email: [murray.lalonde@ata.ab.ca](mailto:murray.lalonde@ata.ab.ca)  
Website: [bit.ly/molalo29](http://bit.ly/molalo29)

[www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)  
[alberta-curriculum-analysis.ca](http://alberta-curriculum-analysis.ca)  
[www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca](http://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca)  
[202122scevents.sched.com](http://202122scevents.sched.com)

[estca2022.sched.com](http://estca2022.sched.com)  
[#IStandWithAbTeachers](https://twitter.com/IStandWithAbTeachers)

**PD and Convention Season** - Endless Skies Teachers' Convention Association (ESTCA) has a great convention planned. Please visit the "Sched" to plan your convention ([estca2022.sched.com](http://estca2022.sched.com)). Our opening keynote speaker: Astronaut Chris Hadfield! Also, feel free to share your photos of your convention socks and pets, but please do not post photos of a vacation spot even though you are attending your convention.

**Bills 32, 85, and ??** - The Government of Alberta (GoA) is attacking the ATA the way they know how: legislation. One of our Fundamental Freedoms in Canada is 2.(d) freedom of association. The GoA cannot take away our right to membership in the ATA, but they are trying to strip our powers of discipline and professionalism. The GoA recently gave this power to School Superintendents, but is doing the opposite to teachers. A new bill is being planned by Red Deer North MLA Adriana LaGrange to appear this February/March in the Legislature. The GoA is also trying to control what the ATA can and cannot do with collected fees by passing Bill 32.

**Code of Professional Conduct** - Please remember that if you have an issue with a colleague, you must follow the code of professional conduct, in particular sections 13 and 14. You must bring your issue to the attention of your colleague BEFORE you take it to a higher level. As with any thoughts of students, you cannot discuss your issues about another teacher with fellow teachers. Executive Staff Officer Chris Gibbon's article is a great place to learn about this important subject: [bit.ly/30r5M7a](https://bit.ly/30r5M7a)

The Spring 2022 **Collective Bargaining Conference** will be held in Calgary at the Glenmore Inn and Convention Centre on 2022 04 29–30 and for fall 2022 11 18–19 in Edmonton, while still confirming, is likely to be held at the Holiday Inn Edmonton South.

**Finance and ATA Budget** - The 2022 proposed budget was discussed and readied for locals' ARA delegates to review and debate.

**Staffing Changes at ATA** - Congratulations to Sandy Gillis, ESO-TES, on his retirement! Sandy has been a Staff Officer at Barnett House for the past 9 years. Also, congratulations to Keith Hadden, Associate Coordinator-TES (SARO), on his appointment to Coordinator of Teacher Employment Services (TES). Keith will replace Robert Mazzotta who is moving into Brian Andrais' Associate Executive Secretary Position when Brian retires later this Spring. Congratulations to all!



**Information Technology Services** - Progress continues with the ATA web refresh. Currently on track for a June 1, 2022 initial roll out, and a September 1, 2022 updated site. Progress continues with the rollout of the M365 collaboration toolset to subgroups for early 2022.

**Indigenous Education Committee** - The committee received an update from the Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association, highlighting the following:

- Wrapping up “Filling our Teepees” mental health resource for youth.
- Circle of Learning—can now share resources publicly. <https://anfca.com/education/#>
- Protecting our Sacred Fires—urban youth-led human trafficking in Alberta awareness program. Sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence campaign.
- <https://www.facebook.com/anfca70/>
- <https://www.instagram.com/anfca70/?hl=en>
- The Medicine Hat Friendship Centre has Indigenous language camps.

**ARA 2022** - The ATA's Annual Representative Assembly (ARA) 2022 is planned for an in-person event in Calgary on the May long-weekend. The Steering Committee has been busy planning the event at the Calgary Hyatt Regency. The committee received information on the virtual ARA preparation sessions provided delegates in advance of the 2022 ARA. The following dates and times have been confirmed:

1. Purpose of the Annual Representative Assembly—Monday, 2022 04 25, 7:00–8:30 pm.
2. Rules of Order and Procedure—Monday, 2022 05 09 from 7:00–8:30 pm.
3. Budget/Finance 101—Monday, 2022 05 16, again from 7:00-8:30 pm.

**School Leaders** - A report from the University of Alberta shared that Leadership Quality Standard certification courses are currently running. The university continues to work on the reorganization of the faculty and all departments will now be housed under the Faculty of Education. There is a new Ed D program being developed that will focus specifically on leadership for working professionals. This program will consist of a summer residence experience (possibly 3–4 weeks) and synchronous online learning. During the fall and winter semesters, a single course that could be taken online and/or in person will be included. The university was hoping to have the first cohort intake for September 2022, but this may be delayed.

**Upcoming Events:**

1. Virtual School Leaders Speaker Series (2022 01 13, 2022 03 16, 2022 05 02)
2. Women in Leadership Summit (Edmonton, 2022 03 05)
3. Council for School Leadership uLead Conference (Banff, 2022 04 10–12 with preconference and post-conference workshops)

**STAND FOR EDUCATION UPDATE** - CAPEC received an update on the Stand for Education's metrics and statistics. As of 2021 12 09, an e-mail click rate was excellent, but MLA engagement was lower with 130 calls placed through the website. The letter of support received 23,000 signatures and 1.4 million watched the videos. Approximately 360 people used the profile frame for social media.

Some people were likely calling their MLA from their phones directly, rather than the website which would affect the metrics, and staff were asked to **please remind members to use the Stand for Education website to take actions such as making phone calls and using the social media profile frame.**

Discussion occurred around the fact that teachers are extremely tired and making asks, especially at this time of year, is a tough sell. However, there are many important and timely issues, especially knowing that the GoA is planning to strip the ATA in next month's legislative session.

**COMPASSION FATIGUE RESEARCH STUDY** - The final report of the compassion fatigue study undertaken by the Association, the ASEBP and the University of Calgary—entitled Compassion Fatigue, Emotional Labour, and Educator Burnout: Executive Summary—is now available on the Association website (under Public Education > Education Research > Research Publications). The study's key findings are:

1. Education workers provide emotional labour as a normal part of their work description, as they work to provide a safe and caring school and classroom environment for children and youth. Providing emotional labour forms the basis for building valued professional and pedagogical relationships with students, leaders and colleagues.
2. Education workers regularly perform crisis work and trauma work when working with students, colleagues and staff, but they are given very limited training and are unprepared to deal with the emotional aftermath of helping students who are suffering through traumatic events.
3. The data revealed significant and concerning evidence of mental and emotional distress across all educational work roles, with the highest levels of stress and distress felt by education workers who work primarily with children and youth.
4. Analysis of the data formed the basis for the Conceptual Model for the Compassion Continuum in Educational Settings, a theoretical description of the experience of compassion in the education field.
5. A comprehensive intervention is required to help prevent mental and emotional distress among education workers who provide crisis and trauma work, and to treat them when it occurs. The data were used to develop a conceptual framework for HEARTcare planning, a comprehensive, holistic model for identifying the sources of occupational mental and emotional distress in education workers and the possible actions that can be taken to restore a state of occupational health.

# My DR Calendar

## **January**

- 4 - Battle River Executive
- 5 - Emergent PEC
- 6 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
- 7 - Indigenous Advisory Circle
- 10 - Northern Lights Executive
- 11 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
- 12 - Emergent School Rep Meeting
- 13 - ESTCA Planning
- 17 - Battle River DEHR
- 17 - Northern Lights Local Council
- 20 - Provincial Executive Council
- 21 - Provincial Executive Council
- 24 - ESTCA MIM
- 24 - Park Plains East Executive
- 26 - Park Plains East Local Council
- 26 - Campus St Jean Area Field Experience
- 27 - Battle River Local Council

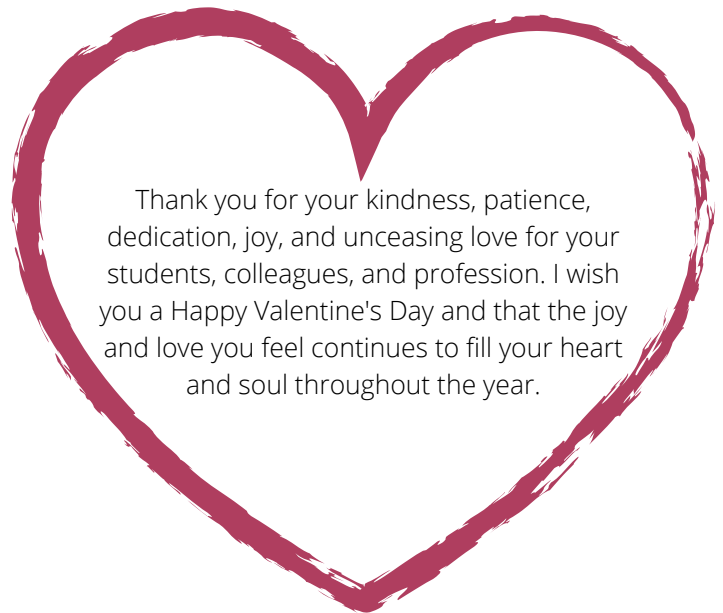
## **February**

- 3 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
- 3 - Greater St Paul TWC
- 4 - Local Presidents
- 5 - Local Presidents
- 8 - Battle River Executive
- 9 - Aspen View Local Council
- 11 - Moose Hide Campaign
- 13 - Middle Years' Council
- 15 - Battle River TWC
- 16 - Northern Lights Executive
- 16 - ESTCA Planning
- 17/18 - Teachers' Convention
- 28 - Provincial Executive Council

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!  
Aboon them a' ye tak your place,  
Painch, tripe, or thairm :  
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace  
As lang's my arm.  
- Robert Burns, *Address to a Haggis*

Sláinte Mhath! Good Health!

Oidhche Bhlas Burns! Happy Burns Night!



Thank you for your kindness, patience, dedication, joy, and unceasing love for your students, colleagues, and profession. I wish you a Happy Valentine's Day and that the joy and love you feel continues to fill your heart and soul throughout the year.