



ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

*By Murray Lalonde
District Representative*

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"Count the days slowing passing by. Step on a plane and fly away. I'll see you then as the dawnbirds sing on a cold and misty morning by the Albert Bridge."

- *Misty Morning, Albert Bridge* by The Pogues, lyrics by Jem Finer

2019-2020 was quite an unbelievable school year for everyone. From having the control of our retirement fund stolen from us by the enactment of a new law, to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the teaching world was turned upside-down. The 2020-2021 school year has one month in the history books, a lot of teachers already feel "June tired". School administrators had their summer holidays cut in half with no promise of compensation. While the Government of Alberta has provided protective personal equipment, some of our teachers have yet to receive it (in part or in whole), while not properly funding education (especially for special needs), and distributing the federal emergency education funding (\$262 million for Alberta) on an equal per-student basis to both public and private school students. They have also started to cut ADLC funding, and heavily reduced funding for 4th and 5th year students at Outreach schools.

To nobody's surprise, teachers have responded amazingly! This is a testament to how teachers love what they do and would do anything to see their students thrive. However, please follow the guidelines of your Collective Agreement and Labour Law - you must have a 30 minute, uninterrupted break within the first 5 hours of the start of your day (not including the first period of the day). This break may be split into two 15 minute breaks, but only if you, the teacher, agree to it. It is tough for a teacher to say no, but we need all teachers to first take care of themselves.

Concerns? Questions?

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[#repealbill22](#)

[#handsoffmypension](#)

Provincial Executive Council - Sept 24/25, 2020

Local Governance Emergency: In April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures, a governance emergency was declared by the provincial ATA allowing subgroups to make emergent decisions. This governance emergency, as of 2020 Sept 24, is declared over. ATA subgroups will still have the emergent powers for 40 operational days after 2020 Sept 24.

Teachers' Conventions: Due to the uncertainty of where we will be in this COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to provide Convention Associations with assurances in important planning needs and deadlines, all 2021 Teachers' Conventions will be held virtually on their assigned dates.

Virtual Meetings: An ongoing review of the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic has deemed it necessary for members of Provincial Executive Council to virtually participate in Association and subgroup (including local) meetings. As much as I absolutely love to travel to your local meetings, I am sorry that I will not be able to be there in person. In regards to locals, "Recognizing the potential of subgroup events to bring teachers from multiple cohorts together, the preferred and default option is for subgroup events to be conducted virtually."

Professional Conduct and Social Media: If you are doing the "My Classroom Size Is..." campaign, please do not make it traceable to you and your school and district when you place it on your personal social network account. We do not want embarrassed employers having reasons to discipline you. Instead, send it to the ATA to get your message out there.

Standing Committees: "Preference for standing committee positions will be given to those applicants not already serving on a standing committee." This does not exclude a member from serving on more than one committee, rather allowing for more ATA members to engage and have more voices heard. We are looking for 3 field members to populate the PBIC (Pension, Benefits and Insurance Committee). If you are interested and haven't found a notice for application, please email me and I will forward the information to you.

New Abbreviations and Acronyms!

TWAC (Teacher Welfare Area Conference) is now CBC (Collective Bargaining Conference)

PBIC - see above

TW (Teacher Welfare) and MS (Member Services) are now TES (Teacher Employment Services)

Other Important News

Central Bargaining has begun! The Teacher Employers' Bargaining Association (TEBA) requested a second extension on List of All Matters (LAM) bargaining, and we were happy to oblige because of COVID possibly changing teachers' bargaining convictions. The results of last week's new member bargaining survey will soon be made available to your Central Table Bargaining Committee and used for bargaining the LAM in the near future.

Annual Representatives Assembly happened August 13/14 (and into the wee hours of the 15th). Please help me thank your local ARA delegates for giving up two long days of your summer to represent your teachers. Many resolutions, both planned and emergent, were debated and voted on. Most of Friday's session involved debate and passing of this year's budget. With both PEC (early 2020) and ARA paring-down expenses in many hours of debate, an increase to annual fees of \$81 was required due in large part to a forecasted large drop in membership numbers throughout Alberta. More ARA highlights can be found in the first ATA News of this year and on the teachers.ab.ca website.

Starting this September, teachers will note an **increase in take-home pay** because of the lower cost of ATRF dues. We can expect an increase of 0.5% of gross pay because of how well the ATRF investments did last year. Please help to keep the **#handsoffmypension** campaign going strong; all of our MLAs need to know that it costs them less money to keep our pensions with the ATRF.

Teachers will need to keep track of their **teaching and assignable** times this year, especially with the huge increase to supervision time. The time calculator can be found on the ATA website: My ATA -> Pay & Benefits -> Assignable Time Calculators.

After arbitration failed, **Horizon ATA Local** teachers voted in favour of applying for a government supervised strike vote in late August. This got their Board to go back to the negotiating table with the local, and an agreement was signed. Congratulations Horizon teachers!

Minister LaGrange announced Sept 2 the Government of Alberta's plan for the **Federal Government's emergency education funding** of \$262 million. \$250M of that was divided to each board on an equal per-student basis (including private school students). The remaining \$12M is to help school boards deliver on-line learning. How will your district use its funds?

How would you like a chance to **win a \$1000 VISA Gift Certificate?!** Our friends at Morgex Insurance are donating three of these GCs in honour of World Teachers' Day, Oct 5. All you have to do is show how you are "showing strength and solidarity as you teach for a better world" on your social media accounts with #ATAwtd20 between Oct 1 and Oct 5.

My DR Calendar

October

- 1 - Lakeland Catholic (Cold Lake)
- 2 - Central Table Bargaining Committee
- 3 - Bargaining Advisory Committee
- 5 - Northern Lights Executive
- 5 - Battle River Executive
- 6 - Middle Years Council
- 6 - Battle River Teacher Welfare Committee
- 8 - Park Plains East Retirement/Induction
- 13 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
- 19 - Northern Lights (Cold Lake)
- 20 - Aspen View Local Council
- 22 - Provincial Executive Council
- 23 - Provincial Executive Council
- 23 - Local Presidents
- 24 - Local Presidents

November

- 2 - Northern Lights Executive
- 2 - Battle River Executive
- 5 - Lakeland Catholic
- 5 - Fall Strategic Planning
- 6 - Fall Strategic Planning
- 7 - Fall Strategic Planning
- 9 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
- 16 - Northern Lights Local Council
- 23 - Park Plains East Executive
- 24 - Battle River Local Council
- 25 - Park Plains East Local Council
- 27 - Collective Bargaining Conference
- 28 - Collective Bargaining Conference

I wish you all the best of health and happiness for you and your loved ones.