

ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

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District Representative*

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM PEC

Provincial Executive Council held its regular meeting January 23 and 24. Items of particular interest are found on pages 2-4.



NEWS FROM THE LEGISLATURE

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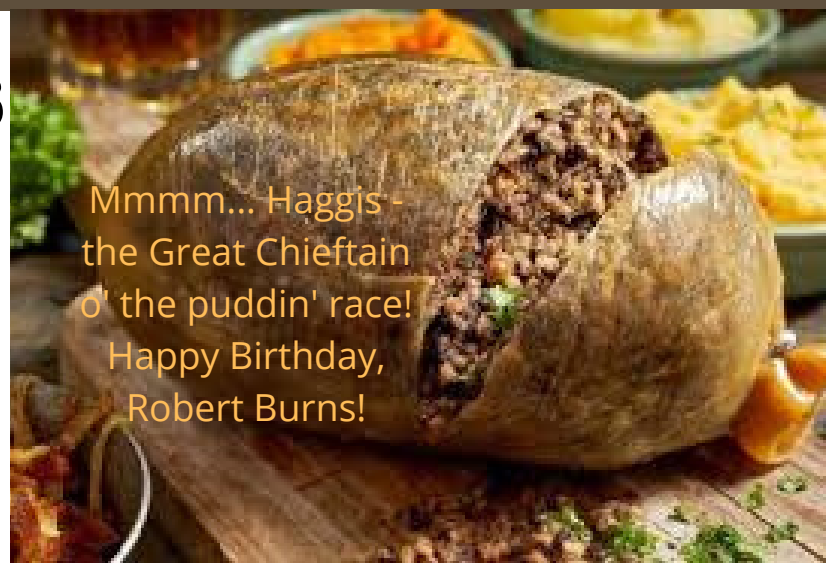
NEWS FROM CENTRAL EAST

Items of interest for teachers from Central East Alberta and Endless Skies Teachers' Convention Association.
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Here are the meeting dates and times where I will be if you would like to meet in person.

Concerns? Questions?
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Mmmm... Haggis -
the Great Chieftain
o' the puddin' race!
Happy Birthday,
Robert Burns!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PEC

Central Table Bargaining 2018

On January 10, the Arbitrator's decision was released for the 2018-2020 Central Table Collective Agreement. Two more years of zero. This means no salary increases in 7 of the last 8 years. We asked for 3% retroactive to April and 3% retroactive to September 1, while TEBA and the government asked for a 2% rollback. We had a fantastic case, built by our economist Neil Hepburn, showing that Alberta teachers are actually the 9th best paid teachers in Canada when you compare us to other teachers, university trained careers, and cost of living across Canada.

Central Table Bargaining 2020

Your Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) consists of 5 members of Provincial Executive Council (PEC) as well as Teacher Welfare staff from Barnett House. You can be assured that we will build a strong case for bargaining, based on ATA members' wishes from the survey that we will roll out at the beginning of March. PEC, Teacher Welfare Services Committee (TWSC), and the Bargaining Advisory Committee (BAC) are the provincial ATA equivalent of your local ATA's Teacher Welfare Committee (TWC), while the CTBC is the Negotiating SubCommittee (NSC). As much as the Alberta government tries to convince us, WE ARE NOT IN A RECESSION! Alberta's economy is actually doing well, and teachers are long overdue for gains in collective bargaining.

Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund

The ATRF has announced that, due to strong investment returns and prudent management, our contribution rate will decrease effective Sept 1! KIND! Please see the ATRF's website for more information (atrf.com).

More glorious news: 50 ATRF employees were given continuous employment contracts when the funds are transferred to AIMCo! Their employment uncertainty is gone!

I have heard members' concerns about our pension changing from a defined benefit to a defined contribution pension. Also, what is the difference?

We have a defined benefits pension in which we will receive a specified pension payment for the rest of your (and/or your partner's) life, depending on which of the 3 options you choose. Defined contribution is a pension payment based on how much you and your employer contributed to the pension and how much the money grew over time (your personal pension fund may run out before you pass away). We want to keep our pension the way it is. #HandsOffMyPension

ATA Budget Planning

The Budget Committee was hard at work in the first half of the year, and PEC approved the proposed budget to be taken forward for approval at the Annual Representatives' Assembly (ARA) in Calgary on the May long-weekend. Due to increased costs to land taxes, insurance, legal fees, and other costs, we will need to have a membership fee increase just to hold the status quo. Much time was spent at PEC to pare down the expenses, but will need to increase the fee by \$8 per month, pending ARA approval.

Code of Professional Conduct

It is highly advised for ATA members to review the Code of Professional Conduct on a regular basis. Teachers are teachers 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Even if a teacher is acting as a parent, they must abide by "the Code". Failure to do so tarnishes our profession, damages the lives of all involved, and is very costly to the teacher and our Association. All decisions of the Professional Conduct Committee and Professional Conduct Appeal Committee are finalized at PEC.

I will feature one article of interest in this and future DR reports, and remind you that I am not an expert in this field (call Member Services at 1-800-232-7208). I would like to start with Article 14:

"The teacher, when making a report on the professional performance of another teacher, does so in good faith and, prior to submitting the report, provides the teacher with a copy of the report, subject only to section 24 of the Teaching Profession Act."

Basically, you have to follow the proper chain of command. If you have a concern regarding another teacher, in your school or not, you must first let that teacher know (in writing) your concerns and reasons for reporting them. You must only report to a person in authority, such as your school-based administrator (if you are reporting your school's principal, you must provide that principal with a written copy of the report, and report to nobody of less or equal authority... the report must only go up the chain of command). **Your ATA School Representative CANNOT act as ATA defence in any discipline issue.** Failure to follow Article 14 will land you or your colleagues with charges of unprofessional conduct. REMEMBER: when in doubt, call Member Services at 1-800-232-7208. Being proactive by calling ATA MS may save you a lot of unforeseen grief.

ASEBP

There are some wonderful new resources from ASEBP and Homewood Health. At the last Teacher Welfare Services Committee meeting, we were presented with a couple of pamphlets which are made available to you as well. Once you have registered for a personal account at Homeweb.ca, you will be able to view various resources. One pamphlet is titled "A Helping Hand for New Parents", with topics including:

1. New Parent Support (Life Smart Program) - found on the web at bit.ly/homeweb11
2. Preparing for Life and Work after a Baby - bit.ly/homeweb12
3. Single Parenting - bit.ly/homeweb13
4. Childcare Resource Locator - bit.ly/homeweb10

Many more topics can be found on their website homeweb.ca, including "Coping With Loss", "Experiencing a Community Based Natural Disaster", and "10 Steps to Achieving Work-Life Balance". You can even find a link to online secure and private counselling services.

Show Your Pride

This is the newest decal produced by the ATA in support of public education (public, separate, and francophone schools). Please see your School Rep for information on how to order your free decals. They are non-permanent, so I safely placed mine on my laptop, while others placed them on their vehicles (but I can't be responsible for ruining the paint job :-). You may even want to ask business owners to display them in the windows.





A lot of teachers have been asking for talking points that they can use for their own information and to be armed with when defending their interests in public education and the ATA. You will find these quick reads on the ATA website by following these clicks: teachers.ab.ca > MY ATA (across the top) > Talking Points (scroll down to bottom).

"You say you want a Resolution..."

"... we all want to change the world." Sorry, this is another of my poor attempts at humour, but I do like this one. Sometimes, I tell dad jokes, and sometimes he laughs at them.

The Resolutions Committee is receiving final edits from staff and other committees, and will finalize the wording for resolutions to go to ARA this May. You can expect to read the resolutions put forward from locals and PEC in a near future edition of the ATA News.

Red For Ed Campaign

Join the ATA in campaigning for Public Education in Alberta, Ontario, and around the world by wearing red on Fridays. Ontario teachers are on strike and need all the support they can get. If you don't have any red clothing, make and wear a red ribbon. Take a photo and send it to your favourite social media platform and use the hashtag #RedForEdAB. NO CUTS TO EDUCATION!



News From the Legislature



...or perhaps lack thereof. Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange asked for Albertans to complete a survey regarding their "Choice in Education". The report on this survey has yet to be released. We have been patiently awaiting these results, and have directly asked the Minister for the results. We are at the point of "FOIPP"ing the results, wondering if the government did not receive what it was hoping for. We know that voucher systems have failed, and that our public education system is producing world-leading results. The provincial budget is expected to be announced in mid-February, so hopefully the Choice in Education survey has influenced an education-favourable budget.

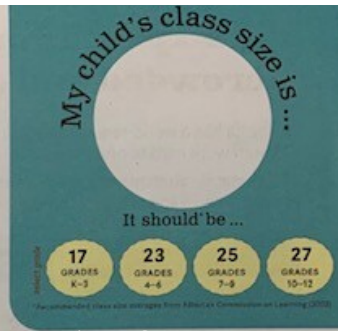
Along with this, we have been waiting for the Curriculum Advisory Panel to release their recommendations. Well, as I am trying to finalize this DR Report, emails and news releases keep popping up. An email came to me today (Jan 29), stating that the panel's full report is available online.

We are disappointed that the Ministry of Education released the report early to other agencies, but left the ATA to fend for ourselves. If it wasn't for the media, we would not have known that the report was released today. This is yet another example of how teachers are not being consulted by the Alberta government. Please know that we are eager to provide teachers a commentary on these results. However, the ATA is unable to provide comments on the curriculum review report until we receive a copy.

A new Deputy Minister of Education has been appointed. Andre Corbould, (former) Deputy Minister of Agriculture, replaces Curtis Clarke. Mr. Corbould, or rather Brigadier General (ret.) Corbould, spent 28 years in the Canadian Armed Forces. Welcome, Mr. Corbould; we look forward to working with you to support public education and advancing the concerns of Alberta's teachers.

Parent Letter Writing Campaign

Dear MLA,
My classroom concerns are ...

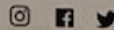


The ATA is still asking all teachers to take a few minutes to write their classroom concerns letter. Even if you have already done one, we need a lot more. This is a fantastic way for teachers to get involved in a political engagement campaign.

The reason this letter looks a bit different is that this is the Parent Letter Writing Campaign form. We need to get our parents involved, knowing that this govt loves the Grassroots Movement. These forms were sent to your ATA School Rep. Please ask them for copies to get your parents involved. Remind them that the ATA is a non-partisan association, and fight for Public Education, Sincerely,

no matter which political party forms the govt.

#MyClassSizeIs #AbEd



ESTCA Preparations

The Endless Skies Teachers' Convention is being held at the Edmonton Convention Centre, Feb. 13 and 14.

Check out "Sched" and social media for updates to the convention: ESTCA_ATA

Use Sched to sign up for your sessions so that the organizers can shuffle the rooms around according to popularity of the session.
estca.teachers.ab.ca

The Blood Donor Clinic spots are almost full! Thank you to all who are giving the gift of life!

Please remind your new teachers and student teachers about expectations on them re: attendance at convention and alternate PD.



These are a couple of photos I took of the beauty I see in my travels of the Central East district. Actually, I didn't have to go far for either photo. At left is a photo of my house the day after a major fog and snowfall. Above is my drive home on the same day (my house is just over that there hill).

My DR Calendar

BUGM = Bargaining Unit General Meeting (all teachers, please attend your BUGM)

CSR = Council of School Representatives ESTCA = Endless Skies Teachers' Convention

CTBC = Central Table Bargaining Committee PEC = Provincial Executive Council

January 2020

23-24 - PEC, Barnett House, Edmonton

27 - Park Plains East Executive Meeting, Wainright

28 - Battle River CSR, Norseman Inn, Camrose

29 - Park Plains East CSR, Wainright

February 2020

1 - Bargaining Advisory Committee, Barnett House, Edmonton

3 - CTBC, Barnett House

3 - Battle River BUGM, Camrose

6 - Lakeland Catholic CSR, Cold Lake

6 - Buffalo Trail BUGM, Wainright Communiplex

7 - Resolutions Committee Meeting, Barnett House

7 - 8 - Local Presidents' Meeting, Barnett House

10 - Northern Lights Local Executive

12 - ESTCA Board Meeting

13 - 14 - ESTCA, Edmonton Convention Centre

20 - Aspen View CSR, Boyle

23 - CTBC, Barnett House

23 - PEC Orientation, Barnett House

24 - 25 - PEC, Barnett House

24 - Northern Lights CSR, Bonnyville

**Thank you all for the amazing work you do! See you
at Teachers' Convention!**

**"It's time to take a stand. Brothers and sisters join
hands. We got to let love rule." - Lenny Kravitz**