



ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

*By Murray Lalonde
District Representative*

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"Workin' so hard to make it easy, whoa, got to turn this thing around Right Now."
- "Right Now" by Van Halen (RIP Eddie Van Halen)

"Teachers are June 2022 tired!"

The Government Program Area of the Alberta Teachers Association has been conducting pandemic pulse research surveys since the start of this school year. Four major results have been identified:

1. **Persistent concerns with teacher and school leader well-being.** 87% are stressed and 92% report being exhausted at the end of each day. 29% feel depressed or hopeless more than half the days of the week.
2. **Concerns with physical distancing in classrooms/hallways and contracting the Coronavirus.** 3/4 of respondents are concerned about physical distancing in classrooms and hallways, and nearly the same amount are worried about bringing the virus home with them.
3. **Cleaning and sanitizing classroom(s)/school(s) and growing work intensification.** 60% of respondents report spending 20 minutes to one hour each day cleaning/sanitizing their classrooms/schools.
4. **Information reliability and transparency of government decision making.** Half of the respondents say its difficult to understand AHS recommendations on how to protect students and themselves.

Please help take care of your school administration team. They have been working since late July/early August, and are now taking on the AHS's role of contact tracing and notification.

Please visit the ATA website (soon to undergo a complete transformation!) to view the full results of the pulse surveys: <https://tinyurl.com/atapulsesurvey>

Concerns? Questions?
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https://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca/call_your_mla
#repealbill22 #handsoffmypension
#WeAreATA

Provincial Executive Council - Oct 22/23, 2020

Professional Development Area

All Teachers' Conventions are virtual this year, and teachers are not expected to attend convention from their worksites. However, some teachers are not able to obtain reliable internet outside of their schools. Please let your ATA School Representative know if this is the case, so they can let your Local Council help you out.

Specialist Councils will also be holding their conferences virtually for this calendar year. Each ATA member is able to join, at no extra cost, the specialist council of their choice.

PD webinars have been very well-received, and teachers across Alberta express their thanks for an amazing array of no-cost professional development. If you have missed any of the webinars, worry not - the webinars will be/have been recorded as both video recordings and audio podcasts and will be available at ATAPDwebinars2020.sched.com.

The U of A is offering a free 12-week Massive Open Online Course on Indigenous Canada, available at www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada.

Government Area

The pulse surveys (see page 1) have sparked interest in the media, and have proven their importance in advocacy for teachers. Dr. Phil McRae has been described by one of our local presidents as a research guru; if you are looking to follow someone on Twitter, I strongly suggest @philmcrae.

Teacher Employment Services

Call trends at all locations from June 1 through September 30 = 2690 calls! Over 1000 of the calls were made in August by teachers concerned for their health and wellness.

Collective Bargaining Conference (CBC, the conference formerly know as TWAC) will happen on Saturday, November 28. Since this is a virtual conference, Local Teacher Welfare Committees will be able to send ALL of their members instead of the usual 4. TWC members - this is a fantastic opportunity to build skills and advance your education level in the Teacher Welfare Education Program (TWEPE). If you don't receive the registration directly to your personal email, please ask your TWC Chair to forward the CBC registration.

Central Table Bargaining - we will soon meet with the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) to do the first step in negotiations: bargain the List of All Matters (LAM). The LAM is the decisive list of what can be bargained centrally and locally. Your CTBC will host TEBA at the Barnett House Auditorium, ensuring proper COVID meeting protocols are followed. This is one meeting that cannot happen over Zoom.

Other Important News

Children are very happy to be back in school, thanks in large part to their teachers, school administrators, and support staff. You need to know that you are doing amazing things, and we would like to showcase it for the public to see. Stay tuned to the ATA News for more info.

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. If you are going to be close to your 907/1200 limits, you will need to let your school's administration team know. Please remember that administrators are fellow ATA members and have been working really hard without much of a summer break. Most of us are stressed out like no other year, and it's just the beginning of the year. Conversations with your fellow ATA members should be done in a calm manner and follow the Code of Professional Conduct.

"Compassion fatigue" refers to a condition characterized by emotional and physical exhaustion leading to a diminished ability to empathize or feel compassion for others. This can be regarded as the negative cost of caring." Please visit the Worth Talking About pages to find articles to support your personal care at <https://tinyurl.com/atatalkabout>

This year's **Beginning Teachers' Conference** was postponed to 2021. In the meantime, five major projects have been advanced to help support our beginning teachers:

1. Virtual Event A - *Welcome to the ATA* (2021-01-09),
2. Virtual Event B - *Professional Development Supports at the ATA* (2021-01-16),
3. Video Series - to orient new teachers to the Association,
4. Website Updates and Social Media - a dedicated part of the website to new teachers,
5. Care Kit for Beginning Teachers - a little something to help you out.

The **Women in Leadership Committee** is looking for speakers for their virtual symposium (2021 March 5-6). Contact (ASAP) Barnett House if you would like to be a presenter.

ASEBP - Changes to Extended Health Care provisions:

1. No frequency limitation for children who need prosthetic limbs (was once every 3 years),
2. Add hearing tests (max. \$70) every 3 years to the hearing aid benefit,
3. Batteries for cochlear implants is added to the hearing aid benefit,
4. Limit the TENS machines to \$150 every 3 years with a lifetime max of \$300.

Pride and GSA - Association-branded waterless tattoos and limited-edition rainbow sunglasses will be made available to order for locals that participate in Pride celebrations. The ninth annual Student Gay-Straight Alliance Conference will be held online in just a couple of weeks (2020 NOV 11-15 during non-school hours). It is open to Jr and high school students and GSA Advisors. There is no cost, but you must register to attend (check teachers.ab.ca).

My DR Calendar

November

- 2 - Northern Lights Executive
- 2 - Battle River Executive
- 4 - Endless Skies Teacher Convention Association Meeting
- 5 - Fall Planning Meeting
- 5 - Lakeland Catholic
- 6 - Fall Planning Meeting
- 9 - 13 - Aspen View Schools Fall Break
- 9 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
- 9 - Northern Lights Executive
- 16 - Northern Lights Local Council
- 18 - Battle River Teacher Welfare Committee
- 20 - Central Table Bargaining Committee
- 20 - Emergent Provincial Executive Council
- 23 - Local Presidents Round Table
- 23 - Park Plains East Executive
- 24 - Battle River Local Council
- 24 - Greater St. Paul TWC
- 25 - Park Plains East Local Council
- 27 - Bargaining Advisory Committee
- 28 - Collective Bargaining Conference

December

- 3 - 4 - Provincial Executive Council
- 3 - Lakeland Catholic
- 7 - Middle Years' Council
- 7 - Battle River Executive
- 8 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
- 18 - Resolutions Committee
- 19 - 31 - Cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and snowmobiling
- 22 - Ordering a haggis for Burns Dinner

As I am putting the final edits on this report, my son has informed me that one of my all-time favourite sports figures has passed away. Rest in peace, Joey Moss. I will truly miss your enthusiastic National Anthem singing, your work ethic, and your pure joy for life.

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