



ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

*By Murray Lalonde
District Representative*

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"Little darling, it's been a long, cold, lonely winter. Little darling, it feels like years since it's been here... Here comes the Sun, and I say it's alright."
- George Harrison

Am I ever glad to see the Sun! Bring on the beautiful weather and longer days.

New K-6 Curriculum is (Finally) Released! Minister LaGrange has released the new curriculum on their website: www.alberta.ca/curriculum. I am not going to comment here on how I feel about the new curriculum, as I don't want to influence anyone's feelings on whether or not Grade 1 students are ready to learn fractions and that all students will learn history in chronological order.

There is no doubt that this new curriculum will be a hot topic of addendum at the next Provincial Executive Council meeting. I would like to know your opinion of the curriculum in order to represent Central East ATA members. If you have a chance to peruse the curriculum, please let me know your thoughts and concerns before our next PEC meeting on April 12 and 13.

Also, the ATA is conducting a survey of its members: the Open Professional Review of K-6 Programs of Study 2021 - Alberta Teachers and School Leaders. Please see the www.teachers.ab.ca website, where you will find the survey on the main page carousel.

ARA 2021 - The 2021 Annual Representative's Assembly of the ATA will happen this coming May long-weekend. Every ATA Local will have their ARA delegates decide on the ATA's business for the next year, voting on resolutions and the ATA's budget. Each local will be able to "send" its allotment of delegates **plus one extra, non-voting observer**.

We will be holding two courses, ARA 101 and Budget 102, to assist in the smoother running of an online General Meeting of approximately 500 people. These courses will be offered closer to ARA, sometime in May.

Concerns? Questions?

Call or text: (780) 656-5952 email: murray.lalonde@ata.ab.ca Twitter: [@dr_mo4](https://twitter.com/dr_mo4) www.teachers.ab.ca

PEC Elections: I am humbled and honoured to again represent Central East teachers at the Provincial Executive Council, after having been acclaimed your District Representative. Jason Schilling has also been acclaimed as ATA President. Central East teachers voted for two Vice Presidents, and have elected Jenny Regal for a 3rd term and Greg Carabine, DR from Edmonton McMurray, for his first term. The faces at PEC have not changed much, as current VP Darrin Bauer successfully ran as DR for Edmonton McMurray. The one change is Robert Twerdoclib has decided to go back to full-time classroom teaching, and Rick Kremp has taken on the DR position for Central North.

School Leaders - we would like to know how much time you have spent tracing for COVID-19-positive cases, covering classes for isolating teachers, and other anomalies associated with the pandemic. If possible, please email both me and your Local President.

Collective Bargaining 2018-2020 - Three ATA Bargaining Units are still unsettled for the last round of local bargaining. Sturgeon and Wetaskiwin locals, with strike votes looming, are patiently hoping their Boards will come back to bargain a fair and reasonable agreement.

Finance - PEC approved the ATA Finance Committee's proposed budget for 2021/22. The budget is no secret, and with debate and possible amendments made to it at ARA, will be approved by ARA delegates. This year's proposed budget recommends no increase to member fees.

Central Table Bargaining - We were able to sign-off on a few more items, but are stuck on a significant number of items. We have applied to have an arbitrator decide on where the remaining list items belong, either on the central or local side of the list. If you would like more information, please ask your TWC member and read the Bargainer's Blogs on the ATA website.

Pre-Retirement Seminar - We were able to hold an ATA Pre-Retirement Seminar on Feb 27 with presenters from the ATA, ATRF, ASEBP, Capital Estate Planning, and a lawyer who specializes in Estate Law. I heard many positive comments from the participants.

WILC and DEHR - Many of our locals are hoping to gain interest and member support for two important committees at the local level: Women In Leadership (WILC) and Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights (DEHR). If either of these, or both, interest you, please contact your local council.

ATA Committees - If you are interested in serving on an ATA Committee at the provincial level, the deadline is April 15. I just received notice that a vacancy on the ATRF Board has been announced and they are looking for interested members. See the website or contact lindsay.yakimyshyn@ata.ab.ca for more information.

Education Budget 2021 - The funding manuals for school boards are supposed to be available by the end of March, so I am expecting them to be released by tomorrow, March 31. Hmm, new curriculum, education funding manuals, and Spring/Easter Break all at the same time?

I truly hope that you are able to have a relaxing, well-deserved break. Take care.

My DR Calendar

March

1- Northern Lights Executive
1 - Battle River ARA Budget vote
1 - Battle River Executive
2 - Buffalo Trail TWC
4 - Emergent PEC
4 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
6 - Women In Leadership Summit
8-11 - PEC Elections
8 - Aspen View TWC
9 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
12 - Election Day - results announced
12 and 13 - LPEO Conference
15 - Northern Lights Local Council
15 - Park Plains East Executive
17 - Park Plains East Local Council
22 - Local Presidents Q&A
23 - Battle River Local Council
24 - Greater St. Paul DEHR
25 - ESTCA
29- April 1 - Spring Break
31 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council

April

7 - CTF Committee
8 - Aspen View Local Council
12 - Provincial Executive Council
12 - Battle River Executive
12 - Northern Lights Executive
13 - Provincial Executive Council
13 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
15 - ARA Pre-Vote meetings
16 - Local ARA Pre-Votes due
17 - Collective Bargaining Conference (CBC)
19 - Northern Lights Local Council
22 - Greater St. Paul TWC
23 & 24 - Middle Years Council Conference
23 & 24 - PDAC/DEHR Conference
29 - ATA Governance Review
29 - ESTCA Planning meeting

Please visit the ATA website (teachers.ab.ca) for:

- updates in bargaining (follow the Bargainers' Blog),
- information on PD webinars (time is your only cost),
- Speaker Series (Women In Leadership, Leadership, DEHR, PD, etc),
- News releases,
- Association Calendar, and more.

Please visit handsoffmypension.ca to join the fight for our pensions. Here, you will be able to find talking points to help you in your messaging to MLAs and in conversations with public citizens.

Remember that **we are VITAL WORKERS**, as opposed to essential workers. The term "essential worker" is reserved for workers who are not legally allowed to strike. We need to be able to hold on to this bargaining "card", but hope that we never have to use it.