



The Alberta Teachers' Association

ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

*by Murray Lalonde
District Representative*

December
2023
Vol. 5
Issue 3



Rest in peace, Cory.

Bill 85 and Criminal Record Check: If you have not submitted your criminal record check to your employer, this is your last month to comply with this legal requirement. You must go to your home community's police service to apply. Check with your school's secretary on how to submit your criminal record check, or at least proof that you have applied, before December 31.

Teacher Discipline: The Alberta Teaching Profession Commission (ATPC) is the Alberta Government's department for teacher discipline. They are on track to receive 500 complaints by the end of 2023. The ATA is currently representing 132 teachers in 148 cases.

We have your back! If you are the subject of a discipline complaint, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY INFORM Regulatory Affairs - Member Services (RAMS) by emailing professional.discipline@ata.ab.ca or call them directly at 780-447-9460. **You ALWAYS have the right to representation.** WARNING!!! School reps: you CANNOT represent your colleague at a meeting in disciplinary nature with school or district administration. The teacher must be represented by ATA Staff.

Digitisation Concerns for ELA and Social Studies PDEs:

- not all students have a touch screen, mouse, two screens (one for response, one for source readings)
- not all parts of Alberta have "big city" internet services (poor internet = buffering problems)
- what happens when there is a power/internet outage?
- losing the "planning pages" affects the marker's ability to understand where the student was going in their response (possibly greatly affecting the grading)

If you are concerned about this, please talk to your School Board Trustee and your MLA and ensure that they present your concerns to the Government of Alberta.

Concerns? Questions?

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email: murray.lalonde@ata.ab.ca

Website: <https://molalonde.my.canva.site>

www.teachers.ab.ca

www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca

standforeducation.ca

[#ISTandWithAbTeachers](https://twitter.com/ISTandWithAbTeachers)

Local Table Bargaining Continues...: 47 locals have either completed this round of local bargaining or are awaiting a Bargaining Unit General Meeting (BUGM). As each local signs the new agreement, the assigned Representative of the Bargaining Agent (RBA) is replaced by an Executive Staff Officer (ESO) so the RBA can concentrate on bargaining for their remaining locals.

Rocky View Local 35 held their BUGM on Sunday, November 26. They decided with 98% support to reject the mediator's recommendations and consequently voted 99.6% in favour of authorising a supervised strike vote.

Pre-Retirement Workshops: Are you planning to retire in the next 10 years? You may find it helpful to ensure a smooth transition by attending one of the following sessions: 1. Saturday, February 3, 2024;
2. Saturday, March 9, 2024.

Watch for a link to register at <https://teachers.ab.ca/events>. Registration will be available approximately one month before each session.

Teacher Employment Services: Please try to make a "rainy day" fund in your personal finances. Three ATA locals are currently in a position to go on strike, and we all go into a new round of central table bargaining in 2024. IMPORTANT: strike pay does not equal regular salary! Strike pay, while the money balance exists, will help to buy groceries, but not much more. The next round of central (and some current) bargaining promise to be rough and every member must be ready to defend our collective position at the bargaining table.



Public Opinion on Public Education: Pollster Janet Brown conducted a research poll this past August. The poll has proven what teachers are concerned with, public opinion agrees. Top issues: class size and complexity, underfunding of public education and overfunding of charter and private schools. The ATA News article can be found using this QR/link.



New Ways to Get My Reports: I have a new website: molalonde.my.canva.site. There you will find my District Representative reports, my calendar, useful links, information, all updated as soon as I receive important information to pass on to you. I also have a **podcast version** of the DR Report! Please tell your teacher colleagues about these ways to keep informed of what the ATA is doing for its members, advocacy for students and Public Education.



Member Organising Strategy: We are hoping to increase member engagement through meetings at the members' workplace. The strategy would require a broad effort from locals including participation from local executives, teacher welfare committees and **school representatives**. Local political engagement officers and presidents will play a key role.



Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights: The provincial DEHR Committee has a grant program not limited to locals but can be provided to individual schools. The deadline for applications is 2024 04 30. A total of \$35,000 in grant aid will be available with individual grants receiving up to \$2000. A subcommittee of DEHR will be formed to review applications and make recommendations to the DEHR committee for approval.


ATAGSA: The ATAGSA continues to meet monthly, with nine locals taking turns hosting the meeting. Topics of the 2023/24 school year include:

- Document review: Breaking the Silence—A Guide for Sexual and Gender Minority Teachers in Alberta and Forming a Teacher GSA/QSA in Alberta—A Guide for Teachers
- Policy review: resolutions for ARA
- Catholicity and queerness: human rights lawyer
- Resource sharing
- Education of the greater membership/public.



ATA Pulse Research - Class Size, Complexity, Aggression, and AI

Follow this QR Code to help our research staff collect data on the major concerns we hear from teachers. It is anonymous, but to keep it anonymous you will want to complete it when you are not connected to your employer-provided technology. Deadline - December 11.



ENDLESS
SKIES

Teachers' Convention Association

ESTCA 2024

@

The Edmonton Convention Center

Thursday, February 15-Friday, February 16, 2024 16, 2024

Convention Host Hotel:

DoubleTree by Hilton-
Edmonton Downtown

9576 JASPER AVENUE NW
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

Bookings can be made by calling
1-587-525-1234

* ask to book for the Endless Skies Teachers Convention Rate
(offered until January 2nd, 2024)

Convention Rates:

Standard King Room OR Standard 2 Bed Queen Room \$129 + gst

King Suite with Kitchenette \$169 + gst

Entertainment Suite with Full Kitchen \$269 + gst

Parking- \$16/day (not included in Convention Rate)

My DR Calendar

December

- 1 - Provincial Executive Council
- 7 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
- 7 - Battle River Executive
- 7 - Communication, Advocacy, and Public Education Committee
- 8-9 - ESTCA Planning
- 12 - NEARTA
- 12 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
- 14 - Battle River Induction Ceremony
- 15 - Deadline for 2024 Resolutions

January 2024

- 9 - Greater St Paul Local Council
- 11 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council - Assumption
- 12 - Communication, Advocacy, and Public Education Committee
- 15 - Northern Lights Local Council
- 15 - Battle River Teacher Welfare Committee
- 15 - Park Plains East Executive
- 17 - Park Plains East Local Council
- 17 - Battle River Executive
- 18 - Provincial Executive Council
- 19 - Provincial Executive Council
- 20 - Substitute Teachers Committee
- 23 - Aspen View Local Council

“We touch the night has fallen, I hold you in radio waves. The smoke and moonlight haze, this voice comes over the air. This room is warm it glows with us, it burns with clear reception. As voices sing the night has fallen, I hold you in radio waves.”

- Skydiggers, *Radio Waves*



“But since it has so ought to be, by a time to rise and a time to fall, come fill to me the parting glass. Good night and joy be with you all.”

- Traditional, *The Parting Glass*

Cory Schoffer, ATA Executive Staff Officer, fan of all things Winnipeg, and friend to many in the ATA, passed away peacefully this morning, December 3, 2023. You may remember Cory as a fierce defender of teachers and public education at the bargaining table and in member services. Please keep him, his family, friends, and loved ones in your thoughts and prayers. Rest in peace, Cory.

As the calendar year comes to an end, I wish you all a happy and peaceful holiday season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Diwali, or any other festival, I hope you find joy and comfort. May you share the warmth of love and kindness with your family and friends. Always remember that we are all connected by our common humanity, regardless of our differences. More than ever, we need to care for each other.

Happy holidays!

