

February 2019

Elaine Willette-Larsen, District Representative Central East

Contact: [elaine.willette@ata.ab.ca](mailto:elaine.willette@ata.ab.ca) or [amberzeroone@gmail.com](mailto:amberzeroone@gmail.com) or 780 753 7880

### District Representative Meeting Dates

02 25-26: Provincial Executive Council

03 07-08: CEATCA Convention

03 07: Battle River Executive

03 09 - 16: United Nations Commission  
on the Status of Women

03 12: Greater St. Paul Local Council

03 16: NETCA

03 19: Communications, Advocacy, and  
Public Education Committee

03 19: Battle River Local Council

03 21: Committee on Convention Review

03 22: Curriculum Committee

03 26: Member Services Shortlist  
Committee

03 30: Northern Rivers Teachers'  
Convention Association Inaugural meeting

04 01: Member Services Interview  
Committee

04 01: Battle River Executive

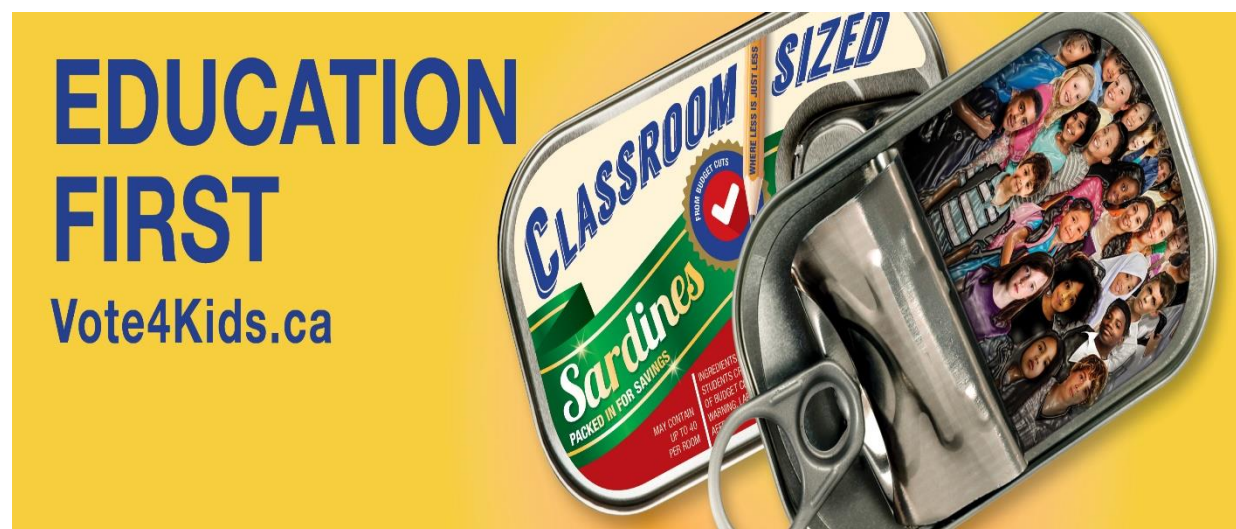
04 02: Aspen View Local Council

04 02: Park Plains East Executive

04 03: Canadian Teachers' Federation  
Committee

04 03: Northern Lights Executive and  
Local Council

04 04-05: Provincial Executive Council



## Government

- Our president will be meeting with the Minister of Education to discuss “seclusion” rooms and curriculum implementation. Our concern revolves around the larger issue of how inclusion is implemented and supported in our classrooms.
- **Provincial Executive Council elections** will be held between March 14-18<sup>th</sup> through an online voting system. (Ensure you have a working account). There are two elections for each teacher to participate in: president and district representative.
- President: three candidates: Robert Duiker, Greg Jeffery (incumbent), Jason Schilling.
- Central East DR: Alysha Grosky; Murray Lalonde
- A budget workbook and proposed budget was forwarded to each local via local presidents’ meeting. Locals are encouraged to submit feedback to Barnett House regarding the budget cost items prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The president, vice presidents, and executive secretaries met with the trustee and superintendent organizations of Catholic education.
- The member opinion survey which is conducted each year with a random sampling of Alberta’s teachers has this year been opened to all teachers to seek their input. This is accessible online and closes on 2019 03 08.
- Strategic Planning Group is planning a public lecture in the spring with acclaimed speaker, Dominic Barton on the topic “Impact of automation and artificial intelligence on K-12 and post secondary education systems.” Watch for the date. Tickets are \$10 and venue is Barnett House.
- Check the ATA News and the website for details on two executive staff officer hirings, one in Member Services and one in Teacher Welfare.
- Please continue advocating for public education by signing the pledge for public education and encouraging others to sign it. Research briefs are online at-->
- <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Public%20Education/EducationResearch/Pages/Research-Briefs.aspx>
- Talking points on each of the pillars of the “I believe in public education” campaign as well as other issues near and dear are available here (with an account log in) -->
- <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/membersonly/Talking-Points/Pages/index.aspx>

## Professional Development

- ❖ Diversity, Equity and Human Rights and Well Being of Children and Youth will host a joint conference on April 11-12 at Barnett House with grant in aid for three delegates per local.
- ❖ The Committee on Convention Review is using a 15 question survey to validate its findings from the review conducted during the 2017-2018 school year. Every teacher can access the survey here (and there is a link within the survey to the CCR review findings). This survey remains open throughout convention season.
- ❖ <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCR2019>

- ❖ ARA will be asked to consider funding a women's leadership symposium.
- ❖ Two new publications have been released: Internationally Educated Teachers - Welcome to Alberta and New to Working with Low German-Speaking Mennonite Students and Communities. I will be bringing a copy of each to upcoming local council meetings.

### **Member Services**

- Unprofessional conduct: any behavior deemed to be harmful to the standing of teachers.
- Always feel free to check with Member Services regarding any behaviour you have engaged in that creates a question mark in your head , or, makes your stomach roll a wee bit.

### **Teacher Welfare**

- ✓ Central table bargaining continues with a mediator. Locally, there are six groups of teachers still without an agreement.
- ✓ Read the Bargainer's Blog for decisions reached by Provincial Executive Council regarding central table bargaining.
- ✓ Some issues with superintendents interfering in bargaining and with school districts arbitrarily increasing instructional time.

### **Upcoming:**

Political Engagement Seminar

Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week

Spring Break . . .

Teacher Welfare Area Conference, Calgary

**Daylight Savings Time - spring forward - is just around the corner!**

**What are you/your local doing to celebrate the substitute teachers who professionally care for our students in our absence?**

Elaine Willette-Larsen, DR Central East