



The Alberta Teachers' Association

ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

*by Murray Lalonde
District Representative*



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Happy
International
Women's Day!

3/4 of Alberta teachers identify as women. To all women in all walks of life, I wish you the best. You are respected, loved, admired, and deserve the best that life has to offer. Thank you for all you do.

MIMs - Member Information Meetings took place the week of January 24-28 to inform members of the call to action to defend our Association and Public Education.

Congratulations ESTCA! Our area's MIM had the highest percentage of teachers in attendance in Alberta! If you would like to view the information, including a recording of the January 25 MIM, please visit bit.ly/33xoUC6, the shortened URL I created to get you there easily. This call comes at a very stressful time, but we did not pick this time for this fight. The Minister knows how exhausted we are and continues to try to wear us down. We need to fight back to keep our discipline process. If she strips the discipline process we change from a professional association to purely a union, causing us to defend a bad teacher doing bad things, rather than removing them from the classroom like we have successfully done in the past.

MIM en français - Si vous souhaitez voir la version française de la présentation du MIM, veuillez me contacter. Je me ferai un plaisir de vous aider à obtenir cette information.

Teachers' Convention a Great Success! Thank you to all teachers for a successful Endless Skies Teachers' Convention. The ESTCA Board worked tirelessly to produce a full slate of speakers and topics, something for everyone. Teachers reported they were engaged and appreciated the product offered. All teachers are to be congratulated on this success. Thank you!

Concerns? Questions?
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estca2022.sched.com
#IStandWithAbTeachers

Bills 32, 85, and ?? - The Government of Alberta (GoA) is attacking the ATA the way they know how: legislation. One of our Fundamental Freedoms in Canada is 2.(d) freedom of association. The GoA cannot take away our right to membership in the ATA, but they are trying to strip our powers of discipline and professionalism. The GoA recently gave this power to School Superintendents, but is doing the opposite to teachers. A new bill is being planned by Red Deer North MLA Adriana LaGrange to soon appear in the Legislature. The GoA is also trying to control what the ATA can and cannot do with collected fees by passing Bill 32.

Code of Professional Conduct - Please remember that if you have an issue with a colleague, you must follow the code of professional conduct, in particular sections 13 and 14. You must bring your issue to the attention of your colleague BEFORE you take it to a higher level. As with any thoughts of students, you cannot discuss your issues about another teacher with fellow teachers. Also, please be very thoughtful of your choice of words used with students. Something as simple as "The S-word" ("Shut up!") can end up with a conduct hearing, a fine, and a letter of reprimand.

Planning to Retire? Are you planning to retire before age 65? Please do a couple (at least) of things: 1. Participate in an ATA Pre-Retirement Seminar, and 2. Check if you will be able to continue your benefits plan. If you are planning to move outside of Alberta and not be able to be covered by Alberta Health Care, you will not be able to be covered by ASEBP.

Planning to Quit? PLEASE DON'T QUIT ON THE SPOT!!! Remember that you signed a contract and that you must give 30 days notice before you leave your position. ALWAYS CALL Teacher Employment Services (TES) at 1-800-232-7208 before signing ANY agreement or change to your contract. Your employer is not obliged to rescind your resignation and you could end up going back to the start. If you feel like quitting on one day, please take at least a 24-hour cooling off period, then call TES... you may find that you had a bad day and don't really want to quit. (Please remember that I am not a counsellor, and don't intend to come across here as one. I am reporting things that have happened in the field and offer direction for help that you can find at the Association.

Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week - We have always known how important substitute teachers are to the continuity of education. The past two years have cemented this. To all past, present, and future substitute teachers: THANK YOU!!! You are there for us in the best and worst of times, your heart bleeds for the teachers that you have to say "No" to because you are already booked. You have given up days off with plans for self-preservation because you love us and our students. We love you, we appreciate you, and we cannot do it without you. Thank you. Merci beaucoup. Shchero dyahkooyoo. Ayhay.

ARA 2022 - The ATA's Annual Representative Assembly (ARA) 2022 is planned for an in-person event in Calgary on the May long-weekend. The Steering Committee has been busy planning the event at the Calgary Hyatt Regency. The committee received information on the virtual ARA preparation sessions provided delegates in advance of the 2022 ARA. The following dates and times have been confirmed:

1. Purpose of the Annual Representative Assembly—Monday, 2022 04 25, 7:00–8:30 pm.
2. Rules of Order and Procedure—Monday, 2022 05 09 from 7:00–8:30 pm.
3. Budget/Finance 101—Monday, 2022 05 16, again from 7:00–8:30 pm.

Public Lecture - The Strategic Planning Group was advised that the Association would work with the Alberta School Councils' Association to host a hybrid public lecture with Robyne Hanley-Dafoe on the topic of resiliency. The lecture, which is tentatively scheduled for the week of 2022 05 08–14, will involve a small audience with satellite conversations in locals.

Other Upcoming Events:

1. Virtual School Leaders Speaker Series (2022 01 13, 2022 03 16, 2022 05 02)
2. Women in Leadership Summit (Edmonton, 2022 03 05)
3. Council for School Leadership uLead Conference (Banff, 2022 04 10–12 with preconference and post-conference workshops)

My DR Calendar

March

1 - PEC
2 - Battle River Budget Review
3 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
8 - Greater St. Paul Local Council and ATA
Induction Ceremony
8 - Battle River Executive Meeting
10 - Aspen View Induction Ceremony
11-12 - LPEO Seminar
14 - Indigenous Education Committee
14 - Battle River DEHR
14 - Park Plains East Executive
16 - Park Plains East Local Council
23 - Aspen View Local Council
24 - Battle River Local Council
25 - Indigenous Advisory Circle
28-31 - Aspen View Schools Spring Break

April

1 - Spring Break continued
1 - ESTCA planning
1-2 - Political Engagement Seminar
4 - Central East Locals ARA planning
5 - Battle River Executive
6 - CTF Committee
7-8 - PEC
7 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
12 - Greater St. Paul Local Council
21-22 - DEHR Conference
22-23 - Spring PDAC
25 - ARA 101
29-30 - Collective Bargaining Conference

"Oh, let the Sun beat down upon my face
And stars fill my dreams."

- *Kashmir*, Led Zeppelin