

September 2018
Elaine Willette-Larsen, District Representative Central East

District Representative Meeting Dates

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| 09 20-21: Provincial Executive Council | 10 11 - 13: Social Studies Council Conf |
| 09 24: Park Plains East LC | 10 12-13: Religious and Moral Education Conf |
| 09 25: Battle River LC | 10 15: Northern Lights LC |
| 09 26: CEATCA Board mtg | 10 16: Greater St. Paul LC and Induction |
| 09 27-29: Beginning Teachers' Conf | 10 19: Curriculum Mtg |
| 10 04: Lakeland Catholic LC | 10 19: Aspen View Induction |
| 10 05: World Teachers' Day unveiling of statue | 10 20: NETCA Board mtg |
| At the Legislative Grounds | 10 25 - 26: Provincial Executive Council |
| 10 09: Aspen View LC | 10 26 - 27: Local Presidents' mtg |
| 10 11: CEATCA/NETCA Trustee mtg | 10 29: Lakeland Catholic Induction |



beginning teachers
CONFERENCE 2018

September 27-29
Shaw Conference Centre, Edmonton

October 11-13
Coast Plaza Hotel, Calgary



Government

We are preparing for the **upcoming provincial election and the year ahead** in a number of ways:

- ✓ Our latest media campaign has begun - **The Face of Education** link here --> <https://bit.ly/2O33WBj>
- ✓ We have established “**The Pledge for Public Education**” which calls on the public to support the improvement of public education in these **four areas**: reductions in class size, further support for inclusion, expansion of early learning (funding junior and full-day kindergarten) and counsellors for each school to support student mental health. Here is the link --> <https://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca/> The website provides the pledge. Please pass this on!
- ✓ We are engaging in **activities to strengthen our provincial association**, engage with all teachers, outline key messages and provide opportunities for action. Locals are encouraged to ensure that they have LCOs and LPEOs (preferably different teachers) and to review their activities with an eye to the important year ahead.
- ✓ There will be a **comprehensive Election Readiness plan** in conjunction with an expanded provincial Political Engagement Committee.
- ✓ The **upcoming election has the potential to affect the reality and future of public education to a degree unseen since the early 1990s**. Thus, Provincial Executive Council will allocate resources necessary to deal proactively with the challenges ahead. At our meeting last week, the authority to access \$250 000 from the Special Emergency Fund was provided to Table Officers.
- ✓ Our messages will **be non-partisan** and abide by all election campaign advertising legislation.
- ✓ **Our mandate**, from the *Teaching Profession Act*, is to advance and promote the cause of education in Alberta . . .and . . .arouse and increase public interest in the importance of education and public knowledge of the aims of education, financial support for education and other education matters.
- ✓ **Our strength lies in our teachers** - if teachers do not stand up for public education who will? We need to pull together in our common cause.

The Resolutions Committee has undertaken a policy review of all our policies. Until November 15th the committee is seeking input from members regarding the reorganization and standardized wording of the policies. There are now 24 categories of policy with a changed numbering system. Please provide your input!

Professional Development

Provincial Executive Council approved the **request of CEATCA and NETCA convention associations to amalgamate**. This will occur for the 2020 convention season. The interim name of the amalgamated convention association is Northern Rivers Teachers’ Convention

Association. The dates for the convention will be the Thursday and Friday preceding Family Day weekend and the convention will be held at the Shaw Convention Centre. A trustee has been appointed: Dr. Mark Swanson.

Beginning Teachers' Conference: Shaw Conference Centre, September 27 (eve) - 29 for all first year teachers and any second year teachers who have not previously attended. Often locals and school districts cover expenses (kms, accomodation, sub, meals) for beginning teachers to attend.

Many **specialist councils host a conference** in the fall. These are excellent professional development opportunities and the ATA Educational Trust provides grants for attendance - the deadline to apply for the grant is September 30th.

Member Services

Member services (MS) **provides assistance in relationships** between a teacher and their employer and the public. Specifically, MS supports teachers who receive transfer notice, suspension, termination notice, and others including health and criminal matters.

Current issues:

- be wary of social media interaction with students,
- be honest and up front when being represented by a staff officer.

Remember that the representation and professional conduct functions of our association are separate. These must be to maintain the integrity of the association.

Teacher Welfare

Fourteen bargaining units remain unsettled. Most of these are in the process of mediation. Please consider how you can support teachers who remain without a local agreement. Ask them what might be helpful.

Issues before Teacher Welfare (TW):

- employers not submitting the collective agreement to the ATA for proofreading (this must happen before it can be issued.)
- interference in the PGP process - districts requiring an "assurance plan" or a "district PGP" which results in teachers writing two plans.
- Getting OH&S committees up and running.
- Principals getting appropriate breaks in place for all staff, including themselves.

Please support principals on the last two pieces - they are responsible for many moving parts!

Bargaining

Our **central table initial proposal** is available online in the for members only section. Three goals derived from the survey of teachers last winter are the issues of class size, salary, and class composition. The initial proposal addresses each of these.

We have **five elected teachers plus the coordinator** of teacher welfare bargaining for us at central table negotiations. They will bargain this fall until reaching an agreement with TEBA (Teacher Employer Bargaining Association).

There are four pillars of our association: Member Services, Professional Development, Teacher Welfare and Government. I organize my report and give highlights from each.

I hope you have enjoyed an exciting return to the classroom this September.

Elaine Willette-Larsen

DR, Central East

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