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ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

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District Representative*



"Rise up this mornin', smiled with the risin' sun. Three little birds pitch by my doorstep singin' sweet songs of melodies pure and true, sayin' "Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be all right." - Bob Marley, "Three Little Birds"

Pandemic Research Study - over 8000 teachers across Alberta participated in this COVID-19 related study, and the results are not surprising. Top 3 concerns: school safety, student learning needs for re-entry, and well-being for all. 70% of teachers are exhausted, and 63% feel isolated. The well-being of teachers is a great concern, and I must remind teachers about the:

EFAP - Employee and Family Assistance Plan

Your ASEBP has extra help, EFAP, designed to help you through physical and emotional illness, especially in this COVID -19 crisis. Many other types of assistance are offered, including marital and family difficulties, grief and bereavement, financial problems, etc. Early intervention with these, and many more, troubles can only help. Please reach out to your fellow teachers, help take care of each other. Please visit the ATA website (teachers.ab.ca) for the full Pandemic Research report and for links to the EFAP (also at asebp.ca).

Concerns? Questions?

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https://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca/call_your_mla

#repealbill22

#handsoffmypension

PEC MEETING ONLINE

Provincial Executive Council held its regularly scheduled meeting for June 11-12 online. This is the third version of the online PEC Meeting via Zoom. The following are points are highlights from this meeting.

PD: Many teachers have enjoyed the online sessions offered by ATA PD Staff. If you aren't familiar with with, PD Staff are actively reaching out to members, offering online assistance for a variety of platforms and useful apps. Visit them at atapdwebinars2020.sched.com or Twitter (@ata_pd).

The ATA Library is preparing its virtual library of supports for teachers to use in its online platform, LibGuides. 2Learn and Pourapprendre sites can now be found in LibGuides. See the ATA website for more details.

The Leadership Standards Advisory Committee would like to remind administrators that the deadline "for principals who were grandfathered as well those individuals who participated in the two-day inservice leading to certification to apply for a certificate" is 2021 08 31.

Teacher Welfare: 38 bargaining units have settled their 2018-2020 local table Collective Agreements (our own Northern Lights ATA Local #15 has the distinct honour of being the first local to bargain a local agreement and hold a Bargaining Unit General Meeting through online technology!). TW staff are proofreading each agreement, and some locals are waiting for the school district to submit the agreements to the ATA. If your local has settled, you will be able to view your local Collective Agreement (CA) on the ATA website as soon as it is ready. In the meantime, if you need assistance with your CA, please contact your school's Teacher Welfare Committee representative.

The Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) has asked for a second extension to List of All Matters (LAM) bargaining, pushing it to September 2020. The ATA's Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) has agreed to the extension. With the COVID crisis, postponing the LAM bargaining is good for both parties.

Member Services: Please be careful about posting complaints about other teachers, your child's teacher, etc. This type of action directly contravenes items 13 and 14 of the Code of Professional Conduct. Also, note that item 18 in the Code states "The teacher acts in a manner which maintains the honour and dignity of the profession."

ATA Government: Bill 15 - Choice in Education Act. While it may seem that not much has changed on the surface, two major changes to the School Act will happen:

1. Proposed charter schools will no longer need approval by a publicly elected board and go straight to the Minister of Education for approval.
2. HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS WILL NO LONGER NEED SUPERVISION OR APPROVAL FOR THEIR EDUCATION PROGRAM.

ATA Government (cont): Talking to Kids About COVID-19 (Part II): A Return to Alberta Schools. This is a continuation of the first part with updates on guidelines and recommendations of how to return to school. Three sections will feature Dr. Michael Rich (Harvard Professor of Public Health), Jason Schilling (ATA President), and Dr. Jody Carrington (Registered Psychologist).

A new research brief, Aggression in Alberta Schools, is available on the ATA website: Public Education > Education Research > Research Briefs. If it isn't found there now, it should be there soon. You will be able to find other research briefs of interest, as well as talking points when you need some facts to back up your arguments for education, which leads into:

Renewed Call for #handsoffourpension and #repealbill22

We need to let our MLAs know that it is not okay to take over our pension fund. AIMCo has been proven to be a substandard investor compared to our ATRF. We have until the end of this year to convince the Alberta Government to repeal Bill 22. MLA Christina Gray has tabled Private Members' Bill 203, the Pensions Protection Act, to reverse the transfer from ATRF to AIMCo, as well as other public sector employee pensions.

Please show your support for Bill 203 by contacting your MLA. A great way to do this is to use the ATA's site: https://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca/call_your_mla

News in Central East

ATA Locals were given emergency powers, automatically inserted into each local's Constitution, in order to allow them to conduct their business in the best interest of their members in getting through the COVID crisis. Part of these powers allow locals to postpone their AGM and therefore local budget to the fall.

Some locals have held their AGMs and elections. Two of our locals, Lakeland Catholic and Greater St. Paul, have new local presidents. Congratulations to **Lynne Vining** and **Leon Ward** on your election. Your local members are in great hands.

To our retiring local presidents, **Colin Desnoyers** and **Connie Landsiedel**: you have served your local membership with honour, dignity, and a vast amount of energy. Thanks to you and your families for your dedication and time as local presidents. We will miss you.

Congratulations to **Dianna Kroetch** of Battle River Local 32 Teachers on being awarded the John Mazurek Memorial - Morgex Insurance Scholarship!

Also, congratulations to **Bonnyville Centralized High School** for being selected as a major recipient of an ATA DEHR Grant for their Medicine Wheel Garden project!

Spring Strategic Planning

PEC and ATA Staff met on June 19 for their semi-annual strategic planning meeting. Two surveys were discussed and analyzed: 1. the annual Member Opinion Survey and 2. the Pandemic Research Study.

A big concern for a lot of teachers is what will the return to school look like. How do we keep teaching through the pandemic? How do we cope? How do we manage the extra duties due to COVID? How do we deal with OH&S (some of our locals had lysol wipes taken away before the pandemic, now what)? How do first year teachers deal with limited sick leave? How do we plan for the unknown (5 days of sub plans is the norm)? HOW DO TEACHERS HAVE A FULFILLING PERSONAL/FAMILY LIFE? Hopefully, we can find answers to all of your concerns, and do our best to assist the ATA membership.

My DR Calendar

June 2020

19 - ATA PEC and Staff Planning Meeting

July 2020

8-9 - Canadian Teachers' Federation AGM (online)

August 2020

12 - PEC and Local Presidents Meetings (online)

13-14 - Annual Representatives' Assembly (online)

I wish every one of you a happy, healthy, relaxing summer. You have worked over-and-above the expectations of a teacher, put in countless extra hours of preparation, cleaning, psychological assistance, learning how to use technology in different ways, researching, etc. etc. etc. and juggled this with your personal life.

Congratulations on getting through an extremely tough school year! Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones.