



The Alberta Teachers' Association

# ATA CENTRAL EAST DISTRICT REPORT

by Murray Lalonde  
District Representative

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**Teacher Discipline:** 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.



**Time Payback on the 916/1200 Hours:** As teachers, we are naturally people who want to help anyone in anyway we can. We want to ensure that teachers take good care of themselves, especially from working too much by covering classes when substitute teachers are not available. In order to make important changes and get the Government of Alberta to properly fund public education and attract/retain classroom and substitute teachers, we need to keep accurate records of our instructional and assignable time. Please refer to the Worth Knowing published on 2023-12-21 for further information. Basically, if you are offered a “Payback of Time”, you must comply with the offer as it is your employer’s way of keeping you under the 916 hour limit of instruction.

**Advocacy:** President Jason Schilling has been meeting with Education Minister Nicoleides. Topics have covered teachers’/public education needs. You may have heard Premier Danielle Smith’s statement about introducing parental rights legislation, and that she said they have consulted broadly on these issues. We can confirm that the ATA has not been part of the conversation with anyone from the government. Rest assured, Provincial Executive Council made interim policy on this, even before the Premier announced it on her radio show on 630 CHED.



Concerns? Questions?  
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**Local Table Bargaining Continues...:** 54 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.

**Central Table Bargaining Starts:** You can expect to soon see a Central Matters Survey that will ask teachers to decide what they want our Central Table Bargaining Committee to bargain for in the 2024 round. This survey will be here in time for convention season so if you have any questions about the survey you should be able to find the help you need at the ATA Booth.

**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. 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.



**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 (SR)***. This QR code is intended for SRs and will guide them to the ATA SR Collaboration site.



**New Ways to Get My Reports:** I have a new website: [molalonde.my.canva.site](https://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.



**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.

**Women In Leadership Summit 2024:** Keep an eye out for the registration for the ATA WIL Summit, evening of Friday, March 8 and full day of Saturday, March 9, 2024.

**AI Tools to Amplify Your Teaching and Save Time:** Check out ATA PD Executive Staff Officer Danny Maas’ awesome presentation on Artificial Intelligence by visiting [bit.ly/ata-ai-amplify](http://bit.ly/ata-ai-amplify).

**ATA Budget 2024-25:** The ATA Finance Committee has prepared the Draft Budget which will be presented to the Local Presidents at the meeting February 9-10. This budget will not be finalized until the Annual Representatives’ Assembly this May long-weekend, but we can expect to see an increase in membership fees.

## **My DR Calendar**

### **January 2024**

- 9 - Greater St Paul Local Council
- 11 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council - Assumption
- 12 - Communication, Advocacy, and Public Education Committee
- 15 - Alternate Languages and Intercultural Committee
- 15 - Northern Lights Local Council
- 15 - Park Plains East Executive
- 17 - Campus St Jean AFEC
- 17 - Aspen View BUGM
- 17 - Park Plains East Local Council
- 17 - Battle River Executive
- 18 - Provincial Executive Council
- 19 - Provincial Executive Council
- 20 - Substitute Teachers Committee
- 22 - East Central Catholic BUGM
- 22 - School Rep Training
- 23 - Aspen View Local Council
- 23 - School Rep Training
- 25 - Battle River Meeting with School Board
- 29 - Greater St Paul TWC

### **February 2024**

- 1 - Lakeland Catholic Local Council
- 1 - Battle River Local Council
- 9 - Local Presidents
- 10 - Local Presidents
- 13 - Greater St Paul Local Council
- 14 - ESTCA Executive
- 15 - Endless Skies Teachers’ Convention
- 16 - Endless Skies Teachers’ Convention
- 26 - Provincial Executive Council (Virtual)
- 27 - Provincial Executive Council (Virtual)
- 27 - Buffalo Trail BUGM
- 28 - Battle River Executive

“ L is for the way you look at me. O is for the only one I see. V is very, very extraordinary. E is even more than anyone that you adore can. Love is all that I can give to you. Love is more than just a game for two. Two in love can make it, take my heart and please don’t break it. Love was made for me and you.”

*L-O-V-E* by Nat King Cole