

NEWSLETTER

Rick Guenther, President

Jeff Dunton, 1st Vice-President

Address Change

Please inform the ADTA if your personal information changes (new address, etc). It's your responsibility to inform the SBO, BCTF and the College of Teachers of any personal changes.

The ADTA website

Is updated on a regular basis with new and current information.

Check it out at www.adta.bc.ca

Office Closure

The ADTA office will be closed from March 16-20th inclusive.

Maternity Workshop

Where: ADTA Hall 2570 Cyril Street
When: March 4th
Time: 3:30 pm

Please RSVP by contacting the ADTA office

TOC EI Workshop

Where: ADTA Hall 2570 Cyril Street
When: March 25th
Time: 3:30 pm

Presenter: Francis Zeni, BCTF
Please RSVP by contacting the ADTA office

2570 Cyril Street, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2G2

604.854.1946

www.adta.bc.ca

School District Calendar

During the regular Board of Education meeting on March 2, 2009 trustees will select one of two calendar options, either a standard calendar one week spring break or a two week break, for the 2009-2010 school year. In a poll conducted by the District, the majority of parents who responded chose the two week option. An ADTA poll of members produced the following results:

Responses	519
For a 1 week break	0
For a 2 week break	519

74 % preferred the extra week placed after the standard calendar week.

Thank you to all who responded.

B.C. College of Teachers Criminal Record Check

College members whose last names begin with the letters F to J will be required to undergo criminal record checks next school year in order to retain membership. Each individual teacher must authorize the College to conduct the check by following the procedure described on the BCCT web-site. (<http://www.bcct.ca/>) The process is simple and straightforward but please note that the consequence of failing to provide consent will be loss of College membership and, since membership is a job requirement, loss of a teaching job! Fortunately, the College has decided to pay the criminal record check fee again this year!

Access to Personnel File

Teachers have a right to access their personnel files and it is recommended that you periodically look at your file.

- 5:6.2 A teacher may, upon written application to the Human Resources Department, have access to and review his/her personnel file. The file will be made available at a time convenient to the Human Resources Department, outside of the teacher's normal work hours, however, a teacher shall be granted access before seven (7) calendar days have expired.
- 5:6.6 Where adverse material other than an evaluation report is placed in the teacher's personnel file, the teacher may elect to have the material removed two (2) years after the filing provided that no further material of that nature has been subsequently filed.

BC Liberal budget will lead to school cuts through out the province.

The BC Liberal government's latest budget will force school boards across the province to make cuts. The government promised to protect education, but this budget will lead to shortfalls right across the province. The little over 1% lift to BC's public schools is less than inflation and less than the growing cost pressures such as BCeSIS, the Accountability contract with its data demands and Bill 33's class size and composition numbers. The government's new budget includes a net increase of \$62 million for all of BC's school districts. That is millions less than what was promised in the three-year plan from the

2008 budget. School districts, including Abbotsford, will be scrambling to make up for this broken promise. In Abbotsford, as of September 30, 2008, we had 110 classes with more than 30 students, 182 classes with 4 or more students entitled to an IEP and 181 classes with 4 or more ESL / ESD students. Abbotsford's district average class size is above the provincial average in all four grade groupings. The grades 4-7 class size average is tied for 3rd highest in the province with the grades 8-12 class size average tied for 6th highest. The government's budget will not help address the class size and composition issues Abbotsford is facing. Across the province, things are worse

today for our students than before the strike when we were promised that class size and composition would not only be addressed, but improved. Many of us lost 2 weeks of pay only to have the government break their commitment to our students year after year.

Professional Autonomy

The issue of Teachers' professionalism and autonomy is addressed in the Collective Agreement:

6:3 TEACHER PROFESSIONALISM

6:3.1 The Board recognises and respects the professionalism of teachers covered under this collective agreement. Teachers have the professional right and the professional responsibility to determine the planning, presentation and methods of instruction for their classes within the following criteria:

- 6:3.1.1 teaching methods shall be consistent with recognised educational practices;
- 6:3.1.2 prescribed provincially and locally developed curriculum shall be followed;
- 6:3.1.3 resources used shall be consistent with prescribed and authorised materials.

The Teacher Professionalism clause allows teachers to address the individual learning needs of their students in the manner the teacher feels best meets those needs. We are the ones working directly with the students and therefore are the best qualified to teach, assess and report on the progress of our students.

This clause also applies to non-classroom items such as IEPs. Teachers who do not agree with an IEP, or who do not think the promises made in the IEP will be delivered, do not have to sign the IEP. If you decided not to sign an IEP please contact the ADTA office.

Your Health & Safety report by Dyanne Warkentin

What are my health and safety rights and responsibilities in the workplace?

You have the right to:

- Information, instruction, and training about safe work procedures and how to recognize hazards on the job.
- Supervision to make sure you work without undue risk.
- Equipment and safety gear required to do your job safely (you are responsible for providing your own clothing to protect yourself against the natural elements, including general purpose work gloves, safety footwear and safety headgear).
- Refuse to do tasks or work in conditions that you think are unsafe - and you can't be fired or disciplined for refusing
- Participate in workplace health and safety committees and activities.

You are responsible for working without undue risk to yourself or others.

To keep safe on the job:

- Don't assume you can do something you've never done before. Ask your supervisor to show you how to do it safely before you begin work. Ask your employer for job safety training.
- Use all safety gear and protective clothing when and where required.
- Always follow safe work procedures and encourage your co-workers to do the same.
- Immediately correct unsafe conditions or report them right away to your supervisor.