

# ELECTION NEWSLETTER

Rick Guenther, President  
2570 Cyril Street, Abbotsford, BC V2S 2G2

Jeff Dunton, 1st Vice-President  
604.854.1946 [www.adta.bc.ca](http://www.adta.bc.ca)

## NOTICE OF ADTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
**TIME:** 4:00 PM  
**PLACE:** ADTA Hall, 2570 Cyril Street

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

(Members allowing their name to stand as of May 5, 2010)

President:	Jeff Dunton
Past President:	Rick Guenther
1st Vice President:	Jennifer Brooks, Doug Smuland
2nd Vice President:	Harold Kokot
Local Representative:	
Professional Development Chair:	Debra Varnes
Social Justice Chair:	
Secretary Treasurer:	Erin Quast
TOC Representative:	Janice Brost
Communications Coordinator:	Liane Loeppky
Health & Safety Rep:	Dyanne Warkentin
Aboriginal Education Chair:	Laura Menagh
Members at Large (3):	Deborah Beres, Sylvia Rempel

All Executive positions are available. Elections will take place at the ADTA AGM. If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please contact the ADTA office (604-854-1946) to let us know. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

**ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday, May 19, 2010**

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the minutes of the General Meeting held January 20, 2010.  
(previously distributed)
4. Business arising from the minutes of the January 20, 2010, General Meeting.
5. Motion for Scrutineers
6. ADTA Executive Committee Elections  
Members allowing their name to stand to date are:  
  - President:** Jeff Dunton
  - Past President:** Rick Guenther
  - 1st Vice President:** Jennifer Brooks, Doug Smuland
  - 2nd Vice President:** Harold Kokot
  - Secretary Treasurer:** Erin Quast
  - Local Association Representative (electing 1):**
  - Professional Development Chair:** Deb Varnes
  - Health & Safety Representative:** Dyanne Warkentin
  - Teacher On Call Representative:** Janice Brost
  - Social Justice Chair:**
  - Communications Coordinator:** Liane Loeppky
  - Aboriginal Education Chair:** Laura Menagh
  - Member at Large (electing 3):** Deborah Beres, Sylvia Rempel

Members are welcome and encouraged to run for all of the above noted positions. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

In case of a required vote, members nominated will be given three (3) minutes to state their platforms. Elections will take place during the course of the meeting.

7. President's Report:
8. Vice President's Report:  
  - Consult/Consent Award and Process (Bill 33)
  - Bargaining for 2010/2011
9. Secretary Treasurer's Report:  
  - Presentation of the ADTA Budget for the 2010-2011 school year
10. Annual Reports:  
  - President
  - 1st Vice-President
  - Local Association Representative
  - Professional Development Chair
  - Health & Safety Chair
11. Motion to Destroy Ballots
12. Adjournment

**Nominee for President**

**Jeff Dunton**

My three years of service as Vice President has been a wonderful experience. I have been able to visit every school in Abbotsford and though I did not meet every single teacher, the ones I did meet are doing an incredible job. It has been an honour to be your Vice President and I hope you will support my bid to be your President next year. I have the experience, from grievance meetings, board hearings, Layoff/Recall consultations, BCTF rehabilitation, SIP/LTD support, TTOC and Maternity workshops, I have been involved in all of them and more. I have served 6 years on the BCTF Finance Committee and the Advantage Committee as well as numerous Representative Assemblies, Zone Meetings and AGMs.

I will also add that I love this job, I really enjoy working on your behalf. I go on school visits because I like getting out and visiting with teachers, I quickly respond to emails and phone calls because I want to help and I know that the longer it takes for a teacher to get a response the more stress it creates and I hope I have made life less stressful for teachers over the past 3 years. So I hope you will come out on May 19th and support me as a stand for election as your President. Thank you.

**Nominee for 1st Vice-President**

**Jennifer Brooks**

My name is Jennifer Brooks and I have been part of the ADTA executive for many years. I started in Abbotsford as a TOC and worked through the system of teaching on call, temporary contracts, and eventually earning continuing status only to be laid off over and over again each time packing up and changing schools. Finally the moving stopped and I have been at Dave Kandal teaching kindergarten for the past few years. As the ministry embraces full day kindergarten and we head into a year of bargaining I feel now more than ever it is crucial to have an elementary representative in the office. I feel my years on the executive as TOC rep and Local rep with the many commitments that brings (rep assemblies, zone meetings, BCTF AGMs and summer conferences) have prepared me for the job as 1st vice-president.

We need balance on the executive and in the office so on May 19th please come to the ADTA AGM and vote for Jennifer Brooks as your 1st vice-president.

**Nominee for 1st Vice-President**

**Doug Smuland**

At times, teachers in our district are warmly celebrated. More often though, we are men and women obscure in our daily labour, making the system work as well as it does day in and day out with nary an apple for our troubles delivered on World Teacher Day. On May 19<sup>th</sup> I hope that we will gather with a unity of purpose and elect a dedicated and tenacious ADTA executive.

As you are well aware, there are gathering clouds of bargaining conflict on the horizon, and teachers would be well served if they were to elect an executive with the historical experience and dogged fortitude to deliver to us the changes we so desperately need. I have available to offer to you my 20 years in the district and numerous years experience on the ADTA. I began as a staff representative while at WJ Mouat, and since then have served as a staff rep and PD rep at Howe Middle. For the ADTA executive, I have been a member at large a variety of times, the PD Chair on several occasions, Abbotsford's Local Representative to the BCTF and the Second Vice President 2 years running. Currently, I once again sit as your district PD Chair. I have attended meetings too numerous to count on teachers' behalf, taken courses offered through the BC Teachers' Federation Leadership Institute, including their bargaining training sessions, attended Zone Meetings, Rep Assemblies, summer conferences, BCFED sessions, and have sat on local district contractual teams such as our paid educational leave committee.

I want to be your vice president because I want to change opportunities for teachers for the good. I want to work for a district that honours tolerance, pluralism and justice for its employees. Where teachers play an active role in shaping their daily working lives, and their rights, freedoms and professionalism are not made playthings to be dismissed at a whim. I support teacher innovation over ministry decree, autonomy over involuntary conformity, and an ethical stalwartness in all else.

Please come and vote on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and if you agree with what I have to say, please lend me your support and elect Doug Smuland as your ADTA 1<sup>st</sup> vice president.

**Nominee for 2nd Vice-President**

**Harold Kokot**

I have been in this district since 1986. I am presently a counselor at Abbotsford Middle. I have been a staff rep for 14 years plus and have been on the ADTA executive as Member at Large, Local Rep. Second Vice-President, Social Justice chair and on the bargaining committee. My experiences have provided me with many opportunities to give leadership as needed. I look forward to being on the executive for the up coming year 2010 / 2011.

Your support will be appreciated.

**Nominee for Professional Development Chair**

**Deb Varnes**

I have been involved in school professional development committees for the past 12 years. I have been the Pro-d Chair for Abbotsford Junior and Abbotsford Senior/Collegiate. As part of that position I took a leadership role in planning and presenting professional activities to the staffs of my schools. I found the pro-d chair training useful as it enabled me to help other teachers select appropriate professional development activities.

I have been a staff representative for the past 5 years and member-at-large of the ADTA Executive for the past year. Lately, I have been visiting schools to present information regarding our upcoming bargaining.

I am excited about the prospect of being the District Pro-D chair, and I have some exciting ideas for next year. I would like to offer pro-d at in the ADTA building next year. Susan and I have been talking about a day to learn about self-defense and other health and safety concerns. Should I be elected to this position, I would also be open to your suggestions!

**Nominee for Health & Safety Rep**

**Dyanne Warkentin**

Through both my work as a local union H&S representative and as a BCTF Health & Safety Trainer I have become increasingly aware of health and safety problems, such as violent student behaviour, exposure to noxious chemicals, poor air quality, and workplace stress that confront teachers in the province. In order to effectively deal with these problems teachers must be well informed of their rights and responsibilities and knowledgeable about the role of their representatives on site committees. Many schools do not have effective site committees even though the committees are legally required. These committees must be in place to ensure that employers address problems in a timely and effective manner, ensuring safe environments for all workers. I believe it is the responsibility of all personnel, management and worker alike, to see that effective implementation of policies occurs and that a commitment to consultation and co-operation exists.

In my present positions as a BCTF Provincial Health and Safety Trainer and a Health and Safety Rep for my district, I have increased worker awareness of workplace health and safety and the prevention of injuries. I am confident that I have the experience and knowledge to provide teachers with not only basic information about workplace hazards but also with knowledge and skills to effectively apply WCB standards and procedures through the site committees. I believe that I have expressed a strong commitment to health and safety as a Provincial Health and Safety Trainer and in my work as a Health and Safety Representative for my district and I respectfully request your consideration.

**Nominees for other positions**

Secretary Treasurer:	Erin Quast
Teacher On Call Representative:	Janice Brost
Communications Coordinator:	Liane Loepky
Aboriginal Education Chair:	Laura Menagh
Member at Large (electing 3):	Deborah Beres, Sylvia Rempel