

# NEWSLETTER

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## YOUR PENSION

As a teacher, the chances of you enjoying a long retirement are very high, especially here in British Columbia. And, you will receive a pension when you retire. However, while the basic pension, to which you presently contribute about 10 % of salary, is guaranteed it does not provide for cost of living increases. Cost of living increments and coverage of extended health premiums are provided for by the Inflation Adjustment Account (IAA), to which you contribute about 2 % of your income. Unfortunately, the IAA has been underfunded for some time and its benefits to retirees are not sustainable. To address this problem the BCTF is conducting a series of meetings around the province in order to provide information to and solicit advice from teachers and other plan members regarding possible corrections.

Responses to questionnaires will be collected, collated, and submitted to the trustees of the Teachers' Pension Plan. While the trustees act independently they will consider the wishes of the plan members in their deliberations, which are projected to be completed early in the next year.

**The ADTA is hosting a pension meeting here at the ADTA hall on November 2, 2009 at 4:00 pm.** Meetings have been scheduled in other locals, some of which are listed below, and if it is more convenient to attend one of those meetings you are encouraged to do so.

**Chilliwack TA contact # (604) 792-9233**

When: Nov 3 @ 4:30 to 6:30 pm  
 Where: Cheam Room, Kipp Centre, Portage Avenue, Chilliwack

**North Vancouver TA**

When: Nov 3 @ 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
 Where: Lucas Centre Gym  
 840-21st Street West, North Van

**Maple Ridge TA contact # (604) 467-2111**

When: Nov 4 @ 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
 Where: Westview Secondary School  
 20905 Wicklund Avenue

**Fraser-Cascade TA**

When: Nov 9 @ 4:30 to 6:30 pm  
 Where: TBA

**Surrey TA contact # (604) 594-5353**

When: Nov 9 & Nov 10 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
 Where: District Conference Centre  
 400-9260-140 Street, Surrey

**Coquitlam TA contact # (604) 936-9971**

When: Nov 16 @ 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
 Where: TBA

**Mission TU contact # (604) 826-0112**

When: Nov 16 @ 3:45 to 5:45 pm  
 Where: Elks Hall, 33342-2nd Ave, Mission

**New Westminster TU contact # (604) 526-8990**

When: Nov 16 @ 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
 Where: New Westminster Secondary School  
 Library, 8th Street

**West Van TA contact # (604) 926-1617**

When: Nov 17 @ 3:45 to 5:45 pm  
 Where: TBA

October	November	December	January/10
Wed. Oct 21 Staff Rep Meeting	Mon. Nov. 2 Pension Meeting	Wed. Dec. 9 Rep Dinner	Jan. 3/10 - Welcome Back
Wed. Oct. 28 Maternity Leave Workshop	Wed. Nov. 11 Remembrance Day	Dec. 19 - Jan. 3/10 Winter Break ADTA Office Closed	Wed. Jan. 20 Staff Rep Meeting
	Tues. & Wed. Nov. 17 & 18 Health & Safety Training		
	Wed., Nov. 18 Staff Rep Meeting		

**HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT by Dyanne Warkentin**

What to do if you are hurt on the Job

1. Report to the First Aid attendant, have the First Aid attendant fill out the First Aid Book.
2. Complete the WorksafeBC 6A form. Make 3 copies:  
Original goes to Employer stapled to first aid book; Copy for yourself; and Copy to your local.
3. Visit your Doctor immediately.
4. Report the incident to the administrator.
5. Inform your Health and Safety Rep.
6. Report to WorksafeBC via tele claim at 1-888-WORKERS.
7. If your claim is accepted or denied contact the BCTF WorksafeBC advocate: 604-871-1890 (Patti McLaughlin).
8. Remember that violence (emotional and/or physical) is also a reportable incident.

**DO NOT PRACTICE FOR OR MARK THE FSAs**

The BCTF is reminding teachers (including TTOCs and retired teachers) NOT to volunteer to practice for or mark the FSA. For a number of years now, the BCTF has advised members not to participate in the writing of test items, field-testing, or marking of the FSA. Concern has grown over the degree to which the use of the FSA has negatively affected teaching and learning. The BCTF does not wish to see the continued erosion of valuable teaching and learning time through the use of a test that brings no improvement to classroom conditions and support for students. Please talk with your staff rep or contact your local president should you be directed by an administrator to participate in practicing for or marking the FSA.

**UNITED WAY**

**WHAT IS RAISED HERE STAYS HERE!**

Cut backs, bad economic news, yet the needs of the community continue to grow while the funds available shrink. United Way is one of a limited number of organizations that provides locally controlled multi-year funding to vital social service agencies. As agencies find other sources of funding disappearing in these challenging financial times, the number of requests to the United Way for support continues to increase.

Many Fraser Valley residents aren't aware that the United Way of the Fraser Valley is locally controlled by a volunteer Board of Directors, all Valley residents. While affiliated with the National and International sisterhood of United Way's, all funds raised here stay here, and the decisions on funding are all made by the volunteers on the Board.

**YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED**

United Way researched the challenges facing our communities, and with you, your friends and neighbours we have set our priorities. The mission now is to identify and address key underlying issues in priority areas, and create positive lasting change. The areas we will be focusing on are:

- Children aged 0-6
- Affordable, Accessible Housing
- Poverty Reduction

We continue to fund our core mandate - Essential Social Services programs which we refer to as our social safety net.

**IMPACT IN EVERY COMMUNITY**

How are the funds raised by the United Way working locally? One example is in Chilliwack where Big Brothers/Big Sisters are working with the Chehalis Indian Band and Chehalis Community School on an after school mentoring program for aboriginal children aimed at increasing cultural awareness as well as developing self esteem and personal empowerment.

There are many, many more examples of how the funds raised in the Valley, stay in the Valley, improving lives in the short term and creating positive lasting changes. To continue this important work we do need one thing, your support. Without you, there would be no way! Please Give Generously!