

ADTA News



2570 Cyril Street
Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 2G2

(604) 854-1946
October 2010

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



B.C. Teachers' Federation

Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics states general rules for maintaining high standards of professional service and conduct toward students, colleagues and the professional union.

1. The teacher speaks and acts toward students with respect and dignity, and deals judiciously with them, always mindful of their rights and sensibilities.
2. The teacher respects the confidential nature of information concerning students and may give it only to authorized persons or agencies directly concerned with their welfare.
3. The teacher recognizes that a privileged relationship with students exists and refrains from exploiting that relationship for material, ideological, or other advantage.
4. The teacher is willing to review with colleagues, students and their parents/ guardians the quality of service rendered by the teacher and the practices employed in discharging professional duties.
5. The teacher directs any criticism of the teaching performance and related work of a colleague to that colleague in private and only then after informing the colleague in writing of the intent to do so, may direct in confidence the criticism to appropriate individuals who are able to offer advice and assistance. (See note below and procedure 31.B.10).
6. The teacher acknowledges the authority and responsibilities of the BCTF and its locals and fulfills obligations arising from membership in his/her professional union.
7. The teacher adheres to the provisions of the local collective agreement.
8. The teacher acts in a manner not prejudicial to job actions or other collective strategies of his/her professional union.
9. The teacher neither applies for nor accepts a position which is included in a federation in-dispute declaration.
10. The teacher, as an individual or as a member of a group of teachers, does not make unauthorized representations to outside bodies in the name of the federation or its local associations.

Note:
It shall not be considered a breach of Clause 5 of the Code of Ethics to report reasonable grounds for suspecting child abuse to proper authorities according to legal provisions and official protocol requirements.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Ah, the soporific effects of the recent tryptophanic thanksgiving weekend have come to a close and we are once again back doing what we love most.

In case you missed it, the World Teachers' Day celebration at the ADTA hall was heralded by many as the most uplifting and smashing event of this year's fall season; prizes were awarded, food and beverage was consumed, and joy was disseminated. Teachers, trustees, and administrators co-mingled in celebration of your hard work and dedication to the students of Abbotsford and to the profession of teaching. For those that we didn't see here, we hope you at least enjoyed a piece of one of the many cakes distributed to district schools by the ADTA.

We would like to remind you that the bargaining survey is underway and online at the ADTA website. If you've not yet had the opportunity to answer the questions and provide your opinion about the direction of our bargaining goals, there is still a chance to do so. The survey is short, shouldn't take much of your time, and will be used by the bargaining team should we get the opportunity to participate in local bargaining this spring.

As always, please feel free to contact Jeff or myself should there be anything we can do for you.

WHY DOES MY PENISON CONTRIBUTION SEEM TO BE BIGGER THIS YEAR?

The simple answer is that it is. All contributing pension plan members will be contributing 2.04% of salary more to their pension as of July 1, 2010. The first 1.04% increase was announced early in the year and is the result of an actuarial valuation of the Basic Account of the pension plan. This valuation is done every three years as a legislative requirement. The actuary determines whether or not the plan's Basic Account has sufficient funds to pay the pension promise to all members. The actuary determined that there was a shortfall of approximately \$289 million dollars. This shortfall will be eliminated over the next 15 years with the contribution increase. The employer is obligated to match at 1.04% as part of their contribution. This contribution increase is required to ensure that the plan can meet its pension obligations. The second increase of 1% of salary comes as a result of the BCTF pension consultation in 2009. All pension plan members were given the opportunity to provide input to the BCTF, as plan member partner, with regard to shoring up the Teacher Pension Plan's Inflation Adjustment Account in order to provide inflation protection for retired members and future retirees. The Annual General Meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of a contribution increase of 1% of salary to ensure ongoing, sustainable inflation protection. These pension contributions are tax deductible.



Rob Taylor (BCTF Income Security Division)

DID YOU KNOW?

The Teacher's Magazine is available on line. Read it today by clicking on www.bctf.ca

NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGE?

Please inform the ADTA if you have a name change, address change or a new telephone number. It's your responsibility to inform the BCTF and the College of Teachers' of any personal changes. The BCTF website has change forms which you can download or submit online.

NEW TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

The New Teachers' Conference is held annually in the Metro Vancouver area, usually in February. Information about online registration and exhibitors' booth applications will be available early in the new year. The conference is a professional development opportunity designed specifically for new teachers - those in their first five years of teaching, and for student teachers.



September's ADTA All Star Winner is **TYLER HORNER** from CDGM. Tyler please call the ADTA to claim your prize.

BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS' FEES
Article: 2:18.2

Upon written application to the School District Human Resources Department, including the original of the College fee receipt, substitute teachers who have worked for the Board for forty (40) FTE days in any one (1) school year shall be eligible for reimbursement of the annual College membership fee.

ADTA ALLSTAR AWARD

Each month the ADTA would like to reward a teacher who has made a contribution to maintaining the health and vitality of our union. If you are aware of a teacher who has defended our contractual language, went out of their way to help a fellow teacher, or generally ennobled the profession of teaching we would like to hear from you. Please send their name, the name of their school, and the reason for you having selected them in an email to Doug Smuland by the last day of each month.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ADTA WEBSITE is updated weekly with new and current-up to date information. Check it out at www.adta.bc.ca

ERGONOMICS IN YOUR WORK ENVIRONMENT

Where a work environment has been designed with sound ergonomic principles in mind, workers are less prone to accidents, injuries, musculo-skeletal disorders and work related stress. Amongst other things such principles should, therefore, inform the way teachers stand and sit - and indeed what they sit on.

Classroom chairs and tables are very much designed with pupils in mind, rather than adults. Teachers moving around the classroom providing help and support to pupils will often sit on such chairs. This will frequently result in the teacher experiencing discomfort and cramped posture – not to mention the very real risk of developing MSDs in the longer term.

Teachers not only consider aches and pains as “part of the job”, but one quarter of those surveyed said that they would not report these types of problems to their employer. For more information contact; dyanne_warkentin@sd34.bc.ca

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Monday, October 18 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting	Monday, November 1 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting	Wednesday, December 8 @ 4:30 ADTA Rep Appreciation Dinner
Wednesday, October 20 @ 4:00 Staff Rep Meeting & Induction	Thursday, November 11 Remembrance Day	Monday, December 6 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting
Friday, October 22 Non-Instructional Day # 2	Monday, November 15 @ 4:00 Executive Meeting	Friday, December 17 Last Day of School
Monday, October 25 @ 4:00 Maternity Leave Workshop	Wednesday, November 17 @ 4:00 Staff Rep Meeting	Monday, December 20 First day of Winter Break
	November 24 & 25 Early Dismissal Days	JANUARY
	Friday, November 26 Non-Instructional Day # 3	Tuesday, January 4th School Reopens
		Friday, January 14 Non-Instructional Day # 4

USE OF DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY

Be aware that the computers and software that the District provides to assist in your work are the property of the District. Therefore, anything that is on the computer is subject to the District's policies and teachers should only conduct school related business on the District's computers.

The fact that BCeSIS is school related and we can't use it effectively on our computers is an entirely different story.



The human brain is a big believer in equality; please share our newsletter.