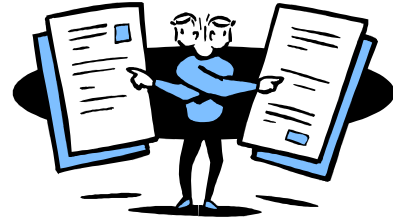


# NEWSLETTER

## Are we moving in the “Wright” Direction?



### Don Wright’s report on teacher bargaining structures push teachers in the wrong direction

Trying to do the right thing, the BCTF moved forward with good intentions in the Wright Commission process. Instead of being fairly represented, we see now that we were impaired by a pre-election announcement made by a government intent on undermining our public education. Instead the Wright report creates more problems and fewer solutions. According to the BCTF website, the Wright report only strips teachers of many of their rights and their ability to speak out against classroom increases, lack of support for special need students, reduced supplies, fewer resources, and school closures. Some of the other features of the Wright Report include:

- Taking the class size and other learning conditions off of the bargaining table. A provincial policy discussion would take place instead to advise the government.
- The right to strike would be removed and replaced with a final-offer selection.
- Regionalization is recommended for local issues, thus paving a way for eliminating school boards and moving to the health care organizational model.
- Salaries to be regionalized. The highest salary scale to be frozen until the rest catch up. Benefits will also be standardized so that those with superior provisions will now lose them.

The report takes away our voice as teachers and silences those concerns of parents and community representatives.

For more information on the Don Wright report check out the BCTF websites and the links it provides:

[www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca) - click on the Report on Bargaining Structures.

## How goes the Bargaining?

The recent survey concerning the middle schools suggest that very few teachers appear interested in filling the positions at the middle school.

Bargaining is still an ongoing task as our bargaining team struggles to improve the proposed prep time and common planning time. Some headway has been made. The Posts of Special Responsibilities and job sharing proposals have been exchanged and agreed upon. The Post and Fill is still being worked on as well. Thank you for filling in the recent surveys.

## Hello My Name Is....

Hello to all Teachers. My name is Jennifer Blair and I am currently working as your communications executive. It is my job to relay information to you via this newsletter so you know what is happening, when it is happening, and how it affects you. If there is anything you wish to see in this newsletter please feel free to email me at [leahjennifer1@hotmail.com](mailto:leahjennifer1@hotmail.com). Help me by providing suggestions in what you want to know more about. I look forward to hearing from some of you.

## President of NOSTA meets with George Abbott.

In his meeting with George Abbott, president of NOSTA, Mike Holoiday discussed the concerns behind the Wright report. Some of the issues and concerns highlighted included the replacing the right to strike with a "final offer arbitration", limiting the scope of bargaining, as well as a few other issues highlighted in the report. All of these are discussed in the report which you can view on the BCTF website. It was also pointed

out that the recommendations made in the report were those made from employer's submissions and none from teachers. Though Mr. Abbott has not read the report we look forward to any comments he may make after such readings and the meeting between him and Mr. Holoiday.

Other matters that were discussed included our current district restructuring process and the concerns that teachers have over the changes. The new Grade 10 exams were touched upon and the conversation ended on the pending upcoming election.

## Registered to Vote?

NOSTA would like to encourage all teachers to make sure they are registered to vote in the upcoming provincial election. With education as one of the major focuses in this election, let it be our voices that are being heard and represented by our votes. Don't silence yourself but making excuses not to register.

## Some Dates to Remember:

- February 16 - Local NOSTA Pro-D Committee Meeting
- February 18 - District Convention
- March 2 – Executive Meeting
- March 7 – LRA Meeting
- March 9 – Local NOSTA Pro-D Committee Mtg.
- April 4 – Executive Meeting
- April 7 – TOC Meeting
- April 11 – LRA Meeting
- April 20 – Local NOSTA Pro-D Committee Mtg.
- May 2 – Growth Planning Day
- May 2 – Executive Meeting
- May 9 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
- May 18 – Local NOSTA Pro-D Committee Mtg.
- June 2 – TOC Meeting
- June 6 – Executive Meeting
- June 9 – Retirement Dinner
- June 13 – LRA Meeting