


# The NOSTA Rattler

September/ October 2010  
Volume 3, Issue 1

Local 83 of the British Columbia Teachers Federation



## Upcoming NOSTA Events

- ◆ New Teacher Orientation OCT 6 1:30-3:30pm @ SBO
- ◆ New Teacher Induction Oct 6 4-6pm @ Shuswap Art Gallery
- ◆ TTOC mtg Oct 7 4:15 pm @NOSTA
- ◆ Thanksgiving
- Oct 11 
- ◆ General Meeting Oct 18 4:15 @DEC
- ◆ Staff Rep and Pro-D Rep SURT Oct 26 8:30-3:30 @ DEC
- ◆ Pension Meeting Oct 27<sup>th</sup> 4-7:30pm @ DEC
- ◆ Executive Nov 1 @ NOSTA office 4:15pm
- ◆ Health & Safety Reps SURT - Nov 3 @ DEC 8:30 - 3:30
- ◆ LRA - Staff Rep meeting - Nov 8 @ DEC 4:15pm
- ◆ Remembrance Day Nov 11

## The President's Message

Best wishes to all members for an enjoyable and educational year. Below are notes of current and ongoing importance.

- ◆ PART TIME Teachers: please send your forms to the NOSTA office asap.
- ◆ BCTF Policy states that teachers should not be collecting student fees. While money may come into your class room, it is not your responsibility to do deposit slips or count money.
- ◆ The Bargaining Survey is in your First Class inbox. We have received over 140 responses. Please complete yours today as the deadline is October 6<sup>th</sup>! If you have trouble filling in any comments send it confidentially through school mail to NOSTA or email to Lynda at lp83@bctf.ca
- ◆ BCTF Advantage program now has TTOC extended Health and Dental Insurance plans. These plans are flexible and allow you to build the coverage that you need. [www.bctfadvantage.ca](http://www.bctfadvantage.ca) or 1877 778 8717 for information.
- ◆ Class size and compositions consultations: Reminder to all Staff Reps to please remember to send in originals of the consultation forms, both Admin and NOSTA, to NOSTA and keep a copy for your records.
- ◆ Staff Rep and Pro-D Rep School Union Representative Training (SURT) on **Oct 26 8:30-3:30pm @DEC**. Lunch provided. Workshops will include Code of Ethics, Boundary Issues and Social Networking and Role of Pro-D Rep.
- ◆ District Joint Health and Safety Training- for all Health and Safety Reps, Admin, CUPE and NOSTA. They are offering 2 half days (4 hours), your choice of Oct 18 or 19<sup>th</sup> and April 11 or 12<sup>th</sup>. This is to serve as a review and update to those that have already received this course as there has been amendments as late as September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- ◆ NOSTA only Health and Safety Reps SURT Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:30-3:30 @ DEC. On violence in the work place - also Work Safe regional contact Richard Duguay to be there to answer any questions.
- ◆ MEMBER INVOLVEMENT- Would you like to see a district skating party late January, early February?? Contact Maxine Davis or the NOSTA office
- ◆ FACTOR 88: Teachers who have reached factor 88, age plus contributory service with the theatres or municipal plan and have 120 sick days or more saved, may voluntarily withdraw from the BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan: Long Term. If you have reached age 65 or Factor 90, you are no longer eligible for long-term benefits and should withdraw. It is necessary for you to apply to withdrawal. Send a completed form, available from Income Security, local presidents, or online at [bctf.ca/pensions/salary.LT-withdrawalForm.shtml](http://bctf.ca/pensions/salary.LT-withdrawalForm.shtml) to the BCTF Income Security Division.
- ◆ Pension Seminar - BCTF Staff member, Rob Taylor, will be facilitating a pension seminar on Oct. 27. This is for all members, new and not so new, not just those close to retirement. Sign up on First Class or call NOSTA.

Lynda Bennett  
NOSTA President

### Victoria Teachers Association sent the following media release out recently:

Victoria teachers welcome full day Kindergarten, but continue to have concerns over full day K/Grade 1 split classes

As teachers prepare their classrooms for the new school year, there is a sense of excitement about the new full day Kindergarten program beginning in Victoria schools. Research shows the benefits of early learning and the new play based curriculum is well suited to the extension of the Kindergarten program.

But teachers continue to voice concerns that up to seven classrooms in Victoria will be full day Kindergarten/Grade 1 combinations. Ontario, which is also adopting full day Kindergarten, will have no classes split with Grade 1. Unfortunately, the BC government did not provide funding to ensure all full day Kindergarten classes would be Kindergarten only.

Yet these two programs are ill suited for a split class, particularly with full day (as opposed to half day) Kindergarten. In these classes there is no time alone with the Grade 1 students. While children beginning reading and writing in Grade 1 need a quiet, calm learning environment, the Kindergarten class is a highly social year where children are encouraged to move around the room and practice oral language and social skills. It will be a challenge to engage Grade 1 students in literacy learning while the Kindergarten students are still becoming acclimatized to the school environment in a play based curriculum.

- Full day kindergarten is being launched everywhere in the province in the 2011-2012 school year and is being introduced to about half of all public schools in 2010-2011.

- Due to continued budget cuts in education, full day kindergarten is not a separate program in all schools and is being combined in split classes with grade one in seven Victoria schools.

- Teachers are very worried that without an additional teacher or educational assistant in the class to provide parallel programs to the Ks and the 1's separately, the grade 1's will not receive adequate specialized instruction in literacy and numeracy.

- Teachers are also worried that the kindergarten children in a K/1 split class will be "pushed" to perform academic tasks they may not be developmentally ready for. "The purpose of full day Kindergarten is to enhance children's overall development - not to rush them into academics at an earlier age" (Full Day Kindergarten Program Guide, B.C. Ministry of Education, page 4)

The Ontario program provides an example of how a better resourced program can be designed. Students entering full day Kindergarten in Ontario will have both a teacher and an early childhood educator in each class and classes will be only Kindergarten students (no Grade 1 students). It is combined with affordable before and after school care with a continuity of educators between the two programs. Ontario's Kindergarten program is available to both 4 and 5 year old children.

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Tara Ehrcke  
President, Greater Victoria Teachers' Association  
250-595-0181 or 250-507-5977  
tara@gvta.net  
<http://gvta.net>

### School District 83 - Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement and School District 83 recognize the unique qualities of the Adams Lake, Little Shuswap, Neskonlith and Spallumcheen Indian Band's and work together to improve the educational performance of all Aboriginal learners within the School District's jurisdiction.

The purpose of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement is to:

- improve the overall academic performance of Aboriginal students;
- educate community members, parents and students on the value of education and the need for life-long learning;
- respect and affirm the diverse histories and cultures represent in our Aboriginal student population

The First Nations Education Council, representing all students of Aboriginal ancestry, work with School District 83 to ensure the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement is fully understood and the implications recognized.

This year (2010) the First Nations Education Council, along with School District 83 will revise the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. If there are any questions on this policy and procedure, please contact Irene LaBoucane at 250 832 8223.

The current Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement can be found on the District 83 web-site under Aboriginal Education.

*Reminder: Check your pay scale and ensure that you are being paid accurately. TTOC daily rates/on scale page 83 in the contract.*

School District No. 83 North Okanagan Shuswap  
Teachers' Salary Grid

June 30, 2010

Step	Cat 4	Cat 5	Cat 5+	Cat 6
0	\$ 42,802	\$ 45,909	\$ 49,298	\$ 50,488
1	\$ 44,872	\$ 48,537	\$ 52,127	\$ 53,351
2	\$ 46,943	\$ 51,165	\$ 54,957	\$ 56,214
3	\$ 49,014	\$ 53,793	\$ 57,786	\$ 59,076
4	\$ 51,084	\$ 56,421	\$ 60,616	\$ 61,939
5	\$ 53,155	\$ 59,048	\$ 63,446	\$ 64,802
6	\$ 55,226	\$ 61,676	\$ 66,275	\$ 67,664
7	\$ 57,296	\$ 64,304	\$ 69,105	\$ 70,527
8	\$ 59,367	\$ 66,932	\$ 71,934	\$ 73,390
9	\$ 61,437	\$ 69,560	\$ 74,764	\$ 76,252
10	\$ 65,414	\$ 74,353	\$ 79,634	\$ 81,489

## How Well Do You Know NOSTA?

Each issue of *The Rattler* will feature two questions about NOSTA, the union or our collective agreement. If you know the answer, simply email Betty Ross at [bross@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:bross@sd83.bc.ca).

If you are correct, your name will be placed in a random draw for a \$20 gift certificate to Bookingham. Answers must be complete (for example with page number, section letter and number etc.)

- a.) Name 3 members of the NOSTA executive and their position
- b.) When does your current contract end?

## Living with Balance for Teachers

The North Okanagan-Shuswap Teachers' Association is hosting a wellness/vitality program called "Living with Balance" that is being offered to the teachers of SD 83 by the BCTF Health and Wellness Program cosponsored by SD83 and BCTF.

Week one: Overview and objectives  
 Week two: Personal Well-being  
 Week three: Skill building  
 Week four: Work-life balance  
 Week five: Setting goals  
 Week six: Building Resiliency and Vitality

It is a 6 week program, starting Tuesday, October 12h. Each session is 4:15 to 6:15pm at the NOSTA office.

To register:

<http://bctf.ca/LivingWithBalance.aspx> to complete the registration form. For further information please call Lynn Hiscoe at 1 250 766 2511 or email [lhiscoe@orgoc.ca](mailto:lhiscoe@orgoc.ca)



Our first meeting of the school year will be held at 4:15pm on Thursday, October 7th at the NOSTA Office. Come and meet some fellow TTOCs, find out what's going on in the District and share any concerns that you may have. Looking forward to seeing you there. -- Caroline Krieger

## General Meeting

Monday, October 18,  
2010  
4:15-5:15pm  
District Education  
Centre

### Board Notes

- Bruce Hunt is retiring and leaving us with a \$800 000 surplus.
- New secretary-treasurer has been hired. Welcome Sterling Olson, from Nechako Lakes.
- Trustees voted for a 2% increase for themselves!



### NOSTA Executive Vacancies:

- ❖ Secretary
  - ❖ Member at Large
- If interested please talk to Lynda.  
Elections will be held at October 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.*

**NEW TEACHERS'  
INDUCTION**  
**Wednesday, October  
6, 2010**  
**Salmon Arm Art  
Gallery**  
**4:00-6:00 p.m.**  
**Catered by "The  
Other Company"**

*Please join us in  
welcoming and  
supporting our new  
teachers!*

*New Teachers, if you choose to have NOSTA as your home local you will be given a complimentary Provincial Specialist Association membership for a year.*

Welcome all new teachers to School District 83:

Michelle Atkins - teaching at AL Fortune  
Lauren Merler - teaching at Bastion  
Joseph Norrie - teaching at AL Fortune  
Laury Spohr ESD/ESL

Louise Crowne SLP

New on TTOC list:

Alanna Dekelver  
Claudia Chalabi  
Christina Harisch  
Jason Inkster  
Angela Luxton  
Danielle McFarland  
Maureen Miyagishima  
Krystina Pick  
Wayne Pierce

## New Curriculum

The new curriculum documents for Art Education K-7, replacing Fine Arts K-7, are now available on the Ministry of Education web site at:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/irp\\_fa.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/irp_fa.htm)

Teams of teachers appointed by the BCTF worked under difficult and frustrating conditions to develop this new curriculum as the ministry made its debut foray into curriculum development by wiki.

- Arts Education Kindergarten to Grade 7 Overview – 2010: This document provides an introduction to and rationale for Arts Education K to 7 in British Columbia.

The Prescribed Learning Outcomes for each of the Arts Education disciplines are contained in the following individual curriculum documents:

- Dance Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum - 2010
- Drama Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum – 2010
- Music Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum - 2010
- Visual Arts Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum - 2010

The new Arts Education K to 7 curriculum documents differ from the Fine Arts K to 7 Integrated Resource Package in that the new curriculum

provides:

- A curricular format consistent with all other K-7 provincial curriculum in British Columbia.
  - Individual documents for each Arts Education discipline: Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.
  - A reduction in the number of Prescribed Learning Outcomes (PLOs) for all disciplines.
  - The addition of Suggested Achievement Indicators that elaborate on the PLOs as well as encourage, guide, and facilitate classroom practice.
  - The inclusion of three common areas of learning across all four disciplines, i.e. 1) personal, social, cultural and historical contexts; 2) knowledge, skills, and techniques; and 3) creating, expressing, perceiving, and responding.
- The new curriculum can be optionally implemented in the 2010-2011 school year, and must be used instead of the Fine Arts K to 7 curriculum starting July 2011. An implementation schedule outlining the implementation dates for these and other curriculum documents is available online at:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/imp\\_sched.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/imp_sched.htm)

A Discussion Forum to capture teachers' ongoing feedback on these and other curricula has been set up on: <https://www.itmbforums.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/ultimatebb.cgi?category=9>

Some school and district administrators are telling teachers that hard copies of IRPs are no longer available. They may

believe this because the ministry no longer ships hard copies to districts, but it is not the case. Copies of provincial curriculum can be ordered from Queen's Printer Publication Services, 563 Superior Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 9V7. Phone (250) 387-6409. Fax (250) 387-1120. Toll free 1-800-663-6105. The catalogue numbers for the new Fine Arts K-7 curricula are:

Arts Education Kindergarten to Grade 7 Overview – 2010: CUR 005  
Dance Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum – 2010: CUR 001  
Drama Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum – 2010: CUR 002  
Music Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum – 2010: CUR 003  
Visual Arts Kindergarten to Grade 7 Curriculum – 2010: CUR 004

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604-871-1845 or toll free 1-800-663-9163, local 1845, fax 604-871-2286  
[www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca)

### Submissions

*Do you have a funny story? Have you come across an excellent resource? Know of an upcoming event at your school or in our communities? Are you interested in sharing your ideas or experiences with colleagues? Know of pro-d opportunities in the near future? If so, please send your ideas and submissions for the NOSTA RATTLER to Madi at the NOSTA office.*

[mdunleavey@telus.net](mailto:mdunleavey@telus.net)

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**November 30<sup>th</sup>**

The Rattler will be distributed every two months this year. Deadlines for submissions will be November 30, January 31, March 31 and May 31. Please watch for updates and changes being made on our website.

<http://bctf.ca/local83/index.htm>



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Shuswap Teachers'  
Association**

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**We're on the Web!**  
<http://bctf.ca/local83/index.htm>