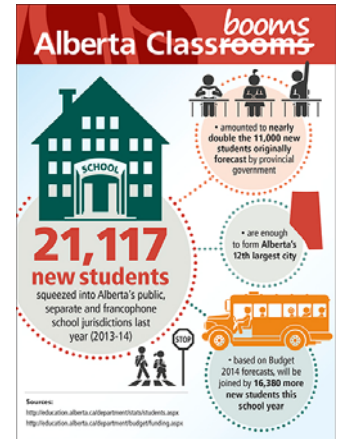
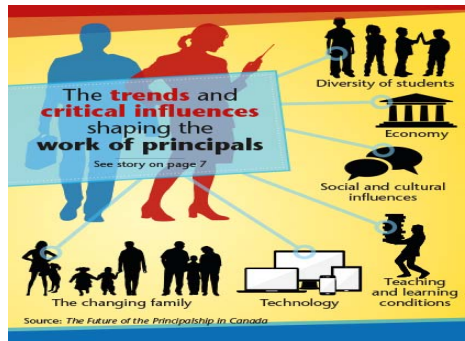


Calgary District Report
September 2014
 Diane Sellars-Myshchysyn
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<p>DR Meeting Dates:</p> <p>July 7-11 Canadian Teachers Fed. AGM Aug. 11-15 Summer Conference Aug. 26 Foothills Exec. mtg Sept. 9 Foothills CSR mtg Sept. 11-13 ATA Fall Planning Sept. 18-19 Prov. Exec. Council Sept. 20 Convention mtg Sept. 22 Canadian Rockies CSR mtg. Sept. 27 Foothills Exec. Mtg Sept. 29 Rocky View EPC mtg Oct. 1 Diversity, Equity and HR mtg. Oct. 2 Beg. Teachers. Conference Oct. 7 Foothills CSR mgt Oct. 8 ATA Strategic Planning Mtg. Oct. 9 Rocky View Exec. Mtg Oct. 16 Rocky View CSR mtg Oct. 20 Canadian Rockies CSR mtg Oct. 23-24 Prov. Exec. Council Oct. 25 Pres. Mtg</p>	<p>Important Dates:</p> <p>Beginning Teachers Oct. 2-4 Substitute Teachers' Conference Oct. 17-18 TWAC Nov. 14-15 PDAC Nov. 28-29</p>
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From Professional Development

- **Beginning Teachers Conference** Oct. 2-4 Please let your beginning teachers know when the conference is and invite them to attend.
- The Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education **released its report** last week. The report is organized around seven themes and contain 38 recommendations. The themes around essential conditions for implementation are: a) shared vision, b) leadership, c) research and evidence, d) resources, e) teacher professional growth, f) time and g) community engagement. The report is available online and will also be provided in condensed form later this year. Find it here →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/News-Room/2014/PD-170-1%20PD%20Blue%20Ribbon%20Panel%20Report%202014-web.pdf>

- SLA update: PEC **passed a recommendation** to urge the minister to direct school boards who do not have resources to immediately **withdraw from the pilot of SLAs**. Issues: marking time @ 40 minutes per student; school boards not providing release time and/or class time to administer SLAs. As an association we support PAT withdrawal and SLA implementation, however, not SLAs as the ministry is currently rolling out. See this article →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-3/Pages/ATA-calls-on-minister.aspx>

See this article for the Minister's response:

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/WebExtras/Pages/SLA-Concerns.aspx>

- ATA Educational Trust Conference Grant \$400 – **deadline** to apply is September 30th.
- Substitute Teachers' Conference October 17 & 18th in Edmonton!

From Government:

Prentice government

- Dirks, Mandel, Prentice: will run in by-elections late October or early November.
- Gordon Dirks, new Minister of Education **met with President Mark Ramsankar** last week. He also came to PEC on Thursday afternoon to meet and listen. A letter was sent to the Minister on Friday regarding SLAs.
- Greg Bass has moved laterally to another deputy minister position and Gene Williams will serve as acting deputy minister.
- Legislature returns November 17 with Bills 9 and 10 dying on the order paper. These bills dealt with **public and private sector pension plan** amendments.

Actions:

- We approved a **Local Presidents' meeting** on the Friday evening prior to ARA.
- We approved up to a 2 million dollar **loan to BCTF** to assist in their strike. The \$ interest on the loan is allocated to SEF. Payment structure will be forwarded out.
- We approved a **\$25000 gift** to Syndicat des enseignants et enseignements du programme francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (SEPF BC teachers).
- Establishment of 100th Anniversary Planning Committee for 2018.

Research

- Teaching and Learning Conditions in Alberta: A comparison of recent research findings reinforced conclusions we have reached about workload of teachers. Corroboration from another research organization adds credibility to our findings.
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ResearchUpdates/Pages/Current.aspx>
- The Future of the Principalship in Canada project and A Week in the Life of Alberta School Leaders were recently released
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ResearchUpdates/Pages/Current.aspx>
- Development of Teachers Leading Curriculum Change: A Whole-System Approach for Creating a Great School for All – we talk about “**renewal of curriculum**” not “redesign,” purposefully.
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ResearchUpdates/Pages/Current.aspx>
- David Berliner book: 50 Myths and Lies that Threaten America's Public Schools
- Thomas Keenan book: Technocrep: The Surrender of Privacy and the Capitalization of Intimacy
- Growing Up Digital (GUD) – a **project partnered** between ATA and Harvard Medical School and School of Public Health. This will be the **world's largest study** of technology, learning and health impacts on K-12 students.
- Pay attention to Dr. John Hattie research. He **rejects class size** as an important factor in education and dismisses socioeconomic background as having any influence on education. Read “Visible Learning and Invisible Leadership” article. Find it here →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-3/Pages/Viewpoints.aspx>

Media and such

- Media Campaign – begins end of this month. It will be multi-media with a focus on parents with school aged children. The ads are positive, humorous and general. A parallel micro-site has been created that can be easily changed, is specific and is serious/hard-hitting. Geo-targeted ads in the form of transit shelters radio, on-line, newspaper, specialty media, TV, and movie.
- No lanyards! Note!!

- CTF – we fund overseas projects: Pan African Teachers' Centre, Teachers' Action for Teachers, Teachers' Action for Gender Equality, Palliser Dominca IT Project, Tools for Schools, Africa Foundation, Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan et.al.
- We had good representation at the annual meeting of CTF; President Mark Ramsanker was **reelected as a vice-president**.
- We are considering building options for SARO (Southern Alberta Regional Office)

From Member Services:

Trends: Tweeting inappropriate messages, violating privacy.

- The association always seeks to ensure fair **process** for teachers and not to protect bad teachers.
- Board of reference decision – A board acted inappropriately in firing a teacher because of poor performance when they did not consider other teaching assignments that would be more appropriate for this teacher and where the teacher had previously been successful. Board of reference – is fair process for a teacher. See this example →

<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number-2/Pages/No-zero-teacher.aspx>

Professional Conduct

- The executive secretary has exercised power to immediately suspend two teachers who have serious charges brought against them.
- Complainant refusal to agree to an invitation would send the matter to a hearing. This has been amended. Complainant no longer has to agree to invitation. Executive Secretary can order an invitation.

From Teacher Welfare:

- **Web based videos** on “Steps to Retirement” and coming . . . Parental and Maternity Leave.
- **Top priorities of EPCs:** educating members on current entitlements building EPC capacity, building member support for collective bargaining, and researching members' conditions of practice.
- Autonomy is a theme in bargaining. Autonomous P.D. How much of teachers personal money is going into P.D.?
- We are launching a four part pension campaign to educate ourselves about our pension. The first part is “It's my future.” See post cards.

Legislated Framework – Part C: Teacher Workload

- C1 – a report was received from gov't a year ago.
- C2 – Well, this is a hornet's nest, but, our commitment to these demonstrates our willingness to work with government and boards in a constructive manner. This work also provides the foundation for our next round of bargaining in 2015 – 2016 around instructional and assignable time.
- C3 – 3700 teachers are part of this third party workload study.
- C4 – TCPAC has met successfully during the summer. A new minister may create change in this area.
- C5 – P.D. has started work on awareness of this clause and collection of data.
- PEC approved the following motion : that the **ATA urge the government of Alberta** to take ownership of the legislated settlement and direct superintendents and school boards to **comply with the requirements** of the Assurance for Students Act 2013 and produce tangible results by the end of the 2014 – 2015 school year.