

Calgary District Report

April 2015

Diane Sellars-Myshchyshyn

diane.sellars@gmail.com

DR Meeting Dates:

April 13-14	Prov. Exec. Mtg
April 15	Canadian Rockies CSR
April 16	Rocky view Exec.
April 18	Convention Mtg
April 20	Rocky View C2 Committee
April 22	Rocky View EPC
April 23	Rocky View CSR
April 24-25	PDAC
April 28	Foothills Exec.
May 5	Foothills CSR
May 7-8	Prov. Exec. Mtg

Specialist Council Conference Dates



A new study drawing on international data identifies growth, complexity and intensity as three issues needing to be addressed through adequate resources for Alberta's schools. Highlights include: Since 2008, the number of students in Alberta's schools has increased by 70,000. Alberta's classrooms are twice as likely as schools globally to include a significant number of students with special needs (51 per cent versus 26 per cent). 41 per cent of Alberta classrooms include significant populations of students learning in a second language, compared with 21 per cent internationally. Alberta's teachers work on average 10 hours per week more than teachers elsewhere in the world. Alberta's teachers work the longest hours, second only to teachers in Japan.



On May 6, 2015, Albertans are invited to wear a hat to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health. Participating schools will relax their hat rules and encourage students and teachers to build understanding by wearing hats to school. Students will also participate in a coordinated lesson on understanding mental health and the importance of removing the stigma associated with mental illnesses. **Click on the pic for lesson plans!**



Reuse your banner from last!

Election Results

- Greg Jeffery and Robert Twerdoclib were elected for another term as Provincial Vice-President

Government

- Provincial budget

“The budgeted amount for the education sector in 2015/16 is \$7.5 billion (\$7.355 billion in 2014/15). (The government’s fiscal year is April 1–March 31). School board funding will increase from \$5.75 billion to \$5.79 billion in 2015/16, but this falls \$180 million short of what is needed to fully fund a 2 per cent inflationary increase and 1.9 per cent student enrolment growth. In his budget speech, the finance minister indicated that funding increases for boards are meant to “protect teaching positions and allow government to honour the existing collective agreement,” though head that other costs would need to be cut to accommodate teachers’ salaries. Notably, while overall board funding has increased, per-pupil funding has decreased from \$9,249 to \$9,148 in 2015/16 (when adjusted for inflation, per-pupil funding for boards has decreased by 8.75 per cent in the past four years). Fort McMurray Public School District, Fort McMurray Roman Catholic Separate School District, Black Gold Regional Division, Rocky View School Division and Northwest Francophone Education Region will be hit particularly hard by unfunded growth, as they each anticipate greater than five per cent growth in student enrolment.” As reported in the PEC April Government Ad
- The Association has been informed that all activities with government will seize until after the elections. This includes the upcoming C2 meeting, The Blue Ribbon Event – Action on Inclusion during PDAC, Speak Out, etc. Due to this the C2 meeting on April 27 has been cancelled. The Association is responding.
- Student Learning Assessments –
 - Feedback from the field clearly illustrates that the pilot was over-built and poorly designed.
 - The information in the SLA reports provided to teachers was of poor quality and teachers do not see the benefit of the program as currently designed.
 - The fundamental question regarding the link between SLAs and the Literacy and Numeracy
 - Framework and current programs of study remains unanswered.

- Table Officers have met with the Liberal Caucus and ASBOA
- President Ramankar reported on the excellence of the International Summit on the Teaching Profession 2015 which included Education International, Canadian Teacher Federation OECD countries government ministries and their teachers' organizations.
- Table Officers will meet with the officials of the Building Trades of Alberta and the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees.
- Convention – Livingstone Range Local No 14 conducted votes in each of its school to determine which teachers' convention they would like to attend PCTCA or SWATCA. All but one school voted to change from PDTCA to SWATCA. This will take place beginning 2017.

Research

- [Digital Reporting and Digital Assessment Tools: Evaluating their Value and their Impact](#)

Professional Development

- PEC approved two resolutions for ARA that urges jurisdictions and institution to ensure that preservice field experience observations and evaluations are only conducted by assigned cooperating teachers and faculty consultants/advisors, that are physically present and are familiar with the specific learning context, not teachers or principals outside the practicum placement. The primary purposes of a practicum experience is to develop reflective capacities for observation, analysis, interpretation and decision-making and develop skills in classroom management, teaching and assessment not recruitment.
- The Blue Ribbon Panel Symposium will be held in conjunction with PDAC. The Symposium will feature the research done in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Panel on Inclusive Education in Alberta. The event will be held 2015 04 24, the day prior to the Professional Development Area Conference (PDAC), in Edmonton at the Westin Hotel. The goals of this event are to:
 - ☐ highlight the work of the Blue Ribbon Panel,
 - ☐ review the research done in conjunction with the Blue Ribbon Panel,
 - ☐ explore current research in inclusion in Alberta,
 - ☐ discuss effective implementation and what it can look like in organizations and systems, and
 - ☐ focus on the continued importance of resources needed to support inclusion in Alberta schools.

Member Services

- Call Trends: Employer Action 31%, Interpersonal relationship 41%, Employment information 28%

Teacher Welfare

- Three Bargaining units are pursuing policy grievances regarding the Ministerial Order regarding assignable time/C2.
- Current pension campaign: My Pension; My Future
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/IssuesandCampaigns/My%20Pension%20My%20Investment/Pages/Index.aspx>