

Calgary District Report
January 2015
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<p>DR Meeting Dates:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 15%;">Jan. 15-16</td><td>Prov. Exec. Council</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan. 17</td><td>Chinook Local Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan. 22</td><td>Rocky View Exec. Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan. 27</td><td>Foothills Exec. Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan. 29</td><td>Rocky View CSR Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 3</td><td>Foothills CSR Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 4</td><td>Canadian Rockies Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 5</td><td>Rocky View Inductions</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb 6 -7</td><td>Local Presidents' Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 10</td><td>Rocky View ARA Mtg</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 19-20</td><td>Palliser Teacher Convention</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb. 24</td><td>Strategic Planning</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar. 2-3</td><td>Prov. Exec. Council</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Specialist Council Conference Dates</p> 	Jan. 15-16	Prov. Exec. Council	Jan. 17	Chinook Local Mtg	Jan. 22	Rocky View Exec. Mtg	Jan. 27	Foothills Exec. Mtg	Jan. 29	Rocky View CSR Mtg	Feb. 3	Foothills CSR Mtg	Feb. 4	Canadian Rockies Mtg	Feb. 5	Rocky View Inductions	Feb 6 -7	Local Presidents' Mtg	Feb. 10	Rocky View ARA Mtg	Feb. 19-20	Palliser Teacher Convention	Feb. 24	Strategic Planning	Mar. 2-3	Prov. Exec. Council	 	<p style="text-align: center;">Media Campaign!</p>  <p>Oil prices are dropping and the Alberta government is already hinting that the next budget will be a lean one. Click above to write your MLA to let them know that education funding must be a priority, even in times of low oil prices.</p>
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ATA Elections 2015: Ensure you can vote!

Create your ATA on-line account by visiting www.teachers.ab.ca and following the “login” link at the top of the page. You will need your Alberta Teacher Certificate Number. You can access your # from your certificate by calling the ATA (1 800 232 7208) and asking for the membership desk, by contacting Alberta Education Teaching & Learning Excellence (310 0000 or teacher.certification@gov.ab.ca), or by calling the HR department of your jurisdiction. Besides **allowing you to vote**, creating an ATA account allows you to: choose a free membership in a specialist council of your choosing, access “members only” content of the ATA website, participate in collaboration websites maintained by the association, update your personal profile ensuring uninterrupted service from your association.

Provincial Elections

- Voter registration and polls open February 27, 2015 and close closes March 19 at 1700
- Mark Ramsankar has been acclaimed as you Provincial ATA President
- Diane Sellars-Myshchysyn has been acclaimed as Calgary Area District Representative
- There will be an election for Provincial Vice-President. The following four candidates are running for VP: Greg Jeffery, Myrna McLean, Katherine Pritchard, Robert Twerdoclib

Government

- ARA will debate the proposed budget of 1.72% increase, which would increase our fees by twenty-one dollars to \$1245 per annum.
- Alberta Education – starting to develop a relationship with the new minister
- Alberta Education Regulatory Review
 Alberta Education is again actively working to develop regulations to support implementation of the Education Act. The Regulatory Review Project was overseen by a ministerial committee composed of one public member and four members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including Maureen Kubinec, MLA for Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock, as chair. Eight recs of particular interest to us – home education, private schools, fees, school councils, charter schools.
- Third-Party Study on Teacher Workload Advisory committee – Approximately one-third of the Teacher Workload Survey has been completed. Researchers expect to be able to meet the deadline of July 31/15 for submission of the report.
- Provincial Legislature – Spring sitting will commence March 10
- Meeting Dates for 2014/15
 - Local Presidents' Meetings:
 - 2015 10 30(eve)-31,
 - 2016 02 05(eve)-06
 - Provincial Executive Council meetings
 - 2015 09 24-25 (T/F)

2015 10 29-30 (T/F)

2015 12 03-04 (T/F)

2016 01 14-15 (T/F)

2016 02 22-23 (M/T)

2016 04 07-08 (T/F)

2016 05 12-13 (T/F)

2016 06 09-10 (T/F)

- DR. BT Keeler passing (Past-Exec. Secretary) – \$5000 donation was made in his memory to the Education Trust
- Canadian Teachers' Federation -
The committee selected 13 candidates to participate Project Overseas. Names were forwarded to Ottawa for consideration for a final selection by CTF's International Education staff. A total of 56 Canadians will be participating in Project Overseas in 2015. ATA has provided the funding for 10 Alberta teachers to participate.
- Media Campaign -Reworking previous commercials with a different voice over

Research

- Digital Reporting and Digital Assessment Tools: Evaluating Their Value and Their Impact – A new research report, Digital Reporting and Digital Assessment Tools: Evaluating their Value and their Impact, was recently published. The research data show that digital reporting tools are seen as having low value on impacting instruction and assessment, yet extremely high impact on workload. See info graphic at the end of report.
- A new project is underway between Canada and Norway. This project will focus on the commitment to improve student learning in mathematics informed by the principle of "excellence through equity." The proposed research question for this international partnership, the NORCAN initiative, is: How can an international network of schools and educators committed to mindful leadership help to identify obstacles to students' mathematics learning and develop strategies for attaining success?

Professional Development

- DEHR Conference – Key note speaker is Darren Lund - The third Annual Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Conference for Locals will be held Friday, March 13, 2015 (eve) and Saturday, March 14, 2015 (all day) at Barnett House. More details will follow in January 2015. Two delegates per local are eligible to attend. A limited number of additional delegates are welcome. Please contact your local president for registration information. Inspiration into Action The Annual Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Conference with keynote speaker, Darren Lund, discussing the importance of promoting equity and the acceptance of differences within schools and communities.
- Research Needs to Support Inclusive Education -
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume%2049%202014-15/Number9/Pages/Research-needed-to-advance-inclusion-in-schools.aspx>
- 76th Annual Palliser Convention February 19 & 20, 2015- iLearn, iTeach, iLead <http://www.pdtca.org/>
- Apply for an ATA Fellowship or Scholarship - Deadline February 27, 2015
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/Announcements/Pages/Apply-for-an-ATA-Fellowship-or-Scholarship.aspx>

Member Services

- Have you read the latest issue of the ATA Magazine – What Does Member Services Do?
<http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20Magazine/Volume%2095%202014-15/Number-2/Pages/Index.aspx>

Teacher Welfare

- Teachers interested in becoming Retirement Consultants are invited to submit letters of application to Chris M Gibbon, Executive Staff Officer, Teacher Welfare via email chris.gibbon@ata.ab.ca or via mail to 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton T5N 2R1. Letters should highlight reasons for applying and any relevant skills. Deadline for application is February 6, 2015.

DIGITAL REPORTING & ASSESSMENT TOOLS



Evaluating their impact on classrooms

In Alberta, the use of digital reporting tools (eg, PowerSchool, StudentsAchieve and Desire2Learn) and digital assessment tools (eg, Mathletics, SuccessMaker, DreamBox Learning Math and Raz-Kids) has grown dramatically over the past decade. In 2014, the Alberta Teachers' Association and University of Alberta researchers surveyed over 1,100 teachers and principals from across urban and rural Alberta about the perceived value and impact of these digital tools on instruction and assessment practices, teachers' work life and shifting parental expectations.

VALUE

Low Trust in Improving Instruction and Assessment for Students

Have digital reporting tools **improved** the level of instruction and assessment in classrooms?



**Note that this trend line is now consistently moving towards the negative with each study on the subject conducted over the past five years.*



Not Facilitating Communication

PARENTS

Have digital reporting tools facilitated and improved communication with parents?



STUDENTS

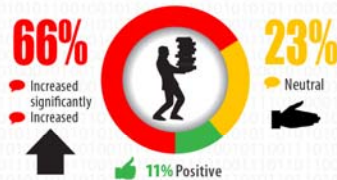
Have digital reporting tools facilitated and improved communication with students?



IMPACT

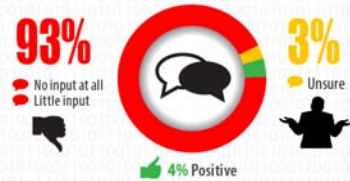
Significant Workload Issues For Teachers

How have digital reporting tools affected your workload?



Relatively No Consultation or Input when Selecting or Implementing Digital Tools

How much input did you have in choosing and implementing this reporting tool?



Low Flexibility of the Digital Tools

How do you feel about the flexibility of digital tools?



Poor Technical & Professional Development Supports

What sort of professional development supports did you receive when initially attempting to learn how to use the digital reporting tool?

