



Calgary District Report

May 2015

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<p>DR Meeting Dates:</p> <p>May 7-8 Prov. Exec. Mtg May 12 Strategic Planning May 13 Canadian Rockies May 15 Presidents' Mtg May 16-18 ARA May 19 DEHR Comm. Mtg May 21 Rocky View Exec. Mtg May 26 Foothills Exec. Mtg May 27 Chinook AGM May 30 Palliser Convention Mtg June 2 Foothills CSR Mtg June 3 Canadian Rockies AGM June 4 Rocky View AGM June 10 Canadian Teachers Fed. June 11-12 Prov. Exec. Mtg June 13 Spring Planning June 16 Rocky View EPC June 17 Canadian Rockies CSR July 16 – 17 Canandian Teachers' Fed. Ang. 10-14 Summer Conference</p>	 <p>The ATA News invites you to get your camera out and start shooting those award-winning photographs. Cash prizes available! 1st place: \$200 2nd place: \$100 3rd place: \$50 Email photos to cory.howe@ata.ab.ca.</p> <p>Specialist Council Conference Dates</p> 	<p>2015 ATA Summer Conference August 10 to 14, 2015 Registration deadline is June 12, 2015.</p> <p>The 67th Annual ATA Summer Conference will be held August 10 to 14, 2015 at The Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. Summer Conference provides training to members who are actively involved or are interested in becoming involved in the work of the Association. Teachers are required to have authorization from their local, specialist council or convention association to attend.</p>
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Government

- Annual Representative Assembly
ARA will be held this weekend at The Westin in Edmonton. Every local has delegates based on population. This assembly debates resolutions, sets policy for the ATA, and finalizes and approves our budget. As well, there are awards, representation from other educational organizations and political bodies, and media present. This is the most important democratic event of our association. Please thank your local president and delegates for sacrificing their May long weekend to represent you and to shape our association's future. There will be a meeting for local presidents on Friday evening, May 15th, prior to ARA.
- Additional Council Resolutions for ARA: regarding review of curriculum reform processes, rejecting the provisions of the proposed budget of March 2015, and establishing ministerial orders about gay-straight alliances.
- President Ramsankar, was very active during the provincial election campaign. He engaged in various interviews raising issues of education and schools with the media and politicians.
- Several teachers and retired teachers are among the new and re-elected MLAs that will make up Alberta's legislature following the historic provincial election of May 5. Of the seven names on the list, six are with the Alberta New Democrats and one will sit under the Wildrose banner. [Click here for the full story.](#)
- [Student Vote Results](#) Check out how the results mirrored the Provincial Election

- An election review committee was established consisting of the past president, three PEC members, two field members, the returning officer, and one executive staff officer. They will examine the 2015 general election, consider matters such as balloting, timing and voting periods, review campaign and candidate funding, review campaign guidelines, and then report to PEC. Cost: 10 500.
- We will donate \$3 500 to the Solidarity with Nepal fund for relief efforts following the Nepalese earthquake.
- We will name the ATA Educational Trust bursary program in recognition of Dr Keeler. Dr. Keeler was key in establishing the Trust.

Professional Development

- [10 Easy steps to starting a GSA](#)
- An invitational symposium was hosted on April 24 – Reaching the Vision: Building Inclusive Education Together.
- The symposium was followed by Professional Development Area Conference (PDAC) which included sessions on the theme of inclusive education.

Member Services

- Medical issues can interfere with ability to make prudent judgments in teaching situations.
- Letter of reprimand – do not want on your file! Get representation!
- Be VERY careful on social media. Social media forms a public and permanent record.

Teacher Welfare

- “The Ministerial Order Section 2 (assigned tasks) monitoring includes three steps. The first involves the Economic Policy Committee writing to the C2 co-chairs for information on the committee’s recommendations. To date 39 Economic Policy Committees have received responses from the C2 committees. If the Economic Policy Committee has doubt as to whether the school board is indeed using their best efforts to reduce teacher assigned tasks they are proceeding to step 2 which involves a letter to the school board requesting information on how tasks have been reduced. The Economic Policy Committee is then reviewing the response and determining if they will proceed to step 3 which is the launching of a formal grievance.” As reported at the May PEC meeting
- Lump Sum Payment - Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan will categorize the payment as a signing bonus and will therefore not be clawing back Extended Disability Benefits payments from effected teachers. We are following up with private insurers and the Employment Insurance Commission.