

Calgary District Report

September 2016

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DR Meeting Dates

Aug. 30	Foothills Exec.
Sept. 6	Foothills CSR
Sept. 12	Canadian Rockies CSR
Sept. 14	Rocky View EPC
Sept. 15-17	Fall Planning
Sept. 21	Finance Mtg
Sept. 22-23	Prov. Exec. Council
Sept. 24	Inclusive Ed. Council
Sept. 27	Foothills Exec.
Sept. 29	Rocky View AGM
	Christ the Redeemer EPC
Oct. 3	Diversity Equity and Human Rights
Oct. 4	Foothills CSR
Oct. 13- 15	Inclusive Ed Conference
Oct. 17	Canadian Rockies CSR
Oct. 20-21	Provincial Exec. Council
Oct. 22	Presidents' Mtg
Oct. 24	Rocky View EPC
Oct. 25	Foothills Exec. Inductions
Oct. 27	Rocky View CSR



Calgary Conference – Oct. 13-15

Deadline Sept. 30

Government

DEFAMATION ACTION AGAINST MCGOWANS, REID, LAPIERRE AND SCHOOLWORKS!

Field LLP won a record defamation award in the Court of Queen's Bench and the Alberta Court of Appeal sustained the decision. Over the summer, our solicitors were able to obtain the balance of the award from the defendants and Field LLP distributed the funds, in the sum of \$35,792.76, to the Association.

Election Rules

Three electoral ballots were presented at PEC for our consideration. All deal with election rules and the consequences for not following them.

SLA CAMPAIGN / PAT's

We continue to work on the SLA campaign to achieve our goal of a formative assessment. We have been told that the lobbying is starting work. There should be no field-testing at this time. Council passed a motion asking the minister cancel the grade 6 PAT's by December 2016.

Official ATA iOS App

[Download](#) in the App Store today.

The Alberta Teachers' Association has a mobile application to help teachers connect with personalized information from their professional association. The iOS app is available for download from the Apple App Store for use on iPhones, iPod Touches and iPads.

The application is customizable based on a teacher's local and teaching specialty. The My Info section of the app connects teachers to their ATA local, teachers' convention and specialist council. Teachers can also access their collective agreement from their mobile device to get on-the-spot information about salaries, benefits or leave-of-absence provisions.

Teacher Welfare

Central bargaining occurred on September 19-20. Future meetings with TEBA will be held on October 3-4, October 17-18, October 24, November 2-3, November 23-24, and December 19-20. Bargaining is working slowly through several important issues at this time.

To 907 or not 907 that is the question . . .

907 hours over 190 days is the regulation we are currently teaching under. When teachers teach a smaller number of days, then the program (hours) are squished into fewer days. Result – tired teachers.

The non-instructional days range is a low of 11 to a high of 27. Of 61 bargaining units, 9 are over 20 non-instructional days a year!

From the June survey, here is what teachers are engaged in on non-instructional days:

Individual teacher work 20%; ATA planned days 14.61%; school jurisdiction directed activities 14.3%; mandated collaboration 11.62%; group planning 8.93%; business of school meetings 8.78% and teacher directed PD 8.71%.

EPCs have been asked to collect this data again this year, on an ongoing basis.

Grievances: superintendents changing dates of resignations; boards denying shall grant leaves.

Professional Development

Curriculum Redesign:

Alberta Education is embarking on a partnership with the ATA to develop K-12 curriculum. Teachers have self-nominated or been nominated by their superintendent. There are eight working groups (subject areas) with over twenty teachers in each. These teachers will dedicate fifteen days a year for three years.

Education for Reconciliation Professional Learning Project: As part of our effort to engage in the reconciliation process, we have hired six program facilitators. Please see the article in the ATA News.

New Growth Planning Tools available:

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Publications/ATA%20News/Volume-51-2016-17/Number-1/Pages/New-Growth-Planning-Tools.aspx>

Member Services

What follows is a summary of information, trends and concerns arising from Member Services.

- Human Relations directors in Central Offices not having an education background. MS helps them understand the teaching profession.
- The importance of teaching what is contained in the curriculum/program of studies.
- A Board of Reference is safety mechanism for teachers who have been fired.
- Boards can create policy around termination. This does not negate a teacher's right to a board of reference.
- Member Services can dispense advice, but teachers choose whether they will follow it.
- The obligation to be truthful on claim forms – ASEBP does check these.
- MS often helps teachers by identifying errors in the process by which they are treated
- Perceived aggression through physical contact in teacher/student interaction can lead to employer action.

