



DR Report for Calgary District – March 2020

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March District Representative Meetings		
<p>Guidelines for attendance of meetings for District Representatives as approved by ARA</p> <p>“28.6 The following shall be observed as the appropriate order of priority among Council member assignments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council Meetings 2. Provincial Committee Meetings 3. Assigned Representation Functions 4. Organized meetings with members of the Association at any level involving government political leaders or Alberta Education officials at the Assistant Deputy Minister level or higher 5. Local Association Meetings 6. Specialist Council Liaison Assignments 7. Teacher Convention Association Meetings 8. Area Conferences 9. Consultants Meetings <p>(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	MAR 2	Christ the Redeemer #29, ARA Budget, Okotoks
	MAR 3	Foothills #16 CSR, Okotoks
	MAR 5	Rocky View #35 Executive, Calgary
	MAR 5	SOS Public Advocacy, Calgary
	MAR 6/7	Political Engagement Seminar, Barnett House
	MAR 8/9	Women in Leadership Symposium, Barnett House
	MAR 10	Foothills #16 BUGM, Okotoks
	MAR 10	Foothills #16 TW, Okotoks
	MAR 11	Canadian Rockies #59 CSR, Exshaw
	MAR 12	Rocky View #35 Induction, Calgary
	MAR 14	TWSC, Barnett House
	MAR 19	Finance Committee, Barnett House
	MAR 21	Christ the Redeemer #29, CSR, Zoom
	MAR 21	Christ the Redeemer #29, ARA Resolutions, Zoom
	MAR 25	Christ the Redeemer #29, ARA Resolutions, Zoom
	MAR 27	Rocky View #35 Executive, Zoom
	MAR 30	Rocky View #35 ARA Resolutions, Zoom
APR 2	PEC, Zoom	
APR 3	PDTCA Executive, Zoom	
APR 4	PDTCA Board, Zoom	

1. Executive Secretary: Given restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, timelines for some hearings have been adjusted.

2. Government: Association is considering reliable and valid ways of continuing to collect class size data now that the government has stopped gathering it. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Association launched a FAQs page on its website that is updated regularly with timestamps on each answer to indicate its evolving nature. It has also launched a Talking to Kids About Coronavirus page (<https://bit.ly/3bXnPID>) which includes a video conversation of Dr Phil McRae in discussion with Dr. Michael Rich regarding what we should tell our children: <https://youtu.be/eEiiYe3IDi8>. The ATA News will be distributed electronically, while the final June issue of *ATA Magazine* will be produced online only, with a print run possibly scheduled for the next school year. The ATA Library is working to shore up its virtual library of supports for teachers in their platform, LibGuides: <http://library.teachers.ab.ca/Presto/home/home.aspx>

3. Member Services: Members continue to call regarding interpersonal relations/staff, for employment information, and employer action while staff officers continue to offer a variety of presentations to administrators, preservice teachers, and the general membership.

4. Professional Development: Staff continues to work on the issue of teacher intellectual property in regard to posting unit and lesson plan materials online. A number of products are being developed to assist teachers with understanding the complexities between ownership and sharing, including a Q & A article for an upcoming issue of the *ATA News*. PD corps is providing weekly live PD sessions for teachers to help in navigating teaching online: <https://bit.ly/2x6gu46>

5. Teacher Welfare: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, any mediation meetings which will continue, will be conducted electronically. Staff continues to work on a wide variety of cases related to workplace issues. 48 Locals completed List of All Matters survey.

6. Table Officers Committee: To ensure future teachers’ convention programming is consistent with the findings of the Committee on Convention Review, a number of amendments to the Association’s administrative guidelines (AG) are required. Two were approved at PEC on April 2. The first amendment updates an AG first established in 1964, which reaffirms the principle that the Association should continue to devote two days each year to teachers’ conventions, as

well as including the general purpose of conventions in this guideline to make explicit what the Association believes the two days of conventions are for. The second amendment is a new one, as the Association's AGs do not currently offer any direction about what sort of sessions and exhibits should (or should not) be included in convention programs. Although decisions will continue to be made by convention boards based on their understanding of the specific professional development needs of teachers in their regional contexts, the adoption of Association wide guidelines will provide much-needed guidance and clarity for future teachers' conventions.

The Association has provided a comprehensive response to the 2020 01 29 Draft Ministerial Order on Student Learning and the Curriculum Advisory Panel Recommendations on direction for Curriculum.

Spring specialist council conferences, as well as PDAC, TWAC, uLead, and Conference on Wellbeing of Children and Youth have been cancelled.

Summer Conference continues to be planned – the COVID-19 pandemic and AHS may ultimately make the final decision.

7. Finance Committee: 91% of locals completed the budget workbook. Overall, the committee interpreted the survey results as members showing general support for the programs and services proposed, with certainly some exceptions. Prior to discussing potential changes driven by the survey results, the CFO walked the committee through initial suggested changes. Subsequently, the committee authorized adjustments to the draft budget, reducing the annual fee increase from the current \$96 to \$81. As such, the annual fee required to balance the budget would be \$1,266 + \$81 = \$1,347. TQS fees have been restructured and will see a fee increase.

8. President's Schedule: Schilling's schedule continues to be incredibly full. He has shifted from meeting in-person to conducting interviews and meetings electronically.

9. School Leachers Issues and Concerns: Committee put forward a number of recommendations regarding OH&S, including a FAQs page on the *Members Only* section of the Association website, as well as an update to local constitutions regarding how ATA reps are named to Joint Worksite Health and Safety Committees. The unclear implications of the provincial budget are negatively affecting morale.

10. DEHR Committee: A rainbow crosswalk will be painted at the entrance to Barnett House to demonstrate the Association's commitment to inclusivity. April DEHR conference at Barnett House has been cancelled.

11. Teacher Welfare Services Committee: 35 Memorandums of Agreement have been reached. 2020 Bargaining Needs Survey and Distributed Education Survey closed March 31. Bill 5 *Fiscal Measure and Taxation Act* makes significant changes to The Employers Bargaining Association (TEBA) bargaining structure.

12. Scholarship Subcommittee of Teacher Education and Certification: The successful applicants chosen to receive fellowships, scholarships, and bursaries were announced. Names embargoed at the time of issue this report.

13. Political Engagement Committee: A number of issues in the province continue to affect both the government and the economy, including COVID-19, OPEC decisions, and the fumbling of the Energy War Room. A number of polls show decreasing popularity for UCP and Premier Kenney. PE Seminar with parents was successful, with several parents effusive in their praise, recognizing that government cuts to education hurt their children's education, which is encouraging them to become politically engaged. However, political engagement efforts have been largely postponed in light of political sensitivities during the crisis period.

14. Steering Committee: 2020 ARA has been postponed to an alternate, yet-to-be determined, date.

15. ASEBP: Audited financial statements for the year ended 201 08 31 show that reserves are fully funded and ASEBP financials are solid. At 2020 02 21 Trustee meeting, premium rates passed first reading and rates are set to increase 4.7% effective September 2020. These rates are 1.0% below the 2014/15 rates.

Members are encouraged to phone or write their MLA's regarding the March 29 announcement of the layoffs of thousands of education workers across the province:

https://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca/call_your_mla