



## DR Report for Calgary District – September 2020

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SEPTEMBER District Representative Meetings – ZOOM		
<p><b>Guidelines for attendance of meetings for District Representatives as approved by ARA</b></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"> <li>1. Council Meetings</li> <li>2. Provincial Committee Meetings</li> <li>3. Assigned Representation Functions</li> <li>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</li> <li>5. Local Association Meetings</li> <li>6. Specialist Council Liaison Assignments</li> <li>7. Teacher Convention Association Meetings</li> <li>8. Area Conferences</li> <li>9. Consultants Meetings</li> </ol> <p>(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	<b>SEP 1</b>	Foothills CSR
	<b>SEP 4</b>	Rocky View Executive (f2f)
	<b>SEP 8</b>	Foothills TW
	<b>SEP 12</b>	Christ the Redeemer CSR
	<b>SEP 15</b>	Christ the Redeemer TW
	<b>SEP 16</b>	Finance Committee
	<b>SEP 17</b>	Rocky View AGM/CSR
	<b>SEP 19</b>	Outreach Education Council Executive
	<b>SEP 21</b>	Rocky View TW (f2f)
	<b>SEP 22</b>	Strategic Planning Emergent
	<b>SEP 23</b>	Canadian Rockies C
	<b>SEP 24/25</b>	PEC
	<b>SEP 29</b>	Strategic Planning Group
	<b>SEP 29</b>	Foothills CSR

### 1. Executive Secretary:

**Electoral Ballot 2 of 2020—Associate Membership Eligibility** Amend General Bylaw 4 to include Elders, Knowledge Keepers and Cultural Advisors and noncertificated educators employed by First Nations school authorities as persons eligible for associate membership in the Association.

**Electoral Ballot 3 of 2020—Administration of Alternate Professional Development Requests** Amend General Bylaw 121 to transfer the responsibility for administering alternate professional development requests, currently received and adjudicated by convention board attendance committees, to the provincial Association.

On 2020 05 01 the emergency governance clauses in all subgroups’ constitutions was invoked. At the 2020 09 24 meeting of PEC, Council voted to declare the period of emergency governance over. As a result of this, **these clauses will only be in effect until 2020 11 23**. After this date all council decision making, budgeting and elections will follow the processes outlined in the subgroup constitution.

ITS Director David Oh has three foci: creation of a new website which will allow for ease of navigation and collaboration, business solutions, and technology solutions.

**2. Government:** PIA (Public Interest Alberta) reporting on the aggressive agenda of the provincial government to attack public services, public space and public servants. PIA is engaged in the types of advocacy that reflected the very reasons for its creation, fighting the cutbacks to and attacks on public services, and proposing better alternatives to strengthen these crucial elements of our society. COVID-19 has highlighted the vital importance of the government and strong public service in responding to emergencies and in developing and maintaining healthy, well-educated and equitable societies at all times.

Pandemic pulse surveys will be used during school re-entry to gather a quick “pulse” of the profession regarding the successes or challenges of re-entry. These surveys will also be used to gain further insight into the complexities of teaching and learning conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic and will support rapid response activities during the fall. Look for them every 2-3 weeks once Bargaining Survey ends.

ATA library focused on expanding web guides for teachers. Since March, 2,338 links have been added to the existing guides and 38 new web guides were created (for a total of 155 guides). 28 of the new guides are French guides. Home >> My ATA >> ATA Library (<http://library.teachers.ab.ca/Presto/home/home.aspx>)

**3. Teacher Employment Services:** Calls from members have steadily risen over the summer. Members are asked to call TES BEFORE going on any kind of leave. No seminars for Local Treasurers or Secretaries this spring, but individuals support has been provided as needed. New “binder” for secretaries has been uploaded to the collaborative site.

**4. Professional Development:** All teachers' conventions will be held virtually for 20/21 on their assigned dates. In the absence of Summer Conference, the PD corps is offering a number of virtual sessions on a variety of topics. Two goals that have been identified for attention during the 2020/21 year regarding the Convention Review Implementation Plan are to develop common needs assessment and convention evaluation tools to better connect convention programming to members' ongoing PD needs, and to develop formal structures to coordinate the programs and services offered by convention boards, specialist councils, and other Association committees and subgroups. There is a great deal of online PD support for members to access:

My ATA > Professional Development > Online Professional Development:

Twitter ([https://twitter.com/ata\\_pd](https://twitter.com/ata_pd)), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ATApd/>),

Recorded Webinars (<https://atapdwebinars2020.sched.com/>),

PD LibGuides ([https://teachers-ab.libguides.com/topicguides?b=g&d=a&group\\_id=15070](https://teachers-ab.libguides.com/topicguides?b=g&d=a&group_id=15070)).

LibGuides provide links to the ATAPDWebinars2020.Sched.com site, the Association's COVID-19 page and the ATA Library's online resource pages. The site is: [https://teachers-ab.libguides.com/ATA\\_PD/SupportsForOnlineLearning](https://teachers-ab.libguides.com/ATA_PD/SupportsForOnlineLearning).

**5. Collective Bargaining:** 48/61 bargaining units have settled in 2018/20 round. List Bargaining set to begin with TEBA after Thanksgiving. The Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) conducted a follow-up survey (SEP 14-27) to the bargaining survey that the Association administered in the spring. This survey contained a subset of questions from the original survey. Most notably, CTBC re-surveyed members about issues where answers are likely to have changed in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the survey asked school leaders and substitute teachers some questions driven by their experiences dealing with COVID-19.

Brown sent OH&S survey out to all superintendents to respond in terms of how they are meeting COVID protocols. Responsibility for keeping schools clean falls on the board, not teachers.

**6. Table Officers:** All teachers' conventions and Association events to be held virtually going forward. All meetings of Council and Council committee meetings to be conducted virtually. Members of PEC will attend all ATA subgroup events virtually – if attendance is required (negotiations, conducting invitation) Council members must observe all necessary precautions. The "preferred and default" option for all subgroup events is to meet virtually. Any such meetings taking place in congregated setting must comply with all directives from CMOH, as well as the province, municipality, and school authority. In-person attendance must be voluntary with provisions made for virtual attendance.

Any field members applying for committees should let their DR know, so DR can cross-reference on the list of those who have applied, that the names of applicants from their district are on the list.

Thursday, January 21, 2021 is scheduled as Nomination Day, with the PEC General Election taking place March 8-11.

Regional forums will be scheduled and organized by the Association for all candidates during the election period.

Home > 2021 PEC Election

**7. President's Schedule:** Schilling had 165 meetings and interviews on his official schedule from June through August. With the start of the school year, there is now a weekly Education Stakeholders Meeting (via phone) between Ms LaGrange, her deputy minister, her chief of staff and "the Alphabets" – ATA, AISCA, ASBA, ASBOA, ASCA, CASS, TAACPS. Dr. Hinshaw has attended once. President Schilling continues to present the seven priorities of the ATA, as well as the notion that members have been presented with a medical plan to be used in an educational setting. **He also stresses that we cannot normalize this situation.** Schilling would like to see regular face-to-face meetings with Ms LaGrange continue, as only four were held during 2019/20 school year.

**8. Canadian Teachers' Federation:** CTF is advocating with the federal government for teachers to have access to Form T2200 for income tax purposes.

**9. Curriculum:** The minister has committed to the Curriculum Working Groups being involved in future curriculum development, but, to date, no progress has been made. There is a substantial difference of opinion between the ministry and the ATA on how to move forward with implementation of the K-4 curriculum. The Association has huge concerns with Mr. Chris Champion as a ministry curriculum advisor due to remarks he has made regarding Canada's Indigenous population, as well as his lack of teaching experience at the K-12 level. Ministry has made PATs discretionary for boards, but diploma exams mandatory. The ATA is stressing the need for all standardized testing to be suspended for

this school year. School councils could make ministry aware of parents' wishes, if at odds with the ministry's stance that parents want their children to be assessed.

**10. (CAPEC) Communications, Advocacy, and Public Education Committee:** Important for public sector to stay united.

**11. Strategic Planning Group:** Fall Planning Meeting will be held virtually. Locals reminded to submit reports and receipts in order to receive SP grants.

**12. Pension, Benefits, and Insurance:** Part of this new committee will be seven field members who are *not* TW Chairs – four current Pensions Committee field members will remain, with three new members being sought.

**13. Resolutions:** Committee will present for Councils' consideration at its February meeting a draft report on district boundaries and representation for submission to the 2021 ARA, consistent with the requirements of Bylaw 36. Calgary District and Edmonton District DRs will ask Committee to consider changing the names of these two districts to something that more clearly reflects their environs.

**14. Nakaska:** Teacher workloads are a huge concern. What are members doing to plan strategically this year? Most in traditional classrooms are operating under both Scenarios 1 and 3, as they support students learning at home who have been quarantined, or are ill, but still able to work, in addition to teaching the students arrayed in front of them. What can you do to work smarter, not harder, so as to not increase your workload? What can you do to be prepared to switch to Scenario 3 overnight? Do you have emergency sub plans ready in the event of your own illness? Online teachers have seen their numbers and workloads increase exponentially. They must have the same protections afforded to them in the Collective Agreement as those who work in traditional classrooms.

**15. Mental Health Supports** Albertans are facing challenging times. Teachers in Alberta have access to a variety of supports and resources to help them. One of these supports is access to the Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP). The EFAP is available to members and their dependents as a part of their group health benefits plan in their collective agreements. Teachers who are in need of assistance with managing the many facets of life's stresses, including career related, financial, and family related stress, can access confidential support through the EFAP. Support for teachers and family members struggling with the emotional toll brought by the pandemic are also readily available.

Teachers with ASEBP group health benefits (including teachers in Calgary Public) can contact Homewood Health:

- Homewood Health e-Ap (search "e-Ap" in your phone's app store)
  - English contact numbers
  - French contact numbers
  - 1-800-663-1142
  - 1-866-398-9505
  - TTY: 1-888-384-1152
  - ATS : 1-866-433-3305
  - International (call collect): 604-689-1717
  - Appels internationaux (frais virés acceptés) :514-875-0720

Rocky View Teachers—Manulife at 1-844-880-9142 [www.workhealthlife.com](http://www.workhealthlife.com)

Mental health is as important as physical health. Please take of yourself so you can take care of others. **#WEAREATA**

**Wear #RedFor Ed on Fridays!**

**For Further Reading**

- **UCP Policy Resolutions for OCT AGM:** <https://bit.ly/2GyzuwQ> (Read 17, 23, and 28, in particular.)
- *Alberta Teachers Responding to COVID-19: Pandemic Research Study Initial Report:* <https://bit.ly/2Z0Vm9F>
- *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2020/21 School Year:* <https://bit.ly/2BvdIwT>
- *Bill 15, Choice in Education Act, 2020:* <https://bit.ly/3fRlv0d>

**How to stay informed?**

**Provincial Website:** <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Twitter:** @albertateachers

**Facebook:** @ABteachers