



DR Report for Calgary District – February 2021
Barnett House: 1-800-232-7208 SARO: 1-800-332-1280

Karen.Nakaska@ata.ab.ca



[@nakaskak](https://twitter.com/nakaskak)



[@nakaskak.dr](https://www.facebook.com/nakaskak.dr)

FEBRUARY District Representative Activities – ZOOM		
<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>	FEB 1	Strategic Planning Group
	FEB 2	Foothills CSR
	FEB 3	Canadian Rockies TW
	FEB 6	Local Presidents
	FEB 9	Foothills TW
	FEB 9, 17	VP Election Forum
	FEB 10	Canadian Rockies CSR
	FEB 11	RV Executive
	FEB 9-12	CTF “Youth Resilience in the Digital Age” Conference
	FEB 22-23	PEC
	FEB 22	RV TW
	FEB 22	CtR Constitutional Review
	FEB 23	Foothills Executive
	FEB 25	RV CSR

1. Executive Secretary: Electoral Ballots 2 and 3 received unanimous support – amend General Bylaw 4 to include Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Cultural Advisors and noncertificated educators employed by First Nations school authorities as those granted Associate Membership Eligibility; and amend General Bylaw 12 so that administration of alternate professional development requests be granted permission by the Association and not individual convention boards

2. Government: Table Officers met with CASS to discuss a number of issues including contract tracing being done by school leaders and the ATA discipline process.

Member Opinion Survey is open until 2021 03 08: <https://surveys.teachers.ab.ca/s3/OpenMOS21>

From September to January, the ATA Library circulated 1,018 items to teachers from and 245 teachers created new library accounts. Further, 459 new items were added to the collection. The library added 18 new web guides (6 in English and 12 in French) since the fall and these guides contain the migrated content from the former 2Learn website. The ATA has partnered with the U of A’s Faculty of Education to launch the Signature Collaborations Grant Programme to encourage the co-development of research collaborations between U of A faculty and Alberta teachers. This partnership contributes to the Association’s fostering of a research centre network focused on developing teacher leadership and advancing research in Alberta that supports the interests of the teaching profession. In addition, each grant application encourages the articulation of knowledge dissemination to Alberta teachers, thereby building the expert knowledge base of the profession. On 2020 12 18, three research projects selected for funding: *Mamâhtâwihew: Returning to Métis and Cree Aunties’ and Kokum’s Wisdom in Response to the Calls for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Joining Forces to Tackle Reading Difficulties Caused by COVID-19; Becoming Albertan: Youth Political Identity Formation.* ASCA has moved back into Barnett House! The ATA has welcome them in, gratis, as a way to support them in light of 75% of their funding being cut. They previously had been housed with CASS and ASBA.

3. Teacher Employment Services: Alberta Education’s Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy deals with accountability and continuous professional growth and ensures that a teacher’s professional practice is under ongoing supervision. The policy defines the process and the TQS defines the competencies for professional practice. The *Teacher Growth, Supervision, and Evaluation Workshop* provides a review for administrators of their critical role in the process and the duties they must perform as outlined in the Education Act, Alberta Education’s Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy and the LQS. A virtual version of the two-day workshop has been developed.

Interpersonal relations, employment information, and employer action are the top three call trends to Barnett House and SARO, with the call complexity and duration increasing. **Members are reminded that if called into a meeting, they should ask, “Is this disciplinary?” and if it is, they have the right to ATA representation.**

4. Professional Development: Beginning Teachers Conference was held over two Saturdays in January, with 401 teachers registered for the event. Specialist council booths were on display virtually for the entire conference, providing the opportunity for teachers to read about their supports. Frequent comments included an appreciation for the great strategies and practical tools that can be utilized immediately in the classroom.

The UCP government's platform included a commitment to update the *2004 Standards for Special Education* to reflect new technologies and practices, to ensure accountability for quality inclusive education and to protect a vision of parental choice. In response to this platform commitment, a draft of *Standards for an Inclusive Education System* has been developed. These standards have a new name, as special education is not referenced in the *Education Act*. September 2021 is the anticipated public release date.

Online teachers' conventions are underway. Convention boards and staff have worked hard to prepare speakers, moderators and members to participate effectively in online conventions.

This school year thus far, 305 ATA workshops have been booked at schools, local professional development days, teachers' conventions and specialist council conferences. Over the course of the year, four new workshops were developed or revised: *Mental Health 101*, *Making the Most of a Teaching life—How to Be Well and Stay Well*, *Classroom Management— Beyond the Basics*, and *Creativity—Our Next Generation Depends on It*.

5. TES – Collective Bargaining: 58/61 bargaining units settle in the 2018-20 round of bargaining. Unsettled bargaining units are experiencing difficulties in reaching a negotiated agreement.

TES - Collective Bargaining, has implemented a new process to better serve members experiencing difficulties with sick leave and/or EDB. Members will contact and speak with an intake officer (similar to that of the Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan claims processor). The intake officer will triage the member's call, determine the issue, where the problem might lie, how the program area can help, and provide the member with information about the next steps.

6. Table Officers: The Second Languages and Intercultural Council (SLIC) and the Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium (ERLC) partner to co-host six online PD sessions for teachers across Alberta. The title of the series is: *Do You Speak Tech? Pandemic Edition for Teachers of a Second Language*. The cost for this series will be \$1,800 with SLIC contributing \$400 and ERLC contributing the remaining \$1,400. Upon completion of the series, SLIC will be authorized to post the session recordings on its website until at least 2021 12 31. The titles & dates for the series are: February 18: Technology & Second Language Teachers; Feb 24: Apps, Extensions & Add-ons, Oh My!; Mar 3: Google Classroom Ninja Training; Mar 11: YouTube Generation; Mar 17: Getting' With It (Social Media); Mar 24: The New Normal

7. Curriculum: Committee members expressed concern/frustration around:

- The lack of new references in a modern curriculum. The guiding framework hints that there will be a standard list of texts, will these be released along with the curriculum? Will there be a bibliography or reference as well as an explanation around how these texts were selected?
- Will the curriculum include scope & sequence and will there be things that have to be taught at certain/specific times?
- Teachers don't think they will be ready and don't have confidence in the new curriculum and have expressed a low level of trust in the curriculum process. Will resources be identified before classroom validation? Will there be a guarantee that resources will be in place prior to full implementation? Will there be funding to boards for the purchase of resources?

The ATA continue to develop resources to support teachers and school leaders with the establishment of inclusive learning environments. Many of the resources were developed in collaboration with the Association's Council for Inclusive Education, such as the newly developed resource series, *Common Threads for Inclusive Education*, and the *Establishing Inclusive Learning Environments Guide*.

Pulse Survey 2020 11 23-27 findings: 1/3 teachers have been quarantined and/or isolated due to COVID-19 infections or exposures. 1/4 school leaders have been quarantined and/or isolated due to COVID-19 infections or exposures. 64% of teachers state that many students in their classes are struggling with learning. 82% of teachers state that student assessment practices are a challenge in the pandemic. 9/10 teachers do not think that Alberta schools will be ready to implement new programs of study in September 2021 and have no confidence in the new processes for curriculum development just introduced by the minister of education.

Plans are being considered for a curriculum event to be held in May. The theme and structure could be decided once there is more information and the K-6 documents have been released by the Government.

8. President: Hectic schedule of meetings and interviews (465 since July 2019) on a wide variety of subjects – vaccinations for education workers, curriculum development, and salary/pension are key issues.

9. Strategic Planning: Deadline for Strategic Planning Grant, providing subgroups with up to \$2,000 each to offset the costs of strategic planning activities to discuss their plans and set long-term goals has been extended to 2021 04 01.

10. Resolutions: Locals will soon have ARA Resolutions for study and pre-vote. 2021 04 16 deadline for return of local vote on resolutions. 2021/2022 Proposed Budget Online Survey must be received by **2021 03 05 (5pm)**.

11. Teacher Education and Certification: Some faculties of education having difficulties placing practicing teachers, but those who do have a practicum placement have had a great experience. Teachers are very thankful for the students when they are in the classroom and universities are extremely grateful for the learning experiences for their students. PD corps continues to update resources including Indigenous education, Inclusive education and DEHR resources. This can be found on the ATA website.

12. Substitute Teachers: Copies of the memorandums from the Substitute Teachers Committee to locals, superintendents and school representatives encouraging involvement and providing suggestions for initiatives during **Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week – March 08-12** – have been mailed to schools. Advertisements will be published in the ATA News in editions 8 and 9 as well as Facebook and Twitter and the website carousel.

13. Women in Leadership: There is need for discussions with the ATA's Council of School Leaders (CSL) to work together in the promotion and support of leadership for women. Collaboration between WIL & CSL will reduce conflict, overlap and competition between the groups and, through cooperation, support each other's activities. Speaker Series has been successful and available on Members Only section of website.

Summit 2021 03 06: <https://surveys.teachers.ab.ca/s3/Women-in-Leadership-Summit-2021>

14. ASEBP: Changing the Early Retirement Plan, offering Core Option and Enhance Option

15. Benefits, Insurance, and Pension: Rod Matheson (Chief Executive Officer), ATRF, presented the 2020 Annual Report. Matheson reported rapid growth in the assets of the plan. Plan net assets increased from \$18.1 billion to \$19.3 billion over the last year. The ATRF continues to work with the legislated IMA document as best as they can to ensure proper analysis and follow through. The GOA continues to state that the plans would preserve full control of investment strategies. ATRF will continue to try to get AIMCo back to the table to complete the IMA. The legislated MO was not a positive outcome for the ATRF, however, it will be in place and interpretation concerning how to operate under the MO will have to happen. <https://www.handsoffmypension.ca/> and <https://www.handsoffmypension.ca/promises-made>
Johnson/Morgex: Intact has made an official bid to purchase Johnson Inc's parent company in the United Kingdom. Intact is a Canadian corporation that is extremely well capitalized, interested in the Johnsons brand and looking to invest. Johnson stated that this was good for customers and Johnson/Morgex. Intact holds many insurance products that Johnson cannot currently provide, including motorcycle insurance. Capital Estate Planning: 2020 was a good year despite the conditions. The plans' year to year growth continues to increase. Portfolio funds are doing what they were designed to do by controlling risk when there are significant market shifts.

16. Political Engagement: 2021 School Board Elections Plan focuses on four main activities: a provincial website and targeted online advertising campaign; supports for local activities; general promotion of school board elections using existing communication channels; and follow-up work with new trustees. In particular, the plan envisions a post-election province-wide orientation for trustees to the work of the Association. The empathy campaign is ongoing and will be ramping up more now that we are into the new year. Member-to-Member Organizing – 15 volunteers were recruited and trained on how to use the text messaging tool. From those 15 people, 4000 contacts were made and about 500 completions were achieved. One of the most valuable things we get from this activity is members' email addresses. The goal now is to recruit another group of volunteers who will continue the work of gaining additional contacts.

Alberta Counsel has been very helpful with the pensions campaign work as well as on Bill 32 consultations.

Political Engagement Seminar – 2021 03 12 –13. The event will feature Economist Jim Stanford who will give insight into the economics of the COVID-19 recovery.

17. Central Table Bargaining Committee: CTBC has met with TEBA several times to work on list bargaining. Many matters remain outstanding with respect to placement on the 2020 List of Central and Local Matters. These list matters left outstanding have been referred to arbitration.

PEC Election – March 8-11: GET OUT THE VOTE!! <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/Campaigns/PEC-Elections/Voter-Information/Pages/Voting.aspx>

Interested in serving on an ATA provincial committee for the next school year? Vacancies for the 2021/22 committee year have been posted in the Members Only section of the ATA website: <https://bit.ly/2Z8n0BR> (April 15 deadline)

Wear #RedForEdAB on Fridays!

How to stay informed?

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

Twitter: @albertateachers

Facebook: @ABteachers

Inclusive Education Resources

- Establishing Inclusive Learning Environments Guide:

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Inclusive-Education/Collaborative-Professional-Learning-Activities/Pages/index.aspx>

- Common Threads for Inclusive Education:

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Inclusive-Education/Pages/Building-Professional-Capacity.aspx>

- Inclusion Framework and Research:

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Inclusive-Education/Pages/Inclusion-Framework-&-Research.aspx>

- Diversity and Inclusion LibGuides: <https://teachers-ab.libguides.com/diversity>

- Council for Inclusive Education: <https://www.cieducation.ca/>

Digital Safety and Education Resources from CTF Digital Resilience Conference

- CTF Youth Resilience in the Digital Age: <https://digitalresilience.ca/>

- Need Help Now - <https://needhelpnow.ca/app/en/>

- Canada's National Tipline for Reporting the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children: <https://www.cybertip.ca/>

- Promoting Relationships & Eliminating Violence Network: <https://www.prevnet.ca/>

- Red Cross – Violence, Bullying & Abuse Prevention: <https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/violence-bullying-and-abuse-prevention>

- Canadian Centre for Child Protection: <https://protectchildren.ca/en/>

- Protect Kids Online: <https://protectkidsonline.ca/app/en/>

- Online Safety: <https://www.actua.ca/en/onlinesafety/>

- Canada's Centre for Digital & Media Literacy: <https://mediasmarts.ca/> and <https://checkthenshare.ca/>

- Kids in the Know: <https://www.kidsintheknow.ca/app/en/>

- TELUS Wise: <https://www.telus.com/en/wise>

- Common Sense Education: <https://www.common sense.org/education/teaching-strategies/turn-students-into-fact-finding-web-detectives>

- TinEye (reverse image search): <https://tineye.com/>