



DR Report for Calgary District – May/June 2021
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MAY/JUNE 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 style="text-align: right;">(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	<p>MAY 3-4 CTF Women’s Symposium</p>
	<p>MAY 4 Governance</p>
	<p>MAY 4 Foothills AGM/CSR</p>
	<p>MAY 5 Strategic Planning Group</p>
	<p>MAY 5 Clear Water Academy TW</p>
	<p>MAY 6/7 PEC</p>
	<p>MAY 10 ARA Parliamentary Procedures</p>
	<p>MAY 11 Foothills TW</p>
	<p>MAY 11 Christ the Redeemer TW</p>
	<p>MAY 12 Canadian Rockies CSR</p>
	<p>MAY 13 AES Selection Committee</p>
	<p>MAY 13 Rocky View CSR</p>
	<p>MAY 17 Rocky View TW</p>
	<p>MAY 17 ARA Budget/Finance 101</p>
	<p>MAY 20 AES Interviews</p>
	<p>MAY 21 Local Presidents’ Meeting</p>
	<p>MAY 22-24 ARA</p>
	<p>MAY 22 PEC Emergent</p>
	<p>MAY 25 CTBC Distributed Education Discussion Group</p>
	<p>MAY 26 Invitation</p>
	<p>MAY 26 Christ the Redeemer AGM/CSR</p>
	<p>MAY 27 PDTCA Executive</p>
	<p>MAY 28 Finance</p>
	<p>MAY 29 PDTCA Board</p>
	<p>MAY 31 Curriculum Circle</p>
	<p>June 1 Political Engagement</p>
	<p>June 2 Canadian Rockies AGM</p>
	<p>June 3 Rocky View AGM/CSR/Executive</p>
	<p>June 3 June Planning</p>
	<p>June 8 Foothills TW</p>
<p>June 9 CTF</p>	
<p>June 10/11 PEC</p>	
<p>June 10 RW POLEC</p>	
<p>June 11 PDTCA Executive</p>	
<p>June 14 RV TW / RV Table Officers</p>	
<p>June 17 RV Executive</p>	
<p>June 21 Outreach Education Council</p>	

1. Government – Public Interest Alberta (PIA) and its marketing agency, Sticks and Stones, have won the 2020 Advertising Club of Edmonton Award in the Not-for-Profit Video Over 2 Minutes category. The award-winning video One Kid asks, “how much child poverty are we okay with?”, and then describes the impacts of poverty on one child and on society more broadly. It makes an effective point: if one child in poverty is unacceptable, how do we allow one in six children in Alberta to live in poverty? This campaign was funded almost exclusively by the Association through an annual \$10,000 grant to PIA to fund campaigns to tackle child poverty. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGhL23OytA>

The fifth pandemic pulse (rapid research) survey was conducted during the last week of April 2021, when Alberta was engulfed in a third acute wave of the pandemic. Alberta teachers, school leaders and staff were working in the worst
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coronavirus outbreak in North America, with an active COVID-19 case rate in the province of 534 per 100,000 people, more than twice the Canadian average and one of the most serious in the world. This study and all previous pandemic research studies are located online at <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/COVID19/2020-School-Re-entry/Pages/Teacher-Pandemic-Pulse-Survey-Results--Fall-2020.aspx>

Substitute Teachers Study: Knowing more about the experiences of substitute teachers is critical to building effective policy supports for their professional lives to enable substitute teachers to better fulfill their essential role within the public school system. The report can be accessed at <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Public%20Education/EducationResearch/Pages/ResearchPublications.aspx>

Two new Association research briefs have been developed on the topics of compassion fatigue (summary of the first two study phases) and essential conditions for curriculum implementation are located at <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Public%20Education/EducationResearch/Pages/ResearchBriefs.aspx>

Education International (EI), the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF-FCE) and the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) named Dr Philip McRae as one of eight worker representatives to the United Nations' International Labour Organization's (ILO) technical meeting on the future of work in the education sector. Overall, some very positive recommendations emerged for the future of the profession of teaching, specifically that "Education is not a commodity; it is a fundamental human right and a public good and a public responsibility. Quality education, including life-long learning, should be equitable and accessible for all, including through technology." The biggest challenge, however, is the global advancement of privatization of education systems around the world. The employer group expressed desire to introduce vouchers and public private partnerships, and called on governments around the world to provide guaranteed funding for private schools and partners. Much of this was negotiated out by the workers group, but the calls showed the relentlessness of the privatization movement.

2. Professional Development – All 2022 Teachers' Conventions will be held virtually on their assigned dates.

Convention planning is a monumental task and involves a lot of moving pieces – speakers, vendors, facilities – all requiring contracts to be signed. As such, planning for a virtual convention has no risks in terms of logistics, finances, or COVID. Post-convention surveys following the 2021 online conventions indicated a very high degree of satisfaction from teachers across the province. The nine convention boards had indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to plan for another online event. Since there is no way of knowing where we will be with this pandemic during the 2022 Convention Season, planning for virtual conventions is the most prudent decision that can be made at this time.

The Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Circle, provided feedback on the draft K–6 curriculum, expressing grave concerns about the failure to include First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members and organizations throughout the entire curriculum development process, rather than after the release of the draft curriculum. Numerous objections to the draft curriculum included, but are not limited to the following: concerns for the lack of transparency in the curriculum development process, including the incorporation of gathered feedback; piloting the draft curriculum during a pandemic; absence of resources and professional development to support the draft curriculum; and an inadequate timeline to support the implementation.

Inclusive Education in Alberta Classrooms and Schools, 2021: Staff and the Association's Council for Inclusive Education will work on knowledge mobilization of the key findings, highlights and recommendations from the research report in fall 2021. The report is available on the Association's webpage at:

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

3. TES, Services Program – Members continue to call with questions largely related to employment information, interpersonal relations/staff, and employer action.

4. TES, Collective Bargaining – Worth Talking About documents containing information for teachers continue to be published on the Association website: <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/membersonly/CollectiveBargainingUpdates/Worth-TalkingAbout/Pages/index.aspx>

The Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) has now held 17 of the 19 focus groups that were scheduled between 2021 05 10 and 2021 06 08. The focus groups are to provide further feedback on issues that have been identified as priorities in the bargaining needs surveys and are part of the validation process for the central table bargaining mandate. List bargaining arbitration is currently ongoing.

5. Table Officers – Table Officers Committee considered the province’s staged timelines in relation to the directives and directions they had put in place for Council and Subgroups at their 2020 09 25 meeting. At its 2021 06 11 meeting, Table Officers Committee considered the province’s staged timelines in relation to those directives and directions, and authorized that these emergency governance directives will end **four weeks after the start** of Stage Three of the Government of Alberta’s “Open for Summer Plan.”

Additionally, previous decisions made to host an upcoming conference, convention, meeting, activity, or event, in a virtual format shall remain in a virtual format. This means that Beginning Teachers’ Conference (SEP), Substitute Teachers’ Conference (OCT), Women in Leadership Summit (MAR), and all 2022 Teachers’ Conventions will be held **virtually.**

Members’ Handbook will be revitalized and modernized and available only on the website, no more print copies.

6. Finance – The new Business Solutions Team is focusing efforts on optimizing TQS processes to allow for online application submissions. This is a milestone for ITS as it will be the first real collaborative business process driven effort ITS has embarked on utilizing the new Business Analyst roles created in October 2020. Oh has been working with Yellow Pencil on new website with a focus on how to roll out more digital services to members.

7. President – Schilling continues a full schedule of meetings and interviews. He advocates on wide range of issues affecting teachers and the profession – curriculum, COVID protocols, safe return to school Fall 2021 – including improvements to ventilation. Zoom meetings have allowed him to get to more local meetings, including CSRs and AGMS.

8. Strategic Planning – Results of Member Opinion Survey well-used by committees and various departments

9. Substitute Teachers – Conference will be held virtually OCT 22/23, due to the uncertainty of future public health restrictions for large gatherings due to COVID-19. The online format of the conference is more accessible for substitute teachers from all regions in Alberta.

10. Women in Leadership – 2021 Summit well received, but attendees felt virtual offering did not allow for as much engagement as desired. The summit will be virtual for 2022, with the possibility of a Summit Speaker Series. Several items that could be helpful for local committees: the usefulness of the sample Frame of Reference for Locals, availability or Summit session recordings, and making the provincial website more accessible for the local committees.

11. DEHR – Important to educate members and the public about the Association’s DEHR policies as well as help them understand the ever-shifting language of diversity, equity and inclusion work. New Safe Spaces, Pronouns and Pride materials are now available. Over 220 orders were received in the week following ARA, most as a result of promotion on the Association Professional Development social media channels. All materials have already been reordered to meet the huge demand from the field.

A research project entitled “Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation - Continuing the Learning Journey, 2021” is being conducted in cooperation with CASS. It considers the recruitment and support of Indigenous teachers, school leaders and system leaders. Indigenous teachers and leaders were invited to participate in an online survey and online focus groups to provide feedback on hiring practices, recruitment and retention, and to share reflections on racism and discrimination encountered. This project is more than just gathering data; it will consider what to do with the data and how it will inform Association programs and supports in the years ahead.

On 2021 05 27, the Government announced a new Child and Youth Well-Being Review. The news release about the panel said that the panel will work to understand the full scope of the psychological, social, educational and physical impacts resulting from and related to the COVID-19 pandemic on children and youth. The panel will learn from researchers, educators, health-care professionals and mental health experts, as well as Alberta parents and kids. It will then provide recommendations to government in the fall of 2021, to help support young people both now and into the future. The panel is being operated under the purview of the Ministry of Children’s Services, not Education. Albertans are invited to share their thoughts with the panel through a survey, which is available until 2021 07 31 at: <https://www.alberta.ca/child-and-youth-well-being-review>

12. Benefits, Insurance, and Pension – ASEBP premium rate increase is largely due to the pandemic and its impact on investment markets which caused an accelerated depletion of the excess investments that were being used for premium subsidies.

The new MyRetiree plan comes into effect 2021 07 01. Retirement benefits will be available to those both pre- and post-age 65 with a transition from the member’s current employer plan. ASEBP sees this as a growth opportunity for them while providing ASEBP coverage for members for their entire teaching career and retirement. *Any former connection with ASEBP will allow the member to purchase the new plan even if they have been out of ASEBP.* The MyRetiree plan design includes life insurance for those under age 65, vision care, core & enhanced extended health options depending on member needs and prescription drug and travel coverage that will vary with age. Dental core and enhanced options are available and must be selected at the time of enrolment (may be added later if the member currently has other coverage). The existing retiree plans will be managed until all members have advanced to other plans.

13. Communications, Advocacy, and Public Education (CAFEC) – The Association will undertake a process of research and engagement with advertising agencies to develop a revised Fall 2021 campaign that would build a strong, visible alliance of parents and teachers in defence of public education.

14. Political Engagement – School Board Elections Plan: www.vote4kids.ca School Trustees will be asked to submit their platforms for inclusion on the website. LPEOs will be asked to encourage candidates to submit their details. It was hoped that Student Vote may also provide some support or involvement but the timing with a possible federal election made it impossible for them to participate.

Empathy Campaign – the campaign has shifted to focus exclusively on concerns around the draft curriculum. Summer conference is being structured differently this year and LPEOs are invited to join summer conference as they missed the opportunity to attend last year. Two sessions will be offered for LPEOS. Other sessions will be offered to both the LPEOs and Local Communication Officers (LCOs). Some ideas raised for session topics included how to handle dissenting opinions/have difficult conversations, the upcoming changes to the provincial website, talking points on certain hot button issues, and a session on how to have those conversations

15. National Indigenous People’s Month: The Association has fantastic resources on *Indigenous Education* and *Walking Together*: <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/IndigenousEducationandWalkingTogether/Pages/WalkingTogether.aspx>

Wear #RedForEdAB on Fridays!

How to stay informed?

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

Twitter: @albertateachers

Facebook: @ABteachers

Follow nakaskak.dr on Facebook for updates between DR reports. *Even during the summer!*

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