



**DR Report for Calgary District – April/May 2021**  
**Barnett House: 1-800-232-7208 SARO: 1-800-332-1280**

[Karen.Nakaska@ata.ab.ca](mailto:Karen.Nakaska@ata.ab.ca)



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



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

<b>MARCH/APRIL District Representative Activities – ZOOM</b>	
<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 style="text-align: right;">(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	<p><b>APR 6</b> PDTCA Contract Review</p>
	<p><b>APR 7</b> CTF</p>
	<p><b>APR 12/13</b> PEC</p>
	<p><b>APR 13</b> Foothills CSR</p>
	<p><b>APR 14</b> Rocky View Political Engagement</p>
	<p><b>APR 15</b> Rocky View Executive</p>
	<p><b>APR 17</b> CBC</p>
	<p><b>APR 19</b> CTR Constitutional Update</p>
	<p><b>APR 19</b> Rocky View TW</p>
	<p><b>APR 20</b> Foothills TW</p>
	<p><b>APR 21</b> Canadian Rockies CSR</p>
	<p><b>APR 22</b> Finance</p>
	<p><b>APR 22</b> Canadian Rockies TW</p>
	<p><b>APR 23</b> Spring Convention Meeting</p>
	<p><b>APR 23/24</b> DEHR/PDAC</p>
	<p><b>APR 26</b> ARA 101</p>
	<p><b>APR 27</b> Foothills Executive/Induction</p>
	<p><b>APR 28</b> Finance</p>
	<p><b>APR 28</b> PDTCA Remuneration</p>
	<p><b>APR 29</b> Governance</p>
	<p><b>APR 29</b> Rocky View CSR</p>
	<p><b>APR 29</b> Rocky View ARA Emergent</p>
	<p><b>APR 30</b> LPEO Meeting</p>
	<p><b>MAY 3-4</b> CTF Women’s Symposium</p>
<p><b>MAY 4</b> Governance</p>	
<p><b>MAY 4</b> Foothills AGM/CSR</p>	
<p><b>MAY 5</b> Strategic Planning Group</p>	
<p><b>MAY 5</b> Clear Water Academy TW</p>	
<p><b>MAY 6/7</b> PEC</p>	
<p><b>MAY 6</b> Clear Water Academy BUGM</p>	

**1. Government – Compassion Fatigue, Emotional Labour And Educator Burnout Study—Phase Two Report** The two-year Compassion Fatigue, Emotional Labour, and Educator Burnout Study—the result of a research partnership between the Association, the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan (ASEBP) and the University of Calgary—is a mixed-method study featuring three distinct phases of data collection. The draft phase two features results derived from 52 interviews conducted with education workers across the education sector, including teachers, school leaders, system leaders and educational assistants. <https://bit.ly/3nVrTtu>

A project, *Educational Leadership at the Intersections of Gender*, led by Dr Elissa Corsi and Dr Samira El Atia will commence in early summer 2021. The project team includes academics from the University of Alberta, Campus Saint Jean; Association executive staff; the College of Alberta School Superintendents; and the Intersections of Gender signature area of the University of Alberta. The team includes interdisciplinary senior and junior academics in the field of education, gender studies, data acquisition and economics, with a track record of teacher-based research. The project’s goals and anticipated outcomes, are to

- establish baseline data regarding the participation of women and the intersections of gender in educational leadership;
- investigate the lived experiences of women in educational leadership to determine the effects of family leaves, intersectionality and caregiving responsibilities on the entrance, progression and exit from leadership

roles; • co-create policies and administrative procedures that will remove the barriers for career progression for women in educational leadership in Alberta • develop a data acquisition model that will allow stakeholders to continue to document the gains of women in leadership in Alberta.

**2. Teacher Employment Services** – In Alberta’s occupational health and safety (OHS) legislation, teachers are considered workers, the principal is the supervisor, and the school division is the employer. The Occupational Health and Safety Act does not define or determine appropriate assignments or tasks for teachers to complete—only that the work that happens at the school must be done in a safe and healthy manner. Legislation defines the obligations of the parties at the worksite. Teachers have a role in ensuring the safety of themselves and others at the worksite, including participating in the hazard assessment creation, and reporting health and safety concerns to the site supervisor as soon as possible. If the health and safety concern is not addressed, a complaint can be filed. A complaint is for reporting unhealthy or unsafe conditions at a workplace. Anyone can file a complaint about unhealthy or unsafe conditions. Reporting unsafe work occurs when a worker believes that an unsafe or harmful work site, condition or act exists or has occurred. The teacher (worker) must report the unsafe or harmful work site condition to the school division (employer) or principal (supervisor). If unsure of the best way to proceed, please contact Teacher Employment Services (TES) at 1-800-232-7208 or the OHS Contact Centre. Log in for further details:<https://bit.ly/3dHf6Y9>

**3. Professional Development** – When the Learning Resources Distribution Centre (LRDC) closed in 2013/14, the province was without a central purchaser and distributor for instructional materials. The Online Reference Centre (ORC), a grant-funded program operated by the Alberta Library, attempted to fill this gap by identifying, licensing and sharing digital resources for use in K–12 classrooms, at no cost to school divisions. At a time when Government is rushing towards piloting of its K–6 drafts in September 2021, and possible implementation the following year, not only is Government silent about its resourcing plans, but the defunding of the ORC creates a significant void for teachers whether they are working with the current programs of study or the new drafts. The Association will send a letter to the Minister of Education condemning the closure of the ORC.

The Curriculum Circle being hosted by the Association will take place on 2021 05 31. Thirteen Specialist Councils and the Diversity, Equity and Human rights Committee have received an invitation to provide the names of a select number of teachers to attend the Circle.

*Since the Minister released the draft curriculum to the public on 2021 03 29, 57/61 school boards in Alberta have stated publicly that they will not be piloting it in the 2021/22 school year according to information found on [studentsdeservebetter.ca](http://studentsdeservebetter.ca) In addition, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and 4 Treaty 7 First Nations have also indicated that they disapprove of the draft curriculum, particularly as it relates to Indigenous content, or lack thereof.*

The Association of Alberta Deans Education has created a website that will act as a repository for papers and articles written by Albert and Canadian academics regarding the draft K–6 curriculum. The site is intended for parents, teachers, school leaders and the general public: <https://alberta-curriculum-analysis.ca>  
Decision for 2021/22 Convention to be virtual or in-person tabled until June.

**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/WorthTalkingAbout/Pages/index.aspx>

**5. Table Officers** – A partnership between Le Conseil français and the University of Alberta, Campus Saint-Jean will engage on a project titled Assessment of Language Proficiency in French Immersion Schools: Etat de lieux for the 2021/22 council year and into the future. As part of research funded by the Ontario School Board

Association and supported by CSJ, the project aims to assess the needs and challenges faced by French Immersion and French as a Second Language teachers as a result of their current level of French language proficiency and comfort with the language. The project is being conducted to further explore French assessment and competency in relation to teacher recruitment and retention of teachers in these programs. **Summer Conference:** Tuesday, 2021 08 10, Block 1 will include the President's welcome and opening session followed by a keynote speaker focusing on current issues in education in Alberta. Block 2 will include "Hot Topics" relevant to the Association (ie; curriculum, pension, bargaining) followed by a Q&A. After lunch, Blocks 3 and 4 will include course-specific and "a la carte" general sessions such as Robert's Rules, event planning, communications, and social media. On Wednesday, 2021 08 11, Blocks 1 and 2 continue with the course-specific and "a la carte" general sessions. Following lunch, Block 3 is scheduled to include an "a la carte" general session for all attendees. Block 4 will include a closing keynote speaker focusing on the topic of wellness. Both LPEOs and PCOs have been authorized to attend 2021 Summer Conference, as well as extra delegates submitted by locals.

**6. Finance** – BDO Advisory Services presented their budget review plan for the upcoming three-year process. Their approach and timeline would be to start the current state assessment of the budgeting process between May and August 2021. They would prepare their recommendation to Finance Committee in the early fall. Once approved, the development of the budget process would begin and expect to be completed by next spring. The new budgeting process would be able to be in place for the 2022/23 budget year.

**7. President** – Schilling continues a full schedule of meetings and interviews. (361 interviews since July 8, 2020, 539 since becoming president. He advocates on wide range of issues affecting teachers and the profession.

**9. Benefits, Insurance, and Pension** –With the loss of the Retirement Consultants' corps, planning a new **2021/22 Pension Education Program** was necessary to ensure members across the province benefit. The 2021/21 program will include: 1. Pre-Retirement Workshops—three regional 6-hour virtual sessions will be offered to rural locals with one further "catchment" session for those teachers who were not able to attend one of the regional sessions. Urban locals will receive individual sessions (either in person or virtually). 2. Understanding Your Pension—presentations for early service members (2 evenings) will provide attendees with an understanding of their plan, teach them the value of their pension plan and teach them the value of planning for retirement early. 3. Self-care / Financial Care—exclusively for women (2 evenings). It is a known fact that women and men face different challenges in their lives and those challenges can have financial consequences. One additional factor is that women live longer than men and require more savings so as not to outlive their money. It should be noted that brief overviews of some of the topics covered in item number 3 above, are also available in both the Pre-Retirement Workshops and Understanding Your Pension presentation. The difference is that number 3 is a safe space to participate in an interactive workshop to improve women's financial literacy and confidence.

**10. Steering Committee** – ARA: SAT 0900-1730, SUN 0900-2130, MON 0900-1300; lots of door prizes from Morgex; Point of Information has been renamed Request for Information as per *Robert's Rules*

**11. Central Table Bargaining** – List bargaining arbitration is currently scheduled for June.

CTBC conducting focus groups to provide further feedback on issues that have been identified as priorities in the bargaining needs surveys. The focus groups are scheduled between 2021 05 10 and 2021 06 08. There will be 19 sessions: each session will have 12-15 attendees and the length of the session will be no more than 90 minutes. CTBC members will be paired off with staff officers in Collective Bargaining similar to the focus group format at the CBC. All sessions held in Zoom.

**Wear #RedForEdAB on Fridays!**

**How to stay informed?**

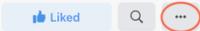
**Provincial Website:** <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/Pages/Home.aspx>

**Twitter:** @albertateachers

**Facebook:** @ABteachers

**Follow nakaskak.dr** on Facebook for updates between DR reports.

(Be sure to change your notifications on this Fb page to indicate you want all posts, or you will get only highlights.)

1. Click on the three dots in the navigation Bar on on the right-hand side of the page under the cover photo. 
2. Select **Follow Settings**.
3. Below **Notifications**, select what types of posts you want to be notified about: **Standard, Highlights, All Notifications** or **Off**.
4. Click **Update**.

## **CURRICULM**

Curriculum Analysis (Deans of Education)

<https://alberta-curriculum-analysis.ca/>

Curriculum Comparison – Current vs Draft

<https://bit.ly/3uDwa7q>

Albertans Reject Curriculum Draft

<https://www.studentsdeservebetter.ca/>

## **COVID-19 and Shifting to At-Home Learning**

The decision to approve a school board's request to shift to at-home learning for operational considerations is based on four criteria:

- A chronic substitute teacher shortage.
- A significant number of students and staff in quarantine or isolation.
- Recent requests from the board for short-term shifts for a number of their schools.
- Substantial COVID-19 cases in the community.

The COVID-19 school status map shows the current status of COVID-19 in K to 12 schools across Alberta.

<https://www.alberta.ca/schools/covid-19-school-status-map.htm?fbclid=IwAR1Scd0Qe5YpuKt3pduwxYJYemcl5TNGLaY0gHQnPzualckhfBjwHTb-y2w#toc-2>

COVID hotspot where expanded restrictions are in place, which triggers a move to at-home learning.

[https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0b7epIZlkpjZwYVMPj6Znlrym-mVI\\_yPV8a6p--OHLHL5yII2ImL-LSzQ#regions](https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0b7epIZlkpjZwYVMPj6Znlrym-mVI_yPV8a6p--OHLHL5yII2ImL-LSzQ#regions)