



DR Report for Calgary District – October 2021
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OCT 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>SEP 21 Christ the Redeemer TW</p>
	<p>SEP 21 CTBC Webcast</p>
	<p>SEP 22 Canadian Rockies CSR</p>
	<p>SEP 23 Rocky View AGM/CSR</p>
	<p>SEP 24 PEC Emergent</p>
	<p>SEP 27 Local Presidents</p>
	<p>SEP 28 Political Engagement Committee Provincial (POLEC)</p>
	<p>SEP 28 PEC Emergent</p>
	<p>OCT 1 PDTCA Executive</p>
	<p>OCT 1 Rocky View POLEC</p>
	<p>OCT 2 PDTCA Board</p>
	<p>OCT 5 Foothills CSR</p>
	<p>OCT 6 Rocky View POLEC</p>
	<p>OCT 7 Rocky View Executive</p>
	<p>OCT 12 Foothills TW</p>
	<p>OCT 13 Christ the Redeemer Executive</p>
	<p>OCT 15 POLEC Provincial</p>
	<p>OCT 18 Rocky View TW</p>
	<p>OCT 19 Foothills Constitution</p>
	<p>OCT 20 Canadian Rockies CSR</p>
<p>OCT 20 Rocky View ARA</p>	
<p>OCT 26 Foothills Executive and Induction</p>	
<p>OCT 28/29 Provincial Executive Council</p>	
<p>OCT 29/30 Local Presidents</p>	

2021 09 09 Memo from Executive Secretary Theobald:

The following COVID-19 directives apply immediately to all Association subgroups (locals, convention associations, specialist councils and committees) with respect to their meetings, activities and events until they are rescinded by motion of Table Officers Committee:

- 1. Recognizing the potential of subgroup events to bring teachers from multiple cohorts together, the preferred and default option is for subgroup events to be conducted virtually.**
- 2. Subgroup activities that might, contrary to the general direction provided, take place, partially or entirely, in congregated settings must comply with all orders, regulations and directives of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, regional medical officers of health, the province, the municipality and/or school authority and/or venue in which they are occurring; furthermore, such activities must comply with the following conditions:**
 - a. In-person attendance must be voluntary; and**
 - b. Provision to attend virtually must be made for individuals who choose to do so (with the expectation that Council members and Association staff will attend virtually).**

The Association’s goals in managing its response to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic are to mitigate risk to the health and wellbeing of staff and members as well as their families and school communities; maintain its capacity to provide critical services to members; and to limit the reputational risk to the Association that might result if an Association event or staff were to be a vector of infection.

1. Government – The ATA’s 6th pandemic pulse survey (and 7th overall ATA research study related to the pandemic) will be open in early November. This 6th survey will investigate—among other areas—vaccination status within the profession, impacts of diagnostic testing from the start of the school year, Provincial Achievement Tests/Diploma considerations for 2021/22, diversity of disruptions occurring in schools due to the public health emergency and fourth wave of COVID-19, impact on school leadership, a hope/hopelessness metric, and a measure of current considerations of attrition/retirement as compared to historical patterns.

2. Professional Development – Positive feedback from Beginning Teachers’ Conference.

In 2018 and 2019, the Association, in collaboration with researchers from the Community– University Partnership for the Study of Children, Youth, and Families at the University of Alberta, conducted a study to evaluate and better understand the impacts of the *Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation* professional learning project. Data was collected from teachers and school leaders to provide an update on the implementation of the Indigenous-focused competencies and indicators in Alberta’s TQS and LQS, as supported by the Walking Together project.

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/IndigenousEducationandWalkingTogether/Pages/Research.aspx>

Association PD staff officers have developed a series of complementary resources to support subgroups with planning and conducting hybrid meetings. The resources include a PDF booklet, a planning checklist, a narrated PowerPoint video and a sequence of social media posts.

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/For%20Members/Professional%20Development/Pages/%E2%80%8BOnline%20Education.aspx#Tips-for-Running-Successful-Hybrid-Meetings>

3. TES, Program Area – 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>

Local TW Frames of Reference will be amended to read “... wherever possible, given their role as the spokesperson for the local during negotiations and disputes, the local president should not be a member of the NSC.”

5. Table Officers – Financial contribution of \$3,500 allocated from International Assistance Periodic approved for disbursement to the Education International Solidarity Fund through CTF to assist trade unionists and teachers affected by the earthquake in Haiti.

Staff is currently working to promote and develop supports and services for school and district leaders as well as aspiring school leaders. Webpage highlighting services targeted to school leaders, hosted on Sched, will be updated regularly with all ATA events designed to support school leaders and aspiring school leaders. It will keep a detailed schedule of past and future school leader events for the year. <http://tiny.cc/ATALeadersPD> or <https://abschoolleaderspd.sched.com>

6. Central Table Bargaining – *ongoing*. Login to <https://www.teachers.ab.ca> for updates to the Bargainer’s Blog: My ATA >> Members Only >> Collective Bargaining Updates

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 including contact tracing, Stand for Education campaign, supports and resources required to fill learning gaps. Education Minister LaGrange has not met face-to-face with President Schilling since February 2021. October 13 was 650th interview since becoming president in July 2019.

8. Substitute Teachers – The Substitute Teachers Committee planned the first steps for realizing new policy 1.4.3.3. “Be it resolved that the Association create a virtual meeting for local substitute chairs.” October 22/23 Substitute Teachers’ Conference well received.

9. Indigenous Education: Committee discussed the medicine garden to be created in the courtyard of Barnett House. The conversation highlighted the following: committee is working with the Indigenous Advisory Circle regarding creating the garden, protocol and medicinal plants; will create signage for the plants in multiple languages, Barnett House staff working with committee to create and maintain the garden, opening ceremony will be held once it is safe to do so. To honour Orange Shirt Day at Alberta Education, the government awarded some grants to The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation <https://nctr.ca/>, The Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia (ARPDC) and <https://empoweringthespirit.ca/>

10. Benefits, Insurance, and Pension – Capital Estate will be launching two programs: Guaranteed Acceptance critical illness insurance will run from 2021 10 01 until 2021 11 30 and will require no medical. Applications can be made online and will be accepted automatically. The second program is the Group Life Plus program which will run from 2021 11 01 until 2021 12 31. This includes up to \$100,000 of coverage without an application process.

Watch for upcoming Moneytalk workshops: Q&A session is free and will be held 4:00–4:30

November 24, 2021: Register here: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ata-voluntary-benefits-gas-nov-24-tickets-170188451239?fbclid=IwAR1WLH5VRqicj0zjVFX69oJxr9_bB3SjbU7UVMeaulXNFcrM43_eglfj8

February 9, 2022: Register here: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ata-voluntary-benefits-gas-feb-9-tickets-170207191291?fbclid=IwAR1UQA66yhkmHfsoRDztWleRH5hAu7F_Oc6gdiXQQ2i4U0qMin70d-C9yxQ

11. Women in Leadership – The first 2-Speaker Series events have been finalized: 2021 10 25, 1630 and 2021 11 30.

Women in Leadership Summit March 2022. The two keynote speakers have been secured for the summit: Julieanne Wong—physician/scientist/pilot. Dr Wong is a pioneer in 3d printing solutions in remote areas (including space) to treat medical issues. Jessica Holmes—Royal Canadian Air Force—Depression and comedy as a relief. The theme for this year’s summit theme is WIL Lead Together with the hashtag of #WILLeadTogether.

Draft report—*Gender, COVID19 and Caregiving* Dr Julia Smith conducted research through focus groups during the 2021 WIL Summit and spring of 2021. Questions surrounded unpaid care hours and the effect they have on women and their professional lives.

12. Political Engagement – Activities in the school board election campaign included: creation of Vote4kids website, creation of candidate registration form integrated with Vote4kids website, creation of social media campaign with kick off the day after the federal election, additional LPEO meeting to update on school board election campaign, sharing of social media graphics with LPEOS, article on school board trustee elections in ATA news, assistance with the organization of local forums for trustees and newspaper ads, management and troubleshooting with website, messages sent to e-mail list registrants from the chair of the POLEC committee encouraging the vote in municipal and school board elections Stand For Education campaign underway.

13. Communications, Advocacy, and Public Education –The group received analytics from the World Teacher’s Day “Thanks Teachers” campaign. Despite Facebook being offline for the entire day of October 4, 2021, the ads received more than 13 million impression, 30,000 clicks, and 945 conversations. The website, www.thanksteachers.ca had 29 pages of messages to teachers.

The curriculum response has been a multi-phased project since January 2021. The overall goals of the entire project are to demonstrate teachers’ expertise in curriculum development, create affinity between teachers and Albertans, and empower teachers and Albertans to take action.

14. Diversity, Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) – The Vote Housing campaign was endorsed. On 2019 06 21, the Governor General signed into law Bill C-97, which contained the National Housing Strategy Act, and the federal right to housing legislation. This legislation is historic—it not only marks the first time that the Government of Canada has legally recognized an explicit right to housing, but it sets Canada apart as one of only a small handful of countries in the world with such legislation in place. It also marks the culmination of years of effort on the part of a multitude of stakeholders to ensure that this right became a legislated reality. Current Association policy (24.2.5.8), the Teaching Profession Act (4. b. iv) and the DEHR Committee Terms of Reference support the committee endorsing the Vote Housing campaign. The 2022 conference will be held virtually on 2022 04 08(eve)–09.

Ninth annual Student Gay–Straight Alliance (GSA) Conference would be held online on 2021 11 22–26 and registration will be opening shortly. Teachers are encouraged to join the mail list for additional information at fyreflys@ualberta.ca
A new working group, Status of Racialized Teachers has been approved and will report to the DEHR committee. The chair of this working group will be a member of this committee
Look for new CTF resource, *Affirming Gender Diversity* in most recent school mailout.

15. School Leaders Issues and Concerns (SLIC) – *The College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) Act* received royal assent, 2021 04 23 with full implementation in September 2022. The CASS Act recognizes superintendents and system leaders as having unique professional status within the field of education. The CASS Act makes the college a legislated organization responsible for upholding the superintendent profession and makes the college responsible for governance, leadership excellence and accountability.

16. Curriculum – Curriculum Analysis and Critique of Alberta Education’s 2021 Draft K–6 Curriculum Report

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Publications/Research/COOR-184%20Curriculum%20Response%20Report.pdf>

See infographic at end of report for key findings. Linked here:

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/News%20and%20Info/Issues/K-6-Curriculum/COOR-186%20Curriculum%20Report%20Key%20Findings%2009-23.pdf>

Which Boards Are Piloting?

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/0/d/1RECxk7HopT9GKLZ_uXZJtYyjuO0EvhfIE4kq_rDdGaE/htmlview

Three current curriculum-related jobs advertised by Alberta Education – no background in education required!

Research – share and use in your advocacy work!

Compassionate classrooms

[https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Quick%20Links/Publications/Other%20Publications/Compassionate%20Classrooms%20\(COOR-79e\).pdf](https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Quick%20Links/Publications/Other%20Publications/Compassionate%20Classrooms%20(COOR-79e).pdf)

Creating a Compassionate Classroom

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Publications/Human-Rights-Issues/COOR-79e%202015%202012.pdf>

Teacher Pandemic Pulse Surveys <https://www.teachers.ab.ca/COVID-19/2020-School-Re-entry/Pages/Teacher-Pandemic-Pulse-Survey-Results--Fall-2020.aspx>

Infographic 3rd Actue Wave of COVID 19 Spring 2021

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/News%20and%20Info/Issues/COVID-19/Infographic-Third-Acute-Wave-of-COVID-19-Spring-2021.pdf>

School Wellness and Well-Being Initiatives Across Canada

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/Publications/Research/COOR-101-27%20School%20Wellness%20and%20Well-being%20Initatives%20across%20Canada.pdf>

Resilience: Bouncing back from adversity

<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/News%20Room/The%20Learning%20Team/Volume18/Number-4/Pages/Resilience.aspx>

Heart Care Planning

<https://heartcareeducators.ca/>

Family Digital Wellness and Return to School 2020 <https://cmch.tv/wp-content/uploads/Family-Digital-Wellness-and-Return-to-School-2020.pdf>

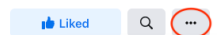
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KEY FINDINGS

Curriculum Analysis and Critique

The Alberta Teachers' Association's *Professional Curriculum Analysis and Critique of Alberta Education's 2021 Draft K-6 Curriculum* is a detailed analysis and assessment of the draft curriculum by expert teachers.

The 6,500 teacher participants include elementary generalists, subject specialists, diversity specialists, and school and system leaders from across Alberta.

Key Findings

The draft curriculum does not meet Alberta Education's overall vision, guidelines and considerations for curriculum development.



- 1** **Little relationship between the government's own vision** and guidelines for student learning and the draft curriculum
- 2** **Not logically sequenced** and not appropriately designed for teacher use
- 3** **Developmentally inappropriate** learning outcomes that lack high academic standards and do not adequately describe what students must know and be able to do
- 4** **Narrowly defined content** that does not reflect the development of knowledge, understanding and skills for the 21st century
- 5** **Insufficient reinforcement** of essential knowledge and skills across subjects
- 6** **Lack of support** for all students to do their best **in an inclusive classroom**, and knowledge outcomes with **low-level learning** and thinking skills
- 7** **Inclusion of Indigenous content that is not authentic** and appears as tokenism
- 8** **Inadequate inclusion of francophone** histories, contributions and perspectives
- 9** Twice as many learning outcomes as the current curriculum, which means that teachers will have **less time to ensure student understanding** and that struggling students will be left behind
- 10** **Lack of support** for developing students' **acceptance of diversity** and sense of belonging, empathy and community, and a failure to acknowledge the *Alberta Human Rights Act*
Almost no content related to gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation, which **discriminates against 2SLGBTQ+** students and their families
- 11** **Lack of respect for Alberta's diversity** and support for a peaceful, pluralistic society
- 12** **Failure to address racism, sexism and other forms of bigotry**, and the use of language that, in fact, promotes such bigotry
- 13** Inclusion of world religions as a mandatory topic in K-12, which **infringes on the religious freedoms** of Alberta parents
- 14** Language meant for the layperson, not for teachers with professional expertise, and **failure to provide the information and flexibility** they need to address classroom learning needs



The Alberta Teachers' Association

See full report at www.teachers.ab.ca.