



**DR Report for Calgary District – May/June 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)

SUMMER-SEPT District Representative Activities – 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 style="text-align: right;">(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	<p><b>JUNE 28</b>      PEC Emergent</p>
	<p><b>JULY 13</b>      CTF ATA Caucus</p>
	<p><b>JULY 14-15</b>    CTF</p>
	<p><b>JULY 20</b>      Finance</p>
	<p><b>AUG 5</b>        Data Basics</p>
	<p><b>AUG 9</b>        PEC Emergent</p>
	<p><b>AUG 10-11</b>    Summer Conference</p>
	<p><b>AUG 23</b>      PEC Emergent</p>
	<p><b>SEP 2</b>        RV Table Officers</p>
	<p><b>SEP 3</b>        Resolutions</p>
	<p><b>SEP 7</b>        Foothills CSR</p>
	<p><b>SEP 8</b>        AC PD Shortlisting</p>
	<p><b>SEP 9</b>        PEC Emergent</p>
	<p><b>SEP 9</b>        RV Executive</p>
	<p><b>SEP 11</b>      Christ the Redeemer CSR</p>
	<p><b>SEP 13</b>      AC PD Interviews</p>
	<p><b>SEP 13</b>      RV TW</p>
	<p><b>SEP 14</b>      Foothills TW</p>
<p><b>SEP 15</b>      LPEO Meeting</p>	
<p><b>SEP 16-17</b>    PEC</p>	
<p><b>SEP 18</b>      BAC</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associations, specialist councils and committees) with respect to their meetings, activities and events until they are rescinded by motion of Table Officers Committee:**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 Learning Team* will be a strictly digital publication. Strategy will be implemented to maximize the publication's reach through <https://www.thelearningteam.ca/>, e-mail newsletter and systematic social media sharing.

- At the beginning of September, the Association's 2021 World Teachers' Day (WTD) campaign commenced. This year, the campaign picks up on increasing appreciation and admiration for teachers as a result of pandemic schooling experiences. The campaign is designed not only to mark WTD on October 5, but also to build awareness of WTD in advance, to spur grassroots appreciation activities, and to identify parents and members of the public who are supportive of teachers: <https://www.thanksteachers.ca/>

- Beginning Teachers Study 2020/21 During the global pandemic, approximately 300 beginning Alberta teachers—within their first three years of their teaching career—participated in an Association research study designed to better understand the factors that best support early career satisfaction and growth. In addition to personal well-being and resiliency characteristics, this research study focused upon areas of professional development, mentorship and school contexts. The data showed that retaining early career teachers beyond their first three years depends upon both professional and personal factors. Feeling supported and valued by school leadership and colleagues was deemed necessary, as was a strong sense of competency and resilience.

**2. Professional Development** – The Beginning Teachers Conference will be held virtually on 2021 09 24–25. Changes being implemented at this year's conference include: a mix of staff, Association Instructors, Association Indigenous Education Instructors and Specialist Council sessions are being offered over the two days. • the "Your Association and You—Things Every Beginning Teacher Should Know" plenary session will discuss questions frequently asked by teachers new to the profession and is being offered in both English and French.

- Specialist Councils are continuing to plan a large number of events for teachers in the 2021/22 school year, both online and in-person events, noting that they are aware that in-person events will be subject to provincial restrictions. A new Sched site has been developed to keep teachers across the province aware of the varying events that are being hosted by councils. The site (<https://202122scevents.sched.com>) will be regularly updated as councils continue to plan new workshops, symposia and conferences. Staff have begun planning for the annual Specialist Council preservice carousels to be held in January. The goal is to have these events in-person on 2022 01 15 in Calgary and on 2022 01 22 in Edmonton. Contingencies are in place in the event that it is required to move these events to a digital format, in which case a single provincewide event will be held.

- The Indigenous Advisory Circle is an authentic opportunity to learn, listen and engage with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Elders and Knowledge Keepers from across Alberta. The Elders and Knowledge Keepers from the Association's Indigenous Advisory Circle are committed to providing guidance and feedback on Indigenous education and the advancement of reconciliation. The Indigenous Advisory Circle has provided feedback on the following topics: the draft curriculum, Indigenous language translations, medicine garden at Barnett House and the newly developed Indigenous education workshop, "CV·Δ·ᐅ tapwewin: Dismantling Anti-Indigenous Racism".

**3. TES, Program Area** – Members continue to call with questions largely related to employment information, interpersonal relations/staff, and employer action. TES offers a multitude of presentations for schools and subgroups, including "Teacher Growth, Supervision, and Evaluation", "Dealing with Difficult People and Difficult Issues", "Professional Conduct and the Code", "OH&S and Back to a Safe and Healthy Future", "E-Liability", "Robert's Rules"

**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>

- Both parties received the decision on the List of All Matters (LAM) from arbitrator Les Wallace on 2021 08 25. The Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) is finalizing their work on the Association's initial bargaining position.

- All bargaining units in the 2018–20 round of bargaining are settled. Teacher Employment Services is amalgamating and proofreading 2018–20 local collective agreements that have been received from the divisions.

**5. Table Officers** – Advertisements and messaging related to provincial committee recruitment will include, where appropriate, the following statement: "The ATA embraces diversity and inclusion and is committed to representing members belonging to equity-seeking groups. Members belonging to equity-seeking groups are encouraged to apply."

The proposed shifts in the administrative processes around committee appointments represent an important first step in ensuring that the provincial Association reflects and represents Alberta's diverse teaching population.

- Response from the Minister of Education regarding the Online Reference Centre Decision: "Alberta Education will continue to support access to resources aligned with both current and future curriculum through our LearnAlberta.ca and new.LearnAlberta.ca portals. These two portals provide the ability to search amongst tens of thousands of authorized resources and provides further information on the alignment with the current and future K-12 curriculum."
- The Committee on Convention Review (CCR) Final Report (2019) had in its recommendations that all convention attendance requests be adjudicated and administered by Association staff. Prior to the Annual Representative Assembly (ARA) 2021, each convention board had its own convention attendance committee to adjudicate alternate professional development requests during convention. At the 2021 ARA, Electoral Ballot 3 passed, which resulted in amendments to Bylaw 121 changing the permissions of attendance requests from convention boards to the Association. The requested changes to the Standard Constitution for Convention Associations would remove references to convention boards adjudicating these attendance requests.

**6. Central Table Bargaining** – The decision from the LAM was received by the Association and TEBA on 2021 08 25. Of the 24 matters that went to arbitration, the Association was successful in getting 10 of them assigned to the Local Table. Overall, the arbitrator, Les Wallace's (Wallace's) analysis was excellent and thorough. The role of local bargaining was reinforced in the decision, including the ability of local bargaining to bring even smaller matters to a fuller discussion. Wallace rejected the argument that any item with any costs (even indirect costs) must go to the central table. Prior to this arbitration, the only jurisprudence in Canada on this matter was in Ontario.

- The LAM decision defines where items will be bargained. The CTBC can now finalize their work on the Association's initial bargaining position. The Bargaining Advisory Committee (BAC) will review the draft initial proposal and provide initial feedback to CTBC on SEP 18. **On SEP 21, 1800 ,there will be a large-scale webcast and on SEP 22, 1800 an interactive telephone town hall is scheduled. Registration is not required to attend, but you will need to enter the Member's Only section of the website to view the webinar. The link to the webinar webpage will be posted at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) on Tuesday afternoon. All teachers will receive a phone call on September 22, with an invite to participate. Make sure your information is correct at [profile.teachers.ab.ca](http://profile.teachers.ab.ca); If your phone number is missing or incorrect, contact [Kate.Toogood@ata.ab.ca](mailto:Kate.Toogood@ata.ab.ca) to be added to the list.**

BAC will meet again on SEP 25 to provide feedback received by members from webcast and the telephone townhall. CTBC will use these activities and feedback to fine-tune the initial proposal.

**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.

**9. Substitute Teachers** – Conference will be held virtually OCT 22/23.

**10. Resolutions** – The committee considered recommendations from staff on policy identified for review by the 2022 Annual Representative Assembly (ARA). In accordance with the schedule for the periodic review of policies approved by the 2019 ARA, that policy addresses inclusive education, educational assistants, professional development and the professional responsibilities of the Association and its members.

**13. CTF – National Conversation About Public Education in Canada:** Specifically, the CTF/FCE calls on the next federal government to create a national education advisory table to strengthen publicly funded public education across Canada. Comprised of the teaching profession, academics, and civil society, the table will work with provinces and territories to: establish national guidelines for publicly funded public education; develop national standards for emergency preparedness; implement legislation to stop the privatization of publicly funded public education; protect and promote the French language in minority settings; coordinate national programs aimed at poverty alleviation, anti-racism, and truth and reconciliation. <https://www.ctf-fce.ca/national-conversation-on-public-education/>

**14. Political Engagement** – School Board Elections Plan: [www.vote4kids.ca](http://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.

**15. Indigenous Education:** The committee discussed dedicated culturally responsive spaces at both Barnett House and the Southern Alberta Regional Office (SARO). The following were highlighted: appropriate articles and medicines to include in the space; the procurement, location and display of cultural articles; potential to name the space in a way that honours all nations; up to \$5,000 per association location be allocated to provide culturally appropriate materials for the dedicated spaces at both Barnett House and SARO; a smudging space in one of the meeting rooms at SARO; Campiou, Bushie and Purcell will meet in the coming weeks to discuss the Medicine Garden at Barnett House. Bushie and Campiou will finalize the scheduling of the garden.

- National Indigenous History Month The committee funded a successful Indigenous Education speaker series throughout the month in collaboration with the Diversity Equity and Human Rights (DEHR) committee.

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – SEP 30**

- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation: <https://nctr.ca/>
- ATA Library <https://teachers-ab.libguides.com/reconciliationday>
- *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>

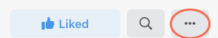
**Twitter:** @albertateachers

**Facebook:** @ABteachers

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

(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 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**