



## DR Report for Calgary District – MAY 2023

Barnett House: 1-800-232-7208 SARO: 1-800-332-1280

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<p><b>Guidelines for attendance of meetings for District Representatives as approved by ARA</b>          “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>(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	<b>MAR/APR District Representative Activities</b>	
	April 25	Foothills Executive (Okotoks)
	April 26	Canadian Rockies CSR (Canmore)
	April 27	Rocky View CSR (Zoom)
	May 01	Rocky View POLEC (Airdrie)
	May 02	Foothills AGM/CSR (Okotoks)
	May 04	POLEC (SARO)
	May 05	LPEO/LCO (Calgary)
	May 08	Rocky View TW (Zoom)
	May 11	Christ the Redeemer BUGM (Zoom)
	May 11/12	PEC (Edmonton)
	May 15	Foothills BUGM (Okotoks)
	May 17	AES position shortlisting (Zoom)
	May 17	Canadian Rockies CSR (Canmore)
	May 18	Rocky View Executive (Calgary)
	May 19	Local Presidents (Edmonton)
May 20-22	ARA (Edmonton)	
May 23	Rocky View POLEC (Zoom)	
May 24	Rocky View BUGM (Zoom)	
May 25	AES Interviews (Edmonton)	

Webinar on the New Code of Profession Conduct and what it means for teachers:

<https://legacy.teachers.ab.ca/membersonly/Pages/Webinar-on-new-code-of-conduct.aspx>

**The ATA is here to support our members. If you’ve received notice of a complaint from the government’s Alberta Teaching Profession Commission, contact us FIRST!**

**Call us: 780-447-9460**

**Email us: [professionaldiscipline@ata.ab.ca](mailto:professionaldiscipline@ata.ab.ca)**

**What options are available to teachers dealing with violence in the classroom? FIRST, call Barnett House or SARO and ask to speak to someone in Teacher Employment Services. (Phone numbers listed above.)**

- 1) Protest the placement of a student;
- 2) Look at alternative placements for the students (inclusive placements, segregated settings, home schooling, on-line learning, etc);
- 3) Ensure that appropriate support is being provided (file review, EA support, Behaviour plan, IPP, parents, etc);
- 4) Engage external agencies where appropriate (police, child welfare, etc);
- 5) Suspension/Expulsion;
- 6) Transfer;
- 7) Occupational Health and Safety complaint;
- 8) Harassment complaint; and
- 9) Medical accommodations.

**1. Executive Secretary** – The draft Association calendar for 2023/24 was presented and accepted.

**2. Government** – The Alberta Teaching Profession Commission assumed responsibility for the teaching profession's regulatory function as of 2023 01 01. While the data sampling size is still small, there are a few trends that can be highlighted. First, the proportion of complaints received from one teacher about another are in decline. Second, the proportion of parents filing multiple complaints against a number of different teachers seems to be increasing with one interesting twist—central office staff are becoming entangled in the same set of complaints. Finally, the sheer volume of complaints being received by the registrar is outpacing our expectations. While it was anticipated that the commission would be inundated given the press about the government's new process, the numbers are higher than expected. While complaint volumes are higher than expected, so too are the number of issues with commission's processes and investigative practices.

As previously reported, the Association has undertaken a research project, contracted to Dr Richelle Marynowski at the University of Lethbridge, to determine the extent and impact of the literacy and numeracy screening tools and other standardized diagnostic assessment tools (SDATs) implemented during the 2022/23 school year in Alberta. Preliminary analysis shows the following: The vast majority of teachers and school leaders (90%) in K–12 education had used or intended to use either a literacy and/or numeracy screening tool(s) during the 2022/23 school year. Nearly 3/4 of teachers had administered two or more literacy assessments, and more than 1/4 of teachers had administered two or more numeracy assessments. The most frequently administered literacy assessments are *The Castles and Coltheart 3 Test*, and *The Letter Name-Sounds Test*. The most frequently administered numeracy assessments are *The Provincial Numeracy Screening Assessment* and the *Number Sense Screener for K–1*. 2/3 of teachers had received no training to administer the literacy or numeracy assessments and 83% received no training to interpret the results of the either the literacy or numeracy assessment. More than 3/4 of teachers experienced challenges with administration of the literacy and/or numeracy assessment. These preliminary results and the challenges cited by teachers in terms of completing the assessments, Marynowski suggests, call into question the results of the assessments and the usability of those results to support student learning. For the next phase of this research project, focus groups will be conducted in May or June 2023 with respondents who indicated they wished to participate in them. It is anticipated that these sessions will provide a more complete understanding of the extent and impact of SDATs in Alberta.

**3. Teacher Employment Services (TES)** – Trends indicate an overall high volume of calls across a wide variety of issues. Of particular note, calls related to sick leaves and other types of leaves generated considerable volume, as did calls related to teachers' rights and responsibilities inside and outside of the collective agreement.

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>

It is transfer time. The Education Act outlines provisions for the transfer of teachers. If a teacher objects to a transfer, they need to file an appeal to the division within seven days. Call TES early if you require assistance with a transfer. Probationary and temporary contracts will end on June 30 (or earlier in the case of temporary contracts, depending on the date specified in the contract). If a teacher has questions or concerns about their contract status, they should call. Teachers who are being evaluated will typically have their evaluations come to an end in the next month or so. The evaluation of teachers is governed by provincial policy and division policy. If a teacher is experiencing any difficulties with their evaluation, they should contact TES. School leaders with term designations may see the non-renewal of their designations. Teachers with designations who have questions or concerns about the status of their designations should call TES.

**4. Professional Development (PD)** – The Government of Alberta is preparing to implement the following curriculum in September 2023: K–3 French First Language and Literature, K–3 French Immersion Language Arts and Literature, K–3 Science, 4–6 English Language Arts and Literature, 4–6 Mathematics. The Association is hosting a Curriculum Circle to examine the latest version of the curricula, provide feedback on it, and discuss implementation on 2023 05 29 at Barnett House. Each of the specialist councils listed below was invited to send up to four representatives who teach in grades K–6: Council for Inclusive Education, Early Childhood Education Council, Education Technology Council, English as a Second Language Council, Indigenous Education Council, Le Conseil français, Mathematics Council, Middle Years Council, Science Council

**6. Finance** – The website transition from the legacy site to the new site is progressing on schedule. This is still on track to be completed by the end of August. All content will be hosted on the new site for September, though the member login services will still access the legacy site due to the underlying infrastructure needed to run these services. The member login portal will be updated in the next fiscal year (2023/24).

**7. President** – Schilling continues a full schedule of meetings and interviews, advocating on a wide range of issues affecting teachers and the Association, including classroom numbers and complexity, curriculum, and the discipline process.

**9. School Leaders Issues and Concerns (SLICC)** – There is a substitute teacher shortage, resulting in some teachers working very close to their instructional time limits; they are worried what will happen as the year progresses. A lot of time is being spent on social media, vandalism and mental health issues, monopolizing school leaders' time and energy. School leaders are acting as social workers. They are arranging placements for kids because of family issues and trying to deal with mental health issues kids are experiencing. Also with bus driver shortages, leaders are staying late for child pick-up.

**10. Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF)** – Association resolutions submitted to the CTF for the AGM in July:

- 1. Be it resolved that the Government of Canada ensure that every student living in Canada regardless of their or their parents' immigration statues in Canada, can receive a publicly funded education without hinderance or fear of recrimination.*
- 2. Be it resolved that artificial intelligence tools used in schools should be evaluated before implementation for student safety, data privacy, ownership of data, bias, discrimination, accuracy and potential for harm.*
- 3. Be it resolved that understanding of artificial intelligence benefits and concerns, including algorithms and data collection/use, should be part of technology use in schools.*

**11. Political Engagement Committee (POLEC)** – Some teachers are unsure of whether they can be personally partisan because the Association is non-partisan. This is not so and helping teachers to understand their rights as citizens is important to reiterate. A series of five cards promoting and explaining teacher political engagement were sent to schools over the winter and spring months and are also available on our website under advocacy.

The two-week President's Tour rolled out and included the president and vice-presidents visiting multiple locals. The tour included a stop at 11 events in 17 locals where ATA leadership helped highlight the *Stand for Education* campaign, how education has risen as a key election concern for voters, and how best to tell individual stories about lived classroom experience. The latest changes to the Stand for Education website include a short document as well as the full Phase 2 report document entitled, *Five Solutions to Strengthen Public Education in Alberta*. The Phase 2 report is based on the province wide round tables held over the winter months.

1300 schools have registered to participate in Student Vote.

**12. ARA** – May 20-22. Delegates debated 12 resolutions on Bill 15, *Education (Reforming Teacher Profession Discipline) Amendment Act*, 10 of which directly address how teacher conduct is now handled. Six resolutions dealt with how teachers bargain their collective agreements, and three resolutions addressed the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom. Off-campus education and career and technology studies played a significant role in the policy debates. The recent report of the government’s Career Education Task Force was discussed, including five resolutions addressing on-site monitoring by certificated teachers and enhanced safety protocols for students.

Honorary memberships to former assistant executive secretary Jacquie Skytt and retired lawyer Richard Rand were part of Saturday morning’s proceedings.

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Wellness4Teacher is a ResilienceNHope program funded by Alberta Mental Health Foundation and the Global Psychological eHealth Foundation with support from the Division of Community Psychiatry at the University of Alberta, Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and the Alberta and Newfoundland & Labrador Teachers Associations. The goal of Wellness4Teachers is to provide psychological support for teachers in Canada. Members can text TEACHWELL to 1-844-618-1234 to subscribe. Subscribers will receive a free, daily supportive text message intervention based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), designed to address stress, burnout, anxiety, and depression, as well as build resilience and improve professional satisfaction.

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**Do you have an ATA account? If not, this video explains how to get one:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ean1UPir8Vo>

### **Six Reasons to get your Online ATA Account**

The Members Only area of the Association website is restricted and not accessible to the public. Given the Members Only area houses vital tools, services and information, there are many reasons for ATA members to get an online ATA account, and to keep it updated. Here are six great ones:

<b>1. Get bargaining updates</b>	<b>4. Use ATA library online resources and databases</b>
<b>2. Vote on provincial collective agreements</b>	<b>5. Get no-cost ATA specialist council memberships</b>
<b>3. Vote in ATA elections</b>	<b>6. Print your own ATA member card</b>

# **We have your back.**

Have you received notice of a complaint from the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission?

**Please contact us immediately!**

professionaldiscipline@ata.ab.ca  
780-447-9460



The Alberta Teachers' Association

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