



DR Report for Calgary District – April 2023

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<p>Guidelines for attendance of meetings for District Representatives as approved by ARA “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>(1981 12, 2006 04)”</p>	MAR/APR District Representative Activities	
	March 02	Christ the Redeemer ARA Budget (Zoom)
	March 03/04	POLEC Seminar (Edmonton)
	March 06	POLEC Meeting (Edmonton)
	March 06	RV BUGM (Zoom)
	March 07	Foothills CSR (Zoom)
	March 09	RV Executive (Zoom)
	March 10	Indigenous Advisory Circle (Edmonton)
	March 10/11	WIL Summit (Edmonton)
	March 13	Indigenous Advisory Circle (Edmonton)
	March 14	Indigenous Education Specialist Council (Zoom)
	March 16	PEC Election Results Meeting (Zoom)
	March 16	RV Induction (Calgary)
	March 18	Christ the Redeemer CSR (Brooks)
	March 21	RV POLEC (Zoom)
	March 22	Canadian Rockies CSR (Zoom)
	March 23	Foothills Exec and Induction (Okotoks)
	March 24/25	PDTCA Executive and Board (Calgary)
	March 27	RV Resolutions (Calgary)
	March 28	Foothills Resolutions (Okotoks)
	March 29	Christ the Redeemer Resolutions (Strathmore)
	April 5	RV Executive (Calgary)
	April 14/15	CBC (Calgary)
	April 17	RV TWC (Calgary)
	April 18	Indigenous Education Specialist Council (Zoom)
	April 19	LPEO/LCO Election Readiness Update (Zoom)
April 19	Christ the Redeemer Executive (Zoom)	
April 20/21	Provincial Executive Council	

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

What options are available to teachers dealing with violence in the classroom?

- 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 impending retirement of Joni Turville from the Association will require Council to fill the Associate Executive Secretary vacancy. The proposed timeline is as follows:

External and Internal Candidates

Posting: 2023 04 26

Advertising in *The ATA News*: 2023 04 25

Deadline for applications: 2023 05 10

Shortlisting: 2023 05 17 (AM)

Interviews: 2021 05 25

Start date as AES Designate: TBD (in May or June 2023)

Start date as AES: 2023 09 01

2. Government –The *ATA Magazine* has been nominated for three awards by the Alberta Magazine Publishers Association (AMPA: best editorial package, best feature design and best illustration. Award winners will be announced in May at the 2023 Alberta Magazines Conference.

- Education Week will be celebrated 2023 05 01–05. This year, Education Week aims to bring the community into schools and the schools into the community. The theme for Education Week is “Learning Uplifts All,” which speaks to the important role education plays in each community in Alberta.

- The Association, the Alberta division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, and Global Television continue to promote the mental health of children and youth through the Can We Talk? campaign. As part of this campaign, 2023 05 03 has been designated Hats On! for Mental Health Day in Alberta’s schools.

- The government’s discipline process is a mess. Members are strongly encouraged to contact the Association if a complaint is lodged against them. The number of complaints has risen since the government has taken over, but members do need to keep in mind that the new Code covers ALL certificated teachers in the province, not just ATA members.

- An Alberta curriculum implementation research study was conducted by the Association from 2023 02 10–03 06, with 1,000 randomly sampled elementary teachers responding. Despite the struggles identified, Alberta Education has announced new curriculum to be implemented in September 2023 for science, French and French immersion language arts for all K–3 students, and new curriculum for math and language arts for Grades 4–6.

- An unusually high number of respondents in Association research have indicated they are considering leaving teaching, either to leave the profession entirely or to pursue teaching opportunities outside of Alberta. The research completed to date provides some high-level qualitative insight into the reasons teachers and school leaders are considering this move, including work intensification, lack of support(s) for classroom complexities, unsupportive parents, growing class sizes, hopelessness, new curriculum, and government and school authority negative rhetoric toward teachers and the profession.

3. Teacher Employment Services – 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>

These documents may be linked to from local websites, but not posted on them.

4. Professional Development – Teachers' conventions will be delivered in person for the 2023/24 school year.

- The first in-person specialist council carousels in two years were held in Calgary at Mount Royal University on 2023 01 21 and in Edmonton at Barnett House on 2023 01 28. The Calgary event was attended by 65 preservice teachers and the Edmonton event was attended by 80 preservice teachers. The feedback from

participants was overwhelmingly positive and the specialist council representatives in attendance were renewed in their desire to find new ways to connect with student members of the Association in the future. There is some discussion of offering these carousels in other venues, as well.

5. Table Officers – In February, Robert Mazzotta, Summer Conference Director, was informed that the Banff Centre has changed its billing practices and will no longer be able to provide the pre-existing on-campus meal package for the 2023 Summer Conference. For the 2023 Summer Conference, the Banff Centre will provide the room, including \$15 facility fee, and four breakfasts as part of the on-campus delegate package (on-campus delegates will receive breakfast vouchers for Vistas restaurant at the time of check-in). All Banff Centre lunches and breaks will be billed to the ATA Master Account. Previously, the lunches and breaks were included as part of the charges billed to the on-campus delegates. Lunches, breaks and the \$30 facility fee for off-campus delegates were billed to the ATA Master Account. In 2022, based on 4-nights accommodation, the local rebate for an on-campus delegate was based on 20% of the contracted cost of accommodation and subsistence [including the cost of shared accommodation; facility fee; meals supplied by the Banff Centre (4 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 half-day breaks and 2 full-day breaks); and the meal rebate up to a total of \$206.37 (4 dinners—based on the cost of dinner at Banff Centre, including service charge and taxes—and \$23 for Friday’s lunch)]. In 2018, locals started to receive an allowance for off-campus delegates based on 50% of the on-campus total provided less the meals and facility fee provided by the Association and billed to the ATA Master Account. In order to accommodate the changes to the Banff Centre billing, the local allowance will need to be amended. Based on 4-nights accommodation, the local allowance for an on-campus delegate will be based on 20% of the contracted cost of accommodation and subsistence (includes half the rate of PD Centre accommodation; facility fee; 4 breakfasts at the Banff Centre) plus the meal rebate (up to a total of \$187.50—based on \$37.50 for each of the 4 dinners and Friday’s lunch) less the cost of the meals provided by the Association (3 lunches, 2 half-day breaks and 2 full-day breaks). The allowance for off-campus delegates will be based on 50% of the on-campus allowance.

6. Finance – Budget Workbook Responses from Locals increased to 96% (53/55) compared to 85% in the previous year. Overall, on a weighted basis, each of the questions scored at least a 90% approval/Yes vote. **As such, given this information, no budget changes are proposed at this time.**

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. Schilling met with Ms LaGrange near the end of March – she related that she has not been hearing anything critical from school boards regarding the implementation of the new curriculum! Schilling indicated that has not been the experience of teachers. He met with ASBA mid-April to discuss curriculum, classroom complexities, and aggression in schools. **Schilling, Carabine, and Regal will be visiting various locals on a President’s Tour to draw attention to the importance of the election readiness plan. The intent is to reach more teachers than just school representatives. Locals are encouraged to invite neighbouring locals to their events.**

8. Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights – the ATA will have a multi-faith space available at all Teachers’ Conventions and all Provincial Association events and will establish a multi-faith space at both Barnett House and SARO.

9. Political Engagement – The Association’s Election Readiness campaign continues with The President’s Tour, Student Vote, candidates forum, advertising, print materials, local grants, and information posted on standforeducation.ca A Joint Local Communications Officers’ and Local Political Engagement Officers’ Meeting is scheduled for 2023 05 05 in Calgary. **A recent poll shows that education is now tied as the third most important issue in battleground Calgary.**

10. Benefits, Insurance, Pension – ATRF has complete control over management of our funds. ATRF's investments are not tied into those of AIMCo's. ATRF has control over integration. Visit www.atrf.com for updates.

10. ASEBP – Trustees gave second (final) reading to Plan Design changes effective 2024 01 01. Highlights include: removal of monthly maximum and expanded coverage for lifestyle drugs; slight changes to several medical equipment, supplies and services; expanded coverage to emergency travel benefits on both the active and the MyRetiree plans; removal of limitation of one eye examination every two years and; addition of nurse practitioners as recognized medical care provider and the removal of suspended benefits if the member is engaged in employment while on EDB and CPP disability. Trustees also gave second (final) reading to premium rates effective 2023 09 01. Highlights include a base increase of 10.3% (rather than the break-even increase required at 12.2%). Some of the benefits may or may not be affected by this across-the-board base increase. School divisions in surcharge position will experience higher rate increases. Premium rates for the MyRetiree plan will also be affected and spending account administration fees will also experience increases.

11. Scholarship Subcommittee of the Teacher Education and Certification Committee – Two 2023 ATA Doctoral Fellowships in Education have been awarded, as well as one John Mazurek Memorial—Morgex Insurance Scholarship, with no alternate recipient.

12. CAPEC – There has been a rise in calls to TES. In a single day, TES had 100 calls in the queue. Many of the calls are around incidents with students, parents, or other staff members. The stressors continue to be burnout, curriculum, and the Code of Conduct change. Government is using the phrase 'Publicly Funded Schools' to mean public, private, charter, and Catholic. Additionally, spokespersons are correcting the term 'private school' to 'independent schools' or 'publicly funded charter schools.'

14. Steering – Donations to the ATA Educational Trust will be presented on the Floor of the Annual Representative Assembly.

15. Indigenous Education – The ATA Land Acknowledgements posted on the ATA website, with phonetic pronunciations of the various Indigenous nations now also includes videos to listen to and watch for correct pronunciation: <https://teachers.ab.ca/professional-development/indigenous-education-and-walking-together/land-acknowledgements>

16. Strategic Planning – Some key findings from the 2023 Member Opinion Survey:

1. Concerns remain about the UCP K–6 curriculum; the draft UCP curriculum; future UCP curriculum; and curriculum support, implementation and timeline.
2. Anger about the UCP government has pretty much “rusted in.”
3. The political environment remains supercharged, which makes the school an even more difficult place.
4. The difficulty of balancing work and personal life continues to be significant.
5. Teachers and school leaders are exhausted.
6. Teachers and school leaders do not feel supported in their professional role and find their workload demands unreasonable.
7. Mental health concerns remain very high.
8. Once again, the role of the school representative is identified as key in communicating with and supporting members, and the place of print forms of communication is not valued.

17. Nakaska – Teachers’ Conventions Motions

Nakaska: Recommendation 1 That administrative guideline 35.3.2.a be amended to read— “Health and wellness vendors may be provided with exhibit space .a as long as their products are supported [~~by the Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan (ASEBP)]~~ **in full or in part by member benefits providers” Carried**

Nakaska: Recommendation 2 That administrative guideline 35.3.3 be deleted— “Commercial vendors with little or no educational relevance (eg bedding, clothing and jewelry booths) shall be phased out incrementally so none are present at the 2024 teachers’ conventions or beyond.” **Carried**

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.

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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get bargaining updates 2. Vote on provincial collective agreements 3. Vote in ATA elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Use ATA library online resources and databases 5. Get no-cost ATA specialist council memberships 6. Print your own ATA member card
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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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