



DR Report for Calgary District – February 2024
Barnett House: 1-800-232-7208 SARO: 1-800-332-1280



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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:

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

(1981 12, 2006 04)”

“The Alberta Teachers' Association, as the professional organization of teachers, promotes and advances public education, safeguards standards of professional practice and serves as the advocate for its members.”

As set out in the Teaching Profession Act, the objectives of The Alberta Teachers' Association are as follows:

1. to advance and promote the cause of education in AB;
2. to improve the teaching profession
3. to arouse and increase public interest in the importance of education and public knowledge of the aims of education, financial support for education, and other education matters;
4. to cooperate with other organizations and bodies in Canada and elsewhere having the same or like aims and objects.

February District Representative Activities

FEB 6	Foothills CSR (Okotoks)
FEB 8	Rocky View Executive (Calgary)
FEB 9	Political Engagement (Edmonton)
FEB 9/10	Local Presidents (Edmonton)
FEB 13	Christ the Redeemer Executive (Zoom)
FEB 14	Canadian Rockies CSR (Zoom)
FEB 15	Rocky View CSR (Zoom)
FEB 21-23	PDTCA Convention (Calgary)
FEB 23	Foothills ARA Budget (Calgary)
FEB 26/27	PEC (Zoom)
FEB 26	PEC NSC (Zoom)
FEB 27	Foothills Executive (Zoom)
FEB 27	Rocky View ARA Budget (Calgary)
FEB 28	TES Coordinator Shortlisting (Zoom)
FEB 29	PEC NSC (Zoom)
FEB 29	Christ the Redeemer ARA Budget (Strathmore)
MAR 1 / 2	Political Engagement Seminar (Edmonton)

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

ATA Human Rights Statement

As an organization that promotes and is committed to respecting human rights and ensuring a safe, secure and healthy environment for all, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) works to ensure that all present at or participating in ATA programs and events are protected from violence and harassment. All ATA members are therefore expected to promote and defend the fundamental human rights of everyone engaged in ATA programs, activities or other ATA work. ATA members are expected to treat one another with fairness, respect and dignity and to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, competence and integrity as representatives of the provincial Association as well as their respective locals and subgroups. Furthermore, ATA members are obliged to act to prevent violence and harassment wherever possible and report to the appropriate person in authority any suspected breaches of this statement that come to their attention.

1. Executive Secretary – Electoral Ballots 8 and 11 will appear on the order paper at ARA. Electoral Ballot 8 allows PEC to designate one of the associate executive secretaries as acting executive secretary when the executive secretary is unable to perform the duties of office. Electoral Ballot 11 proposes a new category of membership, enhanced associate membership, which will entitle those holding it to representation with respect to complaints made pursuant to Division 3.1 of the Education Act or other matters relating to their employment.

- School authorities are able, under law, to share with teachers, information regarding current and past dangerous behaviours exhibited by students in teachers' care, and many have policies and administrative procedures that support

this sharing of information. However, the greater issue of increased violence and aggression in schools is not resolved and continues to be a priority for the Association. The topic of violence in the classroom has been discussed in recent conversations with the Government of Alberta

2. Government – Staff continue to advocate for positive change related to the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission's (ATPC) processes, most notably in relation to ensuring fair hearing processes and appropriate composition of committees. Recent efforts have focused on ensuring that hearings follow the tenets of natural justice and procedural fairness. To that end, the first hearing ordered by the commission has had the entire committee recused due to procedural issues; the hearing has been rescheduled for a later date. In early February, a government official indicated they were attempting to add 15 new members to the Professional Conduct and Competency General Panel, the roster from which all disciplinary, review and appeal committee members are selected. According to this official, all 15 of the new recruits will be Association members. Regulatory Affairs has 175 active representation cases.

- **2024 Member Opinion Survey open until April 8. Green QR code.**
- **December 2024 Pulse Survey Results: Class Size & Complexity, Aggression, AI. Red QR code.**



3. Teacher Employment Services – A Worth Knowing document was posted online on the topic of **Aggression in Schools** (2024 02 07).

4. Professional Development (PD) – PD staff, Association Instructors, Indigenous Education PD Facilitators and PD Facilitators presented to over 2,154 members from 2024 01 01 to 2024 01 31.

- Professional Development staff hosted one session as part of the Beginning Teacher Network.
- Staff attended an online meeting with AE – Early Years Assessment Engagement Meeting: screening assessments in K-5, student learning assessments, Grade 6 PATs, and new digital platforms were discussed. Most people in the meeting questioned the “why” behind assessments, the money spent on assessments, and the stress on student and teachers of these assessments.

5. Table Officers (TOC) – One of the four Association appointees to the ATRF Board will end their final three-year term in 2024, therefore, the Association must consider appointing a replacement.

- **The ATA and the Alberta Motor Association (AMA)** have entered into a new partnership that will provide exclusive benefits for ATA members and staff (travel benefits, hotel bookings, road side assistance, trip excursion, dedicated booking line, discounted AMA memberships, etc.). An exclusive link to the AMA's travel booking page can be accessed via the Members Only site. Log in – Click “My ATA” on the top Navigation Bar, then “Members Only”.
- The Association looked into membership with the Alberta Association of Municipalities (AAM) and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and, although associate membership may not be the right approach, there are other ways to reach out to the members of AAM and RMA to advocate on behalf of teachers and public education.

6. Benefits, Insurance and Pension – • **The Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund is reducing contributions effective 2024 09 01 due to the Teachers' Pension Plan being fully funded and in a surplus position.**

- The Board issued a resolution last year that will “commit to actively and expeditiously pursue an education program of climate change with a view to developing an action plan and enhanced Responsible Investing Policy no later than June 2024.” More information will be shared on this initiative later.
- Capital Planning reports an increase in member numbers in the ATA Retirement Savings and other plans.

7. President – Schilling continues a full schedule of meetings and interviews, advocating on a wide range of issues affecting teachers and the Association. He continues to meet with government on the issues that are of utmost importance to teachers, including class size and complexity, classroom violence, education funding, and curriculum.

8. ASEBP – RVS will be joining ASEBP 2024 09 01. The Alberta School Employee Benefits Plan has changed their fiscal year-end from the school year to 2023 12 31. A progress report covering the previous period will be available online in the new year. ASEBP celebrates 55 years in the public education sector this year.

9. Teacher Education and Certification Committee –The Teacher Education and Certification Committee is aware that many preservice teachers and their teacher preparation programs are facing increasing economic pressures. Several policy resolutions have been proposed for consideration at the 2024 and/or 2025 Annual Representative Assemblies that propose additional funding for students during their field experiences and to fund program growth.

- Teacher preparation programs are increasingly reporting that preservice teachers in field experience programs are being asked by divisions to take the place of certificated teachers. This puts the preservice teacher in a compromised situation that confuses the learning focus of their practicum with their desire to appease a potential employer. Existing policy does not adequately address the specific problem of divisions using education students to solve their staffing issues. Government needs to make it crystal clear to school divisions that preservice teachers may not be employed as teachers until they have finished their education program and have applied for certification. A growing number of preservice teachers are struggling with food insecurity, economic pressures and mental health concerns which can lead to program interruptions.
- There are widespread shortages of teachers, substitute teachers, and support personnel, including educational assistants, and professional services such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, etc. This is especially prevalent in rural communities. Locals and teacher preparation programs are noting an increase in complex needs in the classroom, and incidences of aggressive language and behavior toward staff and fellow students.

10. Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) – 2024 Central Matters List Bargaining is complete. The Central Table 2024 Matters survey closed on MAR 01.

11. Political Engagement – Member Organizing Strategy meetings continue to be held in locals. The importance of this activity cannot be emphasized enough!

- An All Candidates Forum for the NDP leadership will be held on 2024 05 03 at the LPEO and LCO meetings in Edmonton. Local presidents are encouraged to attend, but there will be no GIA for their expenses.

12. Resolutions – The resolutions approved for submission to the 2024 ARA and Council's position on the local resolutions will be mailed to local associations on or before 2024 03 13, along with a pre-vote form. The deadline for return of the form is 2024 04 12. The resolutions will also appear in the Resolutions Bulletin accompanying the 2024 03 12 issue of the ATA News.

13. Communications, Advocacy, and Public Education Committee (CAPEC) – Efforts are under way to ensure that members are aware of the processes and status of bargaining in the province.

Be sure to watch for the new ad campaign: StopTheExcuses.ca



14. School Leaders Issues and Concerns Committee –It is important to provide feedback to school divisions on issues arising from digital assessments so they can be shared with Alberta Education.

- Teacher shortages continue to be an issue across Canada but trends are still stable for program registrations at University of Alberta and University of Lethbridge.
- School leaders are reminded of the deadline to complete the Teaching Quality Standards and Leadership Quality Standards competency 2 and to help advocate for teacher shortages across the province.

15. Women in Leadership Committee – The first newsletter for WIL Chairs was delivered in January 2024.

- The Women in Leadership Committee reviewed eight applications to the pilot Women in Leadership Grant opportunity.

16. Substitute Teachers –Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week is 2024 03 11-15.

CSR Info Sessions: March 11, 7pm and March 12 4pm

17. Curriculum – Members raised a variety of concerns regarding the timeline for curriculum engagement as it relates to the potential public release and implementation of the draft Social Studies curriculum. Members continued to raise concerns about topics such as: digital exam administration via the Vretta platform, availability of curriculum

implementation resources in both English and French, timing of curriculum implementation as it relates to teacher readiness, and composition of groups involved in curriculum development and consultation.

- Some post-secondary institutions are engaging in conversation regarding inclusive and representative admissions practices. Implementation of the new Science curriculum has been difficult for many teachers, as the new curriculum is less focused on hands-on Science. Teachers continue to feel overwhelmed with curriculum implementation due to lack of time for planning and collaboration, and lack of quality resources in French and English. Grades 1–4 teachers continue to be inundated with literacy screeners. Teachers report that they are not always privy to the results of the assessments.
- In collaboration with Alberta Education and other school divisions in the province, Edmonton Public School Division is currently creating Science resources for curriculum implementation available to all Alberta teachers in Fall 2024.





18. Strategic Planning – Approximately 1.6 million children and teens in Canada are dealing with a mental-health disorder, with tens of thousands waiting months or even years for adequate treatment. Black, Indigenous, other racialized people and individuals questioning their gender and sexual identities are disproportionately affected by mental-health challenges and typically face more barriers accessing treatment.



Committee Representation

Committee and representation opportunities for 2024/25 have now been posted on the ATA website. The online application form can be accessed from the QR code. Applications must be received by **April 10, 2024**, the closing date. All applicants will be advised as to the outcome of the competition in June.

2023-24 Calendar of Association Events		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.)
2023 09 25-26	<i>Professional Conduct Seminar (Edmonton)</i>	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 9) Medical accommodations 10) In some cases, call the police.
2023 10 05	<i>World Teachers' Day</i>	
2023 10 13-14	<i>Beginning Teachers' Conference (Calgary)</i>	
2023 10 20-21	<i>LPEO and LCO Seminar (Edmonton)</i>	
2023 10 20-21	<i>Substitute Teachers' Conference (Calgary)</i>	
2023 10 25-26	<i>Legal Issues for School Leaders Conference (Edmonton)</i>	
2023 10 27-28	<i>Local Presidents' Meeting (Edmonton)</i>	
2023 11 17-18	<i>Collective Bargaining Conference (Edmonton)</i>	
2023 11 20-21	<i>Leadership Essentials for School Leaders Conference (Edmonton)</i>	
2023 11 24-25	<i>Fall PD Conference (Calgary)</i>	
2024 01 25-26	<i>Teacher Growth, Supervision, and Evaluation Workshop (Calgary)</i>	
2024 02 09-10	<i>Local Presidents' Meeting (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 03 01-02	<i>Political Engagement Seminar (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 03 08-09	<i>Women in Leadership Summit (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 03 11-15	<i>Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week</i>	
2024 04 12-13	<i>Collective Bargaining Conference (Calgary)</i>	
2024 04 14-15	<i>uLEAD Conference (Banff)</i>	
2024 04 18-19	<i>Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights Conference (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 04 26-27	<i>Spring PD Conference (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 05 03	<i>LPEO and LCO Seminar (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 05 17	<i>Local Presidents' Meeting (Calgary)</i>	
2024 05 18-20	<i>Annual Representatives Assembly (Calgary)</i>	
2024 05 24-25	<i>Local Treasurers' Seminar (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 06 07	<i>Local Secretaries' Seminar (Edmonton)</i>	
2024 08 12-16	<i>Summer Conference (Banff)</i>	
2024 08 15-16	<i>Teacher Growth, Supervision, and Evaluation Workshop (Edmonton)</i>	

<p>Free Specialist Council Membership</p> 	<p>Indigenous Education and Walking Together</p> 	<p>ATA Subscriptions</p> 	<p>ATA Library</p> 
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IF ALBERTA IS THE RICHEST PROVINCE IN CANADA, THEN WHY ARE WE SPENDING THE LEAST ON EDUCATION?*

*We bet you thought the asterisk would lead to some sort of stat that softens this embarrassing statement. Unfortunately, the truth only gets worse. The latest report on "Education spending in Public Schools in Canada" conducted by the Fraser Institute in 2022 puts into perspective how poorly Alberta stands against the rest of our country. As much as we hate to reference the Fraser Institute, their study shows Alberta spent the least on a per-student basis for public education in all of Canada in 2019/20. To make matters worse, data shows that from 2012 to 2020 provinces like Quebec and B.C. have rightfully increased spending by 23% and 22.7% respectively. Whereas Alberta has had a shameful decrease of 1.9% in spending over that same time period. When public education does not receive the proper funding, students' needs are not met. Classrooms are over-filled, diverse programs are being cut, and there is less teaching support for students with complex issues. The compounding effects of these issues has seen distraught teachers in our province leave their chosen profession altogether. It's time to right the wrongs, it's time for solutions. Tell your MLA "Stop the excuses."

[StopTheExcuses.ca](https://www.stexcuses.ca)



The Alberta
Teachers' Association

ALBERTA MIGHT RANK AMONG THE BEST IN THE WORLD FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION BUT IT RANKS LAST IN SCHOOL FUNDING*

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