



Coquitlam Teachers' Association News

208 - 2502 St. Johns St., Port Moody, B.C. V3H 2B4 Tel: (604) 936-9971 / Fax: (604) 936-7515

The CTA office is a scent free workplace.

Visit our Website at www.cta43.org

Kathleen Thomson, President
Caroline Malm, First Vice-President

June 15, 2009
No. 36

Quote of the Week

Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.

Howard Aiken, Globe and Mail, June 2009

BCTF Rep Assembly: Key Decisions

Here are a few key motions that carried at the recent May 29-30/09 BCTF Rep Assembly:

Coquitlam News: Teresa Elected

Our very own **Teresa Grandinetti** (Terry Fox) was elected as one of the three BCTF Rep Assembly chairpersons. This was a hotly contested election with lots of political intrigue, but the talented Teresa was elected quite handily. Chairing meetings of 300 or more teachers is no easy task, and the fact that Teresa was elected from a large field of candidates speaks to her skill and the good regard in which she is held by teachers throughout the province. Congratulations, Teresa!

More Coquitlam News: Motion of Support for Our Teachers

That the teachers of this province stand behind the teachers of Coquitlam on the Bill 33 arbitration issue.

[This motion of support carried unanimously in reaction to the BCTF having left Coquitlam off the 2006-08 Bill 33 arbitration list and having neglected to tell us about our subsequent exclusion from the grievance].

Seniority-Based Callout for TOCs

That the BCTF have a province-wide campaign to educate the members about seniority-based callout for TOCs.

[This motion was put forward by Burnaby. Always a contentious issue, seniority-based callout continues to receive more support at BCTF meetings than it does from many classroom teachers and even some TOCs].

Throw Out BCeSIS

That school districts halt any further implementation of BCeSIS.

[As well as a series of motions regarding technology, the above motion carried because teachers in the province are completely frustrated with having to work with an intractable and often unworkable BCeSIS system].

NOTE: In Vancouver last week, supportive Board of Education trustees agreed to the union's demands that no elementary teacher in Vancouver be required to use BCeSIS. Instead, only support workers will utilize the system.

Testing & Assessment

That in the fall of 2009 all schools be encouraged to affirm and articulate their profession beliefs on testing, assessment, accountability and professional autonomy by:

1. Having school-based discussions on testing and assessment; and
2. Having school and/or community-based sessions to discuss with parents and others all of the issues related to testing, assessment and accountability.

[While this motion carried, some reps were opposed to it, not because they do not believe in authentic assessment, but because they believe the BCTF is not focusing on teachers' top priorities].

A Message from the BCTF President to the CTA:

The Power of the Unspoken Word

When **BCTF President Irene Lanzinger** came to the April 15th CTA Rep Assembly to discuss why the BCTF had left Coquitlam off the 2006-08 Bill 33 class size and class composition grievance, Coquitlam teachers expressed dismay that Irene had not yet talked to the BCTF Executive Committee about this critical issue, even though she had had a number of months to do so.

In response to Coquitlam teachers' concerns, Irene recently forwarded the following email to CTA President Kathleen Thomson, which states in its entirety:

At your general meeting I promised teachers that I would raise the issue of Coquitlam being left off the 2006-08 grievance with the Executive Committee and I have done that.

Irene

A Message from the District:

June 30th is Payback Day

The district is apparently conducting a forensic pay audit on such items as teachers' use of discretionary days between January and June 2008. As a consequence of this audit, a number of teachers have been contacted by email and told that their last pay cheque in June will be reduced by as much as eight days.

The CTA has asked the district not to dock teachers' June 30th pay, as they must budget through the lean months of summer. In addition, the CTA has asked the board to follow the long-standing joint protocol that allows teachers who owe relatively significant sums of money a reasonable and fair timeframe in which to pay back the sum owed.

If you have been contacted by the district payroll office and told your June 30th pay cheque will be reduced for the above described reasons, please call the CTA office immediately.

Take Advantage of Advantage!

Travel Insurance Option

BCTF members who still carry travel insurance with the former provider Medoc can now switch over to the **BCTF Advantage Program Travel Insurance** on this year's renewal. You can see the details of the new program at www.bctfadvantage.ca; or you can call 1-877-778-8717.

Glen Elementary History

Glen Elementary recently celebrated its "Farewell & 95th Reunion." In honour of this celebration, the school published a commemorative booklet outlining some of the highlights of the schools' history. Here are a few historically interesting events that occurred at the school:

- 1913: *Glen opened on Old Port Moody Road (later Glen Drive)*
 1914: *Teachers at Glen earned \$65 per month; school was closed due to a forest fire in the area*
 1934: *Teacher Miss Tupper came to school on skis*
 1941: *Students brought pennies to buy war savings stamps*
 1943: *Glen School was closed for nine days because of snow*
 1948: *Milk money was stolen by thieves who entered the school via the coal chute*
 1958: *Mothers raced at the Sports Day*
 1962: *School was closed due to Hurricane Freda*
 1968: *Terry Fox began attending Glen School*

Teacher Positions Lost in the Metro Area

According to reports by local presidents, the following chart indicates approximate FTE teacher positions lost next year due to budget cutbacks and pupil enrolment decline:

District	Number of FTE Teacher Positions Lost
Chilliwack	12.9 FTE
Abbotsford	5.0 FTE
Langley	No change expected
Delta	20.0 FTE
Richmond	12.0 FTE
Vancouver Elementary	25.0 FTE
Vancouver Secondary	15.0 FTE
New Westminster	14.0 – 19.0 FTE
Coquitlam	62.55 FTE
North Vancouver	22.0 FTE
West Vancouver	4.2 FTE

The only Metro district showing growth this year is Surrey, which is predicting an increase of 9.0 or 10.0 FTE teaching positions. The pain of lost positions is somewhat mitigated by attrition, retirement, teachers taking leaves, etc.

Mentoring Matters:

Attention New Teachers & TOCs

Are you new to the teaching profession or do you have only a few years experience? This session could be just what you are looking for in order to alleviate some of the stresses associated with starting a new school year! School district mentors will share a variety of practical strategies and tips, and participants will receive a package of excellent resources. Sessions deal with organizing and diversifying classrooms, the first week, living a balanced life, etc.

Location: Winslow Centre Gallery Room
Date: Monday, August 31/09
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (lunch included)
Cost: Totally free!

To register in June, please email **Sylvia Byers** at sbyers@sd43.bc.ca; For any questions or to register during July and August, please contact **Nancy Carl** at ncarl@sd43.bc.ca.

Start Up Workshops & Fall

Conference:

Attention All Intermediate Teachers

The Provincial Intermediate Teachers' Association (PITA) is sponsoring four days of "classroom start up" workshops for newer teachers in a variety of Metro and BC Interior locations, as well as its annual fall conference scheduled for October 23-24/09.

To register for these events, go to www.pita.ca/workshops.

CTA Office Summer Hours

The CTA office will be closed for its annual cleanup on **Wednesday, June 24th in the morning only**. During the summer months, the CTA office will be open the first week after school is closed (**June 29 to July 2/09**) and the last week before schools reopen (**August 31 to September 4/09**).

Members needing assistance during the weeks of summer vacation when the CTA office is closed can leave a message on the CTA answering machine. Messages are checked regularly throughout the summer, and a CTA Table Officer will respond to your call in as timely a manner as possible.

Pension Plan Benefit Statements To Arrive Soon

According to correspondence received from the Teachers' Pension Plan, employers should have mailed members' annual **Benefit Statements** on or around June 1, with members receiving them anytime between June 2 and June 12. Each envelope will contain the personalized *Member's Benefit Statement* and the *Teachers' Pension Plan 2008 Report to Members*. There are comprehensive online services for pension plan members to access, including pension estimators, pension seminar schedules and handouts, purchase calculators, fact sheets, guides and forms. Members who have not already registered for *My Account* will find their user ID and temporary password on their 2007 *Member's Benefit Statement*. Registered members who have forgotten their password can follow the links on the login page to retrieve their password.

Retirement Gatherings

The following retirement notices have arrived at the CTA office. We will try to include as many as possible in upcoming newsletters.

Retiree: Sue Vlismas (Parkland)
Date: CORRECTION - Tuesday, June 16/09
Time: 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: Winslow Centre – Gallery Room
Cost: \$20 (reception & gift) \$10 (gift only)
RSVP: To Sandy Jones at 939-1151 or sajones@sd43.bc.ca

Please make your cheque payable to Parkland Elementary School, Attention: **Sandy Jones**.

Retiree: May Henry (Irvine Elementary)
Date: Wednesday, June 24/09
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Location: Irvine Elementary
Cost: \$20 (reception & gift) \$10 (gift only)
RSVP: To dgordon@sd43.bc.ca or 941-3408
 Please make your cheque payable to Irvine Elementary.

Retiree: Arlis French (Terry Fox)
Date: Thursday, June 25/09
Time: 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Location: Terry Fox Secondary - Library
Cost: \$20 (food & gift)
RSVP: To Jo Ann Ward jward@sd43.bc.ca or Chuck Provost cprovost@sd43.bc.ca.

Please make your cheque payable to Terry Fox Secondary School (Attn. Jo Ann Ward).

Committee Appointments

Congratulations to the following CTA members who have agreed to donate their voluntary time to serve their colleagues on the following committee:

District Design Panel

- Karen Ferguson (Moody Middle)
- Deanna Fogstrom (Monty Middle)
- Chung-Yan Ip (Port Moody)
- John Mann (Maple Creek)
- Kyle Williams (Pleasant side)
- Colleen Castonguay (Nestor)

CTA Treasurer

- Teresa Grandinetti (Terry Fox)