



Coquitlam Teachers' Association News

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The CTA office is a scent free workplace.

Visit our Website at www.cta43.org

Kathleen Thomson, President
Caroline Malm, First Vice-President

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Quote of the Week

The government wants British Columbians to believe they are protecting education, but students, parents and teachers should brace for more cuts. More schools will close, there will be more overcrowded classes, and teachers will be laid off.

The math just doesn't add up. The government is playing a shell game and it is BC's students who are going to lose.

BCTF President Irene Lanzinger in response to the provincial government's latest budget announcement (March 2, 2010).

In Memoriam: The CTA's Jean Taylor Passes

Jean Taylor, retired senior CTA secretary who worked for the association for twenty-seven years, passed away on February 20, 2010 after a short battle with cancer. This news so saddened us, as Jean was an absolutely beautiful woman who contributed selflessly and adeptly to the wellbeing of the union and all of its members for close to three decades.

Over her long career at the CTA office, Jean witnessed and participated in many pivotal events affecting teachers and our profession, including unionization and the negotiation of our first collective agreement in 1988. She worked for a total of thirteen CTA presidents from Margaret Morgan in 1969-70 to current president Kathleen Thomson. Here is what some of those former presidents had to say in tribute to Jean on her retirement in May 1996:

Mike Lombardi: Jean was solely responsible for the taming and training of the riff raff that came through the door and turned them into functioning presidents.

Geoff Peters: No matter how misguided the president was, Jean managed to save the day and make it all work out with aplomb and diplomacy.

Les Phillips: While we were busy doing our thing out there, Jean made sure the CTA continued on.

Jamie Ross: Jean has done a wonderful job for the Coquitlam Teachers' Association. She is loyal, honest and kind. Her commitment to Coquitlam teachers is unparalleled. We have gained much from her service and will miss her very much.

Dear Jean, we thank you for your dedication to our association and to Coquitlam teachers, and for your wonderful giving spirit that characterized all your days with us.

At Jean's request, no service is planned. The family has requested that those who wish can make a donation in Jean's memory to PADS (Pacific Assistance Dog Society), 9048 Stormont Avenue, Burnaby, BC, V3N 4G6 (www.pads.ca).

The CTA Executive Committee has unanimously approved a \$500 donation to PADS in memory of Jean, our beloved co-worker, colleague and friend.

Provincial Budget Announcement Not Rosy

According to preliminary details reported in the media as of March 3, 2010, provincial funding announcements for public education will not solve the funding crisis in public education looming next year:

<u>Budget Item</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>Sufficient to Cover Current/Projected Shortfalls?</u>
Facilities Grant	Partially restored (one grant split over this year and next)	NO
Additional \$150 million added to public education operating budget over the next three years (some of this money has been announced previously); the money is primarily earmarked for salary increases	The system currently requires an additional \$300 million this year alone; \$150 million over the next three years will exacerbate funding difficulties	NO
Total operating grant for next year will be \$4.828 billion, up 2.8 percent from this year	Independent school funding will rise by a greater amount; that is, 3.7%	NO
Funding for Full Day Kindergarten increased by \$22 million three years from now	The \$22 million will be added to the previously announced \$44 million for 2010-11 and \$109 million for 2011-12	UNKNOWN

A Note on Budget Presentations to Coquitlam Trustees: Please contact Kathleen at the CTA office if you or a group of your colleagues would like to present to trustees on the budget. Presentation date opportunities are Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday, and April 13, 7:30 p.m. (All meetings take place at Winslow Centre Gallery Room).

12,000 Classes Exceed Class Composition Limits

The government's own legislation sets the class composition limit at three students with an Individual Education Plan per class. In 2010 there are close to 12,000 class composition violations across the province, up from 11,000 in 2009 and 10,000 in 2008.

The data revealed by the Minister of Education also shows 3,220 class size violations for the current school year. That figure is 100 classes down from 2008-09, but still higher than in 2007-08 when there were 3,170 classes over Bill 33 size limits.

The full report can be found in "Overview of Class Size and Composition in British Columbia Public Schools for 2005-10," found on the Ministry of Education website (http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district_date_summary.php).

PD Applications & 2010 Spring Break Deadlines

If you are attending a conference between April 6 -18, 2010 and plan to apply for PD assistance, please ensure you have your PD applications in **BEFORE** spring break.

Applications **must be received in our office by March 25, 2010** to be eligible. You must have your application in by the March 22, 2010 mailbag or it will not reach the office before the deadline. To ensure that you get your application in on time, we suggest you drop it off to our office at: #208 – 2502 St. Johns Street, Port Moody, BC.

Note: Any applications received after March 25th will be returned to you.

New Curricula: Teacher Input Requested Deadline is March 26, 2010

The BCTF appointed teacher representatives to work with others to develop new curricula for **English 10 and 11 First Peoples** and **Additional Languages: Core French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, Punjabi and Spanish, All Levels**. After much hard work, the draft documents are ready for review. Teachers who wrote the draft curricula sincerely want feedback from their colleagues and will use teacher input to inform the revision process.

English First Peoples courses represent the collaborative efforts of the First Nations Education Steering Committee and the BC Ministry of Education. The courses are intended for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal teachers and students. These courses represent an invitation to all learners to explore and discover First Peoples' worldviews through the study of literary, informational and media text with local, Canadian and international First Peoples' content. Several districts are piloting the draft curriculum this semester, including Coquitlam at Port Moody Secondary. Final revision to the curriculum will occur after information from the written response process and the pilot projects are collated. The revised **English 10 and 11 First Peoples** courses will be a go in September 2010!

The **Additional Languages** curriculum guide supports the communicative-experiential approach to language acquisition. The focus is on the purposeful use of language to perform real-life tasks through listening, speaking, reading and writing while being aware of what is culturally and linguistically appropriate. In addition to **French, German, Japanese, Mandarin, Punjabi and Spanish**, the document refers to language curriculum and learning in other languages, too. The document supports the belief that society as a whole benefits from having citizens who are proficient in a variety of additional languages.

If you would like to view the draft documents, please go to this link: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts/> Response forms are also available at the same site. The deadline for written response is **March 26, 2010**. Please contact **Caroline Malm** at the CTA if you have questions about the process.

Employment Equity for Alberta Teachers to Get 5.99% Increase

In a decision handed down in early February, an arbitrator ruled that teachers working in the province's public, separate and francophone schools would receive a salary and allowance increase amounting to 5.99% in this current school year.

The increase is consistent with the average growth in the earnings of Albertans from 2008 to 2009 as reported by Statistics Canada.


Meanwhile in British Columbia, the government has announced a 0% salary mandate for all workers whose contracts expire in 2010. The current teacher's collective agreement expires on June 30, 2011.

Employment Equity for Aboriginal Teachers: Invitation to Self-Identify

The Board in cooperation with the CTA is in the process of applying to the BC Human Rights Tribunal for approval of an *Employment Equity Program for Aboriginal Teachers*. The Employment Equity Program has as one of its goals the intention to increase the employment participation of teachers of Aboriginal ancestry in the district so that it reflects the Aboriginal learner population. As a part of the process, it is necessary to establish a baseline measure of the number of teachers with Aboriginal ancestry currently working in the district. All Coquitlam teachers will soon receive a joint letter from the Board and the CTA, inviting teachers who have Aboriginal ancestry and are currently working in district 43 to **self-identify**. Aboriginal peoples of Canada are the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples, inclusive of Status, Non-Status, reserve and non-reserve persons. Teachers of Aboriginal ancestry who choose to **self-identify** will FAX a completed form to the CTA office, 604-936-7515.

Please contact **Caroline Malm** at the CTA office if you have questions about the self-identification process.

Adult Educators' Provincial Specialist Association Conference


AEPSA

Foundations for Adult Learning

Keynote Address
DR. MARK SELMAN Director Learning Strategies Group, SFU
What happened to the adult education movement in Canada and where do we go from here?

Features
PROFESSIONAL CONVERSATIONS Join your colleagues for small group discussions about issues of mutual concern

PANEL PRESENTATION by the BCTF Adult Educators' Advisory Committee

Afternoon Plenary
ROBERT AITKEN Instructor Centre for Instructional Development, VCC
How adults learn

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010
8:30AM-3:00PM

PRIOR AND SUTHERLAND BOARDROOMS
BCTF BUILDING
550 WEST 6TH AVE, VANCOUVER

Registration is available on-line, by mail, or fax. To register on-line, visit bctf.ca/aepsa

70 Corner

TOC Rep to the CTA Rep Assembly: Call for One Candidate

TOCs are entitled to send four (4) representatives to the Rep Assembly. Due to the resignation of a rep, one rep will be elected by the TOC Committee meeting on Monday, March 15, 2010. Please contact **Melody Li**, TOC Committee Chairperson, to add your name to the list of candidates: melodyli.shepherd@gmail.com.

TOC Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, March 15/10
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: CTA Office