

SAANICH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

February 2017

S.T.A. in TOUCH

A Newsletter of the Saanich Teachers' Association -- BCTF Members of Local #63 (Saanich)

Keeping in-touch with the STA is simple: bookmark our website www.saanichteachers.com, follow us on Twitter: @BCTF63 or join us on Facebook: Saanich Teachers' Association. If you are a new Teacher, please consider joining the new STA TTOC Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/saanichtoc/

Want to win a prize? Make sure you read the entire STA-in-Touch and enter yourself into our monthly contest.

-Deryck Ball, STA-In-Touch Editor

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President's Report

by Don Peterson

Welcome to the official half-way mark. This year has been interesting to say the least.

What a crazy week it has been. We just cancelled the STA General Meeting, I am now wondering how I will get home with this dump of snow. I think BC Transit is a better option than paying a \$600 deductible and increased insurance premiums. Maybe owning snow tires would be an even better option, but who needs snow tires in Victoria?

General Meeting

As you know the General Meeting has been cancelled; however, the stars have aligned into something even better. The General Meeting has been rescheduled for **February 21st**. This is the same day as the BC budget announcement. **Glen Hansman** president of the BCTF, will be coming directly from the "Budget Lockup" to our General Meeting to discuss this announcement. I am excited about this opportunity as this will be Glen's first opportunity to talk to teachers about the BC budget and how it will impact the implementation of our restored language.

What else can you expect from the General Meeting?

- Food that is catered by Stelly's students
- A short curriculum implementation update
- Supreme Court of Canada decision update
- Door prizes



Thank You to...

A big thank you to **Sue Paltiel**, **Luanne Marchand**, and **Taryn Mah** for joining me on the Joint Committee to allocate Saanich's share of the Priority Fund of \$657,000.

I would also like to thank **Amanda Byrne-Jungen** and **Paul Ledet** for attending the partner group session during the Superintendent of Schools recruitment process.



TTOC Shortage

There appears to be a looming TTOC shortage in the school district. There have been a few days where the district has run out of available TTOCs. Both Victoria and Sooke have been actively recruiting new TTOCs through Make a Future, but our District has not yet started that process. Please let me know anytime you attempt to engage a TTOC for an absence, but one is not available. I am keeping my eye on the situation.

SD63 2017/18 Budget

The Budget Advisory Committee has had one meeting so far and has received the "Facts Package" of known pressures from the Secretary-Treasurer Jason Reid. Thank you to **Mark Skanks** for attending in my place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED

Some information is still only projected, and the numbers will become clearer after the government tables the provincial budget. At the moment, the projection is one that assumes that we will maintain the same programs as this year. That would leave us short about \$1,000,000. Please keep in mind that this is based on what is known. We are expecting a significant injection of funds into the system when the provincial parties come to an agreement on the implementation of the restored language; however, it has not been announced. Therefore, it is technically unknown, so the District must move forward with the budget process without considering this injection of funds.

The public Budget Meeting is currently scheduled for **Tuesday, February 21st, 2017 at Bayside**. It is sounding like this meeting might be postponed by a week to allow for a better understanding of how the BC government's budget will affect our district. This is a meeting at which you can learn the details of the budget and chip in your thoughts on what the Board should do. There will also be a Special Committee of the Whole Board meeting on **Wednesday, April 27th at 7pm** at the Board office, where the proposals for the budget are debated.

Supreme Court of Canada's Decision

The talks continue. There have been a few agreements made that are still "in committee", it does sound promising. As we approach budget day on February 21st, 2017, we should be hearing more from the provincial tables on the direction that the implementation of the restored language will take us. February 21st, will be an important day as we will find out how serious the government is about the court decision.

Curriculum Implementation

It sounds like we have had a successful Curriculum Implementation day. Each school and level did slightly different activities that met the needs for their schools. The Joint Implementation Committee will be meeting at the end of the month to determine what the next step should be. A big thank you to **Jennifer Alberring, Angie Noel, Holly Mair, Shelley Fischbach, and all the school curriculum teams** for your efforts in the organization of the day.



Health & Safety Report

by Les Lowe

Weather Related Injuries

The past few days has shown us that winter has hit the area. There have been incidents of **slips and falls** due to snow, slush and ice. If this happens to you:

- 1) Report to your first aid and administration.
- 2) Complete the appropriate forms.
- 3) If you need to see a doctor, ensure that you have the SD63 medical forms to be completed. Your office staff should have the forms available.



Here is a Work Safe link that refers to winter conditions and education concerns:

<http://secure.campaigner.com/csb/Public/show/dtkhg--b7jvj-6nobt33>

Local Representatives Report

by Luanne Marchand & Elaine Ting



BCTF Representative Assembly

On January 27 and 28, Don Peterson, Elaine Ting and Luanne Marchand attended the Winter Rep Assembly in Vancouver. It was an information packed two days. Some highlights were:

Budget



Some targets we want to meet are \$30 million in Bargaining Fund and \$2 million in Contingency Fund by 2019. Mortgage on the BCTF Building in Vancouver paid off by 2018. Our line of Credit was paid off recently, earlier than our 2018 target date.

Recommendation 1 was passed that the RA recommend to the AGM that for the 2017-18 membership year, the fee for those members under bylaw 1.1(a) **shall remain at 1.79%** of the actual salary of the member. These fees will be allocated differently to accommodate the above-mentioned targets.

Except that the fee for active members who are **teachers teaching on call shall be 1.49%** of their actual salary.

The full budget is available on the portal.

Supreme Court of Canada Decision

We went into committee and received an update on the SCC decision from our legal team and Executive Members. Some interesting scenarios were discussed. If you would like to hear this update please attend the **STA General Meeting on Tuesday, February 21 at Stelly's starting at 4:00 pm. Glen Hansman our BCTF President** will be on hand to deliver an update.

Don Peterson Elected RA Chairperson

Our STA President, Don Peterson, handily won an election to become an RA Chairperson for a 1 year term. Congratulations and well done, Don.

Pension

Our pension is in good shape. This year's June Pension statement will include old and new service. Also, the Member Pension Calculator will include old and new service effective March 11, 2017. If you have other questions you can always call the Pension Corporation at 1-800-665-6770 or Victor Choy at 1-604-871-1949.



February TTOC Events

TTOC Report

by Christa Cowie

1) Feb. 10: Q&A TTOC session

Do you want a chance to get together with other TTOCs? Do you have questions that you want to ask but haven't? Do you want to sit and eat some free food while talking with co-workers after work? Then come to our TTOC Q&A night.

Where: Sherlock's Restaurant (the restaurant side of The Waddling Dog)
corner of Mt. Newton and the Pat Bay

When: Friday, February 10, 2017
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

A selection of appys will be provided.

Sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H3L7G3Y>

2) Feb. 15: TTOC Workshop: Contract Awareness and TTOCs (plus, information on how the Court Case will impact TTOCs)

Have you ever wondered just what is in this contract that controls everything? Do you want to understand your rights as a TTOC? Are you confused about what the court case will mean to you and your work in Saanich? Come to this workshop and we will address all this and more.

Dinner provided.

When: 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Where: STA office/Saanich Learning Center (to the left of Keating Elementary School)

Sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R6MDN7P>

Want to come but can't make it? No worries - Victoria is also hosting this workshop the morning of May 19th and you can attend then instead if that works better for you. Please note that this is NOT a pro-D day in Saanich.

3) Feb. 24: Tapestry Conference (Victoria)

4) New Teacher Conference (Vancouver)

Contact the TTOC Pro-D Rep, [Brigid Skelton](#), if you would like more information on the Tapestry or New Teacher Conferences. Spend your Pro-D money! ALL TTOCs that have worked at least 8 days can access the TTOC pro-d fund.



Social Justice Report

Social Justice Dates for February & March

February

13–17: BC Heritage Week
 20: United Nations
 Social Justice Day
 22: Pink Shirt Day
 26–March 4: Freedom to
 Read Week

Black History Month
Antipoverty Month



Viola Desmond



March

5–11: International Women's Week
 8: International Women's Day
 16: Bottled Water Free Day
 21: International Day for
 the Elimination of Racial
 Discrimination
 21–28: Week of Solidarity with People
 Struggling Against Racism and
 Racial Discrimination
 22: World Water Day
 24: Inspire Awards (formerly
 National Aboriginal
 Achievement Awards)
 31: Transgender Day
 of Visibility



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Contest

Congratulations to **Stephen Strutynski at Stelly's** for winning January's contest.

Answer the contest question correctly to be entered in the draw for a **\$50 Starbucks card**.

This month's question: *Who will be our special guest at the General Meeting on February 21st?*



Please email your answer to Deryck Ball dball@sd63.bc.ca by **Monday, February 27, 2017**.

Good Luck!

Let's Get Social!

The STA is getting more and more connected to the world of Social Media. Join us!

Our website is:

www.saanichteachers.com

Follow us on Facebook at:

[Saanich Teachers' Association](https://www.facebook.com/SaanichTeachersAssociation)

Follow us on Twitter at:

[@BCTF63](https://twitter.com/BCTF63)

Phone us:

778-426-1426

Our mailing address is:

6843 Central Saanich Rd, Victoria, BC V8Z 5V4



If you have any feedback on this newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact: Deryck Ball

IMPORTANT DATES FOR STA TEACHERS

1 HR TO FACILITATE PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS RE: STUDENT PROGRESS

DATES

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Brentwood Elementary | Nov 9 | Nov 10 | Mar 1 | Mar 2 |
| Cordova Bay Elementary | Oct 18 | Oct 19 | Oct 20 | Feb 9 |
| Deep Cove Elementary | Oct 19 | Oct 20 | Oct 21 | Mar 8 |
| Keating Elementary | Nov 1 | Nov 2 | Feb 27 | Feb 28 |
| KELSET Elementary | Oct 6 | Nov 23 | Nov 24 | Mar 2 |
| Lochside Elementary | Nov 1 | Nov 2 | Nov 3 | Mar 9 |
| Prospect Lake Elementary | Oct 4 | Oct 5 | Oct 6 | Mar 2 |
| Sidney Elementary | Sept 21 | Sept 22 | Oct 20 | Mar 9 |
| Bayside Middle | Sept 15 | Oct 12 | Oct 13 | May 18 |
| North Saanich Middle | Sept 21 | Sept 22 | Oct 20 | Feb 23 |
| Royal Oak Middle | Oct 18 | Oct 19 | Feb 15 | May 25 |
| Claremont Secondary | Sept 29 | Nov 24 | Feb 9 | May 4 |
| Parkland Secondary | Sept 15 | Nov 24 | Feb 16 | May 11 |
| Stelly's Secondary | Sept 29 | Nov 23 | Feb 15 | Apr 27 |

ALL SCHOOLS (TWO WEEK SPRING BREAK/SCHOOL CLOSURE IMPLEMENTED)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Friday, October 21, 2016 | Province Wide |
| Monday, November 14, 2016 | School Based |
| Monday, January 30, 2017 | Curriculum Implementation |
| Friday, February 24, 2017 | Tri-District |
| Monday, March 6, 2017 | School Based |
| Friday, April 28, 2017 | School Based |
| Monday, May 8, 2017 | Ministry Priorities |

LAST DAY OF CLASSES: THURSDAY, JUNE 29TH, 2017