

READY, SET, GROW! See pages 6 and 7.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY | OCT. 5

Teachers, the **heartbeat** of public education

ATA NEWS

September 4, 2018 | Volume 53, Number 1

News Publication of The Alberta Teachers' Association



KIM CLEMENT

Michael Robertson, vice-president of Three Drums of Wheat Local No. 20, plays with his children during some fun time at Summer Conference in Banff on Aug. 14.

Heating up

Hot weather a precursor to hot politics.

Read Jonathan Teghtmeyer's editorial on page 2.

Happy new year

A look ahead with ATA president Greg Jeffery.

Read Viewpoints on page 3.

Eggen vs. Smith

Minister and critic ready to vie for the teacher vote.

Read story on page 5.

CTF Corner

Ontario secondary teachers back in the national fold.

See story on page 12.



YUET CHAN

Diane Elliot at St. Alphonsus School in Edmonton engages her Grade 1 students in a reading activity.

A hot summer in the education world



EDITORIAL

Jonathan Teghtmeyer
ATA News Editor-in-Chief

Welcome back to another new school year.

I hope that you have had a restful, relaxing and rejuvenating summer. If you did, you were probably able to tune out some of the news stories that kept heating up the education world through the summer.

Let's recap.

In late June, Alberta courts denied an injunction sought by a few parents, private schools and advocacy groups against Bill 24. In a scathing ruling, Justice JC Kubik said the act, which aims to protect the privacy of students who attend gay-straight alliances, "in no way restricts the rights of parents or schools to continue to impart their religious and moral values to their children."

Her decision said the applicants failed to prove a degree of irreparable harm and ruled that the loss of GSAs would be "considerably more harmful" than temporarily limiting parents' rights. She dismissed much of the evidence presented by the applicants,

calling some of it unreliable and other bits "largely hearsay" while describing evidence in support of GSAs as "uncontroverted."

This decision does not resolve the legal challenges to Bill 24, but it may foreshadow how efforts to strike down the law will be received by the courts.

Since then, the education minister recently announced that 61 private schools currently in violation of the law will need to become compliant or risk losing their government funding.

Elsewhere, following extensive coverage from the *Edmonton Journal* on the issue of growing class sizes, the government released raw data on all class sizes in the province going back to 2004/05 (find the data at open.alberta.ca).

The Alberta Teachers' Association has been calling for the release of this data ever since the government launched an open data portal in 2013, as the only data previously available reported class size averages across an entire school jurisdiction. Then-ATA president Carol Henderson said, "We know that reporting averages hides the fact that there are extraordinarily large classes in many schools."

This data proves Henderson right. The data dump showed a number of high school academic classes in Calgary

as large as 45 to 47 students. In 2017, 80 per cent of division one classes exceeded the learning commission target of 17 students, up from 60 per cent of classes 10 years ago.

The ATA and others will continue to use this data to analyse the issue and to identify the problems that averages have kept hidden for years.

Finally, the summer would not be complete without some curriculum outrage.

A mid-July newspaper column attempted to portray the current curriculum review as "politically charged" and lacking in history. The columnist had obtained the draft K-4 social studies curriculum and criticised it for not using the word "Albertans."

The government hastily released the full set of curriculum drafts, but not before a political storm was created. UCP leader Jason Kenney reiterated his critique that the curriculum review is secretive, ideologically driven and tantamount to social engineering. He vowed to throw the NDP changes into the shredder.

"Secretive? Hardly," wrote a subsequent *Edmonton Journal* editorial, which pushed back against Kenney while simultaneously rebuking its own columnist.

"The proposed new Alberta K-4

curriculum won't overthrow the established social order or turn our children into mindless political correctness robots."

"(Kenney's) is an overwrought response that would destroy years of work and likely completely politicize the process, the opposite of what he claims he wants to achieve."

Curriculum politics dominated in Ontario as well, as the new Doug Ford government works to shred the recent revisions to the sex ed curriculum. Teachers are finding themselves in the crosshairs after the government set up a hotline for parents to report teachers who continued to teach the repealed outcomes.

Therefore, while summer may be ending, I don't think these hot issues are going away. As we head to a spring election, this school year may be one of the hottest when it comes to public debate on education.

I hope you have a great school year, but I also hope you stay engaged and involved — the voice of teachers is important in keeping the discussion focused and reasonable. Welcome back! ■

I welcome your comments—contact me at jonathan.teghtmeyer@ata.ab.ca.

Association ready to meet challenges head on



Q & A

Dennis Theobald
Executive Secretary

The Association has been preparing to meet both new and long-standing challenges for months now, based on a strategy consisting of four components: hardening, communication, engagement and action.

Question: What is the Alberta Teachers' Association doing to get ready for the year ahead?

Answer: This question and others related to it were frequently posed to me by teachers attending the Association's Summer Conference in Banff this August. Those asking the question were thinking about many different challenges facing us, including the prospects of a hotly contested provincial election within the next nine months and how the outcome might affect teachers and public education; the roll out of new teaching, leadership and superintendent standards; and the ongoing development of curriculum and continued central table bargaining (as well as local table negotiations in 15 bargaining units).

On top of all this are the daily trials of teaching in overcrowded classrooms while attempting to address the needs of individual students in conditions of growing classroom complexity. Indeed,

the year ahead will be interesting.

However, the Association has been preparing to meet both new and long-standing challenges for months now, based on a strategy consisting of four components: hardening, communication, engagement and action.

The first of these, hardening, involves reviewing the way in which the Association operates with the objective of identifying and correcting weaknesses and taking advantage of opportunities to improve our effectiveness and efficiency. Much of this work involves ensuring that we have the right people and resources in place to respond to member needs and expectations. One of the more visible examples of hardening is the addition to our staff complement of some truly inspired, talented and energetic individuals, all dedicated to serving teachers.

Communications entails determining what the Association's key messages are and how best to reach our critical

audiences both within the profession and beyond. You will soon be seeing on television, popular websites and in other media the Association's "Face of Education" campaign. This campaign is intended to remind viewers that education is not an abstract enterprise — it directly affects the lives of children. It will set the stage for a more politically oriented but non-partisan campaign intended to make issues around public education a key focus in the run-up to the provincial election this spring.

Engagement involves reaching out to and mobilizing our membership. There are more than 46,000 active teachers in the province. If we use just a small fraction of our individual and collective capacity to advocate for improvements in our conditions of practice and standard of living, we can be a formidable force. Just one example of Association engagement involves the preparation for central table bargaining that has been ongoing for more than six months

now. Teachers have been invited to identify their priorities, which in turn have informed the Association's opening position and objectives as it commences central table bargaining with the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association representing school boards and the province.

As negotiations proceed, members can turn to the ATA website for frequent updates on progress and will have the opportunity to participate in regional meetings prior to deciding the course and outcome of collective bargaining.

Finally there is action. The strength of this Association derives from the commitment of each individual teacher. At various times in the year ahead you will be called upon by your colleagues, your local, your bargaining unit and your provincial Association, to make a phone call, compose a letter or an email, attend a meeting, talk to an MLA or candidate, send out a Tweet or post on Facebook. In the final analysis, our success, your success, depends upon your willingness to become involved and act in support of your interests and public education. ■

Questions for consideration in this column are welcome. Please address them to Dennis Theobald at Barnett House (dennis.theobald@ata.ab.ca).



The Alberta Teachers' Association

www.teachers.ab.ca



www.facebook.com/ABteachers



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



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Download the app now by scanning the QR code or searching "Alberta teachers" in the App Store.

YOUR VIEWS

ON TWITTER

From Summer Conference in Banff, #ATAsumcon

Murray @mariajmurray

Class size panel: Albertans can't see what is being done with the funding because the government doesn't have an effective process for tracking what jurisdictions do with the funds.

Heather Quinn @HQuinnLocal37

Early morning! Getting started with the Women's Leadership Breakfast at #ATASumCon with keynote Shelley Magnusson! Full house! "Pulling the curtain back on the issues facing women in leadership."

Karen Polard @kpolard

Let's talk power and uberconfidence. Shelley Magnusson owned the room during our Women's Leadership Breakfast! Thank you for going first.

jason schilling @schill_dawg

Spent the morning discussing the economics of education and examining the political landscape of Alberta. My main takeaway, voting in this upcoming election is vital for everyone.

Sturgeon ATA Local27 @SturgeonTeacher

What an amazing week some of our team have had! We are coming away with new ideas, strategies, and information. Bring on a new year! #ATAsumcon #newideas

Thomas Midbo @thomasmidbo

Women's Leadership Breakfast. It is a challenge to overcome those 2nd generation biases: unconscious, subtle, invisible, and inadvertent barriers.

Lesley Holt @ScottyFreckles

Terrific dad & son week spent at @banffcentre while I learned with colleagues at #atasumcon. Thanks @albertateachers for supporting #worklifebalance #familymatters #momteacherlife.

On starting a new school year

Sean Beaton @backcountrynut

How do you introduce yourself to the parents of your students at the beginning of the year? Letter home? Email? Telephone call? Reaching out at the very beginning of the year is crucial for relationship building.

Alexander McDonald @acmcdonaldgp

I love this time of the year! Looking forward to spending time with my entire work family tomorrow, and to being in our schools next week to greet new students! Happy new (school) year everyone!

ATA Local #8@ATAlocal8

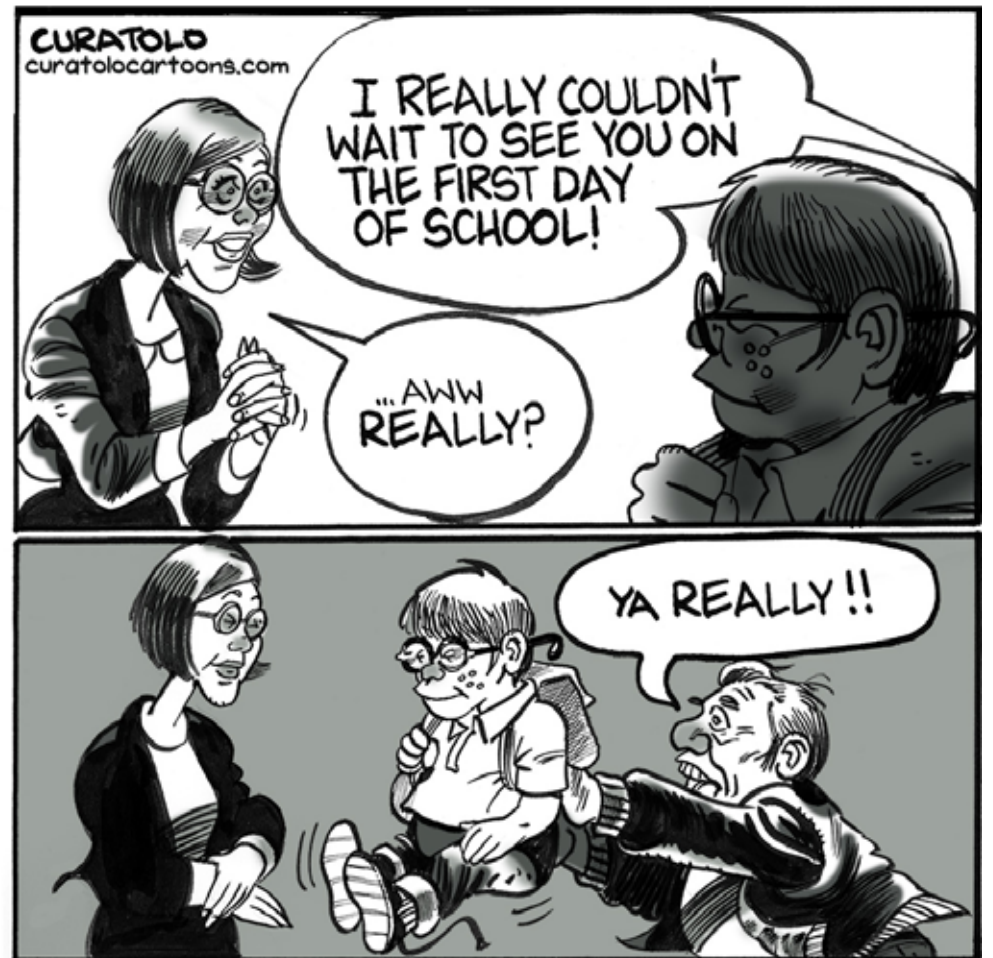
@ATAlocal8 hopes all our teachers had a restful, enjoyable summer. An exciting, new school year begins today!!@

Letters to the editor: We welcome letters to the editor. Please limit your submission to 300 words. Only letters bearing a first and last name, address and daytime telephone number will be considered for publication. Teachers are also asked to indicate where and what they teach. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Email managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.

FOR THE RECORD

“ The beginning is the most important part of the work. ”

—Plato



Happy new year everyone



VIEWPOINTS

Greg Jeffery
ATA President

Happy new year colleagues! As teachers we are privileged to be able to say this multiple times in a calendar year. Every September is a fresh start for us, for our students and their parents as well as school boards and the ministry. While I have felt this way since the start of my career, it was reinforced by a colleague and friend a number of years ago. Nancy Luyckfassel, a former principal of mine and now an ATA professional development staff officer, had an invigorating approach to the start of every school year, and for her staff it was infectious. She would say "I love this job. Every new school year everyone starts with a clean slate," and then she would model it. While she was referring mainly to the students, this was a message for the entire school community. This became a foundation for my firm belief in the relational nature of teaching. But why all this talk about our new year?

I was asked to write about my priorities for the coming school year, but I am not going to do so. You'll hear about my priorities at election time. I want to talk about our Association's priorities as approved by Provincial Executive Council based on feedback we received from you, the membership.

Overwhelmingly, teachers' number one concern is with class size. I have heard this message across the province from teachers in divisions one through four. We are frustrated because our class numbers are preventing us from doing our best work with kids. We do not have the time for individual contact with

each student and are hugely concerned about missing something or having at-risk students fall through the cracks. The Class Size Initiative is a start but is a Band Aid solution for a gaping wound, and the solution will need to be much more profound. We began a campaign using the "My Class Size Is" postcards last fall, and you should watch for further action on this file.

Closely linked to the class size issue is the lack of supports for inclusion. The concerns about time with students and at-risk students are very similar, but when communicating these concerns, we must be cautious to ensure the messaging focuses on the lack

Overwhelmingly, teachers' number one concern is with class size.

We are frustrated because our class numbers are preventing us from doing our best work with kids.

of supports and not the extra strain that unsupported students with exceptionalities put on the classroom. We believe in the inclusion model. With the proper supports and manageable class sizes, all Alberta students can be successful. Students are not the problem with inclusion; the concern is the lack of supports for them. And this is a huge concern.

As teachers we know students do not come to school in kindergarten with the same levels of readiness to learn. Expanded early learning opportunities such as junior kindergarten or full-day kindergarten need to be explored so that socio-economic disadvantages can be better addressed. In education, equity must begin early.

Student mental health continues to grow as a concern. Access to mental health professionals, whether they be school councillors or psychologists, has to

improve, and the ministries of education, health and children's services need to work together to provide the best possible care for our students.

Consider for a moment all four of these priorities together. With no attention paid to any of them, there will be winners and losers created in classrooms across the province, and this type of competition for teacher time and for scarce resources is not the model we want or need in order to educate all Alberta students well.

Another priority for this school year is to complete the second round of central table bargaining. Our

bargainers have excellent data from you and will pursue our goals vigorously. My hope is that central table bargaining will conclude before the end of the school year so we don't again have the situation where 16 bargaining units are completing the local portion of agreements that are already expired.

Political engagement is also a top priority for our association. Polling is telling us that, since the 2015 provincial election, education has fallen down the list of Albertans' concerns. With an election coming in the spring of 2019, we must work to increase education's profile so that our legitimate concerns for our students can be addressed, and so that public education can continue to flourish in our province.

These are lofty goals, perhaps, but I believe we are up to the task. ■

Two new staff officers join ATA

ATA News Staff

In June 2018, Provincial Executive Council appointed four Alberta teachers to positions as executive staff officers with the Alberta Teachers' Association. Featured here are two of the four new staff who assumed their new roles Aug. 1. Our next issue will feature Chris Gonsalvez and Myra Rybotycki.



Anne-Marie Huizing

Anne-Marie Huizing taught with Calgary Catholic Schools for 12 years before joining the Association as a staff member this summer. During her career, she was a mentor teacher in the area of technology, a learning coach and, most recently, the co-ordinating teacher for social studies at St. Anne Academic Centre. Huizing earned a BA, B.Ed. and M.Ed. at the University of Calgary. She is fluent in both English and French.

Huizing was first involved with the Association at the local level. She became a member of the Council of School Representatives for Calgary Separate School Local No. 55 when she was a first-year teacher. Later in her career she represented Division IV teachers on the local's Teacher Welfare Committee (TWC). At the time of her hiring, she was an Association economic consultant, chair of her local TWC and vice-chair of the Negotiating Sub Committee.

5 more things about Anne-Marie

Who or what inspired you to be a teacher?

My mom. She completed her education degree while I was in elementary school and even subbed for one of my teachers. I can remember her lesson planning and creating course materials at home at the dining room table. My mom would tell us about her classes and the students she taught – her “kids” away from home. It was always exciting to visit her school and help paint sets for the drama production or work in her classroom. My mom was also a school rep for the local ATA. When I became a teacher, that was one of the first things I signed up to do!

The best thing about teaching is ...

the people! At each school I worked at there were fantastic people to work with and learn from.

Anne-Marie's favourite ...

animal: Cairn terriers

meal or snack: tacos

place in the world: Amsterdam, Banff, Florence



Dan Coles

Dan Coles comes to the Association from Elk Island Catholic Schools where, over the last 12 years, he had been a teacher, assistant principal and principal. Prior to that, he also taught at St. Albert Public Schools and Pembina Hills Public Schools. He earned a B.Ed., an M.Ed. and a graduate diploma in education at the University of Alberta.

Throughout his career Coles has maintained involvement with the Association at the local and provincial levels, starting as president of the student local at the University of Alberta. He has served the teachers of Elk Island Catholic Local No. 21 and Alberta through his work as a member of his local executive and his service on numerous committees. Prior to joining the Association, Coles was in his fifth year as a member of the Association's Professional Conduct Committee.

Coles is an executive staff officer in the Member Services program area.

5 more things about Dan

Who or what inspired you to be a teacher?

I had an absolutely amazing Grade 6 teacher, Miss Quelch. She always showed so much interest in her students and made us feel very welcome in her class. She encouraged our learning and pushed us to be the best we could be. She taught me physical education and social studies. These would become my major and minor in my B.Ed. degree.

What is the greatest life lesson teaching has taught you?

Students, like everyone you meet, have a story. Taking the time to get to know those you meet will lead to truly rewarding relationships. Take the time!

Dan's favourite ...

author: Tom Clancy or John Grisham

movie: Top Gun

snack: nachos



YUET CHAN

Staff from the Society for Safe and Caring Schools & Communities show off their attire for Orange Shirt Day. The campaign honours survivors of the residential school system, running throughout September and culminating in events in Edmonton on Sept. 29 and Calgary on Oct. 1. Albertans are invited to order their orange shirts through the organization's website at www.safeandcaring.ca.



YUET CHAN

Les étudiants en éducation du Campus Saint-Jean découvrent la bibliothèque de l'ATA lors d'une journée d'orientation à Barnett House le 27 août. Plus de 90 étudiants ont participé à cette journée.

Education students from Campus Saint-Jean check out the ATA library during an orientation to the teaching profession at Barnett House on Aug. 27. The day-long session included more than 90 students.

Eggen and Smith jockey for teachers' votes

Minister and critic of education make election pitches as school year begins

Cory Hare
ATA News Managing Editor

Alberta's top two teachers-turned-politician are gearing up for an election showdown as a new school year kicks off.

With a provincial general election expected in the spring of 2019, Education Minister David Eggen took advantage of a recent interview with the *ATA News* to tout his party's track record as a progressive investor in education.

"We've made substantive improvements to our education system during difficult economic circumstances," Eggen said.

"Our government is committed to investing in education through good times and bad and we need another mandate to ensure that each of the foundational elements that I put in place in education are strengthened for now and for the future."



Education Minister David Eggen

GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

the people of Alberta is to ensure that we have an economy that can fund the programs of the government," Smith said.

"When you have a prosperous, growing economy, then you have the capacity to ensure that you have a strong health-care system, a strong education system, that we can take care of the vulnerable in our society."

As evidence of the government's commitment to education funding, Eggen cited the number of new schools that are being built, continued funding for enrolment growth and a commitment to better oversight of funding for the class size initiative, as recommended in the

spring by the auditor general.

"We will look for greater accountability of that money to be spent to reduce class sizes," Eggen said.

The UCP hasn't released a platform but is putting together a committee of experts for this purpose, Smith said. He said his party has concerns about the curriculum review process taking place behind closed doors.

"We want to see all of the major stakeholders involved in the process," he said.

He said that issues like class size and inclusion are complex. While they are closely tied to funding, there are also numerous other factors at play.

"We're going to have to have a wider conversation as a party and quite honestly as a province as we move forward on how best we can fund education," Smith said.

During a speech at the ATA's Annual Representative Assembly in May, Eggen said that he would remove a cap on teacher's pensions this fall. When he spoke to the *ATA News* in late August, he said he's still making final plans with the provincial treasury board and the federal government.

"We are doing all of those things and the cap will be removed this fall," Eggen said.

Both politicians touted their parties as the appropriate choice at the ballot box.

"You can judge me and our government on education based on our actions," Eggen said. "The best insurance to ensure the continued progressive approach to public education is to make sure you have a progressive government in place in 2019."

Smith threw cold water on the idea that the majority of teachers naturally support the NDP.

"Teachers, like all citizens in Alberta, will make their decisions on an individual basis based on who they believe will support them." ■

The *ATA News* is aiming to publish the educational views of all parties represented in the Alberta legislature in upcoming issues.



Mark Smith, United Conservative Party

Another high school teacher turned MLA, Mark Smith, who is also the education shadow minister for the United Conservative Party, pointed to economics as a key element of any policy discussion.

"As a conservative I believe that the best way of ensuring that we can help

Council sets stage for PEC election

PEC POINTS

Audrey Dutka
ATA News Staff

Highlights of the Provincial Executive Council meeting held June 14–15, 2018, at Barnett House in Edmonton

1. In accordance with general bylaw 70, approved that voting for the 2019 Provincial Executive Council general election will be conducted by electronic ballot.

2. Approved that the date for announcement of voting results for the 2019 Provincial Executive Council general election will be March 19, 2019.

3. Approved the Association's 2018 initial proposal for central table bargaining.

4. Declared in effect as of July 1, 2018, an amendment to clause 1 of the Code of Professional Conduct to include gender expression, as contained in Electoral Ballot 1 of 2017 and approved by the 2018 Annual Representative Assembly (ARA). The amendment brings the code in line with the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and established Association policy.

5. Tasked the Resolutions Committee with preparing a resolution for the

2019 ARA, that would amend the Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities for Teachers to include gender expression. This amendment would bring the Declaration into line with the Code of Professional Conduct, the *Alberta Human Rights Act* and Association policy.

6. Approved as interim policy effective immediately an amendment to the Declaration of Rights and Responsibilities for Teachers to include gender expression.

7. Amended the Administrative Guidelines to provide additional gender choices on future Association surveys where gender information is relevant.

8. Approved in principle a discussion paper to guide Association conversations with superintendents concerning the extension to them of active membership in the Association.

9. Directed the executive secretary to review the discussion paper referenced above with external "critical friends" and to report their observations to Council.

10. Nominated a candidate for appointment to the Canadian Teachers' Federation Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

11. Named Anne-Marie Huizing and Myra Rybotycki to the two positions of executive staff officer, Teacher Welfare, named Chris Gonsalvez to the position of executive staff officer, Professional Development and named Dan Coles to

the position of executive staff officer, Member Services. All four positions take effect Aug. 1, 2018.

12. In an effort to reduce the amount of paper produced and distributed by the Association, suspended the production in print form of the *Members' Handbook* for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and adopted a 15-issue schedule for the *ATA News* in the 2018/19 school year, down from a 19-issue schedule.

13. Approved an overexpenditure to improve the use of digital distribution of news content.

14. Updated the Administrative Guidelines to reflect the decision made at the 2018 ARA to provide a subsidy to delegates incurring child care expenses to attend Summer Conference.

15. Set the number of attendees at the Summer Conference Strategic Leadership Seminar at a maximum of 15 attendees, with an overexpenditure to cover the costs associated with the planning and attendance at the Strategic Leadership Seminar.

16. Amended the Administrative Guidelines to update the room and equipment rental rates at Barnett House and Southern Alberta Regional Office.

17. Approved 21 applications for the Diversity, Equity and Human Rights grant.

18. Approved a contribution to Media Smarts to help sponsor Media Literacy

Week, scheduled for November 5–9, 2018.

19. Approved the names of eight teachers for addition to the Association Instructors name bank, one teacher for addition to the Association Administrator Instructors name bank, two teachers for addition to the PD Facilitators name bank and one teacher to the Retirement Consultants name bank.

20. Renamed economic consultants as teacher welfare liaisons.

21. Established a Committee on Understanding Aggression(s) in Alberta Schools and School Communities—Creating Safe Learning Environments for All, approved its terms of reference and appointed members of Council and staff to the committee.

22. Notwithstanding the frame of reference, increased the membership on the Communications, Advocacy and Public Education Committee by two field members for the 2018/19 year, with consideration for an increase to the field membership of the committee to be included in the 2019/20 program prognoses.

23. Ensured a clause protecting Teachers' Conventions is included in the Association's Initial Proposal for central table bargaining and approved an allocation from contingency for a September 2018 meeting of the Committee on Convention Review.

PEC POINTS continued on page 8

READY SET GROW!

Teachers' Conventions

Teachers' conventions enhance professional practice by providing teachers and school leaders with opportunities to share innovative practices, discuss pedagogical issues and meet their self-directed learning goals.

2019 Convention Themes

- Responding to changes in the educational landscape
- Teaching in inclusive classrooms
- Educating for reconciliation
- Promoting holistic health and wellness
- Embracing the importance of play and place

Featuring

New sessions developed by the Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation program, including

- An Introduction to Treaty Education,
- Indigenous Education Resources: Where Do I Start? and
- Full Circle: Understanding the Social Implications of Indigenous Realities.

Convention questions

For more information about teachers' conventions or for answers to frequently asked questions about convention attendance, please visit www.ataconventions.ca or check out the ATA website at www.teachers.ab.ca > For Members > ProfessionalDevelopment > Teachers' Conventions.

General questions regarding teachers' conventions should be directed to the Professional Development duty officer.

Telephone: 780-447-9400 (in Edmonton); 1-800-232-7208 (toll-free in Alberta); email: pd@ata.ab.ca

North Central Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 7–8, 2019
Location: Edmonton — Shaw Conference Centre, Westin Hotel and offsite venues
Contact: Pam Arnason, president
E-mail: president@nctca.ab.ca
Website: www.mynctca.com

Calgary City Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 14–15, 2019
Location: Calgary — Telus Convention Centre, Hyatt Regency Hotel and offsite venues
Contact: Darren Moroz, president
E-mail: cctcapresident@gmail.com
Website: www.cctca.com

North East Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 14–15, 2019
Location: Edmonton — Doubletree by Hilton Hotel
Contact: Adrienne Sprecker, president
E-mail: adrienne.sprecker@nlsd.ab.ca
Website: <http://netca.teachers.ab.ca>

Central East Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: March 7–8, 2019
Location: Edmonton — Shaw Conference Centre
Contact: Jim Allan, president
E-mail: jjallan@telus.net
Website: www.ceatca.teachers.ab.ca

Palliser District Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 21–22, 2019
Location: Calgary — Telus Convention Centre and Hyatt Hotel
Contact: Andrea Craigie, president
E-mail: president@pdtca.org
Website: www.pdtca.org

Southeastern Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 21–22, 2019
Location: Medicine Hat College
Contact: Tim Johnson, president
E-mail: tibon007@gmail.com
Website: www.seatca.ca

South Western Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 21–22, 2019
Location: University of Lethbridge
Contact: Nicole Kusick, president
E-mail: president@swatca.ca
Website: www.swatca.ca

Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 28–March 1, 2019
Location: Edmonton — Shaw Conference Centre, Westin Hotel and offsite venues
Contact: Lloyd Bloomfield, president
E-mail: president@getca.com
Website: www.getca.com

Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention

Dates: March 7–8, 2019
Location: Grande Prairie Composite High School and Peace Wapiti Academy
Contact: Chantal Gallant, president
E-mail: mptcpresident@gmail.com
Website: <http://mptca.teachers.ab.ca>

Central Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: March 14–15, 2019
Location: St Joseph's High School, Red Deer
Contact: David Martin, president
E-mail: teacher.david.martin@gmail.com
Website: www.mycatca.com

This is the time of year when teachers turn their attention to (among dozens of other things) their professional growth plans.

A meaningful plan enhances a teacher's professional practice, and a key component of such a plan is teachers' convention, which enables teachers to learn about innovative pedagogical practices and theories from top-notch speakers.

Membership in a specialist council is another potentially integral component of a teacher's professional growth plan. Your association has 21 specialist councils, and every active member is entitled to join one at no cost. Specialist councils organize annual conferences, produce publications, maintain websites and offer regional workshops and seminars, thus providing professional development opportunities and promoting teachers' expertise in curriculum and specialty areas.

Specialist Council Conferences | 2018/19

Alberta School Library Council

No conference planned at this time.
Website: <http://www.aslc.ca/>

Career and Technology Education Council

Date: Nov. 22–24, 2018
Location: Sheraton Hotel, Red Deer
Theme: CTF/CTS A New Frontier — Wild West
Contact: Alicia Kneeland-Teasdale
E-mail: conferencedirector@ctecalberta.ca
Website: <https://ctec.teachers.ab.ca/conferences/conference%202018/Pages/Home.aspx/>

Le Conseil français

No conference planned at this time.
Website: <http://cf.teachers.ab.ca>

Council for Inclusive Education

Date: Oct. 11–13, 2018
Location: Coast Canmore Hotel, Canmore
Theme: Celebrating the Challenges
Contact: Naomi Bell
E-mail: conferencesouth@cieeducation.ca
Website: <https://cieeducation.ca/>

Council for School Leadership

Date: May 11–15, 2019
Location: Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, Banff
Theme: uLead 2019
Contact: Jeff Johnson
E-mail: leadershipfor21c@me.com
Website: ulead.ca

Council of School Counsellors

Date: Nov. 15–17, 2018
Location: Coast Canmore Hotel, Canmore
Theme: Voices of Counselling: Owing the Story
Contact: Erin Luong
E-mail: conferencedirector@guidancecouncil.ca
Website: www.ataschoolcounsellors.com/

Early Childhood Education Council

Date: Nov. 1–3, 2018
Location: Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton
Theme: Transforming Today for Tomorrow
Contact 1: Jenn Forsyth
E-mail: jenn.forsyth@ualberta.ca
Contact 2: Christina Leung
E-mail: Christina.leung11@gmail.com
Website: www.ecec-ata.com/

Educational Technology Council

No conference planned at this time.
Website: <https://etc.teachers.ab.ca/pages/home.aspx>

English as a Second Language Council

Date: Nov. 2–3, 2018
Location: Chateau Lacombe, Edmonton
Theme: Empowering Learners: Upping Our Game, Inspiring Futures
Contact: Nancy Musica
E-mail: nancy.musica@epsb.ca
Website: www.eslcata.com/conference

English Language Arts Council

No conference planned at this time.
Website: <http://elacata.ca/>

Fine Arts Council

Date: Oct. 18–20, 2018
Location: Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton
Theme: Arts Army
Contact: Andreas Berko
E-mail: levendis999@outlook.com
Website: <http://fac.teachers.ab.ca>

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Council**

Date: Oct. 11–13, 2018
Location: River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch
Theme: Grounded in Truth, Soaring with Knowledge
Contact 1: Jolyne Watson
conference co-director
E-mail: jolynewatson@gmail.com
Contact 2: John Tidswell
conference co-director
E-mail: tidswellj@gmail.com
Website: <https://fnmiec.atapd.ca/initiative/soaring-with-knowledge-annual-conference-2018>

Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council**

Date: Oct. 11–13, 2018
Location: River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch
Theme: Grounded in Truth, Soaring with Knowledge
Contact 1: Jolyne Watson
conference co-director
E-mail: jolynewatson@gmail.com
Contact 2: John Tidswell
conference co-director
E-mail: tidswellj@gmail.com
Website: <https://fnmiec.atapd.ca/initiative/soaring-with-knowledge-annual-conference-2018>

Health and Physical Education Council

Date: May 3–5, 2019
Location: Red Deer College, Red Deer
Theme: Life's a Journey ... Let It Be Active
Contact: Jodi Harding-Kuriger
E-mail: jodi.harding@gmail.com
Website: www.hpec.ab.ca/hpec-2019-life-s-a-journey-let-it-be-active

Mathematics Council*

Date: Oct. 19–20, 2018
Location: Delta Hotel by Marriott and Radisson Hotel, Edmonton
Theme: 2018 Geeks Unite 2.0
Contact: Jennifer Hogg
Email: MCATAregistrar@shaw.ca
Website: www.mathteachers.ab.ca

Middle Years Council

Date: April 25–27, 2019
Location: Banff Park Lodge Resort Hotel and Conference Centre
Theme: Hit It out of the Park!
Contact: Chris McCullough
E-mail: chris.mccullough.teacher@gmail.com
Website: www.ata-myc.com

Outreach Education Council

Date: Sept. 27–29, 2018
Location: River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch
Theme: The Power of Connection
Contact: Antonette Wilson
E-mail: oec.ab.conference@gmail.com
Website: <http://oec.teachers.ab.ca>

Religious and Moral Education Council

Date: Oct. 12–13, 2018
Location: Banff Park Lodge, Banff
Theme: Relevant Religious Education
Contact: Mark Nixon
E-mail: mark.nixon53@gmail.com
Website: <http://rmec.teachers.ab.ca>

Science Council*

Date: Oct. 19–20, 2018
Location: Delta Hotel by Marriott and Radisson Hotel, Edmonton
Theme: 2018 Geeks Unite 2.0
Contact 1: Tracy Onuczko
(SC conference director)
E-mail: tracy.onuczko@ualberta.ca
Contact 2: Marj Farris
(MCATA conference director)
E-mail: marjf@incentre.net
Website: <http://sc.teachers.ab.ca>

Second Languages and Intercultural Council

Date: Oct. 20, 2018
Location: Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton
Contact: Diana D Boisvert
E-mail: diana.boisvert14@gmail.com
Website: <http://slic.teachers.ab.ca>

Social Studies Council**

Date: Oct. 11–13, 2018
Location: River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch
Theme: Grounded in Truth, Soaring With Knowledge
Contact 1: John Tidswell
conference co-director
E-mail: tidswellj@gmail.com
Contact 2: Jolyne Watson
conference co-director
E-mail: jolynewatson@gmail.com
Website: <https://fnmiec.atapd.ca/initiative/soaring-with-knowledge-annual-conference-2018>

For more information about specialist councils, visit the ATA website at www.teachers.ab.ca > My ATA > Professional Development > Specialist Councils.

* Joint Conference—Mathematics Council and Science Council

** Joint Conference—First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Council, Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council and Social Studies Council

PEC POINTS

continued from page 5

24. Received the report of a hearing committee, which found a teacher guilty on seven charges of unprofessional conduct for using a derogatory term in class on more than one occasion; raising the possibility of a teacher being a certain nationality because of small food services the teacher was providing others in the school cafeteria; discussing racial comments the teacher had made and for which the teacher had been reprimanded; making comments about a female student's breasts; making reference to a student being a

lesbian; and, on two occasions, making reference to a student's body size. The hearing committee imposed the penalty of a letter of severe reprimand and a \$400 fine for each charge.

25. Received the report of a hearing committee, which found a teacher guilty on three charges of unprofessional conduct for which the teacher was convicted of indictable offences; namely, engaging in sexual activities with a student(s) and a person(s) under the age of 16. The hearing committee imposed the penalty of a declaration that the teacher is permanently ineligible for membership in the Association and a recommendation to the minister of education to permanently cancel the teacher's teaching certificate.

26. Received the report of a hearing committee, which found a teacher guilty on one charge of unprofessional conduct for posting an inappropriate tweet on the teacher's Twitter account, thus failing to act in a manner which maintains the honour and dignity of the profession. The hearing committee imposed a penalty of a letter of reprimand.

27. Received the report of a hearing committee, which found a teacher guilty on four counts of unprofessional conduct for sending email or electronic message(s) to a colleague(s), in which the content and/or approach taken was inappropriate; sending inappropriate email or electronic message(s) to a colleague(s), impersonating another individual; sending email or electronic

message(s) to a colleague(s), in which the content and/or approach taken was inappropriate; and sending email or electronic message(s) to a human resources officer who was not a colleague, in which the content and/or approach taken was inappropriate. The hearing committee imposed a penalty of a single letter of severe reprimand and a total fine of \$2,000.

28. Approved field member committee and representation assignments for 2018/19.

29. Amended the Lethbridge and Area Field Experiences Committee frame of reference to include a member from Kainai Board of Education. ■

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For more information, contact Tracy Pohl at tracy.pohl@ata.ab.ca or by telephone: 780-447-9482 or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free) ext 482. The Alberta Teachers' Association reserves the right to refuse the highest bid if it is deemed to be inadequate.



Volunteer for Project Overseas WITH CTF IN THE SUMMER OF 2019

CTF needs English- and French-speaking Canadian teachers at the primary, elementary and secondary levels who are interested in volunteering to offer services in a wide range of subjects in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Each year, about 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to volunteer on CTF's Project Overseas. Based on requests from CTF's partners overseas, teams of Canadian teachers are formed in January and inservice projects take place in July and August.

CTF follows strict guidelines pertaining to Project Overseas' participant safety and project location.

For more information and to apply, visit the ATA website (www.teachers.ab.ca) under My ATA > Programs and Services > International Cooperation.

If you have questions, contact **Robert Mazzotta**.
Telephone: 780 447-9445 in Edmonton and area or 1-800-232-7208 (ext. 445) from elsewhere in Alberta
Email: robert.mazzotta@ata.ab.ca.

**Application deadline:
November 1, 2018.**



The Joy of Teaching

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Radisson Hotel Edmonton South, 4440 Gateway Boulevard
Fee **\$40** — Early Bird / **\$50** — Regular Registration Fee (effective September 22, 2018)

Register online at <https://event-wizard.com/events/2018STC/>
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For more information contact Southern Alberta Regional Office (SARO).
Phone: 403-265-2672 (Calgary) or 1-800-332-1280; mssaro@ata.ab.ca

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The Alberta Teachers' Association

The ATA Educational Trust

Supporting teachers' professional learning

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- **\$600** grants to help teachers with attending a conference, workshop, seminar, institute or symposium.
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Grant application deadline: September 30

www.teachers.ab.ca > My ATA > Programs and Services > Grants, Awards and Scholarships > ATA Educational Trust

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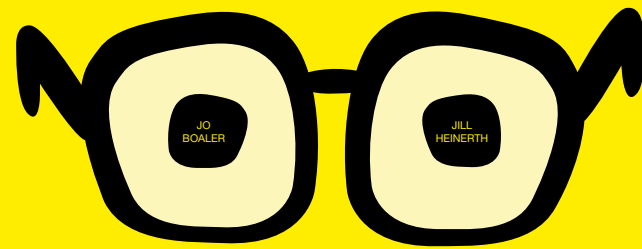
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Please submit your stories via email to info@ata38.ab.ca. Pictures welcome. We reserve the right to edit your stories.

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October 18–20, 2018

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The A.T.A. Social Studies Council, First Nations Métis & Inuit Education Council in conjunction with GEOEC (Global, Environmental & Outdoor Education Council) bring you the 2018 conference



October 11 to October 13, 2018
River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch, Alberta
website: <https://www.rivercreeresort.com/hotel/>

Early Registration June 30/18 \$300
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CTF honours Alberta teachers

Two Alberta teachers received national honours at the annual general meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, which was held in Edmonton in July.

Wilson Bearhead, a Nakota elder and member of the Wabamun Lake First Nation in central Alberta, received the CTF Indigenous Elder Award. Bearhead has taught in public, Catholic and First Nations schools, using nature and storytelling as powerful tools to convey and enhance his lessons. Bearhead also has committee involvement in initiatives such as Project of Heart, a national organization seeking to uncover the history of the residential school system.

Bearhead said he was honoured to receive the award.

"The reason that I'm honoured is that ... I always believed that Indigenous people have a place in this circle," he said.

"Indigenous people have always had the knowledge of many things in this world, but for some reason that knowledge was never acknowledged or recognized. But today it is being recognized and being honoured."

Former ATA executive secretary Gordon Thomas received CTF's Special Recognition Award.

Thomas was cited for his collegial approach during a 41-year career as a teacher. Highlights of his 34 years with the Association include helping negotiate a resolution to teachers' \$2.1 billion unfunded pension liability and helping create a teacher evaluation policy



"I always believed that Indigenous people have a place in this circle."

— Wilson Bearhead, CTF Indigenous Elder Award recipient

model from scratch. His work inspired the Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy, which has been in use for 20 years.

Thomas said he was very grateful to be recognized.

"It's very meaningful to me because I've done a lot of work with my colleagues across the country," he said. "It's very special and I'm very grateful to CTF for the recognition and to Alberta for nominating me."



"This award is very meaningful to me because I've done a lot of work with my colleagues across the country I'm very grateful to CTF for the recognition and to Alberta for nominating me."

— Gordon Thomas, CTF's Special Recognition Award recipient

PHOTOS: CORY HARE

Resource shortage behind increased aggression toward teachers

A growing number of aggressive incidents toward teachers is being linked to a lack of critical resources and supports for students in schools.

A CTF survey of teachers across Canada found that rates of violence range from 41 per cent of teachers in some jurisdictions to 90 per cent in others. More than 70 per cent of teachers reported that both rates and severity of violence in schools are increasing.

Rates of violence experienced by teachers tended to be higher for teachers who are

- 1) women,
- 2) working in elementary schools,
- 3) working in schools in lower socio-economic status locations and/or large metropolitan areas, and
- 4) working as special education teachers.

The findings come from the federation's first-ever pan-Canadian research review on violence in schools.

"Today's teachers are faced with many challenges, including teaching to increasingly complex classrooms, encompassing diverse cultural, academic, behavioural and social skill sets and

backgrounds," explained CTF president Mark Ramsankar. "They require educational support and resources such as assistants, psychologists, psychiatrists and other professionals to support their students' learning experiences.

"According to studies, a child's feelings of abandonment in which his/her educational, social and emotional needs are not being met may lead to violent outbursts," Ramsankar added. "And that violence against teachers is taking a toll on educators' mental and physical well-being as well as their self-worth as professionals."

The CTF research points to some of the drivers behind the increased rates of aggression: widespread underfunding for public education; lack of resources and supports for addressing violence against teachers (including inservice supports and training), and serious inadequacies in services and supports for student mental health, behavioural and special education needs.

Visit www.ctf-fce.ca to view the full report.

Ontario secondary teachers rejoin national federation

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) officially returned as a CTF member organization following a unanimous vote on July 11.

"The OSSTF is a powerful driver for social justice, human rights and a strong public education system," said CTF president Mark Ramsankar. "Their voice will heighten and strengthen our collective capacity to promote public education, to advance the teaching profession and to address the critical needs of children and youth in Canada."

OSSTF president Harvey Bischof said that members of his organization are looking forward to rejoining the CTF and participating in advocating for publicly funded education across Canada.

"The CTF's focus on social advocacy, labour rights and social justice issues also aligns with the OSSTF's values and beliefs," he said.

"Formal alliances and co-operation among like-minded organizations will be indispensable in advancing and improving the cause of education in a world where education policy is becoming increasingly centralized and

co-ordinated across jurisdictions."

Bischof congratulated the CTF on the 57th anniversary of Project Overseas, an important joint initiative between the CTF and its member organizations to send teams to various countries with the aim of strengthening publicly funded education. "OSSTF members look forward to participating in this program where they can also support their international education colleagues, while learning from them. As partners in the CTF, we can work together to build a humane, decent and fulfilling future for all students and the society in which we live," Bischof concluded.

The OSSTF has 60,000 members across Ontario, including public high school teachers, occasional teachers, educational assistants, continuing education teachers and instructors, early childhood educators and other educational support staff.

In 2016, the British Columbia Teachers' Federation also voted to rejoin the CTF after an eight-year hiatus. The CTF now represents 238,000 teachers as part of its 17-member provincial and territorial organizations.