



RATIFIED?
Results of the central table ratification vote are now available online at www.teachers.ab.ca.

2018
Teachers Together

'Misguided'
ATA reacts to UCP platform.



See page 5.

ATA NEWS

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News Publication of The Alberta Teachers' Association

ACTION TIME!

An important message from ATA president Greg Jeffery

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Albertans head to the polls on April 16. Your Association has been hard at work trying to raise the profile of public education as an important education issue and we have appreciated your help and that of your locals in pushing this message.

With a week left until election day, now it is up to you.

Apathy is dangerous and we need all teachers to be active in this election.

Participation takes many forms: attend events, contact candidates, volunteer to

help your favourite campaign, get out to forums, ask education-related questions and talk to your neighbours.

I urge you to find three concrete actions you can do between now and April 16 to put education on the ballot.

And, finally, vote!

Our future, and that of our students, depends on it.

Thank you.



The ghost of the task force

Buried in 2014, it still haunts the profession.

Read Jonathan Teghtmeyer's editorial on page 2.

Meet the next PEC

Teachers vote in new members of Provincial Executive Council.

See page 4.

Education platforms

Alberta's political parties try to win your vote.

See page 7.

The Ghost of Jeff Johnson's Task Force



EDITORIAL

Jonathan Teghtmeyer
ATA News Editor-in-Chief

Colleagues, the 2014 report of the Task Force for Teaching Excellence was buried for a very good reason. By the time all was said and done, it became quite clear that it was designed as a politically motivated attack on teachers and the profession. The data gathering and research appear to have been done in such a way as to develop arguments that would support pre-determined outcomes.

The Association, with the widespread support and engagement of teachers, successfully uncovered this plot and effectively and efficiently discredited the process and report. It is incredibly disappointing to see that it is now being revived and has been included in the election platform of the United Conservative Party.

Ongoing re-evaluation for teacher certification assumes incompetence and undermines the professionalism of teachers. It is burdensome, unnecessary and uncommon among other regulated

With apologies to Robert Service.

Now Jeff Johnson was from Ath'basca and a slick pol'ticker was he.

He assembled with Glenn, five women, six men to take a look and see, what could be done about these teachers, "I don't think they're A-OK.

And most of all, you hear my call, do something about the ATA."

And off with a jerk, the team set to work, and it gathered the data it could.

But things were hurried, and some rats scurried, so things were left misunderstood.

Surveys, submissions, web consultations, but one meeting sorely missed;

Ne'er once did the fray meet the ATA, to ask 'bout teachers dismissed.

They rushed 'til finished, the brief was published, the chair sang, "I'm so excited!"

But teachers saw through, the attack was true, and they responded united.

Five year evals? Remove our princ'pals? You want to split the ATA?

You got it all wrong. We won't play along. The teachers cried out, "No way!"

Those teachers set out, from rooftops they'd shout, "Down with this awful Task Force!"

They toiled for days, they met MLAs and they talked to parents, of course.

We have to confess, this thing's a mess, we're more than just simply annoyed

The solution's clear, we have nothin' t'fear, long as this report's destroyed.

Some boards we tore from the school floor and we lit a boiler fire;

Some gas was found, just lying around, so we fuelled the fire higher;

The flames just soared, and the furnace roared — such a blaze you seldom see;

And into the blast, the task force was cast, much like our muse Sam McGee.

We thought it was done, that it set like th'sun, but these things often come back.

The campaign trails have their secret tales; pol'tics can revive an attack.

The backroom lights have seen queer sights, but the queerest one of course,

Was that time in 'nineteen, when we all seen the Ghost of Johnson's Task Force.

professions — this proposal exists in the UCP platform.

The removal of principals from the Association would severely undermine collegiality and collaboration in schools. It replaces a professional relationship focused on student learning with an industrial management-labour relationship that is focused on human resources — Jason Kenney has espoused this idea during the campaign period.

The splitting of the ATA into separate professional and union bodies would alter the culture of schools and Alberta's education system dramatically. Again, it moves from a collaborative and professional model focused on learning to an industrial and more combative model. It would have impacts in all schools and boards — this is an adopted policy of the UCP, although it did not make it into the election platform.

Vigilance from teachers through the election and after will be required to make sure that these dangerous ideas do not move forward.

The task force report has been figuratively cremated — effectively destroyed. Too bad its ghost still haunts us. ■

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

Charter education is not public education



Q & A

Dennis Theobald
ATA Executive Secretary

Question: The United Conservative Party (UCP) platform proposes removing a cap on the number of charter schools and removing other regulatory restrictions. Why is the Association so opposed to measures that would enhance parents' access to charter schools?

Answer: The Association is opposed to expanding the number of charter schools and removing restrictions on their operation because without appropriate constraints, the charter school system could pose a serious threat to the integrity of public education in Alberta.

Charter schools were supposed to expand the range of educational choice available to parents and students; however, most do not offer approaches that are not available or could not be made available as alternative education programs by public, separate or francophone school authorities. And while charter school operators and their supporters proudly claim that they are fully part of the public school system, these schools differ from their public,

separate and francophone counterparts in several crucial respects: they are not governed by publicly elected boards, their teachers are precluded by statute from being active members of the Alberta Teachers' Association, and they can select students based on compatibility with what is supposed to be their unique programming or pedagogical approaches. Nonetheless, these schools are eligible for the same provincial funding per student as any other public school.

similar to the proposed charter. Effectively, this gives public school boards right of first refusal. Finally, the total number of charter schools allowed in the province is currently capped at 15, although only 13 are operating (several with multiple campuses).

The UCP platform provides for the removal of the cap on the number of charter schools in addition to eliminating other (unspecified) restrictions. At the very least, this has the potential

In cities and states that have permitted the free establishment of charter schools, the result has been to increasingly privatize K-12 education and undermine the viability of traditional public schools. Teachers' unions are being attacked and teachers' security of employment, compensation and conditions of practice are being diminished. Most seriously, the net effect of the establishment of charter schools has been to disadvantage the poorest and most vulnerable student populations, contributing to the segregation of education as parents who have the means to place their children in charter schools abandon failing public schools to those who don't.

I do not claim that this is the objective that the UCP wishes to achieve. The party, however, owes Albertans a clear and specific statement detailing how a UCP government would change the regulatory regime governing charter schools so that the implications for public education in Alberta can be fully understood and so that citizens can make an informed decision as they go to vote. ■

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

Without appropriate constraints, the charter school system could pose a serious threat to the integrity of public education in Alberta.

Charter schools in Alberta are subject to restrictions. They are required to adhere to the provincial program of studies and employ certificated teachers. Charters are not allowed to be for-profit enterprises and may not be associated with a religious faith or denomination. As part of the application process, those wishing to establish a charter school are required to first approach their local school board and request that it establish an alternative program

to dramatically expand the number of operating charter schools. It may even open up the possibility that private schools might re-establish themselves as fully funded charters, and that commercial providers might be free to operate charter schools for profit. We need only look to the American experience with unfettered charter schools to recognize the damage that implementation of such a policy could cause public education.

YOUR VIEWS

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

Regarding the Edmonton Journal article "NDP promises 70 new and modernized schools, 1,000 new teachers and staff"

Andrew Clapperton

It's nice to see a party with a real plan for education.

Laurie Dirsa

This is wonderful, but where oh where is the cash coming from?

Andrea MacKay

Campaign promises are what my grandma would call "pie crust promises": easily made, easily broken. We need to address the economy before larger debts are incurred.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's time to focus on positive solutions

In response to the Feb. 26 editorial ("The threat to public education is real"), I would like to point out that there is no threat to public education, but rather a wake-up call to adapt. The editor used the phrase "clear and present danger to public education," but there is no danger, rather an opportunity to innovate.

There is a perception that public education is being attacked under the guise of school choice and parental rights and as teachers we need to be vigilant and protect the public school system. Ironically though, as a teacher in a Catholic division that is funded by public dollars, the threat to terminate the separate

system is not coming from school choice and parental rights advocates.

In a five-year spread dating from 2014 to 2018, private education enrolment increased by 6.9 per cent, on the heels of the public system, which made gains of 7.1 per cent. That is only a difference of 0.2 percentage points. The separate system, despite the efforts from special interest groups to dismantle it, led the growth by 9.5 per cent.

When we speak of alternative schooling, there is a perception that it's creating a two-tier system: elites versus the most vulnerable. If we refer to the statistics on Alberta Education (2012–2016) you will note that charter schools, which are publicly funded, increased their special needs student population by 48.6 per cent, private/independent schools by 37 per cent, while the public system indicates a 28.8 per cent increase.

To conclude, parents are exercising their fundamental right to educate their children as they see fit and are seeking effective alternative options. It is time to come off the defence and strategize on solutions that positively impact the learning goals of all young Albertans. ■

Janis Nett

Grade 5 teacher

Red Deer Catholic School District

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

“ Principals are management, and they have responsibility to manage the teachers and to manage human resources in their schools. ”

— UCP leader Jason Kenney at a March 26 news conference, where he said he was open to removing principals from the Alberta Teachers' Association.



Let the teaching profession help improve public education



VIEWPOINTS

Mark Ramsankar
President,
Canadian Teachers' Federation

Monkey see, monkey do. Currently this seems to be a popular practice among Canada's provincial governments bankrupt of ideas and looking to decimate public education — the future of our children be damned.

Rather than pruning the hedges, our elected officials are opting for chainsaws, clearcutting over selective logging. Use the analogy of your liking, the end result is the same: short-term political games traded for long-term devastation.

Rather than present any kind of vision or plan for a brighter, stronger future, too many of Canada's capitals are digging up political playlists from the 1990s and trying to sell them as the answer to the country's supposed woes. It's no different than insisting that a CD should play just fine in a world dominated by streaming from the cloud. The problem is, once one government hits play, others eagerly run to the attic to dust off their discs.

Manitoba has quickly followed in the footsteps of Nova Scotia by seeking the advice of a consultant skilled at proposing ways to dismantle publicly funded public education systems. In Ontario, chaos is the name of the game as politicians have been inspired by British Columbia's education foibles of the past to take a hatchet to public education as their answer to reversing a deficit. Government hopefuls in Alberta are watching with anticipation as an election campaign unfolds.

Nova Scotia's system now lies in tatters, and even though the Supreme Court righted the wrongs of BC's

previous government, the damage is only beginning to be undone.

When the goal is to weaken public education to open the door to charter schools and privatized services, the method is simple: mismanage the system, cut funding and shun the teaching profession. This is apparently a great way for some to make a lucrative living, but it comes at the expense of our children's education and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. The United Nations made public education a universal right, so the goal of any government should be to enhance education systems rather than use our children and mortgage their future to win votes.

No one knows better than a teacher what a child needs in the classroom.

If you needed bypass surgery, would you prefer a heart surgeon or a consultant to the hospital administrator? Education is no different.

Teacher organizations represent the teaching profession, the guardian of publicly funded public education. No one knows better than a teacher what a child needs in the classroom. Far more than just valuable time spent in the classroom, the profession at home and abroad has conducted exhaustive research to adapt to increasingly complex learning environments to ensure that our children get the right start in life.

Now, these may not seem like objective views coming from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, but as an organization that represents 273,000 teachers in all provinces and territories, we know what works. What's more revealing is that the disturbing trends

we're witnessing across the country go well beyond public education. They represent growing fault lines that pose a threat to our core democratic foundation.

Our public systems — education, health care, social services and environmental protection — help and even improve the playing field of life. They bring together communities, the young and old, people of diverse and rich backgrounds, cultures and experiences. These public systems are the key ingredients of a cohesive society and a shared common good. But they do not prosper on their own without proper care.

Tending to our democratic institutions is no different than cultivating a healthy garden. It takes continuing dedication and hard work. More than anything, it means sinking your hands into the soil. However, if a garden is abandoned, plants grow unwieldy and weeds take hold. Left unattended too long, those very weeds leave the garden unrecognizable all the way to the roots. We cannot stand idle and watch this happen to our public systems.

As the voice of Canada's teaching profession, we want only the best-quality inclusive, publicly funded public education systems available to all who call this country home. Our 18 provincial and territorial members are ready to work with any government to make that a reality, and all they need is a seat at the table to ensure that the right policies are put in place.

From my personal experience, I know that legacies are important to politicians and the parties they represent. So, here's an idea to help them leave a lasting and positive legacy to the benefit of future generations. All they have to do is listen to the teaching profession. They can even take the credit. ■

Mark Ramsankar is president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and past president of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Alberta teachers elect new president

Mark Milne
ATA News Staff

Jason Schilling will be the new president of the Alberta Teachers' Association when the next version of Provincial Executive Council (PEC) takes office in July. Association members cast their votes for the open Council seats in mid-March, and Schilling, currently a PEC vice-president, edged current president Greg Jeffery by a count of 3,829 votes to 3,032. Robert Duiker rounded out the results with 383 votes.

Schilling teaches English and drama at Kate Andrews High School in Coaldale in southern Alberta. Having served four terms as district representative and one term as vice-president, Schilling is no stranger to PEC and says he'll bring a strong vision for the future.

"Like all members of PEC, I have a passion for education, my students and my colleagues. I hope to share that passion with others," said Schilling. "I have spent my entire career serving on ATA committees

—running for president was the next step for me in this advocacy."

Schilling says he wants to get real and tangible answers to the ongoing issues with class size.

"We are often served platitudes from government about class size issues but see no real change. That needs to change," he said. "I also want to focus on the ongoing curriculum partnership with Alberta Education. In order for a new curriculum to be successful, the ATA must guarantee that teachers' voices are heard."

Jeffery will continue to serve as president until the new Council takes office on July 1. At that point he will assume the role of past president.

Two VPs

Both Darrin Bauer and Jenny Regal were acclaimed for the two vice-president positions. This is Regal's second term as VP, and she says she's really looking forward to working with a reinvigorated Council.

"Jason and I were vice-presidents together and we spent a lot of time talking, so I'm really excited to be a

big part of the team that is going to bring his new vision alive," Regal said. "We still have so much work to do to assert ourselves as the authoritative voice of the profession and the representative voice of teachers."

Bauer served two terms as district representative for Edmonton McMurray and says he's looking forward to hearing fresh ideas from new PEC members. "I think we've got some energetic DRs coming in that are full of new ideas and we're really going to push things a bit, which I am excited to see," he said.

District representatives

In Calgary City, Council veteran Kathy Hoehn was re-elected and former district rep Kevin Kempt returns to the role after a one-term absence. Darren Moroz was elected to his first term and also won a byelection to fill a current vacancy in the district.

Moroz currently teaches at St. Sebastian School in Calgary and has held several key positions with Calgary Separate Local No. 55. Moroz says he'll work

PEC ELECTION continued on page 8

2019–21 Provincial Executive Council

PRESIDENT



Jason Schilling

VICE-PRESIDENTS



Darrin Bauer



Jenny Regal

About PEC

Provincial Executive Council (PEC) leads and transacts the business of the Alberta Teachers' Association on behalf of its 45,000-plus members. PEC is made up of the Association's five table officers (the president, two vice-presidents, the past president and the executive secretary), plus 15 district representatives. The president and vice-presidents are elected by a provincewide vote of Association members. District representatives are elected by members in their geographic district. All elected positions are subject to two-year terms. Terms for elected members will begin July 1, 2019.

Election results

PRESIDENT

ONE ELECTED	VOTES
Jason Schilling	3,829
Greg Jeffery	3,032
Robert Duiker	383

CALGARY CITY

THREE ELECTED	VOTES
Kathy Hoehn	896
Darren Moroz	778
Kevin Kempt	758
Andrew Finlay	606
Joanne Boissonneault	495
Valerie Fuchshuber	391
Ron Robichaud	381

CENTRAL

ONE ELECTED	VOTES
Brenton Baum	261
Alan Blacker	151

CENTRAL EAST

ONE ELECTED	VOTES
Murray Lalonde	186
Alysha Grosky	183

EDMONTON MCMURRAY

THREE ELECTED	VOTES
Greg Carabine	903
Nancy Ball	771
Carmen Glossop	645
Markiana Cyncar-Hryschuk	640

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Calgary City



Kathy Hoehn



Kevin Kempt



Darren Moroz

Calgary District



Michelle Glavine

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Central



Brenton Baum

Central East



Murray Lalonde

Central North



Robert Twerdoclib

Central South



Don Brookwell

Edmonton District



Paul Froese

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Edmonton McMurray



Nancy Ball



Greg Carabine



Carmen Glossop

North West



Peter MacKay

South East



Heather McCaig

South West



Katherine Pritchard

Alberta teacher honoured at Juno Awards

Cory Hare
ATA News Managing Editor

For music teacher Kim Hastings, the best part of attending the Juno Awards was hanging out with Jann Arden.

"I had a chance to spend some time with her ... and that was absolutely the highlight for me," Hastings said. "I think she's an amazing role model ... it was a real honour to meet her."

Hastings attended the award weekend on March 16 and 17 in London, Ont., by virtue of being named teacher of the year by MusiCounts, an organization that advocates for access to music education for all Canadian children and youth. Hastings has spent 27 years at Pioneer School in Rocky Mountain House where she's well known as an advocate for the value of music education. She's also been active on the provincial level by serving with the Alberta Band Association.

"I love teaching middle school band and am passionate about the need to have music be a part of every child's education."

-Kim Hastings, MusiCounts teacher of the year



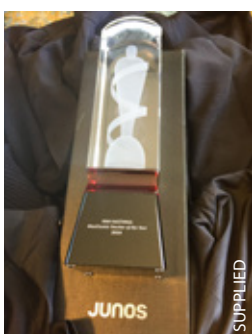
Kim Hastings, a music teacher from Rocky Mountain House, poses for a photo with singer-songwriter Jann Arden during the Juno Awards in London, Ont.

Hastings received the award during a surprise presentation at her school in February. A video of the presentation was played at the Junos. The trophy Hastings received is the same as those presented to Juno winners.

"I am completely overwhelmed and humbled to receive this award. I love teaching middle school band and am passionate about the need to have music be a part of every child's education," Hastings said.

Several years ago Hastings successfully applied to MusiCounts for a \$10,000 grant for instruments. This qualified her to be nominated for teacher of the year; parents in her community nominated her this year.

"My biggest philosophy, I think one of the things for sure that probably got noticed, was I believe strongly in music programs not being elitist and that they be available for all families and all students," she said.



See the video

The video of the award presentation is available for viewing online at www.musiccounts.ca.



Alberta Teachers' Association president Greg Jeffery shares his thoughts on the United Conservative Party's education platform during an ATA press conference.

UCP platform clashes with Association ideals

Cory Hare
ATA News Managing Editor

Misguided and misplaced. Those were just two of the critical words that Alberta Teachers' Association president Greg Jeffery used to describe the education plans of the United Conservative Party (UCP), which released its 13-point platform on March 25.

The platform commits to maintaining or increasing education funding while seeking efficiencies and "pushing resources to front line teachers." It also proposes to "end the focus on so-called 'discovery' or 'inquiry' learning," pause the NDP government's curriculum review and affirm parental choice.

But Jeffery's main criticism focused on the UCP's desire to bring back a 2014 proposal to implement continuous recertification for teachers and a new proposal to ensure "teachers have expertise in subject areas by introducing teacher testing."

"Given the UCP's commendable commitment to focusing existing funding on the front line and the party's desire to cut bureaucracy and teacher workload, I'm astounded that the UCP would choose to resurrect and even expand on some of the worst ideas advanced by the discredited 2014 Task Force for Teaching Excellence," Jeffery said.

"Now, as then, these proposals are unnecessary and insulting to the province's 45,000 teachers — just how will this added bureaucracy improve teaching and learning? What problem is it supposed to fix?"

Jeffery also took aim at the UCP's plan to bring back the Grade 3 Provincial Achievement Test and implement language and math assessments for students in grades 1 to 3.

"I'm astounded that the UCP would choose to resurrect and even expand on some of the worst ideas advanced by the discredited 2014 Task Force for Teaching Excellence."

— Greg Jeffery, ATA president

"Instead of addressing the real issues of growing class sizes and a lack of adequate supports for students with special needs, the United Conservative Party election platform proposes new high-stakes testing for six-, seven- and eight-year-old children and for all teachers," Jeffery said. "Its priorities are misplaced and misguided."

In releasing its platform, the UCP stated that during four years of NDP government, "class sizes in Alberta have continued to increase; math and reading scores have declined, Alberta's successful tradition of school choice has been under attack, the carbon tax has taken valuable resources away from classrooms, and curriculum reforms have been taking place largely in secret."

"As math scores plunge and report cards become increasingly difficult to understand, a United Conservative government will reset the curriculum rewrite, restore fundamentals to math and affirm the primary role of parents in choosing how their children are taught," said leader Jason Kenney in a released statement. "It's time to bring common sense to education."

Jeffery noted that the party's platform lacks concrete measures to address class size.

"Class size is the unsolved crisis of the past 14 years, and unless something is done right away, the continuing failure to support inclusion will be the crisis of the next four years," Jeffery said.

"Unfortunately, the UCP plan fails to make a firm commitment to fund continuing enrolment growth and is absolutely silent on the issues of inclusion and classroom complexity."

Non-partisan politics

While criticizing a number of the UCP's platform planks, Jeffery asserted that the ATA has a long history of non-partisanship and will continue to be non-partisan.

"That does not mean we are not political. It means that we focus on issues and policies and not on the parties presenting them," Jeffery said.

"Teachers live education in Alberta and we have an obligation to speak out and share our knowledge and understanding with Albertans, particularly at this critical time."

Kenney 'open' to removing principals

In comments to the media independent of the UCP's platform announcement, leader Jason Kenney said he's open to removing principals from ATA membership.

Association president Greg Jeffery said such a move would replace collegiality with a more adversarial and potentially combative relationship between teachers and principals.

"That will change the culture of the schools in Alberta. We have an excellent collegial relationship existing in education in Alberta right now with everyone working in the same direction. We don't have those manager-employee conflicts," Jeffery said.

Principals are instructional leaders, not human resource managers, he said, adding that the model has had very negative results after being implemented in British Columbia and Ontario.

"We want everyone working in a school — teachers, principals and support staff — focused on the education of kids first. And they should be working together collaboratively to find solutions to the challenges that students face, instead of focusing on a traditional management versus labour type of environment that really doesn't benefit learning and student well-being."

Education in the news

ATA News Staff

With the provincial election approaching, the *ATA News* is tracking news coverage related to education, in an effort to help members stay abreast of developments and the various parties' views. The following excerpts, slightly modified to fit this context, are from stories that made headlines from mid-March to early April.

Alberta Party wants to see safe zones around schools to prevent anti-abortion demonstrations

After parents of students at a number of Calgary schools complained about anti-abortion protesters setting up just outside school grounds, one Alberta politician wants to see changes made.

A recent video of a protest at Queen Elizabeth High School in northwest Calgary shows protesters on public property holding up graphic placards in plain view of many students.

Alberta Party candidate for Calgary-Mountain View, Angela Kokott, says she wants to see more legislation to prevent anti-abortion activists from holding rallies anywhere near any K-12 school in the province.

Current laws protect only patients at abortion clinics, giving them a safe zone in a 50 metre radius of any centre that provides the service.

John Carpay, president of the Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms, says his organization is in support of freedom of expression for anyone wanting to send a message. He adds the only restriction he sees would be criminal hate speech. He says these types of protests are just "part of living in a free country."

CTV News, March 14

Government ponders abortion protest bubble zones for schools

Health Minister Sarah Hoffman says her government will amend legislation to extend abortion protest bubble zones around K-12 schools in Alberta.

Hoffman's decision comes after social media footage from Calgary this week showed anti-abortion protesters confronting students from Queen Elizabeth High School with placards as students entered their school.

That means Bill 9, a piece of legislation the legislature passed last spring, which created protest-free bubble zones around Alberta abortion clinics, would be amended.

United Conservative MLAs refused to vote on or debate the bill, leaving the chamber repeatedly. At the time, UCP Leader Jason Kenney accused the NDP of playing political games with "divisive social issues."

Edmonton Journal, March 15

Double number of educational assistants: Alberta Party

The Alberta government should double the number of educational assistants in Alberta schools and increase funding for inclusive education by 50 per cent, Alberta Party Leader Stephen Mandel said.

At an Edmonton campaign announcement Thursday at Al-Mustafa Academy, Mandel pledged to increase to \$690 million a year the funding for school boards to aid students with disabilities and challenges.

A newly created ministry of early childhood would include an independent learning assessment agency that would catch more children's learning challenges sooner, taking the burden off the school system, he said.

Greta Gerstner, executive director of the Strategic Alliance for Alberta Students with Learning Challenges, was puzzled by some of Mandel's ideas.

Students don't need more educational assistants, she said. They need more professionals with specialized qualifications, such as occupational therapists, psychologists, speech language pathologists, and specialists in mental health, reading and behavioural challenges.

Edmonton Sun, March 21

School trustees push for school board funding to keep pace with growth

The next Alberta government must provide funding for new students enrolling in the province's publicly funded schools, school trustees say.

Gathered outside Rogers Place in Edmonton and the Saddledome in Calgary, shivering trustees from across Alberta pointed to the arenas to give perspective on the 15,000 more students expected to enrol in Alberta schools by September 2019 compared to September 2018.

A September 2018 report prepared for Edmonton Public trustees said if government fails to fund new students the same year they enrol in district schools, it would be equivalent to a shortage of 188 teachers and support staff compared to current staffing levels.

Both the United Conservative Party and the NDP have said they will review the province's education funding formula. The Alberta Party and the NDP have both explicitly promised to fund enrolment growth in schools, if elected.

Edmonton Journal, March 25

UCP pushes trades, apprenticeships for young Albertans

More vocational schools and apprenticeships, \$1 million in trade scholarships, junior high students working on job sites and an Alberta trades hall of fame will be in the cards if the UCP wins the spring election.

The proposals were largely based on Germany's trades education model, which relies on heavy union participation and buy-in from employers.

UCP leader Jason Kenney said the benefits of expanding the emphasis on trades would be two-fold for Alberta — reducing youth unemployment and plugging a growing gap in the labour market as the population ages.

Kenney said a UCP government would quadruple the number of students placed with employers in paid apprenticeships, establish a \$1 million trade scholarship fund for high school graduates and change provincial employment codes so junior high students can work in co-op programs on job sites.

Edmonton Journal, March 26

Rally held in support of GSAs; nearly 500 people march to oppose UCP's proposed changes

Supporters of the LGBTQ community marched to the UCP's Edmonton headquarters from the provincial legislature grounds Wednesday evening to oppose proposed changes to laws surrounding gay-straight alliances (GSAs) in Alberta schools.

Close to 500 people waving pride and transgender flags joined the march after UCP Leader Jason Kenney said this week that a United Conservative Party (UCP) government would replace Alberta's *School Act* with the former Progressive Conservative government's *Education Act*.

The rollback would eliminate changes the NDP introduced, which prohibit school staff from informing parents that their children are participating in GSAs and require school principals to immediately grant student requests to form a gay-straight alliance, among other regulations.

The crowd, which included a number of candidates running in the upcoming election, shouted chants of "Hey Jason, leave our kids alone" and "One, two, three, four, our kids are who we're fighting for," as they arrived at the front doors of the UCP headquarters.

David Campbell, one of the leaders of the chants, said he thinks Wednesday's rally was effective.

Edmonton Sun, March 27

Jason Kenney defends plan to roll back part of Alberta's law on gay-straight alliances

The United Conservative Party's promise to repeal legislation that prohibits Alberta teachers from informing parents when a student joins a gay-straight alliance has revived the debate about the peer-support groups.

IN THE NEWS continued on page 8

Teacher candidates

We invited any teachers vying for a legislature seat to send us their info. Here are the candidates who heeded the call.

Alberta New Democratic Party



Ryan Clarke
Vermilion-
Lloydminster-
Wainwright



Kari Whan
Bonnyville-
Cold Lake-
St. Paul

Alberta Party



Neil Korotash
Morinville-St. Albert

As of press time, Friday, April 5, the above candidates had submitted their information.

What are your issues?

WE ASKED ON FACEBOOK ...

Teachers, what issues will be top of mind when you mark your ballot on April 16? How will you engage with your candidates leading up to election day?

Andrea Lauren

Class size. Inclusion. Most importantly, protecting LGBTQ+ kids.

Leslie James

Inclusive education and teacher safety in the classroom are top of my mind.

Sarah Sophia

Class size and complexity, salary.

Nicole M-c

How about a raise! Class size and better supports for inclusion.

Nicole Mooney

I'm volunteering on my candidate's campaign. We have a lot to lose in the election. I am not willing to risk having our new curriculum shredded or our students outed.

Donnella S

Who will do something for my class? Decrease class size, and increase support. On the other side, who wants to take supports from my kids and increase how many people they will learn with? I've already met with the incumbent in my area, follow all parties, and am watching what's going on and what has happened. It seems like my choice is for the least awful candidate.

Gurmit Bhachu

I'm volunteering in various ways for my local candidate. A lot to lose for students and teachers in this next election. Funding and classroom sizes are my two biggest issues.

Chasidy Zumbo

Class size!

Jocelyn Nadine

Issues about the environment. Our kids need it for a better future.

Kyle Darroch

GSAs and outing kids to their parents! Funding for inclusive ed. Funding private schools over public.

Colleen Dawn

Doing Student Vote with my 9s. It will be most interesting to see their research and thoughts on the candidates. My concern is a platform based on what is best for students, not trying to simply appease parents or just reverse all the NDP has done just because it was done by the NDP.

Provincial Election 2019

The parties and their education platforms

Read more about the party platforms at Vote4Kids.ca/parties



David Khan, leader

If we could impart one message this election, it would be this: better than before is not enough.

It doesn't take news reports or data charts for you to know that many Alberta classrooms are overcrowded. You see or hear about it everyday. It has been nearly two decades since this province introduced class size guidelines, and yet this problem persists.

Last year the ATA called for the hiring of 2,000 more teachers by the fall of 2018. The NDP response? They are promising 600 more during this campaign. This will not end the overcrowding of classrooms.

The first Alberta Liberal announcement of the campaign was our promise to bring in class size caps. Class sizes are one of the most important issues this election. At minimum we will hire the 2,000 teachers the ATA called for. We know how important this is to students and to teachers. We will invest what is needed to keep classes manageable for students and teachers.

Inclusive education is also extremely important to us. Like you, we want to see students with special needs thriving in our schools. However, the resources just aren't there to make that a reality.

We are committed to increasing funding for inclusive education by 50 per cent. We understand the need for more teaching assistants, more training and more professionals with specialized qualifications to support teachers.

There is more we'd like to say on education, but our word count is brief so we will be as well. We support the curriculum review. We will provide more mental health supports for students. We support the current structure of the ATA and the creation of a robust "healthy lifestyles" plan for children.

The Alberta Liberals are the best choice for improving education this election. We hope you'll lend us your vote.

Submitted by the Alberta Liberal Party



Rachel Notley, leader

Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP are fighting for what matters, like ensuring that all children in Alberta get an education that prepares them for success.

Over the last four years, the Notley government has demonstrated a strong commitment to our children's future by making sure that the 15,000 new kids that enter our schools each year have a teacher and a desk to meet them. We've hired more

teachers, built more schools and ensured schools are a place where kids can feel safe and supported. If re-elected, we will continue to do that.

While Jason Kenney would roll back the clock on the creation of a modern curriculum, the Notley government worked with tens of thousands of teachers, experts and parents to develop a curriculum that equips our kids with the skills they need for the future. And where the previous Conservative government cut funding to schools, the Notley government invested in the education system and in our students, providing 30,000 students healthy meals so they can focus on their classes and not their hunger.

If re-elected, Rachel Notley's government will continue to support our young learners by strengthening the education system. Funding will meet enrollment

growth so our schools can keep up with our growing population. The curriculum will be renewed to make sure our students have the 21st-century skills they will need. We will also expand language program options so students can learn in the language their families speak at home. We will keep building and modernizing schools and playgrounds. We will make the Classroom Improvement Fund permanent and increase it to \$100 million a year so that teachers have the resources and the supports they need in the classroom to ensure that all students can learn and achieve to their maximum potential. We will ensure that every child feels safe, supported and welcome in their school.

Submitted by the Alberta NDP



Stephen Mandel, leader

The Alberta Party will deliver best-in-class kindergarten, primary and secondary education.

An Alberta Party government will double the number of educational assistants in Alberta's K-12 classrooms with a major boost in funding for inclusive education.

An Alberta Party government will require children to have up-to-date immunizations in order to attend a publicly funded school.

An Alberta Party government would end mandatory school fees, making schools more accessible for all Albertans and reducing the administrative burden on school staff.

An Alberta Party government would provide sustainable, consistent, adequate funding for our schools, with annual increases that are proportionate to population growth plus inflation. Funding must be stable to allow for long-term planning.

An Alberta Party government would ensure that building decisions for new schools are not politically driven, and would fund new schools according to enrolment numbers.

An Alberta Party government would encourage the sharing of resources, such as busing, between overlapping school districts to reduce duplication of services.

An Alberta Party government would increase supports for students with special needs with additional appropriately trained staff and funding.

Source: Platform statements and book of member-passed policy. Valid as of Oct 20, 2018.



Derek Fildebrandt, leader

- Equally fund all students at certified public, private and separate schools in Alberta and guarantee funding for homeschooling.

- Pass a parent's bill of rights to guarantee choice and control over education.

- Cancel the NDP's new curriculum and replace it with measured learning targets allowing school boards to set their own curriculums.

- Respect the right of private educational institutions to practise their own religious or cultural beliefs without discrimination.

Source: www.freedomconservativeparty.ca



Jason Kenney, leader

We are very pleased to have this opportunity to address teachers directly – it is important that you understand the high regard United Conservatives have for K-12 education and how much we value the contributions and professionalism of Alberta's teachers.

It is because education is so important that we have developed a broad set of proposals for improving outcomes (albertastrongandfree.ca), based on extensive

consultations with teachers and other educational stakeholders. No one wants to see independent measures showing declining outcomes for our kids. We owe it to them, and to their teachers, to ensure the supports are there for world-class outcomes within a stable, accountable system.

We will continue to build new schools. We will also maintain or increase education spending as needed while cutting administration and the carbon tax – both of which will allow more resources to get to the classroom.

A United Conservative government will also pause (not scrap) the curriculum re-write to ensure it has broad input and is focused on developing core competencies. We will also be ensuring that it adequately emphasizes the financial and historical literacy young Albertans will need to be responsible citizens.

We believe choice is important; we will preserve the existing funding formula for independent schools and remove some of the barriers preventing public charter schools from forming.

Mr. Kenney previously met with the ATA president and had a productive discussion that found a considerable amount of common ground, particularly in freeing up teachers and schools to use the innovative means they are comfortable with to get the excellent results for our kids that we are all striving for.

We hope you will take the time to look at our platform at albertastrongandfree.ca in order to make an informed choice. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with the ATA and front-line teachers on education as it is so critical to Alberta's future.

Submitted by the United Conservative Party

PEC ELECTION

continued from page 4

hard to improve the educational support systems and effective development and implementation of new curricula.

Brenton Baum was elected as the new district representative for Central. Hailing from Drayton Valley, he brings 28 years of teaching experience to the role, along with extensive involvement with Teacher Welfare, Professional Development and numerous provincial committees. In his campaign material, Baum promised to be a strong advocate for improvements to teaching conditions which would, in turn, improve the learning landscape for our students.

A tight race in Central East saw Murray Lalonde edging out the competition by only three votes to claim his first term as district rep. Having taught for 17 years in rural Alberta Schools, Lalonde says he understands

the challenges of the funding formula and the concerns held by teachers in rural districts.

Edmonton McMurray district rep Nancy Ball returns for a second term and welcomes newcomers Greg Carabine and Carmen Glossop. Carabine currently teaches at Austin O'Brien High School, has served as the president of Edmonton Catholic Local No. 54 and was involved in starting Canada's first gay-straight alliance for teachers in Canada. Glossop has taught in both rural and urban schools and brings considerable experience with special needs and diverse backgrounds.

The remaining seven district representatives are incumbents who were acclaimed to their positions: Don Brookwell (Central South), Paul Froese (Edmonton District), Michelle Glavine (Calgary District), Peter MacKay (North West), Katherine Pritchard (South West), Heather McCaig (South East) and Robert Twerdoclib (Central North). ■



f CTF-FCE @CanTeachersFed www.ctf-fce.ca

Canadian Teachers' Federation sees promise in the 2019 federal budget

OTTAWA – The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) believes that the 2019 federal budget provides the potential for addressing many of the challenges facing Canadians, including poverty, Indigenous education, gender equity and climate change.

"Progressive measures aimed at creating a more equitable and sustainable society are desperately needed as an increasing number of Canadians struggle to keep pace with a changing world that is leaving too many behind," says CTF president Mark Ramsankar. "This budget shows promise for tackling not only the issues of today, but for looking ahead and improving the lives of Canada's most vulnerable citizens."

Ramsankar says that the mounting cost of living coupled with stagnant wages places solutions to the country's biggest challenges out of reach for most Canadians.

"When Canadians are left to worry about how they will manage day-to-day expenses, it becomes increasingly difficult to deal with systemic issues, such as climate change, reducing gender gaps and advancing truth and reconciliation," stresses Ramsankar. "This budget has dedicated funds that make teachers' priorities Canada's priorities."

In Ottawa and across the country, the CTF-FCE is taking action on an extensive set of priorities supported by three central pillars:

- Strengthening labour rights and advancing union renewal as a foundation for democracy
- Ensuring adequate funding and resourcing of public education
- Being unwavering in our efforts to advance social justice

The 2019 federal budget addresses several CTF priorities within the latter two pillars, including poverty reduction; working to achieve gender equity; an increased focus on mental health; improving the lives of Canada's Indigenous Peoples; and the urgent need to confront climate change and environmental degradation — all of which must be addressed at the federal level. Of course, each of the promised measures must also be weighed against the broader context of recent government commitments and initiatives.

The CTF president says that even with a budget that makes promises of positive change, the country cannot prioritize the economy at the expense of a well-cultivated, robust culture derived from a richly diverse and educated society. ■

A contract is a contract



PITFALLS AND PRECAUTIONS

Cory Schoffer
ATA Secretary to Professional Conduct Committees

Pitfalls and Precautions is a series that aims to educate teachers on professional conduct issues by highlighting situations addressed by the ATA Professional Conduct Committee.

A Professional Conduct Committee recently heard the case of a teacher who failed to fulfill her contractual obligations to her employer by providing less than 30 days' notice of her intent to resign her position.

The committee heard that the teacher had accepted a teaching position in another province, and that the start date of the new contract was scheduled to be within the 30-day notification period. The new employer was unwilling to hold the position to allow for the teacher to meet her statutory obligations to her Alberta employer. Her Alberta employer was unwilling to provide mutual release from her contract prior to the end of the 30-day notification period. Nevertheless, the teacher accepted the out-of-province position and left her position in Alberta prior to the end of the contract.

The *School Act* requires 30 calendar days' notice for teachers to terminate their contract, unless the teachers are released through mutual consent.

The teacher was found guilty of unprofessional conduct. The teacher received a reprimand and a fine of \$200. Should the teacher fail or refuse to pay the fine, the teacher would be declared ineligible for membership in the Alberta Teachers' Association.

Teachers need to be mindful of the details in their individual contracts of employment and in statute. Often teachers are unaware that there are requirements and obligations around resigning their contracts. These same obligations exist for employers with respect to notice required to terminate a contract. The Association has a high expectation that employers will adhere to these requirements, and thus extends that high expectation to its own members when they are terminating their contracts. If mutual consent to terminate a contract without 30 days' notice is not provided, teachers have the duty to complete their contract through to the end date or legal date of resignation. ■

IN THE NEWS

continued from page 6

UCP leader Jason Kenney released an education platform that included repealing a law passed in 2017 by the NDP and reverting to legislation from the final days of former premier Jim Prentice's government.

While both laws protect students' right to start gay-straight alliances, or GSAs, the change would remove provisions that banned teachers and principals from informing parents if a student joins one of the clubs. Mr. Kenney said the UCP's policy would still offer strong protections for GSA clubs.

Kristopher Wells, an associate professor in the faculty of health and community studies at MacEwan University, says while students would still be allowed to form the clubs under Mr. Kenney's plan, administrators would be able to obstruct the creation of the groups and make joining them difficult.

Globe and Mail, March 27

NDP promises 70 new and modernized schools, 1,000 new teachers and staff

The NDP would spend \$1.3 billion constructing and modernizing 70 more schools during the next five years if returned to government, leader Rachel Notley pledged.

The party also committed Thursday to fully funding growing student enrolment each year at an estimated cost of \$72 million. It would add an estimated 600 new teaching and support staff positions for the 15,000 more students expected to arrive in Alberta schools by the fall.

An NDP government would also make permanent and increase the classroom improvement fund (CIF) to

\$100 million a year from the current \$77 million, a party news release said. It should add another 400 teachers and support staff to Alberta classrooms, Notley said. Schools and boards decide what staff to hire with their provincial funding allotments.

Edmonton Journal, March 28

Better funding urged for rural schools

Debate over funding schools in Alberta is heating up now that a provincial election has been called.

Rural education advocates hope that whoever forms the next government will review current funding formulas, noting schools in small communities are losing funds even as they need adequate amounts to remain viable.

Holly Bilton, chair of the Rural Caucus of Alberta School Boards, said Alberta largely funds schools based on the student population, and that is where the problem lies. Rural schools often receive lower funding because of the funding formula, and their funds can be reduced when student numbers dwindle.

She said the model needs to change, possibly creating a separate pot of funds solely for rural schools.

Education Minister David Eggen told delegates at the Alberta Rural Education Symposium that an NDP government would begin looking at a new formula if it forms government this spring.

"I think time is up on the way that we've been doing it so far," he said.

Greg Jeffery, president of the Alberta Teachers' Association, said he would look forward to a review of education funding.

Western Producer, March 28 ■

71st ATA Summer Conference

August 12–16, 2019 | Banff Centre

For details and course descriptions, visit the Association's website, www.teachers.ab.ca.



The Alberta Teachers' Association



Leadership and Superintendent Leadership Certification In-Service Programs

After a successful convention season, the following inservice sessions, in both English and French, are planned for the spring and summer.



Date	Location	LQSa	LQsb	SLQS
2019 04 25-26	Grande Prairie—Stonebridge Hotel	●		
2019 05 01-02	Fort McMurray—Shell Place	●		
2019 05 07-08	Edmonton—ARCA Banquet Hall	●	●	
2019 05 08-09	Lethbridge—Coast Hotel	●	●	
2019 05 09-10	Red Deer—Sheraton Hotel	●	●	
2019 05 09-10	Bonnyville—Lakeland Catholic District Office	●		
2019 05 10-11	Calgary—WinSport Centre	●	●	
2019 05 14-15	Peace River—Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre	●	●	
2019 05 21-22	Edmonton (Francophone)—Barnett House		NLQS	
2019 06 24-25	High Level—High Level Public School	●		
2019 07 02-03	Edmonton—ARCA Banquet Hall	●		●
2019 07 02-03	Calgary—Best Western Calgary Plaza Hotel	●		●
2019 08 14-16	Kananaskis—Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge			●

Eligibility to attend summer sessions will be based upon one's leadership position in the 2018/19 school year.

All those seeking leadership certification are encouraged to facilitate the process by updating their information at education.alberta.ca/TWINS.

Register online at: <https://abedleadershipcert.ca/register>.



PD-287 2019 04

ATAeNEWS

Get the *ATA News* delivered direct to your inbox.

The *ATA News* has added two new digital options that will deliver content direct to your email inbox.

→ **ATA eNews**

The new *ATA eNews* will deliver essential content from the print version of the *ATA News* 15 times per year.

→ **ATA eNews-Flash**

ATA eNews-Flash will be distributed periodically as news happens, providing breaking stories related to education in Alberta.

Visit the signup page to subscribe to one or both of these services:
bit.ly/2Subscribe_Now

COMM-43-8-2019.04



The Spring Walking Together: Education for Reconciliation Gatherings

will be held on the following dates and locations:

- May 1:** Calgary—Calgary Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre
- May 15:** Edmonton—DoubleTree by Hilton West Edmonton
- May 24:** Grande Prairie—Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre

There is no cost to register and lunch will be provided. Please note that participants are responsible for their own expenses (travel, accommodations, release time and so on).

To register:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTRegionalEvents2019.

For more information, contact walkingtogether@ata.ab.ca.



Walking Together

EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION



The Alberta Teachers' Association

Calling all active and associate members— You are eligible to serve on an ATA committee!

The committees

To assist it in the business of the Association, Provincial Executive Council maintains committees that address topics of concerns to teachers and carry out various aspects of the Association's affairs. Each year, a number of practising teachers are selected to serve on Association committees as well as to represent the Association on boards and committees of other organizations and provincial bodies (such as Alberta Education and education faculties).

The commitment

Committee members come prepared to speak—from their perspective as a field member—to the forces affecting the respective committee's work.

The term for each of these positions begins July 1, 2019. Standing committee positions are generally three years in length. As a committee member, you would attend the committee's meetings (the number of meetings varies by committee). Travel and incidental costs, as well as release time, are covered to enable committee members to attend meetings.

Check out the list of opportunities on the ATA website. The deadline to apply for a standing committee is April 17.

More information—including the application form—is available on the ATA website, under My ATA > Members Only.

The deadline for all standing committee applications is **April 17**.



All applicants are encouraged to reach out to their district representative(s) to better understand the work that Association committees undertake.

If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Yakimshyn at lindsay.yakimshyn@ata.ab.ca, 780-447-9425 or 1-800-232-7208.

COMM-209-2019.04

CLASSIFIEDS

Goods and Services

House for rent, southwest Edmonton, Rutherford. Available immediately. Call (403) 318-0050 for details. mpmarcus.55@gmail.com.

Disclaimer The Alberta Teachers' Association does not necessarily endorse the products or services presented in paid advertisements or in the Notices and Events column.

To Advertise

For advertising information, contact the advertising manager: 780-447-9417 direct 1-800-232-7208 toll free email: advertising@ata.ab.ca.

Next Deadline Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 4 p.m. (publication date April 30, 2019)

Please note: advertisers are encouraged to book their advertisement space early—space is limited.

Cost
Classified ads: \$1 per word plus GST (\$15 minimum); Display ads: varies according to size

Payment
Prepayment is required. We accept VISA, Mastercard, cash or cheque.

Circulation: 38,000

Alberta Advisory Committee for Educational Studies

Descriptive or Experimental Studies APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

Deadline: May 1, 2019, 4:30 PM
Applications will be accepted by e-mail; however, they must be received as a single attachment to the e-mail.

The Alberta Advisory Committee for Educational Studies (AACES) invites applications for grants to support descriptive or experimental studies in education.

Grants in excess of \$6,000 are awarded only rarely because of limited available resources. Grants cannot be given for travel unrelated to the proposed research project.

Note: The application to the Ethics Review Committee must be initiated and a copy of the submission to that committee must be included with the proposal.

Online applications and the guidelines for grant applications are available at www.teachers.ab.ca>Public Education>Education Research. Application forms may be e-mailed to Jessica.Grayson@ata.ab.ca OR submitted to

Alberta Advisory Committee for Educational Studies
c/o The Alberta Teachers' Association
11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1
Telephone 780-447-9499 or 1-800-332-1280

Completed applications received by May 1, 2019, will be considered at the spring meeting of AACES.

MS-20 SPRING 2019

Be a part of the Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth, with this exciting summer job opportunity!

You can work for two weeks and earn extra money for your holidays! (Possibility of extension or return year after year.)

Join the team from Lammle's Western Wear and work with us during this year's Calgary Stampede! We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our 2019 Stampede Team!

If you feel that work should be fun, enjoy selling merchandise and meeting people from all over the world, then we would like to meet with you. We ask that all members of our Stampede Team are available to work all 10 days of Stampede (11 if scheduled for Sneak-a-Peek).

In addition to hourly wages, each team member is eligible for an additional performance bonus.

Interested applicants can e-mail resume@lammles.com.



Sign up for email to receive Members' Updates: <http://bit.ly/1uJm122>

ATA EDUCATIONAL TRUST CALL TO REAPPLY

Teachers who applied between **Oct. 1 and Nov. 7** for the \$700 B T Keeler Continuing Education Grant **need to reapply due to technical difficulties.**

Thank you, and we apologize for any inconvenience.

B T Keeler Continuing Education Grant Applicants

The DEADLINE to reapply is MAY 1, 2019.

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

Supporting your students in your schools

Alberta Education is funding Alberta Distance Learning Centre to support Alberta schools to

- provide online and print courses taught by ADLC teachers to **your** students
- provide course content to Alberta teachers to use in **your** classrooms

There are no fees for instruction. Some courses require materials that can be downloaded at no cost. Alternatively, hard copies of these materials can be purchased from ADLC.



Contact our Partner Support team

info@adlc.ca

1-866-774-5333

adlc.ca

ADLC

Alberta Distance Learning Centre

THE \$20,000 HOME RENO CONTEST



TO CELEBRATE THE SUPPORT OF THE ALBERTA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION, MORGEX INSURANCE IS

GIVING AWAY A \$20,000 HOME RENOVATION PACKAGE!

Entering is as easy as calling to get a quote on home insurance. After all, it takes more than a makeover to make your house a home – that's why we offer the lowest possible rates to all ATA members, and have for over 30 years.

Call to get a home insurance quote today, and you could win!
1-888-262-9522



TALENT

April 9, 2019 | Volume 53, Number 11

(SOME OF)
✓ YOU MADE IT TO
Spring Break!

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO DURING YOUR WELL-EARNED REST?



JEFF LEROUGE

Ours was three weeks ago with 39 students in Costa Rica!



**MELANIE
MACDONALD-WINSOR**

Snowy adventures with
the pooch!

LINNEA RADERSMA

*I spent most of the day
outside yesterday.
It was wonderful!*

CYNTHIA JOHNSON

*Broke out all my shorts
... put away most of my
work pants ... loving
the weather.*



RYAN MENNEAR

Didn't make it to spring break :(
Just kidding :)

Hanging out in the ATM cave
outside San Ignacio, Belize :)



JUSTIN ANDERSON

Exploring St. Lucia!



KARLEE NERH

Coffee date with my hubby!



PATRICIA DIANNE

*Sick with strep throat! So it's
tea, soup and TV for me!*

MAXINE MOLLER HOLM

Vancouver

Sick drift, Mr. Suchow!

MOOT POINTS

Ray Suchow

Special to the ATA News

During a recent class change, I was guiding/pushing my school's first Chromebook cart down a busy hallway and was preparing to merge at a T intersection with four different directions of student traffic. Student safety was on my mind as said cart would make any Second World War general proud. Other than lacking a turret, in weight and ramming power it would easily help win any battle.

As I approached the T, I saw the opening I was looking for and began my special turn. With focus and grace I changed direction, merged with a new stream and began to head up the hallway – happily with no student casualties. Apparently, my unique manoeuvre was more than noteworthy, as the school's coolest student rounded the corner at the same time and uttered the highest of praises.

"Whoa! Sick drift, Mr. Suchow!"

I thanked him and continued on to my next class with a smile. After all, how refreshing it was to learn that, after 28 years of teaching, I could add such a vital new skill to my resumé! ■

Ray Suchow teaches CTS computer studies, religion and humanities at Christ the King High School in Leduc.

Moot Points is your chance to write about a funny incident, a lesson learned or a poignant experience related to teaching. Please email articles to managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.

**2019
got a no!
PHOTO CONTEST**

Entry deadline 5 PM
May 14, 2019

Contest rules online at
www.teachers.ab.ca

Cash prizes
available!

