



**CLASSROOM Sardines**  
PACKED IN FOR SAVINNES  
MAY CONTAIN UP TO 40 PIG ROOM  
NEW! IMPROVED CUTS  
STUDENTS CHAMMED INTO ROOMS WITH CLASSROOM DESKS  
OF BUBBLY CUTS MAKE YOUR VOICE AND VOTE HEARD.  
WINNING LARGE CLASS SIZES CORRELATED WITH COMPLEX  
AFFECT EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES.

See page 5.  
**Association ramps up election efforts.**

# ATA NEWS

February 5, 2019 | Volume 53, Number 8 | News Publication of The Alberta Teachers' Association



CHRISTINE CHEUNG

Students from Calgary's Highwood School perform during a Chinese New Year celebration at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium on Jan. 15. The Year of the Pig officially began Feb. 5.



**Large classes stink**  
Advertising campaign aims to open up a can of ... sardines.  
Read Jonathan Teghtmeyer's editorial on page 2.

## Executive Report

**Conventional Thinking**  
Share your opinion on the future of teachers' conventions.  
See Executive Report on page 4.

## This ...

from ATA President Greg Jeffery

**Alberta needs more early intervention**  
Read This ... by ATA president Greg Jeffery on page 5.



**Byelection called**  
Calgary City byelection to run at same time as 2019 PEC election.  
See story on page 5.

## It's time to resolve class sizes



### EDITORIAL

Jonathan Teghtmeyer  
ATA News Editor-in-Chief

It's a good thing these are not scratch 'n sniff cards. I cannot really stomach the smell of one can of sardines, let alone 400,000.

That is how many interactive print cards will be distributed by teachers across the province in advance of the spring provincial election. The cards imitate the cover of a sardine can to draw attention to class size and other education-related issues among voters and candidates (see page 5).

The punchline, delivered in accompanying radio and online advertising, says our kids deserve quality classrooms, not sardine cans.

The advertising campaign, slated to start this month, will run through the election period. The Alberta Teachers' Association registered with Elections Alberta to become a third-party advertiser to remain compliant with new rules set out in the *Elections Finance and Contributions Disclosure Act* (EFCDA). The act allows third-party advertisers

to spend up to \$150,000 in advance of the election period and another \$150,000 during the campaign period. The Association plans to spend \$270,000 on its advertising campaign.

This is an investment on behalf of teachers toward ensuring Alberta continues to have a high-quality public education system regardless of who wins the 2019 election.

The print pieces direct teachers, parents and other voters to a website, [vote4kids.ca](http://vote4kids.ca), that will focus on education in the provincial election. Visitors can learn more about important issues in education, read the platforms and policies of all the main parties and follow education-related news emerging from the campaign trail.

While pipelines, jobs and the economy are sure to dominate the campaign, we

on a campaign, go door knocking, make a tax-deductible donation.

Find a way to make a difference for education over the next eight weeks.

For more than 15 years we have been beating the drum on class size and complexity. And while efforts have been made to fix the problem, they have largely failed, and we now have larger classes than we did in 2001. The current government is proud that it has provided funding for student population growth, but more still needs to be done. The problem has been well-documented in recent months, and we have piqued public awareness of the issue.

Now we need a lasting resolution. And this election presents a real opportunity for us to get this years-old issue resolved. It happens by getting each and every party to recognise the severity of the issue and to outline concrete plans to address it.

Bad smells left unaddressed just start smelling worse and worse, so we're using sardine cans to get the attention of voters and candidates. Because large classes really stink! ■

*I welcome your comments—contact me at [jonathan.teghtmeyer@ata.ab.ca](mailto:jonathan.teghtmeyer@ata.ab.ca).*

*We will advocate for small class sizes, and we are hoping all of the parties will become associated with that issue.*

While many third party advertisers — also referred to as PACs or political action committees — are advertising in support of or against a political party or candidate, the Association's campaign will remain non-partisan and issues-focused.

Nevertheless, the act also requires third parties to register if they take a stand on an issue that is associated with any party or candidate. We will advocate for small class sizes, and we are hoping all of the parties will become associated with that issue. We want the parties to outline clear plans for reducing class sizes and allocating the required funding to do so.

want to make sure that education is not forgotten as a priority issue. That's where teachers come in.

First, we will be distributing these cards to locals on a basis of 10 cards per teacher, and locals will likely be asking teachers to help distribute the cards publicly. Second, we want teachers to reach out to candidates — on the doorsteps, by phone, at forums and events — to ask them about their plans to support public education. Third, we want teachers to get involved as individuals in the election and support their favourite candidates: take a lawn sign, volunteer

## Let's take this opportunity to redeem our profession



### Q & A

Dennis Theobald  
ATA Executive Secretary

*The enduring damage done by residential schools to Indigenous people, individually and collectively, was done largely by teachers.*

**Question:** Why is the ATA so concerned with Indigenous issues and expending so much money and so many resources on this one aspect of education? Our teachers and students come from many backgrounds and beliefs that are equally worthy of attention and support.

**Answer:** I appreciate this question because I think it reflects beliefs and concerns that are more widespread than we care to admit, and because it deserves an upfront response.

One reason that the Association is supporting members to acquire a foundational knowledge of Indigenous history, including the legacy of residential schools, is that this is a requirement of the new Teaching Quality Standard that every teacher will be required to meet. The school leader and superintendent standards have parallel requirements.

Similarly, aspects of Indigenous history, experience and ways of knowing are being included throughout the

new programs of study that are being introduced as part of the curriculum renewal process. This marks a fundamental shift in the focus and mission of public education that were mandated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations concerning education. The commission has stated that education can provide a pathway for Canada to begin to address the intergenerational harm done to Indigenous peoples by the residential school system and the legacy of settlement.

As the professional organization serving all teachers in Alberta's public, Catholic and francophone schools, the Association has a natural role to play in informing teachers and supporting them as they develop their professional practice to meet the new requirements. To this end, the Association partnered with Alberta Education in the Walking Together Project. Walking Together worked to deepen the profession's relationship with Indigenous people in

the province and developed a range of resources for teachers. While this was a good start, it is very apparent that our work will need to continue into the future.

But, an objector might argue, every culture and ethnic group has its sad stories. Why give Indigenous peoples' history more prominence than that of other groups?

I think the response to this engages our historical and moral responsibilities. The enduring damage done by residential schools to Indigenous people, individually and collectively, was done largely by teachers. While these teachers were not members of our Association and the residential schools operated outside of provincial jurisdiction, these are distinctions without differences. The attitudes that gave rise to and sustained residential schools were widespread throughout Canadian society and visited in classrooms over the decades.

Our profession, therefore, has a special obligation to acknowledge its role and to attempt to undo the harm it has done. And there is much work to do. While progress is being made, the learning outcomes for Indigenous students still lag behind those of other populations, and Indigenous peoples' experience of schooling is still fraught by history and the very real experience of present-day prejudice and discrimination.

It is important, however, that teachers not regard efforts to respond to the recommendations of the commission and the requirements in the new quality standards and curriculum as merely another burden. Instead, these provide us with an opportunity to be better teachers and to better all of our students. They provide an opportunity for us to redeem our profession. ■

*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).*

# YOUR VIEWS

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Don't look to California for solutions

Re: Viewpoints column "Taxes are a helpful way to pay for education." Jan. 15, ATA News

Once again, I must raise objection to Mr. Teghtmeyer's unhealthy fascination with taxation. The Viewpoints article he co-authored with Ian Hanna is a classic example of everything wrong with the idea of state brigandry, politely known as taxation. They cite the mythical land of California where they suggest increased taxation is key to a success story. This fantasy ignores almost every scrap of evidence about California's actual economy, which is the model of progressive failure.

California is indeed a large economy. According to a Forbes article published last April, it also owns the dubious honour of holding at least \$1.3 trillion in state and local government debt. That's \$1,300 billion or well over a million millions. Every year their budget must waste over \$200 billion (that's billion with a B) just to service this debt. Yet Teghtmeyer and Hanna are excited about a projected \$9 billion

surplus. That's barely a rounding error on California's total budget and as outgoing governor Jerry Brown noted it is expected that massive deficits will be following in the next few years. In short California is a high-speed train wreck.

Perhaps the increased taxes are the cure for these problems and not the cause? Well you don't have to take my word for it. As noted in Forbes, California has the highest income tax rate in the country and rates lowest in quality of life. Californian taxpayers have been voting with their feet for years now, fleeing the state to more tax and business friendly states. Clearly California is an excellent example of the wonders of higher taxes, if you are a fan of third-world economies.

As far as the small class sizes and well-funded education systems, just ask the teachers of Los Angeles, who are striking for smaller class sizes and a raise of six per cent in each of the next two years. ■

Brian Ross  
West View School, Calgary

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Golden state not a good model for Alberta

Re: Viewpoints column "Taxes are a helpful way to pay for education." Jan. 15, ATA News

I am not sure what to make of the title for Hanna's and Teghtmeyer's recent Viewpoints. While taxes may come with a different name, I am unaware of any other way to pay for education. Is there a country where public education is paid by donors?

Additionally, the example of California was troubling. While California may have a surplus of \$9 billion dollars, it also has a debt that likely exceeds \$1.5 trillion and possibly \$2 trillion. In 2017, the state admitted to a debt of \$1.3 trillion through 2015. Accurate numbers for a more recent date are unavailable.

Recently, the teachers of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) went on strike. They did manage to get a raise of six per cent. Good for them. The problem is that the LAUSD is 500 million dollars in debt. They will likely

get the raise in the short-term, but at some point they will likely lose it.

I taught in Oregon for three years. For some months while I was there, teachers in California were getting paid in IOUs because the state did not have enough cash. Some banks cashed these IOUs, some did not. In 2006, teachers in Oregon were required to pay back a portion of their retirements.

Building a great education system is a great dream for Alberta, and one I fully support. And I am not opposed to an increase in taxes, but California is not a great model. Many business are leaving California for states that have lower tax rates. We must have businesses to tax or we cannot fund our public education system. To do that, we are forced to bargain with those who pay our salaries and fund our retirements. ■

Tim Nelson  
St. Augustine School, Ponoka

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# In support of parent choice and constitutional rights

The article, "Let's advocate for public education with one voice" (ATA News, Dec. 11) states that the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA) is "pushing for the elimination of separate and franco-phone school systems." Nothing could be further from the truth. We have stated publicly on numerous occasions, in media interviews and in our print material, that constitutional rights must be respected — full stop.

The campaign called Together for Students advocates for a provincewide conversation on what a future inclusive education system could look like — one that reflects modern-day Alberta and not the Alberta of more than 100 years ago.

The current model — which was created back in 1905 when Alberta first became a province — funds six different, and often competing, school systems. Of the six, only the schools in the public system are available to every child regardless of race, social status, faith or ability. Every student is welcomed in a public school. The other systems have various mechanisms to turn away students who do not align with their core values and beliefs, yet they receive the same level of public funding as public schools. One inclusive education system would require all students to be accepted in all schools — not just some.

Your definition of public education leaves the impression that public



## FOR THE RECORD

“Where less is just less.”

— A line from the ATA's "sardine can" communications campaign focused on reduced budgets and large class sizes.

## On the ATA's planned election advertising

### FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

#### Gurmit Bhachu

It's going to take all teachers. Let's not be complacent. This will be one of the most important elections for the future of education. Tell your friends.

### ON TWITTER

#### Natasha Krec @HumanistNK

Of course as a teacher I endorse this for my colleagues, but as a PARENT it is absolutely critical! I can't imagine any parent OK with a substandard education for their kids because a

politician and party don't deem it important!

#### Brandon Hamilton @Brand\_Ham

Because, during foundational years of education, over 80% of our K-3 classes are over capacity #IBelieveInPublicEd

#### Jason Ashmore @Mister\_Ashmore

It's more than just class sizes that are a concern. Education isn't even on the radar of the upcoming election. It needs to be. We need to invest in the future and that future is a strong education for the students — the future leaders of this province and nation.

# Help us create a preferred future for teachers' conventions



## EXECUTIVE REPORT

**Dan Grassick,**  
ATA Executive  
Staff Officer

Teachers' conventions, as they currently exist in Alberta, are not the end product of intentional design. Unlike specialist councils, which the Alberta Teachers' Association founded in the 1960s, convention associations are older than the Association itself. Over a century of shifting political, economic and professional pressure has shaped the model of teachers' conventions that exists today. Periodically, the Association must set aside what has become "conventional about conventions" and imagine what these two days of teacher professional development should look like in a preferred future.

To this end, Provincial Executive Council established the Committee on Convention Review in June 2017 to review all aspects of teachers' conventions, including their vision, mandate, structure, governance, operation, financing and programming.

From the data collected through its extensive consultation and research activities, the committee identified the following convention-related needs statements:

1. Teachers need access to high-quality, self-directed professional development activities on convention days.
2. Teachers need the types of professional development opportunities offered at convention (and other Association events) to connect/align with the goals in their professional growth plans.
3. Teachers need to come together (i.e., convene) to share with and draw inspiration from their colleagues and to reaffirm the importance of their shared work.

4. Teachers need to be confident that the fees they pay for convention membership result in the highest level of professional development programs and services possible.

5. Teachers need convention boards to focus their energy on meeting members' professional development needs.

6. Teachers need the perception of their annual conventions to mirror the importance they place on their work.

7. Teachers (especially those in rural and remote areas) need the time and expense of their participation at conventions to be recognized and addressed.

The committee identified the various underlying aspects of these needs and developed 28 possible future directions the Association could take which, when taken collectively, map out a future for teachers' conventions that will provide Alberta's teachers with greater equity, autonomy and impact.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please visit the Committee on Convention Review page at [ATAConventions.ca](http://ATAConventions.ca) to download a copy of the committee's preliminary report and to access reflection guides and an online survey that can be used to submit feedback on the report and proposed directions.

The committee's preliminary report was presented to Council in October. In 2019, the committee will conduct a series of validation activities with members that will inform its final recommendations to Council. ■

*Dan Grassick is the chair of the Alberta Teachers' Association's Committee on Convention Review.*



## CTF CORNER

## LE COIN DE LA FCE

f CTF-FCE

@CanTeachersFed

[www.ctf-fce.ca](http://www.ctf-fce.ca)

### Teachers sought for study

**Ottawa** – The Canadian Teachers' Federation is sponsoring a study on the shortage of teachers in French-language schools in minority settings. The study is being conducted by a University of Ottawa research team under the leadership of Phyllis Dalley, Ph.D.

The research team wishes to interview people who, in the first five years of their career, have chosen to leave permanent teaching positions in minority settings as well as those who have chosen to stay.

#### Who can participate?

- Any teacher who has been in a teaching position (permanent or on track to become permanent) in a minority French-language school for fewer than five years.
- Any teacher who has left the French-language school system during his or her first five

years of teaching to work for an English-language school (immersion, FSL, other).

- Any teacher who has left the teaching profession during his or her first five years of teaching.

#### What will the participants be asked to do?

Participants will be asked to take part in an individual Skype interview that will last from 30 to 120 minutes, depending on their availability. Please note that participation is purely voluntary. Anything participants say to the researcher and her team will be kept strictly confidential. The identity of participants will not be disclosed under any circumstances.

To volunteer or request more information, contact project manager Josée Lebel at [educavenir@uottawa.ca](mailto:educavenir@uottawa.ca). ■

### Enseignants recherchés pour participer à une étude

**Ottawa**, La Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants commandite une étude sur la pénurie d'enseignants dans les écoles de langue française en contexte minoritaire. Cette étude est menée par une équipe de recherche de l'Université d'Ottawa qui travaille sous la direction de Phyllis Dalley, Ph. D.

L'équipe de recherche souhaite interviewer tant des personnes qui ont fait le choix de quitter un poste permanent en enseignement en contexte minoritaire que des personnes qui ont fait le choix d'y rester au cours des cinq premières années de leur carrière.

#### Qui peut participer

- Toute enseignante ou enseignant occupant un poste d'enseignement (permanent ou en voie de permanence) dans une école de langue française en contexte minoritaire depuis moins de cinq ans.

- Toute enseignante ou enseignant ayant quitté le système scolaire francophone au cours de ses cinq premières années d'enseignement pour travailler dans une école de langue anglaise (immersion, FLS, autre poste).
- Toute personne ayant quitté la profession enseignante au cours de ses cinq premières années d'enseignement.

#### Ce que cela implique

Les personnes seront invitées à participer, par Skype, à un entretien individuel d'une durée de 30 à 120 minutes, selon leur disponibilité. Leur participation est entièrement volontaire.

Toute communication avec les chercheurs sera confidentielle et l'identité des participants ne sera pas divulguée. Contactez Josée Lebel, gestionnaire de projet, pour en savoir plus ou pour participer : [educavenir@uottawa.ca](mailto:educavenir@uottawa.ca). ■



2019  
**gotcha!**

# PHOTO CONTEST

The ATA News invites you to get your camera out and start shooting those award-winning photographs.

**1st place: \$200 2nd place: \$100 3rd place: \$50**

Email photos to [cory.hare@ata.ab.ca](mailto:cory.hare@ata.ab.ca). Entries must be received by 5 P.M. on May 14, 2019. Contest rules are available online at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca).

**Cash prizes available!**





A new ATA communications campaign is using the image of canned sardines to bring attention to the issue of class sizes.

# Association to shine spotlight on public education

*Aim of election advertising will be to raise education's profile*

Jen Janzen  
ATA News Staff

To comply with new rules around advertising during provincial elections, the Alberta Teachers' Association has registered as a third-party election advertiser.

According to the Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act, a person, corporation or group is required to register when it plans to spend at least \$1,000 in election advertising.

Although the Association is not a partisan organization, it is responsible for advocating for public education and is planning to ramp up those efforts over the next few months, said ATA president Greg Jeffery.

"We want to ensure that public education is kept top-of-mind throughout the election period," said Jeffery. "Education will always be our priority, no matter who is leading the province."

The act places limits on how much money can be used for political and election advertising. Up to \$150,000 can be spent before the writ drops and another \$150,000 once the election is announced. If a third-party advertiser is found to be in violation, it could face a fine upwards of \$100,000.

*“ Education will always be our priority, no matter who is leading the province. ”*

— Greg Jeffery, ATA president

The Association will spend up to \$270,000 on ads, which is the second-highest amount listed among organizations that have registered thus far. Topping the list at \$277,000 is a group called Shaping Alberta's Future, which is connected to several automobile dealerships. Other registrants include the Alberta Medical Association, Firefighters for Alberta, Protect Alberta Kids from Big Tobacco and the Alberta Chambers of Commerce.

As part of the legislation, contributions greater than \$250 must be reported to Elections Alberta and will be publicly disclosed and, although contributors may receive official receipts, the receipts aren't eligible for Alberta income tax credits.

# This...

from ATA President Greg Jeffery



## Alberta needs more early intervention



The literature dealing with junior and, especially, full-day kindergarten is becoming more and more prevalent as more jurisdictions are adopting these programs. But the models and the goals are almost as numerous as the studies.

We know from listening to our early childhood and Division I teachers that these early interventions can help bridge the readiness-for-learning gaps created by socio-economic disparity. This is effective only when the extra time in class is used not to cram in more outcomes but to allow a fuller exploration of what we expect five-year-olds to know at the completion of kindergarten.

The results from such programs are as we might expect: scores go up and grade retention goes down. However, these are not the results I would look for first.

*Teachers want what students need, and bridging the socio-economic readiness-for-learning gap is certainly something that is needed.*

Creating more time to learn through play fosters an environment where learning is not a chore or a task but rather an adventure filled with discovery and joy. It improves confidence and self-assuredness, which, down the road, will lead to better academic results but with far different attitudes and outlooks on learning than cramming young minds with too much, too soon.

Having children in school all day one year earlier may also help break down socio-economic disparities by allowing parents greater employment opportunities.

It may not be for everyone, and should be optional, but there are many advantages to a well-thought-out and delivered early intervention program for disadvantaged students as they begin their educational journey. Teachers want what students need, and bridging the socio-economic readiness-for-learning gap is certainly something that is needed — needed for equity, and for healthy, happy young learners in our classrooms.

*I welcome your comments — contact me at [greg.jeffery@ata.ab.ca](mailto:greg.jeffery@ata.ab.ca).*

# Byelection called for Calgary City

*Voting held at same time as 2019 PEC general election*

ATA News Staff

Calgary City teachers might do a double take when they see their ballot for the 2019 Provincial Executive Council (PEC) election. They may be surprised to see that they'll be voting twice for the position of district representative: once for the 2019 PEC election and once for the 2019 Calgary City byelection.

### Why the byelection?

Calgary City is the largest of the ATA's 11 geographic districts and has three elected district representatives on PEC. Kent Kinsman was one of them, and he resigned last month to pursue a position with Calgary Public Teachers Local No. 38. A byelection was called for January 30 to fill the vacancy for the Calgary City

district representative on PEC until the end of this school year.

### Why will Calgary City teachers vote twice?

There are two distinct terms for the district representative position. The byelection winner will serve as district representative for the remainder of the current term, which expires June 30, 2019. The PEC election winner will serve a two-year term starting on July 1, 2019.

### How many candidates will be elected?

In the 2019 PEC general election, three candidates will be elected to serve as district representative for Calgary City. However, only one vacancy exists for the current term, so only one candidate will be elected in the byelection.



### Will the same candidates be in both elections?

Candidates in the 2019 PEC election were confirmed when nominations closed on January 18 (check out the ATA website to learn more about them).

Nominations for the 2019 Calgary City byelection opened January 30 and close February 13, so we will know then who the candidates are.

### When do we vote?

Voting opens March 14 and closes March 18.

### Where can I get more information on the candidates and these elections?

The ATA website. You can also follow the ATA on Facebook or Twitter to stay up to date on everything #ATAElections.



## Share your voice!

Take the 2019 Member Opinion Survey  
FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 8

Visit [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) > Members Only



The Alberta Teachers' Association

C000R-26e-2019-01

## Misrepresenting a leave has consequences



### 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.*

Through their collective agreements, teachers across Alberta have access to a wide variety of leaves. Each individual collective agreement defines the procedures and processes by which teachers may access these leaves. While some leaves are granted through “shall grant” clauses, other leaves are available through “may grant” clauses.

What a “may grant” leave means is that there is a possibility that the leave may be denied by the superintendent.

In a recent case before the Professional Conduct Committee, a teacher’s response to the denial of a “may grant” leave was the subject of a hearing. In this matter, a teacher was denied an unpaid leave by the superintendent. The teacher had requested a multiple-day leave to fulfill a coaching obligation at a major hockey tournament. When the dates of the original leave request arrived, the teacher accessed sick leave. When the

superintendent showed up at the hockey tournament, the teacher was there coaching. The teacher was not sick.

The teacher was found guilty of unprofessional conduct and received an oral reprimand. The teacher had already made restitution to his employer.

Leaves of various sorts are available to teachers. Those leaves are finite and often have conditions attached to them. Misrepresenting a leave has consequences. Teachers will lose pay, either through their employer or, on occasion, through fines imposed by the Association. Further, damage is done to a teacher’s reputation with their employer when they are dishonest in accessing leaves of absence. Teachers are expected to maintain the honour and dignity of the profession. When teachers lie about their leaves and misrepresent their absences from school, they fail in that undertaking. ■

## ATA members eligible for cellular discounts

### ATA News Staff

Alberta teachers can now access discounted cellular rates through Telus and Rogers thanks to new agreements between the service providers and the Alberta Teachers’ Association.

Rogers is offering ATA members a 30 per cent discount on the primary line of a Share Everything plan, while Telus is offering a 15 per cent discount on a primary Your Choice voice and data plan.

To participate, teachers must create an account in their name and supply a school board email address. ■

**Teachers with questions can contact Telus or Rogers directly.**

Information about the Rogers offer is available at [portal.imaginewireless.net/ataadm](http://portal.imaginewireless.net/ataadm).

Information about the Telus offer is available at <https://evs.telus.com/ATA>.

## Council readies for ARA

### PEC POINTS

**Audrey Dutka**  
ATA News Staff

**Highlights of the Provincial Executive Council meeting held Jan. 17–18, 2019, at Barnett House in Edmonton**

1. Approved the 2019/20 proposed budget for presentation to locals.
2. Approved, for presentation to the 2019 Annual Representative Assembly (ARA), a resolution setting the annual fee payable by a full-time, active member at \$1,257, effective Sept. 1.
3. Approved, for presentation to the 2019 ARA, a resolution setting the annual fee payable by an associate member at \$188.50, effective Sept. 1.
4. Approved the names of two recipients of honorary membership in the Association, which is reserved for members and other persons who have given meritorious service to the teaching profession, to the Association or to the advancement of education.
5. In accordance with bylaw 70, authorized that voting for the 2019 Calgary City byelection be conducted by electronic ballot and set March 19 as the date for the announcement of the voting results.

6. Approved that the Election Rules Appeal Panel selected for the 2019 ATA general election also serve as the appeal panel for the 2019 Calgary City byelection.

7. Amended the Administrative Guidelines to establish rules in the event a byelection runs concurrently with an ATA general election.

8. Amended the specialist council grant structure to remove the bonus for membership increase and reallocate these funds to the per-member grant.

9. Received the report of a hearing committee that found a teacher guilty of one charge of unprofessional conduct for using physical force on a student, causing the student to fall and hit their head on the floor, thus failing to provide a safe environment and failing to treat the student with dignity and respect. The hearing committee imposed a penalty of a declaration of ineligibility for membership in the Association for a period of one year and a recommendation to the minister of education to suspend the teacher’s teaching certificate for a period of one year.

10. Received the report of a hearing committee that found a teacher guilty of two charges of unprofessional conduct for sending written notification, via email, indicating

the teacher’s intent to terminate their contract, leaving the teaching position without mutual consent and failing to provide 30-days notice as required in section 108(1) of the *School Act* and article 9 of the Code of Professional Conduct, thus failing to fulfill the teacher’s contractual obligations and failing to maintain the honour and dignity of the profession. The hearing committee imposed a penalty of a letter of reprimand and a fine of \$200. Failure to pay the fine within the 90-day period would result in the teacher being declared ineligible for membership in the Association.

11. Approved, for submission to the 2019 ARA, two resolutions that the Association adopt and implement the Teaching Quality Standard, the Leadership Quality Standard and the Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard and that the terms *Teaching Quality Standard*, *Leadership Quality Standard* and *Superintendent Leadership Quality Standard* be inserted into all Association policies referencing professional practice standards as appropriate.

12. Approved that the national, provincial, Métis, Treaty 6 and Franco-Albertan flags be permanently placed on display at the entrance of Barnett House. ■

CARING FOR OUR  
**Watersheds**<sup>TM</sup>  
CaringForOurWatersheds.com

students answer the question:

“What can you do to improve your watershed?”

**\$34,000**  
**in Prizes**

plus implementation funding available.

### DEADLINES

**Southern Alberta**  
(Airdrie and South):  
**March 15, 2019**  
[cody.field@calgary.ca](mailto:cody.field@calgary.ca)

**Central/Northern Alberta**  
(North of Airdrie):  
**April 10, 2019**  
[nathalie@battleriverwatershed.ca](mailto:nathalie@battleriverwatershed.ca)

Open to students in Grades 7-12 who live in Alberta.





## What's your story?


Do you have a story to tell about your teaching? Your school experiences? Your life? Are you interested in blogging or writing memoir pieces?

If so, this workshop is for you! Join Mandy Catron (published memoirist and creative writing instructor at UBC) as she helps those who are already on this path or those who are not sure how to get started. If you want to nourish your creative soul and write some of your amazing life stories, please join us:

**March 16, 2019 | 0900-1500** (lunch will be included)  
**Barnett House, 11010 142 Street, Edmonton**

Register at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/9XV66YM](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9XV66YM)  
 Free for ATA members | Limited to the first 40 applicants

For more information, please contact [nancy.luyckfassel@ata.ab.ca](mailto:nancy.luyckfassel@ata.ab.ca).



The Alberta Teachers' Association

PD-285 2019 01

# CHOOSE COMPASSION



Visit our booth at **Teachers' Convention** for:  
 A free classroom poster, rulers, prizes, contest info and more!

*Visitez notre kiosque au congrès pédagogique pour obtenir des ressources en français*



EVERYLIVINGTHING.CA

## Substitute teachers ARE key team members



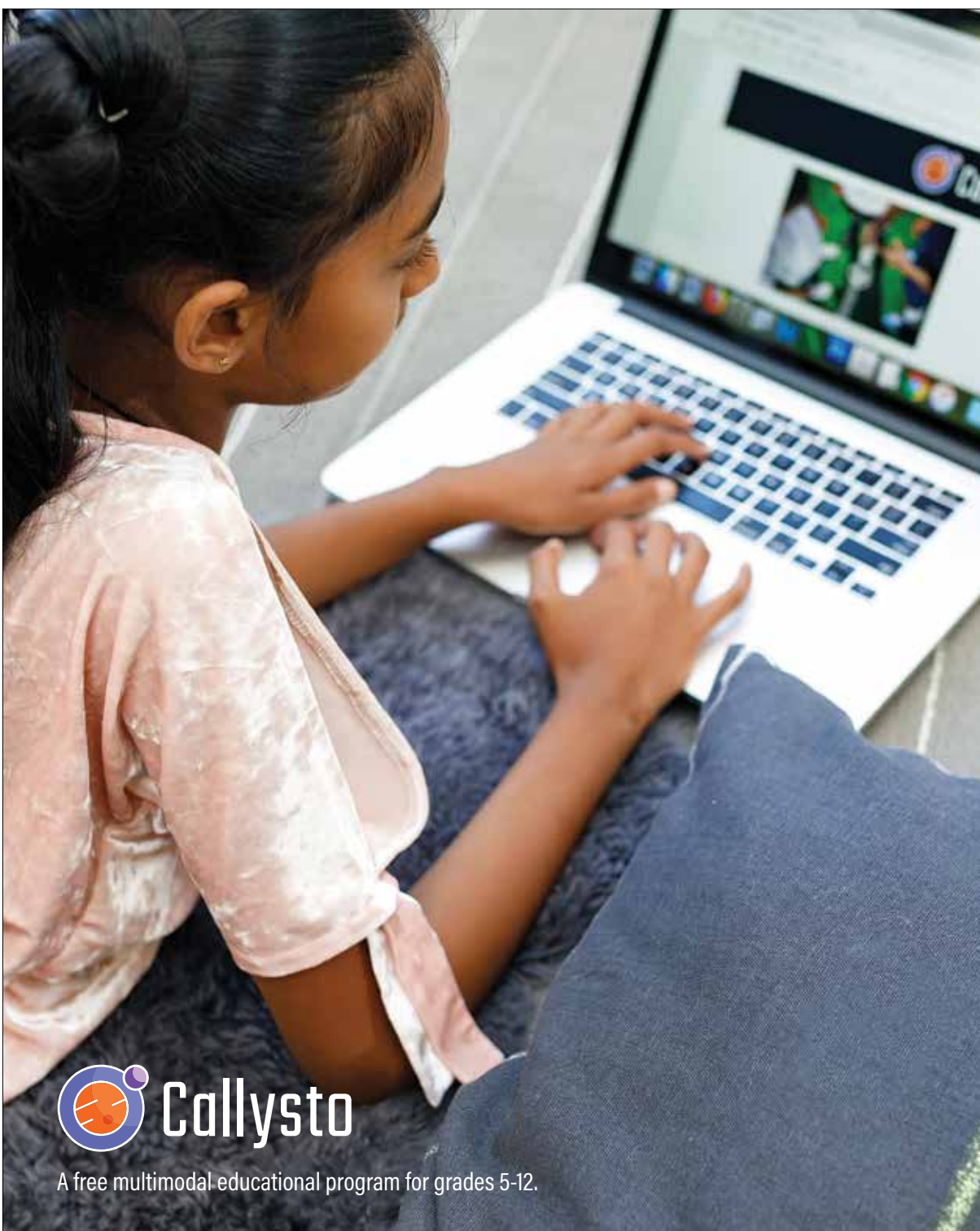

### Substitute Teachers' Appreciation Week 2019

March 11-15



The Alberta Teachers' Association

MS-15-10 2019 01

A free multimodal educational program for grades 5-12.

## BUILDING TOMORROW'S DIGITAL LEADERS

Callysto is a free, interactive, curriculum-based learning and skills development tool — think “interactive textbook” — that can be accessed from any device with an internet connection. It was created to help students strengthen their computational thinking, coding and data science skills.



Visit [callysto.ca](http://callysto.ca) to sign up for a FREE teacher professional development workshop, and/or to try out our curriculum-based modules.

Come see us at these upcoming events:


- North Central Teachers' Convention Association - Feb 7-8, 2019, Edmonton
- Calgary Teachers Convention - Feb 14-15, 2019, Calgary
- South West Alberta Teacher Conference Association - Feb. 22, 2019, Lethbridge
- Greater Edmonton Teachers Conference - Feb. 28-Mar 1, 2019, Edmonton
- ERLC Educational Technology Innovation Summit 2019 - Mar 4-5, 2019, Edmonton
- Central East Alberta Teachers Convention - March 7-8, 2019, Edmonton

[callysto.ca](http://callysto.ca) | [contact@callysto.ca](mailto:contact@callysto.ca) | [@callysto\\_canada](https://twitter.com/callysto_canada)

Partners:

With funding from



## CLASSIFIEDS

### Travel and Recreation

**Discover East Africa!** Follow the footsteps of more than 50 others. Volunteer teachers wanted to mentor teachers in Burundi. Tanbur African Aid Society has English school with Alberta Curriculum. Accommodations, meals and laundry provided. Tax receipts for airfare also provided. Contact Ann Predy 780-752-4127.

**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**  
Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019, 4 p.m.  
(publication date Feb. 26, 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:** 44,000

## Need help getting your pension matters in focus?



Personal pension interviews will be held across Alberta over the coming months. Book your session online at [www.atrf.com](http://www.atrf.com) by clicking on 'Meet With Us.'

One-on-one sessions are also available in our Edmonton office weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Call 780-451-4166 or toll-free at 1-800-661-9582 to book your appointment.



### PRINCIPAL AND TEACHING POSITIONS OPEN DONGYING QSCIS CAMPUS IN CHINA

The Dongying Campus of Qilu Sino-Canadian International School is looking for a dynamic and committed educational leader to serve as the principal of the school for the coming year. This position is open and duties will commence as soon as the successful candidate is able to obtain the necessary visa paperwork.

The successful candidate will

- hold a Permanent Alberta Education Teaching Certificate,
- have a minimum of three years' successful teaching at an Alberta school or Alberta Accredited International School and
- have previous successful administration experience in an Alberta school.

Benefits include

- competitive yearly salary (\$ 90,000 CAD) and bonus,
- furnished accommodations,
- health insurance and
- phone and Internet Plan.

QSCIS in Dongying is a Tier 3 Accredited Alberta International School that has been operating for the past four years. This year will be the third graduating class from this school. The teaching staff for Dongying consists of five teaching positions and one administration position with three teaching assistants. Because of the small number of classes and teachers, there is a teaching component to this position.

*Teaching positions also available*

Sr. math/science teacher—Position starts in late February.  
Sr. English and social studies teachers—Positions start in August 2019  
Sr. math and science teachers—Positions start in August 2019

**Interested candidates should email a resume/cv and cover letter to Boyd Davies at [hr.qscis@gmail.com](mailto:hr.qscis@gmail.com) and [hr@csdofsd.org](mailto:hr@csdofsd.org). Skype interviews available anytime and personal interviews will be conducted in Alberta in February this year.**

**Apply now**  
for an ATA fellowship  
or scholarship

**Application deadline: Thursday, February 28, 2019**

For more information and to apply, visit [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) then click on MyATA > Programs and Services > Grants, Awards and Scholarships. Contact Tracey McFeeters at [tracey.mcfeeters@ata.ab.ca](mailto:tracey.mcfeeters@ata.ab.ca); phone 780-447-9466 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta).



**A FREE, web-based cross-curricular program for grade five students.**



**Over 450 000 kids have participated in P4B. If you've already signed up, open your box and get started today!**

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**1-800-27Bones**  
**Power4Bones.com**



BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR DIETITIANS



# International CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL of the ARTS

**BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP TODAY! GRADES K - 6**

Experience a day of learning with Feature Performances and interactive Workshops from around the world!

**Student value packages starting at \$12**

Contact Terry Adamic, School & Group Liaison at 780-459-1717 or [childfestival@stalbert.ca](mailto:childfestival@stalbert.ca)

**MAY 28 - JUNE 2, 2019**

**CHILDFEST.COM**

## FEATURE PERFORMANCES

**A Canadian First!**



### PAPER PLANET

Polyglot Theatre  
Immersive Theatre  
Performance  
Meets Interactive  
Installation

### DANCE/MUSIC NIMIHITOWIN!



### MUSIC KOO KOO KANGA ROO



### CIRCUS/MUSIC/DANCE WON'MA AFRICA

Circus Kalabanté Productions



### CIRCUS LI LIU

### MUSICAL THEATRE HONK! JR.



### ALBERTA BLUE CROSS TODDLER TOWN

# ATA EDUCATIONAL TRUST CALL TO REAPPLY

## B T Keeler Continuing Education Grant Applicants

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

**The DEADLINE to reapply is MAY 1, 2019.**

[www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) > My ATA > Programs and Services > Grants, Awards and Scholarships > ATA Educational Trust

Thank you, and we apologize for any inconvenience.



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AND  
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## Explore Action Sports at House Of Wheels!

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## Created by Registered Dietitians for Alberta Teachers.

- ✓ Order free resources for students and parents.
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- ✓ Use our tips and tools to make teaching healthy eating easy and fun.
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Visit today!  
[TeachNutrition.ca/ab](http://TeachNutrition.ca/ab)

New content added monthly!



BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR DIETITIANS

For more information contact [albertanutrition@dfc-plc.ca](mailto:albertanutrition@dfc-plc.ca)



## TEACH ENGLISH

Help others

Teaching English as an Additional Language Professional is an eight-month post-bachelor certificate program that will prepare you to support the diverse needs of English language learners in adult education and K to 12.

Start in July!  
[norquest.ca/teal](http://norquest.ca/teal)



Step Forward

# 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

February 5, 2019 | Volume 53, Number 8

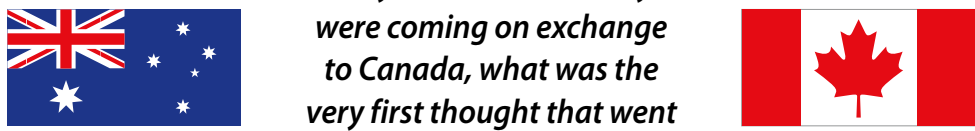


Visiting exchange teachers from Australia spent a day getting oriented to the Alberta way of doing things at Barnett House on Jan. 25. Seventeen teachers from Australia will spend the next year teaching in an Alberta school while an Alberta counterpart takes their place down under.

YUET CHAN

## (yet professional) Fun exchange


When you found out that you were coming on exchange to Canada, what was the very first thought that went through your mind?





**Christine Fowler**  
 ELMER S. GISH, ST. ALBERT  
 ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA




**Craig McGown**  
 BANDED PEAK SCHOOL, BRAGG CREEK  
 SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES




**Donna Hilton**  
 BANTING AND BEST SCHOOL, CALGARY  
 ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA



**Victoria Boyton**  
 BRIDLEWOOD ELEMENTARY, CALGARY  
 ST. GEORGES BASIN, NEW SOUTH WALES



**Leesa O'Brien**  
 MONSIGNOR FEE OTTERSON CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, EDMONTON  
 SUNSHINE COAST, QUEENSLAND



**Kelly Huxtable**  
 WEST PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RED DEER  
 POTTSVILLE, NEW SOUTH WALES



Adam (right), Lachlan and Tara Fowler, the family of Australian exchange teacher Christine Fowler, ham it up for the camera before heading for a day of fun at West Edmonton Mall.

YUET CHAN