

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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## Leading for Learning: The Interim Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on the School Administrator

At its September meeting, Provincial Executive Council (PEC) established a Blue Ribbon Panel on the School Administrator to review Association services and structures. The panel, whose members are primarily school administrators from across Alberta, functioned at arm's length from PEC and retained Dr Charles Hyman for research support.

The Panel presented its interim report at an emergent PEC meeting on 2005 02 12. Council authorized wide distribution of this report to give all members the opportunity to read and respond to the recommendations presented in the report. We expect that schools will receive a copy of the report, the executive summary and the response guide during the week of 2005 02 22. As well, the

executive summary and the response guide will be available on the Association website ([www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)).

It is important that all members have the opportunity to comment on the recommendations. The questions to you from the Panel are these: "Have we got it right? Is this how best to meet administrator needs?" All members are strongly encouraged to read the recommendations and provide responses by mail, fax or e-mail prior to 2005 03 16.

Once the panel has your responses it will reconvene, still working at arm's length from Provincial Executive Council, and consider your feedback. After this review, the Panel will send its final recommendations to Council, and Council will take action on the recommendations.

## Building and Sustaining Professional Learning Communities: Lessons Learned

The Alberta Teachers' Association is pleased to present the Building and Sustaining Learning Communities: Lessons Learned conference on 2005 03 17(eve)–19, Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton. The conference brochure (program and registration form) can be downloaded from the Association's website at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca). Find the section titled "News" on the right of the screen, then click on "ATA to Host

Conference on Building and Sustaining Professional Learning Communities: Lessons Learned."

Highlights of the conference are a keynote address and presentation by Andy Hargreaves and a workshop with Allison Zmuda. Hargreaves is the Thomas More Brennan Chair of Education in the Lynch School of Education at Boston College and the founder and codirector of the International Centre for

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# Have Workshop Training, Will Travel

## The Administrator Instructor Corps is Up and Running

Fifteen newly appointed Association administrator instructors attended a two-day training session to prepare them for delivering Association workshops on professional learning communities. The training session was facilitated by Jacqueline Skytt, Michael Podlosky and Dorothy Stanley, staff officers in the Association's Professional Development program area.

"Working with this group was a privilege. These administrators are anxious to share their knowledge and very committed to the program," said Jacquie. One of the participants sent an e-mail saying, "This is probably one of the best, if not the best professional development session I have ever

attended. Thank you for a well-organized, information-packed and team-centred approach."

A list of professional learning communities workshops and booking information are available on the Association website under Professional Development. There is a \$50 booking fee for each workshop, but the Association covers all other costs

including instructor travel expenses, release time, workshop materials and research and development. For more information or to book a workshop, contact Jacqueline Skytt, Coordinator, Professional Development at (780) 447-9469 (Edmonton and area) and 1-800-232-7208, ext 469 (toll free in Alberta); e-mail: jksytt@teachers.ab.ca.

## SMART Goals, SMART Teams, SMART Schools

### Banff Leadership Seminar 2005

## Lessons Learned

*Continued*

Education Change at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (University of Toronto). He will discuss professional learning communities from a wide range of perspectives. Zmuda is an education consultant for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) in Alexandria, Virginia, and Director, Division of Teaching and Learning, for the Capitol Region Education Council in Hartford, Connecticut. She will guide participants through a workshop designed to complement the conference themes of creativity, continuous improvement and school culture.

The Banff Leadership Seminar, an annual conference of the Council on School Administration, will take place at the Banff Park Lodge on 2005 04 10-12. Following the very successful seminars presented by Rick Dufour and Lynda Lambert, CSA is pleased to present Anne Conzemius and Jan O'Neill, who will work with us on the SMART (strategic and specific, measurable, attainable, results oriented time-bound) process. This process provides the curriculum for building a professional learning community, step by step.

**This seminar will introduce participants with no background in the SMART process** to the tools, methods and processes for becoming a professional learning community, from data to implementation.

**For those with some training or experience with the SMART process**, this seminar will include an advanced break-out session to meet your needs.

Bring your team and work together to learn

- structures of effective teamwork;
- group processes and planning;
- tools for understanding perceptions and problems, and for improving results;
- tools for measuring student performance;
- the benefits of thinking like a system; and
- the role of professional development in learning communities.

For further information, contact Konni De Goeij at (780) 447-9472 (Edmonton and area) or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta).

*For further information, visit [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) or contact Member Services at the Alberta Teachers' Association, 447-9400 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta).*