

**From the Oak Desk**



**Collective Agreement**

I would like to draw your attention to three clauses in our collective agreement:

11.2.1 Staff deployment within a school shall be the responsibility of the Principal and the Staff.

The Local believes that staff deployment in a school is the result of discussion between the school Administration and staff, however the final decision is the responsibility of the principal.

11.2.2 Teachers will be expected to assume, outside of regular school class time, professional duties including, but not limited to, supervision of students, preparation, staff meetings and parent-teacher conferences. Extra-curricular activities will be the collective responsibilities of the staff of the school. Individual teachers choose from among these activities based upon their knowledge, skills and interests.

The Local believes that extracurricular activities are voluntary and that an individual's time commitment is based on their knowledge and interests. However, a balance must be considered between time commitments to family, health, faith life and curriculum load. If there is a change it is important to provide school administration information on any changes to the balance so they can make adjustments.

11.2.3 The parties to this Collective Agreement recognize that, except when temporarily impracticable, each teacher will have regularly scheduled school class time free from classroom instruction or supervision for the purpose of attending to professional responsibilities including preparation, consultation and administrative tasks.

The Local believes that every teacher should have some time during their weekly schedule where they have preparation time and this

clause indicates that this time needs to occur during the school day. In many cases this year teachers were asked to cover classes because a substitute job was not filled and that needs to be recorded as instructional time. In many cases school administration has provided other preparation time in lieu, which then would be recorded as preparation time.

**Timetables:**

Teachers need to keep copies of their timetables and supervision schedules as arbitration on clause 11.1 Hour of Work was rescheduled to late September 2008 at the request of the District. Those documents may become important information to confirm your instructional time and assigned time for this year.

**Executive Committee Members**

This year is the first year where there are no elections for the Executive Committee as the Local passed amendments to the Constitution and Operational Guidelines last year. Current Elected members of Executive will be entering the second year of a two-year term. Elections for all positions will occur in the spring of 2009.

**Local Data Base**

The Local maintains a data base that has members name, address, telephone number, home e-mail addresses, current contract status and school. This information is vital to our ability to keep you informed. Information is only for the use of the Local and will not be shared. So, if there are any changes please contact the Local to update; for example a, change of schools.

**Office Hours during the Summer**

The office will close on June 27, 2008 at 12:00 noon and will re-open August 18, 2008 at 8:30 am. If you wish to contact me you can call the office and leave a message on my voice mail and I will get back to you over the summer holidays.

**Maternity Seminars**

The Local is continuing the practice of hosting maternity seminars in the evening so that both parents can attend. The purpose is to highlight the advantages that exist in our collective agreement with the District and to answer any questions that teachers may have.

If you are interested in attending a seminar or know a teacher that would benefit please contact the Local office at **265-2678** to register.

# ATA INFO 55

June 2008

www.ataloc55.ab.ca

## President's Message



Dear Colleagues,

Our year is winding down and summer is approaching. Although the weather in Calgary this spring was more indicative of winter, the fields are now free of snow and flowers are starting to bloom.

There has been a definite thawing of relations in education this year both externally and internally of our District. In the fall, the signing of the historic Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) and the Provincial Government heralded a new direction in our province. This agreement continues to provide benefits for Alberta teachers beyond the elimination of the Unfunded Liability (UFL) payments that previously siphoned off some of our paycheques. As part of that same agreement, the pay increase for next September was announced at 4.53%. This rate is obtained through the use of the Alberta Average Weekly Wage Earnings Index - the same index used to determine pay increases for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). Teachers should also feel proud that the Public Education system received one of the largest year-over-year increases in recent memory as announced in the spring budget. Without the 4.53% increase teachers negotiated, it is unlikely that school boards would have received a 4.53% increase applied to their entire budget. Once again, it

was teachers who stood up for public education just as we did in 2002 when we were directly responsible for the creation of the Alberta Commission On Learning (ACOL). Coming out of that commission was the class size initiative, which received a healthy increase of 9% in the provincial budget this year.

One last benefit of the MoA, which was not necessarily evident at the time of signing, is the improving relationship between the Teachers' Association and the Provincial Government. The MoA has created opportunities for discussion between the ATA and the Department of Education. The new minister, Dave Hancock, has expressed a willingness to work with teachers towards ensuring that Alberta's public education system will continue to be one of the best in the world.

On the Local scene, a major focus of this year has been building a positive relationship between our professional Association and the District. The Table Officers of the Local, District Senior Administration, and Trustees have worked side-by-side on many occasions this year in an effort to promote stronger relationships and teamwork among education partners. The leadership of Local 55 will continue to build on this positive atmosphere to partner with the District on education issues.

On behalf of the Executive and staff of the Local, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer.

David Cracknell  
President, Local 55

## Upcoming Events

- June 11th..... PGS Meeting
- June 12th..... ATA Retiree Reception
- June 17th..... CSR Appreciation
- June 19th..... District Retirement
- June 27th..... Local 55 Office closed for the Summer
- July 30th ..... First Day for teachers (year-round)
- Aug. 1st..... Year round schools first day of classes
- August 18th ..... Local 55 Office Opens
- August 27th ..... First Day for teachers
- Sept. 1st ..... Schools first day of classes
- Sept. 18th ..... PGS Meeting and Maternity Seminar
- Sept. 30 ..... CSR Meeting

## Committee Descriptions of ATA Local 55

### Standing Committees:

#### Charities

Disburses the proceeds from the \$7.00 per month charitable donation of teachers. The committee consists of 12 members, six of whom are elected each year, meeting five times a year. The members are Directors of the Calgary Separate School Teachers' Charities Society. This committee's mandate is to give financial assistance to those programs which directly aid young people physically, spiritually and/or educationally.

**Term: Two years**

#### Communications

Publishes the Info 55 newsletter approximately four times a year, providing Local information for teachers. This committee's mandate is to heighten teacher awareness with regards to Local 55 and its various functions. The committee consists of three members, plus the Vice-President of Communications, and meets according to publishing schedules.

**Term: Two years**

#### Economic Policy (EPC)

Negotiates the Collective Agreement and monitors the application of its clauses. This committee's mandate is to gather and study all data relevant to amendments to the Collective Agreement and to prepare and present these proposed amendments to the Executive Committee for recommendation to the Council of School Representatives for approval. The committee also monitors ongoing working conditions, and gives direction to the Negotiating Sub-Committee (NSC) concerning all contractual negotiations. This committee consists of 13 members (three per school-based division and one non-school-based teacher representative), with four members being elected each year.

**Term: Three years**

#### Finance

Develops the overall annual budget for all committees of the Local and is responsible for all investments. This committee prepares and presents an annual financial statement to Executive and to the Council of School Representatives. Finance also conducts an annual review of the guidelines for the Retirement Fund of Local #55. Besides the Vice-President of finance, the Past President and the treasurer, this committee consists of two elected members with one member being elected each year.

**Term: Two years**

#### Policy and Resolutions

Formulates the professional policies and directions of the Local and Provincial Association. This committee prepares Local resolutions for, and attends the Annual Representatives' Assembly (ARA). The committee consists of the President and 12 members of Local 55 with six members being elected each year.

**Term: Two years**

#### Political Action

Works to bring teachers to awareness and action on the Local and provincial political scene. This committee also seeks out and encourages prospective candidates for local school board elections, and attempts to influence education decision-making when appropriate. The committee consists of up to 12 members, with six members being elected each year.

**Term: Two years**

#### Professional Development

Strives to provide new and experienced teachers with an increased repertoire of teaching techniques and methodologies. One member shall be named as a liaison to the Convention Association Committee, and shall attend Convention meetings and report back. This committee consists of up to 12 members, six of whom are elected each year.

**Term: Two years**

#### Professional Growth Subsidy (PGS)

Oversees disbursement of professional growth conference/tuition funds for teachers. This committee meets once per month, and is also responsible for reviewing its guidelines once per year and presenting proposed changes to CSR for approval. The committee consists of six members (one from each school-based division and 2 non-school-based members (members at large)). Three members are elected each year.

**Term: Two years**

#### Professional Recognition

Promotes an internal and external PR program to enhance the ATA Local. This committee is responsible for the New Teacher Induction Breakfast, Long Service recognition and Teacher Retirement tribute. The committee consists of the Vice-President of finance and six members, three of which are elected each year.

**Term: Two years**

## Committee Descriptions of ATA Local 55

#### Social

Organizes and conducts all social and recreational activities sponsored by the Local. The committee consists of eight members.

**Term: One year**

#### Substitute Teachers

This committee of six substitute teachers will provide a meeting place for issues and problems to be discussed. The Local will make available funds to help substitute teachers develop their professional capabilities.

**Term: One year**

### Other Committees:

#### CAFEC (Calgary Area Field Experiences Committee)

Collaborates with the University of Calgary and other partners in teacher preparation to represent the teaching profession. 2 members.

**Term: One year**

#### Convention

(Calgary City Teachers' Convention Association – CCTCA)

The Alberta Teachers' Association through its convention associations assumes full responsibility for planning, conducting and evaluating the annual teachers' conventions held across the province.

**Term: Three years**

#### Ad Hoc Committees

Will be formed as the need arises. Committee frame of reference will be outlined in a motion presented to CSR for approval.

#### NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AT:

[www.atoloc55.ab.ca](http://www.atoloc55.ab.ca) look under documents and forms, nomination forms.



Communications Committee L-R:  
Mary O'Brien, Franca DeGusti, Melanie LeBlanc

### Stephen Lewis Foundation Lenten Project

The Local once again sponsored the Foundation as a Lenten project this year. Teacher donations were combined with money donated by the Charities committee and a Public Relations Grant from the provincial ATA. Bill Dever, former Superintendent of the Calgary Catholic District represented the Stephen Lewis Foundation at the April CSR meeting to accept a cheque on behalf of Local 55. Bill announced that teachers were instrumental in raising over \$45,000 for the Foundation after teacher donations inspired other donors to add to the total.



Bill Dever, David Cracknell