

## SPECIAL EDITION

### President's Message



Dear Colleagues:

#### LOCAL 55 LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

A new website has been designed for Calgary Separate Teachers' Local 55. The site, which was two years in the making, is designed with a priority on quick and easy access to the information and tools that teachers need. Keeping the site clean and relatively clear of text was a priority as was one-click access to many of the most used tools. Also new to the site is an internal search feature to allow the user to search out a category or document without needing to drill through many pages. Drop down menu bars are also a new feature allowing the user to quickly to the specific page they are looking for. Whether it is conference funding or salary information you are looking for you will find it on the Local website at [www.ataloc55.ab.ca](http://www.ataloc55.ab.ca)

David Cracknell

## Acronyms and Jargon

### Local 55

The Local charged with representing teachers who work for the Calgary Catholic School District. Part of the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA).

### CA

The Collective Agreement, a document that details the negotiated wages, benefits, and working conditions for teachers working for the Calgary Catholic School District.

### Contract

The personal services contract each teacher signs with the school district. Often confused with the Collective Agreement but they are not the same.

### CSR

Council of School Representatives – The position of school representative to the ATA Local - and the monthly meeting of the same name. The CSR is a vital link between teachers and their professional teaching association.

### SR

The provincial ATA name for all School Representatives.

### EPC

Economic Policy Committee. The committee who oversee the Collective Agreement for teachers.

### NSC

Negotiating Sub-Committee. The sub-committee of the EPC who negotiate changes to the Collective Agreement.

### PGS

Professional Growth Subsidy. A committee that oversees funding that is available to teachers who would like to attend a conference or are taking courses.

## 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 four 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 14 members (three per school-based division, one non-school-based teacher and a principals' 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**

**A big thank you to all of the members who helped with the website renewal project including: Wendy Beier, David Cracknell, Stephen Jones, Darren Moroz, Rita San Martin.**

### 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 Communications and six members, three of which are elected each year. **Term: Two years**

### Social

Organizes and conducts all social and recreational activities sponsored by the Local. The committee consists of eight members. **Term: Two years**

### Substitute Guest Teachers

This committee of six substitute guest teachers will provide a meeting place for issues and problems to be discussed. The Local will make available funds to help substitute guest 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.ataloc55.ab.ca](http://www.ataloc55.ab.ca)

(look under documents and forms, Committee Nomination forms)

## TOP TEN – Things you can find on your Local 55 web-site:

10. **Contact** - where you can just fill in your question and send!
9. **Helpful Links** – Right Hand grey sidebar – other useful links.
8. **ATA Local 55** – Right Hand grey sidebar - quick links to information.
7. **ATA Info 55** – where current issues and past Info 55 can be read.
6. **Documents and Forms** – Where you will find Collective Agreement, Constitution, Operational Guidelines, Nomination Form and other important information.
5. **Committees** – See what your committees do and where you can get involved.
4. **Hospitality** – Form for Flowers, fruit baskets and Mass Cards.
3. **Local #55 Events and Conference Calendars.**
2. **SEARCH** – if you don't know where to look – use the search feature.
1. **Professional Growth Subsidy Application Forms.**

### FAQ's (This can be found on the right hand side of webpage)

#### Where do I find out information on my pay?

- The Collective Agreement is available on the Local website as is the salary grid (Article 3) and allowances (Article 4). You can also check with your CSR or call the Local office. The website also has the District document "Understanding Your Pay Advice".

#### What kind of benefits do teachers in our District have access to?

- The benefits available to teachers, as detailed in the Collective Agreement (CA) (Article 8.2), include Major Medical, Group Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance, Long Term Disability Dental coverage, Vision and Hearing, and Personal Health Spending Account (PHSA). A new teacher to the District will have to have completed six (6) month service before some of the benefits become effective.

#### Am I able to take a few days off from work to deal with some personal matters?

- The amount of time you would be able to be away from work and what it will cost depends on the type of leave you need. If you are sick, or have a doctor/specialist appointment, for example, you would be accessing sick leave (Article 6.3). If you need to help a family member who is critically ill then you may be eligible for Critical Illness and Family Medical Leave (Article 6.6). There are a number of leaves that can be found in Articles 6 and 7 of the Collective Agreement. Some of them are Compassionate, Maternity, Paternity, Jury Duty, University Examinations, Personal Leave and Unspecified to name a few. Some of the leaves are with full pay, some require the teacher to pay the cost of the substitute teacher, and some are without pay.

For more information and to see more FAQs answered by our Executive Assistant please check the website or call Stephen Jones at 403-265-2678.

The screenshot shows the website for the Alberta Teachers Association Local 55. The browser window title is "Alberta Teachers Association Local 55 - Windows Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.atoloc55.ab.ca/home.html". The website header includes the logo and name "Alberta Teachers' Association Calgary Separate Local No. 55". A search bar is located in the top right. The navigation menu includes: Home, News Updates, Committees, Professional Growth Subsidy, Documents & Forms, Hospitality, Scholarships, and Contact.

The main content area features a large image of a teacher and a child. To the right of the image is a blue box with the text "2010-2011 Salary Grid." and a link to "learn more". Below this is a "Welcome to Calgary Separate Local No. 55" section with a brief description of the organization. To the right of the welcome message is a "Contact Us" section with address, phone, fax, and email information.

Below the welcome message is a "ATA Loc 55 Latest News" section with a link to "Personal Health Spending Account (PHSA)". Below that is a "Salary Grid 2010-2011" section with a link to "Download PDF Document".

At the bottom of the main content area are two columns of links. The left column is titled "Prof. Growth Subsidy" and includes links to "Guidelines", "Tuition Application", "In City Conference Application", "In Province Conference Application", "Out of Province Conference Application", and "Substitute Application". The right column is titled "Documents and Forms" and includes links to "2007-2012 Collective Agreement", "Constitution", "Operational Guidelines", "Salary Grid 2010-2011", and "Personal Health Spending Account".

On the right side of the page, there are three sidebar sections: "ATA Local 55" with links to "Presidents Message", "Calendar and Conferences", "FAQs", "ATA Info 55 Archives", and "Contact Us"; "ATA Info 55" with a link to "Download our PDF brochure"; and "Helpful Links" with links to "Alberta Teachers' Association", "Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund", "Calgary Catholic School District", "Calgary Public Teachers Local #38", "Educator's Professional Development", "Guide to Education", "Learning Commission", "MLA Contact Information", "More MLA Contact Information", and "Teachers Convention".

The footer of the page includes a navigation menu and a copyright notice: "© 2011 Calgary Separate Local No. 55".