



INFO

55

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President's Message



Dear colleagues,

Now that we are past the half point of the school year, I trust that you have had an excellent year so far and are looking forward to the second half. Convention is fast approaching and we have an early Easter break this year starting at noon on March 20.

There are some excellent sessions offered at this year's Teacher's Convention and I hope you also find time during the busy two days to visit with colleagues and view the booths in the exhibit hall.

Of course, I would also encourage you to drop by the Local 55 booth to say hello to the Local Executive members and our guests from the District - this year to include senior administration as well as Trustees.

Thank you for your support for the Stephen Lewis Foundation in the past. Once again the Local is looking to sponsor this worthwhile Lenten project and we encourage all our members to participate. Further information will be provided to your CSR in the near future.

The Local will keep you informed regarding the status of the Provincial pension agreement through your CSR's and through our website at www.ataloc55.ab.ca

Teacher's Convention - February 14/15, 2008

Each year brings new challenges to the Convention Committee as we join together to plan the Calgary City Teachers' Convention for over 10,000 teachers. Over the years the committee has been able to offer to its members a variety of professional development sessions ranging from curriculum content, to current events, to comedy. We have done our very best to bring you a program rich in variety and expertise for convention 2008.

The Calgary Teachers' Convention website is the most important tool this year in keeping you up to date. Information and updates to speakers, rooms, and social functions will be posted here. Please check it regularly! www.cctca.com

Beginning at 7:30 in the Crystal Ballroom of the Palliser Hotel, treat yourself to an amazing breakfast! Beat the traffic, catch up with friends, and begin your convention with a provocative keynote address given by Tod Maffin. Please go to the convention website at www.cctca.com for more information and to order your tickets.

You've asked for more speakers, more sessions and more space! Sessions will be held in rooms at the Telus Convention Centre as well as the Palliser Hotel and Crescent Heights School. Located at 1019 - 1 Street NW, Crescent Heights High School will host a variety of sessions. From Robert Sawyer's *The Challenge of Tomorrow* to Dawn Fuller's *Parenting with Laughter* and Roman Danylo's *Afternoon of Comedy*. It is not a site you should bypass! Getting there is not as difficult or as time consuming as you might think. A shuttle bus will be provided free of

charge between the Convention Center and Crescent Heights. Parking around the school can also be found. See page nine in your booklet or visit the website for more information.

Bring your booklet to your sessions! Many of our speakers' sessions are sought after by the general public. Because this is a closed convention, for teachers only, the booklets act as a ticket of admission to these sessions. This is our way of attempting to ensure that it remains a closed convention and that teachers are getting the opportunity to hear the speakers the committee has provided. If you have lost or left your book behind, please visit the information booth with ten dollars and school or ATA identification for a new booklet.

If you have pre-registered for a session, please be there 5 minutes before the scheduled presentation time. This will assist the host and speaker in ensuring everyone who has signed up gains access to the session.

The President's Reception will be held Thursday from 4-6 in the Crystal Ballroom at the Palliser Hotel. All teachers are invited to enjoy complementary hors d'oeuvres and a chance to socialize.

On behalf of the Calgary City Teachers' Convention Committee enjoy the convention!

Samantha Tomlinson - Convention Committee

From the Oak Desk



Definition of Instruction

In the Guide to Education, September 2007 ECS to Grade 12, the definition of Instruction appears on page 41, 51 and 52 and is as follows:

"Instruction is the process in which certificated teachers take responsibility for ensuring that learning activities for students are directed towards achieving the outcomes of approved Programs of Study and/or Individual Program Plans through:

- interaction with students, either face-to-face or using information and communication technology, for the purpose of teaching, assessing student achievement of outcomes and related activities, including tutorials, discussion groups and learning skill centres, and/or
- interaction with students who are engaged in self-directed packages, independent study,

computer-assisted learning and/or classroom learning, and/or

- Supervision of presentations for and/or students, workplace learning and other learning activities.

The Local believes that when a teacher covers a class because a substitute job was not filled can include that classroom time as part of their instructional hours in clause 11.1 Hours of Work. Also teachers involved in teaching Calm using the on-line program Desire to Learn (D2L) can include the time interacting and marking students work as part of their instructional time.

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 answer any questions that teachers 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.

PENSION DEAL

Provincial Pension Deal Comes Down to the Wire

With a handful of school boards threatening to scuttle the November 15, 2007 Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the province and teachers, the deal came in just under the wire when the Board of Trustees of Grande Prairie Public School district reconsidered and approved the mediator's recommendations previously agreed to by teachers. As a result, five-year collective agreements are now in place in each of 62 school jurisdictions and the Memorandum of Agreement between the Alberta Teachers' Association and the Government of Alberta is now in place.

A news conference was held on February 1st in Calgary where President Bruseker and the Minister of Education officially announced that the agreement had become official. Teachers can now look forward to retroactive pay and the elimination of the additional pension payments that they had been making towards the unfunded liability in the pension plan.

New Teacher Induction A Success

The Professional Recognition and Professional Development Committees of ATA Local 55 held its annual New Teacher Induction at the Blackfoot Inn on Thursday, October 18, 2007.

The evening began with presentations from President David Cracknell and Executive Assistant Stephen Jones on the function of our local and roles and responsibilities of its committees.

Special guests in attendance were Linda Woitas, director of Human Resources who brought greetings from the Board of Trustees and the School District and Father Lu, Chaplain at Bishop McNally and St. Anne who brought greetings from the Bishop and said grace.

The 25 new teachers enjoyed a delicious meal and were entertained by guest speaker Don Cope, who shared his experiences of teaching and motivating teachers to be their best. Maryann Gaehring spoke on behalf of the PD committee and made a draw for 5 gift certificates to Scholar's Choice.

The evening concluded with the Formal Induction Ceremony.

Thanks to the members of the Professional Recognition and Professional Development their hard work in organizing this great event!! Darren Moroz, Chair, Professional Recognition