

A I N F O 55

Special Election Edition

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www.ataloc.55.ab.ca

AdHoc Election Readiness Committee

In preparing the proposed changes to the collective agreement the Local has sent out many surveys and teachers have responded in great numbers with concerns that affect their reality. Teachers want to do what is best for their students. They spend countless hours preparing and reviewing lessons, marking, modifying and making accommodations to students' programs. This can be a daunting and sometimes overwhelming task; yet day after day they continue to move forward with the hope that things will get better and each student will reach their full potential.

Now is the time to exercise the greatest right we have in influencing the government process. By voting we can help select the members of the future government of Alberta. Now is the time to review the platforms of the various political parties to elect a government willing to do what is best for the children of Alberta.

What kind of influence do teachers have? Teachers exercised their influence and made the UFL a priority. Consequently the UFL has been resolved.

Your vote on March 3, 2008 will impact the future of Alberta children and the teaching and learning in your classroom. Which candidate will you support? Which candidate will encourage the government to provide the ultimate classroom?

What does the ultimate classroom look like to you?

- ✓ reduced class sizes to allow the teacher to spend quality time with each student.
- ✓ class compositions that recognize the complexity of today's classroom.
- ✓ supports for the unique educational needs of each child.
- ✓ classrooms that have technology that is up-to-date, working and is supported with a regular ma-intenance program.
- ✓ physical space so each student has enough room to move freely.
- ✓ comfortable working and learning conditions.
- ✓ programs that celebrate the fine arts which brings color and joy to our world and recognizes the diversity of learning.
- ✓ materials that allow students to learn independently at a pace that fits with their learning needs.

We are sure that you can add many more ideas to this list that reflect your current teaching reality. The question is what will you do with it? We encourage you to check out each candidate in your area and find the one that is willing to discuss this list and listen to your concerns. The ultimate classroom can only become a reality if YOU take the time to vote. Your vote counts.

Be the one that makes the difference!

President's Message



Dear Colleagues,

On March 3rd, Alberta citizens will be going to the polls to vote for a new government.

There has been much debate in the media over whether that government will

be formed by a new political party or another Conservative majority. While each teacher must decide which MLA and party to vote for, the Local does not take sides. As a Local, we take a non-partisan position - we support an ideal, a philosophy: Public Education .

We support a Public Education system that includes Catholic Districts; a Public Education system that is properly funded to provide opportunities to all students regardless of their economic status; a Public Education a system that prepares all Alberta children for participation in a democratic and tolerant society; a Public Education system that places more

emphasis on student learning and exploration with less emphasis on paperwork and marks .

This is the message we need to send to the candidates, regardless of which political party they represent. Send them the message that teachers need to have the time and the tools with which we can teach our students to the best of our ability. Send the candidates the message that teachers are the experts in education and we need to be consulted before the government implements indicative after initiative. Send them the message that our classrooms and our students are more complex than ever before, putting pressure on teachers and reducing the time we have to work with all students.

Truly, this election is not so much about the candidates and the political parties for most teachers. For teachers, this election is about the future of education in Alberta and the opportunity to make the **appropriate funding of education** a priority for all candidates.

Alberta General Election Information

The following can be found at www.elections.ab.ca

Check and see if you are on the voting list.

**Who are the candidates in your constituency, web links to
The various political Parties,**

Where to vote.