

REPORT FROM HENNING DRIVE

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FRANK BONVINO, President & LEANNE SJODIN, First Vice-President
& DANIEL TÉTRAULT, Second Vice-President

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JUNE 2017

The Year in Review

Another year in the books...and the time just flew by. We have been through quite a journey this year!

Curriculum Implementation is underway and the BTA supported another non-instructional day for Curriculum Implementation. Additionally, the Ministry dropped a number of reporting requirements over the summer, which we have been working through together.

Not long after we settled into the school year, another historic event – victory at the Supreme Court of Canada. After more than 15 years of court battles, the BC Teachers were ultimately successful in our challenge of the government's actions that stripped our Collective Agreements. This stripping and the subsequent actions of the BC Liberal Government have been determined to be unconstitutional. The remedy for BC Teachers is the restoration of the deleted class size and composition language that had been struck, with the full effect to be seen in September.

These implementation meetings resulted in an interim \$50 million infusion of funds in the Winter that was to be used to immediately hire teachers – Burnaby's share was \$2 million (approx. 45 FTE positions for the remainder of the year). Several dozen teachers were added to schools, as determined through the collaborative meetings held by your respective staffs.

Then the provincial election – what a ride! Burnaby teachers were quite active in the Burnaby ridings. As a result of the action of many teachers, all four ridings in Burnaby are now represented by NDP MLAs. Richard Lee, the defeated BC Liberal MLA from Burnaby North, attributed his loss in part due to the government's policies on education – he has come to realize that teachers have not been happy with the direction of the BC Liberal party on matters of education.

The election drama is not over either. At the time of printing this report, BC NDP Leader John Horgan is poised to become the next Premier of BC after negotiating a deal with the BC Greens to form a minority government. Premier Clark seems to want to try her luck in the Legislature first, and it should be interesting. The BTA is hopeful that, by Canada Day, we have a new Premier installed in Victoria – one that will be more in tune with public education.

On behalf of my colleagues, Leanne and Daniel, we would like to wish you a well-deserved Summer respite. We appreciate your support throughout these turbulent times...and want you to continue to feel supported by the BTA Office and the Executive Council.

Regards,
Frank Bonvino
BTA President

Implementation of Restored Collective Agreement Language

We continue to work through the implementation of the restored Collective Agreement provisions. The BTA Table Officers have met multiple times with senior admin to iron out the many details. We expect that up to 100 FTE teachers will be added as a consequence of the restoration – you should notice a positive difference in your schools come September.

As a result, the District has decided not to lay off any teachers this Spring. It is expected that all teachers with continuing contracts will be offered positions for next school year. Any continuing teachers that are not placed into positions will be placed on a priority TOC list, where they will receive first callout and receive remuneration and benefits as if they were working in a contract position.

In terms of enforcing the Collective Agreement language, the BTA has added additional funds to its budget to facilitate the work of the Staff Reps, the Bargaining and Working & Learning Conditions Committee, and the BTA Executive to this end. The BTA has also dedicated resources to two training days this Spring where Staff Reps were able to work with the newly restored language in preparation for supporting colleagues at schools. We will continue to work with reps in the Fall to ensure that this process is as smooth as possible.

In light of all of this, the BTA encourages you to elect and send Staff Reps to the monthly Staff Rep Assemblies. Critical and timely information will be shared with Reps and explained in detail – the Staff Reps liaison work with school staffs and the BTA Office continues to be the most important link to your Local Union.

BTA EC 2017-2018

At our last annual general meeting, the following people were acclaimed/elected to the executive committee.

President: **FRANK BONVINO**

Secondary Representative: **RICHARD STORCH**

Past President: **RAE FIGURSKY**

Elementary Member-At-Large: **HEATHER SKUSE**

1st Vice-President: **LEANNE SJODIN**

Secondary Member-at-Large: **DONNA MORGAN**

2nd Vice-President: **DANIEL TÉTRAULT**

Representative To The Labour Council: **KATIE MARSH**

Secretary: **SHARON FREEMAN**

Local Representatives to the BCTF: **DEREK COCKRAM**

Treasurer: **PATTI JUKES**

TONI GREWAL

Elementary Representative: **JENNIFER HEIGHTON**

SHANEE PRASAD

* **Committee Chairs will be elected by their respective committees and ratified at the June Rep Assembly.**

BTA Office Hours

The BTA Office will continue to remain open into the summer months. Summer hours will be from 8:00-3:30 for the first two weeks of July (July 3-14). The BTA Office will re-open again on August 21 and operate on the same summer hours until school opens on September 5.

Missed NIS/Prep Time

As many of you are aware, there have been numerous TOC shortages throughout the year and teachers have often been asked by the administration to cover classes during their prep/NIS. This is a reminder that this time is owed to you but expires on June 30th of this year. For secondary school, once a teacher, or teachers, have accrued enough time to warrant a half-day or a full-day of lost preparation time, the teacher(s) can then request the principal call in a TOC to return this preparation time. For example, if Teacher "A" is owed a period of preparation time recovery and "Teacher B" is also owed a period of preparation time recovery, then these two teachers can combine this time for a half day callout.

For elementary school, once a teacher, or teachers, have accrued enough time to warrant a half-day or a full-day of lost NIS, the teacher(s) can request their principal call in a TOC to return this NIS time. Teachers can combine missed NIS time to make half-day or full-day increments for TOC dispatch. For example, if four teachers each have lost 45 minutes of NIS time, a TOC can be called in for one-half day to return the lost NIS time to the four teachers.

Pacific Blue Cross Strike

CUPE 1816 workers for the Pacific Blue Cross have been on a rotating strike for over a month now fighting against retiree benefit cuts to their members. PCB is our extended health providers and we are asking our members to respect the unions' picket lines until the dispute is settled. You may experience delays in your online claims during this time.

Health Benefit Improvement

On July 1st, members will see an improvement in certain extended health benefits. See diagram below for improved areas.

| Medical Services and Supplies | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | August 1, 2014 - June 30, 2017 | July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 |
| Hearing Aids | \$2,000 per 48 months | \$2,700 per 48 months |
| Orthotics | \$400 per year | \$500 per year |
| Vision Care | | |
| | August 1, 2014 - June 30, 2017 | July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 |
| Maximum | \$400 per 24 months | \$500 per 24 months |
| Paramedical Services | | |
| | August 1, 2014 - June 30, 2017 | July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018 |
| Massage Therapist | \$800 per year | \$900 per year |
| Physiotherapist | \$800 per year | \$850 per year |
| Psychologist | \$700 per year | \$800 per year |
| Acupuncturist | \$700 per year | \$800 per year |

Upcoming Events

Scholarship for the Son/Daughter of a BTA Member

Qualifications:

- You must be a graduating son/daughter of a BTA member currently employed by School district #41, or be a graduating son/daughter of a deceased or retired BTA member employed by School District #41 at the time of death or retirement.
- You must be graduating from a public school in BC as a member of the Class of 2017.
- That the selection of the recipient be made by the BTA Scholarship Committee.
- Your completed package must be at the BTA office by midnight September 5th, 2017.

The Scholarship is \$750.00

Packages will be sent from the BTA office to the Staff Rep at your school and the link will be available on the BTA website.

Retirement Reception

This year's Retirement Reception will be on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Firefighters Banquet & Conference Centre, 6515 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. The social starts at 4:00 pm and the ceremony at 4:30 pm. Please **RSVP by June 15th, 2017** by email to bta3@bctf.ca or by phone (604) 294-8141. Congratulations to the 39 Retirees of 2017!

CoDev's 2017 Annual Solidarity & Fundraising Dinner

The BTA has purchased a table for 10 people at this year's fundraising dinner. Interested members can put their name into the draw to win a seat by emailing bta3@bctf.ca or by calling the BTA office at (604) 294-8141. We encourage members to bring donations to the event to contribute to the support on social change and community empowerment.

CoDevelopment Canada supports women's rights, labour rights and education rights in Canada and Latin America. This year, CoDev will be celebrating 32 years of building partnerships for Global Justice. The 2017 event will take place on **Saturday, June 17, 2017** at the Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver. **Doors will open at 5:30 pm** and the table will be under the Burnaby Teachers' Association.

The draw will take place on Thursday, June 15th, 2017 at 12:00 pm, so members will have until 11:59 am on June 13th to submit their names. If you have won a seat, you will be notified via email by 3:00 pm on June 13th. Please be sure that you can attend the event before you submit your name for the draw.

Louella Mae Downing Scholarship

A scholarship of \$1000 was awarded to Louise Delfin from Burnaby Central for her outstanding artistic talent and her plan to study fine arts at a post-secondary level.

