

# HEADS UP

**For Members**

## Minister Avoids Confrontation

Given recent events, the last thing the Liberals, and in particular Christy Clark needed in the New Year was an unnecessary disruption in public schools. It was not too surprising then that the minister announced that she would, in effect, pay the fee for those of us who participated in the boycott.

We have gained much through our collective action:

- ◆ Elected representation on the 20 member college council has been increased from 8 to 12 seats, a majority.
- ◆ The minister has formally acknowledged that local processes must be respected by any complaints process.
- ◆ The minister backed down on the threat to require boards to

remove teachers from classrooms for non-payment of the fee.

However, there is still the very real potential for the current college council of political appointees to do a great deal of damage to our profession before the elected council takes over. Any bylaws adopted now will be entrenched (bylaw changes require 75%).

There are significant issues that must be dealt with before we consider advising members to pay the fee, or release the monies in the Democratic Fund.

- ◆ The minister must put a moratorium on new bylaws.
- ◆ The act must be changed to bring the duty to report misconduct in line with other colleges.

(Currently, we are the only group where failure to report misconduct is a criminal offence.)

- ◆ Election of the twelve members must happen ASAP.

The issue will be on the floor of the BCTF Representative Assembly on January 23/24. Currently, the BCTF executive is not recommending the release of the funds for the reasons above.

Everyone can now relax and feel satisfaction that our solidarity has already won us a better college. It will prove to be a pivotal moment in the history of our profession.

- John Wadge

### Dial in Direct

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604-592-8395

Patti Turner  
604-592-8392

Lynda Toews  
604-592-8391

Mark Keelan  
604-592-8393

Margie Willers  
604-592-8397

## General Meeting Wednesday, January 21, 2004 3:30 pm Refreshments, 4:00 pm Meeting Conference Centre

### Reminder: Local Representative Vacancy

If you are interested in running for the position of LR, please call the office and advise our staff that you are interested in putting your name forward. Brief candidate statements for this position are due by January 15th to meet printing timelines. Statements can be faxed in (604-594-5176), e-mailed (sta@surreyteachers.org) or dropped off in person.

## Job Descriptions

The board wants to review the job descriptions for the following positions:

- Special Ed teacher BASES
- Special Ed teacher Low Incidence
- Integration Support Teacher
- District Hearing Teacher

We will appoint two STA representatives for the review of each description from those currently working in the programs. If you are interested please contact John Wadge at the STA office before January 16.

## Call for delegates to BCTF AGM

The AGM this year runs from Saturday, March 13 – Tuesday, March 16.

Members of the Surrey Delegation should be available to attend all or most of the delegation meetings. These meetings are scheduled as follows:

- 1.) Thursday, January 22, 2004, (This is a special welcome wine & cheese event for all Surrey delegates and other interested persons, featuring a panel discussion on “The Politics of the BCTF” with special guests, David Chudnovsky, Kit Krieger and Linda Burkholder.)
- 2.) Wednesday, February 4
- 3.) Monday, February 16
- 4.) Wednesday, March 3 and
- 5.) Tuesday, March 9 (all-day meeting)
- 6.) Rookie delegates orientation (TBA)

All meetings are held at the Conference Center and begin at 4:00 pm, with the exception of the all-day meeting, which begins at 9:00 a.m. and the Rookie Delegates Orientation which takes place at the STA office.

### So you want to run for the AGM Delegation?

Delegates to the BCTF AGM will be elected at the January 21 General Meeting (4 pm; Conference Centre).

***If you want to run for the delegation you should submit a candidate statement of 50 words or less to the STA. The deadline has been extended to 4:00 p.m., January 15. (Statements will be edited for length.)***

*Statements can be sent to my attention, Lynda Toews, via courier: STA #000, via fax to 604-594-5176, or by email to [ltoews@surreyteachers.org](mailto:ltoews@surreyteachers.org).*