

STA Examiner

Surrey Teachers' Association

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www.surreyteachers.org

Business As Usual at Christy's College

It's become clear that, rather than paying the College fee for us, Christy was really just ensuring that her project had sufficient funds to continue implementing her agenda. Far from being cowed, her political appointees have become even more aggressive and nasty. Tarry Grieve's recent misrepresentation of our position regarding duty to report misconduct is a case in point.

Most importantly, they are proceeding with Christy's agenda at full speed. All of the proposed changes that we find unacceptable, and that spawned the boycott, are top priority. Implementation of the public complaints process, the public registry, mandatory PD, a streamlined discipline process, and standards of conduct are all about to be entrenched in the by-laws. Once in the by-laws, they will be untouchable by less than a 75% majority.

In fact, one of the two teacher appointees, Carl Ratsoy, is calling for a simple process for removing elected reps who become troublesome.

The College issue is far from resolved. We have achieved a majority on the council, but by the time Christy's appointees are done with the bylaws, it may be a college in name only. It certainly would be foolish to release the money in the Democratic College Fund at this time.

Bad News at Class Size Arbitration

The only class size protection we have left is the School Act Provisions that purport to limit Kindergarten to 22, Primary to 24, and intermediate/secondary to a district average of 30. Unbelievably, our Board and BCPSEA have taken the position that the limits only apply on one day, September 30. (That's the School Act deadline for classes to be established within the limits)

The matter was to be heard by arbitrator Don Munroe. The employer launched a challenge to the arbitrator's authority arguing that enforcement of School Act Provisions were not subject to his authority. Unfortunately, arbitrator Munroe agreed. The ruling means violations of the class size limits are not grievable.

The government plans to bring in changes to the class size legislation that may require boards to keep classes within the limits all year. But the method of enforcing the limit is unclear. Complaints from teachers or their union to the Ministry will likely be ignored considering the government in power.

That is not to say we should give up on the limits. Public opinion is still a powerful weapon. Report violations of the K/Primary limit to the STA promptly. Intermediate/Secondary classes which are excessive, certainly any larger than 32/33 should also be reported.

The BCTF is appealing the ruling and exploring other strategies.

Dial in Direct

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Surrey Administrators' Association On Board With Christy

Many of us were disappointed with the silence of administrators over the college issue. As members of the college they are as susceptible to malicious complaints as the rest of us and should have an equal concern about the integrity of our profession, but we heard not a peep.

Administrators may have good reason to refrain from criticizing government education policy. Both Christy and Deputy Minister Emery Dossall are strong proponents of site based management and principal autonomy. In short, administrators perceive they have a great deal to gain in the way of power from the current regime and hence the silence.

Another case in point is a recent two-day PD session hosted by the Surrey Administrators' Association and presented by Dean Paravantes of the BC Principals and Vice Principals Association (BCPVPA) on Supervision of Instruction. Christy and the provincial PAC council (BCCPAC) have made rooting out "marginal teachers" a priority. To that end, the BC Principals and Vice Principals Association recently received \$150,000.00 from Christy to support training in the area of "supervision of instruction." Paravantes offered his workshop at the BCCPAC annual convention this fall.

The presenter, Dean Paravantes was the Deputy Superintendent of Kamloops under Tarry Grieve. Grieve you will recognize as the appointed chair of Christy's College Council. Paravantes was president of the BCPVPA in 1987/88 and led administrators out of the BCTF. He is a sessional instructor at the UBC Education Masters Program along with his old friend Mr. Grieve and, of all people, Geoff Plant, the Attorney General.

The STA obtained Mr. Paravantes' materials and the content is alarming. The majority of the materials are a "how to" on correcting teacher performance through progressive discipline.

The presentation is a mean spirited exercise in twisted logic, unfounded assertions, and the reinvention of collective agreement history. Using the "big lie" approach, Paravantes asserts that evaluation procedures "were designed to deal with non-culpable conduct" which is, "relatively rare."

In other words, the evaluation procedure in our contract only applies to the very few teachers who just don't have what it takes to be a teacher. However, the vast majority of performance issues are due to teachers who are "lazy, disaffected, or are making a conscious and purposeful decision not to reach a standard or meet expectations." For them, the remedy is discipline and dismissal.

This assertion is absolute BS and hardly warrants being refuted. Everyone, including Mr. Paravantes, knows damn well that the evaluation language was negotiated as the exclusive process for dealing with issues of competence. Apparently, honesty isn't a necessary attribute for BCPVPA presenters.

The presentation goes on to distort or ignore research and attempts to make a case for discipline as an effective tool in improving teacher practice. Evaluation is portrayed as ineffective because the person who is "making a decision with respect to tenure, job security and economic welfare cannot at the same time offer assistance in the role of mentor." Logically, then, the longstanding model of teachers helping teachers ought to have been embraced, but instead, in some truly twisted logic, discipline is held up as the solution. Clearly, school climate and mentoring are the casualties in this approach.

The BCPVPA document includes all the research about collaboration, teachers working together, then, inexplicably, embraces discipline as the preferred route. In a list of "Pitfalls to Avoid," one leaps out: "Giving the benefit of doubt to the teacher.

Such often leads to several further infractions as the teacher does not realize the importance of the concern." Collaboration, it seems, is for the weak.

What is most shocking is that the administrators' association chose to offer the presentation after the district administration declined. The content is in stark opposition to the definition of Supervision of Instruction supported by senior management, which, according to Deputy Superintendent Peter Drescher, is "the building of professional learning communities based on collaboration and interdependence." Mr. Drescher went on to say that administrators have been cautioned that Paravantes' approach would not replace in house practice. Thank God!

A vast body of research supports the effectiveness of the collaborative approach. Locally we have a very successful mentoring program. At the provincial level, there is the BCTF Quality Teaching Program, which is being piloted in cooperation with administration in Delta and Maple Ridge.

There is no research that indicates "teacher supervision", let alone discipline, improves teaching. Why our administrators would chose to school themselves in an approach that is sure to harm relationships and school climate, and eat up scarce resources in time consuming and expensive grievance proceedings, is puzzling and demoralizing. It indicates a seriously flawed understanding of leadership.

Perhaps the rank and file needs to ask some tough questions of their leaders. Perhaps senior management needs to provide workshops in sound, productive supervision practices. In the meantime, if your administrator says they will be dropping in a lot this year, expect the worst.

Building Signs, Building Bridges: The Challenges That Lie Ahead

It's Friday, December 19th, the last afternoon before the Christmas break, and the clang of a post pounder and the whirr of power tools can be heard in front of the STA office. Teachers are busily constructing two large signs that say, "Save Saint Mary's Hospital – It's Our Issue Too." The teachers feel good to be building something together, because that's what teachers do. That's what our profession is about. Building relationships with students, building teams, and choirs and bands, and cooperative learning groups and peer mediation teams and peer helpers. Building skills. Helping students to be the best that they can be.

**SAVE ST. MARY'S
HOSPITAL
IT'S OUR ISSUE TOO!**

www.savesaintmarys.org
604-517-1330

because we are building more than just signs. We are building community, and we are sending a message that we are not willing to stand idly by and watch the destruction and privatization of our public health system any more than we are willing to allow the privatization of public schools. (There is nothing new in the privatization formula: deplete the system by chronic under-

and reasonable salaries and working conditions, we will need the support of other unions and of the community at large. We will need to talk to those in our ten-foot radius about the impact of cuts on special needs and ESL children, on class composition and class size and about the insidious bureaucratization of our daily work under the guise of "accountability". Equally important, we will need to become actively involved in resisting the attacks on all segments of our society and the sell off of our resources.

So, the day's work over, we packed away our tools. But the building is not done. Ahead lie many months of struggle for the hearts and minds of our communities throughout the province. It is a struggle in which we will need to support many who belong to no union, many others whose unions are decimated, and thousands more who rely on public services just to get by day to day with a semblance of dignity and some hope for the future. We will need to write letters to the politicians and newspapers and email the talk show hosts. This is not a job for only the "activists". The unity we have built together over the past six months is a solid start. "Now", as the speaker so eloquently said. "Now it's our time to build the bridges for those who follow."

*Ren Morley,
Chairperson, P.A.P.R.*

Roll the calendar back one month to late November. One hundred and fifty B.C. teachers, delegates to the B.C. Federation of Labour Convention hear the speaker say that the task of union members has traditionally been and continues to be "to build the bridges for succeeding generations to cross." To paraphrase, building bridges is about forging the links that enable each of us to help each other to achieve our unique potentials, and to help each other when we fall upon bad times.

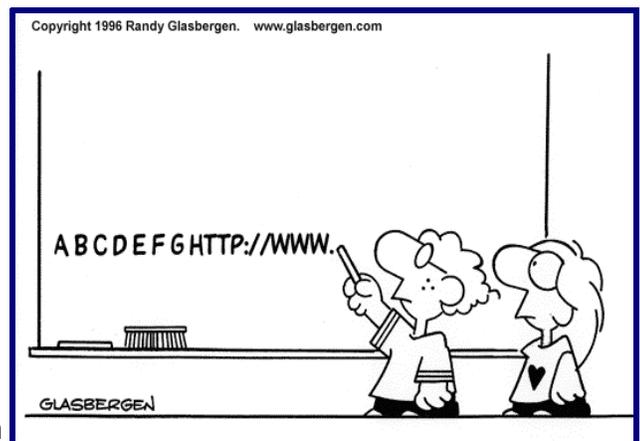
Most people, including teachers, feel upset when our accomplishments are deliberately destroyed due to political expediency. As well-informed members of our communities, teachers are aware that shutting down a hospital with a surgical waiting list of 2100 patients in a region where 24,000 patients are already waiting for surgery simply compounds the suffering, while setting the stage for the ideologues to argue for the privatization of hospitals.

So, it feels good to be building those signs,

funding and downloading costs on to local communities, and then claim that the services are "unsustainable" and must be handed over to private corporations, most of them multinationals).

Building community means building a solidarity that includes all of the community, union and non-union alike. Building solidarity means talking to our families, friends and neighbours about the issues that affect us all. It's the ordinary people of Surrey and the other municipalities that surround New Westminster who benefit from Saint Mary's Hospital's services. Just as we cannot stand by and watch St. Mary's being destroyed, neither can we stand idly by and wait for this government to declare the less fortunate of our public schools to be "unsustainable."

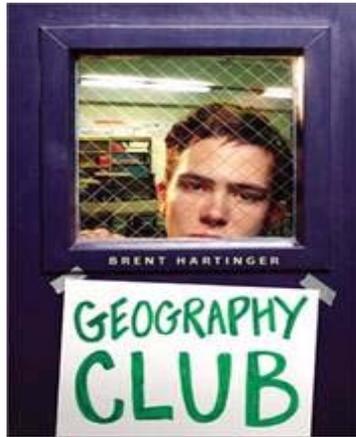
Very soon we will be attempting to bargain a collective agreement. If we are to wage a credible fight for public education



Book Review-Geography Club

by James Chamberlain

Russel Middlebrook is convinced he's the only gay kid at his high school. Then his online gay chat buddy turns out to be none other than Kevin, the popular but closeted star of the school's baseball team. Soon Russel meets other gay students too. There's his best friend, Min, who reveals that she's bisexual and her soccer playing girlfriend, Terese. And there's Terese's politically active friend, Ike.



But how can kids this diverse get together without drawing attention to themselves? They wind up choosing a club they think is so boring that no one would ever join it except them.

Geography Club is for anyone, gay or straight, who's ever felt like an outsider. It is a fast paced, funny tale of teenagers who don't learn anything about Geography but discover plenty about the treacherous social terrain of high school. With themes of friendship, first love, social conformity, peer pressure and alienation by homophobic peers it makes an essential read for any secondary school student. Find out how their Geography club eventually becomes a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club at their school.

Author: Brent Hartinger Copyright 2003. ISBN 0-06-001221-8
Gay and Lesbian Educators of B.C. (GALE-BC) helps schools to establish GSA clubs by providing resources, free workshops and GSA bursaries to schools. To find out more about their bursary program or to become a donor click on the GSA icon on their website at [<http://www.galebc.org>] www.galebc.org You will also find a directory of GSA clubs across B.C. and a GSA handbook you can download from this site.

Youth Action Award 2004 Prizes \$200

Peace and Global Educators - Surrey (PAGES) is once again offering a prize to student groups who have done some wonderful work to benefit the community, either the school community or the world at large. As in the past we are offering a prize for both elementary and high school groups who have shown social responsibility in the areas of:

Environment, Peace, Human Rights,
Equitable, sustainable development.

Examples of past projects are a peace garden, recycling programs, hosting workshops and conferences to do with the above topics.

Please encourage everyone to apply no matter the size of the project, big or small. The winners of the \$200 prize (one for

Elementary Poster Contest

Win \$ \$ and celebrate families!

Gay and Lesbian Educators of B.C. (GALE) is sponsoring a poster contest for elementary students across B.C. The intent of the competition is to produce positive images of families (including same gender families) for classrooms. The theme of the contest is "Love Makes A Family." Posters must be multicultural and include different models of family. The winning entry will be produced as a poster for B.C. classrooms. Other top entries will be posted on the GALE website. Teachers are encouraged to submit entries from their classrooms. Complete details, including criteria and acceptable mediums are posted on the home page of GALE-BC at www.galebc.org The deadline for submissions is March 31st, 2004.

Potluck and Social

Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender teachers in Surrey are having a potluck dinner and informal social evening on February 21st at 5:30 P.M. in South Surrey. It is a BYOB event. Call Teri at **604-308-3833** for details and directions.

Come out and get to know your other socially progressive colleagues.

elementary and one for secondary) will be announced in May of 2004. Deadline for applications is April 30th, 2004. Please write a letter describing the work done, who was involved at all levels, types and numbers of people who were affected by the project, results and reactions of the students and others, and any other information you think necessary. Please keep the application to one page only. If you want to include photos, by all means, do so.

Winners will have their projects profiled in our provincial newsletter.

**Please send applications c/o Beata Hittrich
6080 McKee St.,
Burnaby, B.C.
V5J 2V5**

or

email Beata @bhittrich@hotmail.com

Supervision of Instruction

Administrators of course have the right to come into your classroom to observe. However, unannounced visits not accompanied by an explanation or follow-up serve little purpose. Here is the Board's view of Supervision of Instruction taken from the Leadership Academy website:

"Supervision of Instruction is the process of engaging teachers in instructional dialogue for the purpose of improving teaching and student learning. The goal of supervision focuses on helping teachers discover, construct and affirm professional knowledge and skills. Supervisors are expected to be more collaborative and assist teachers in reflecting on classroom instruction in meaningful ways."

What supervision should not be is simply dropping by to check up on teachers. Such an approach breeds anxiety and mistrust. If your AO is dropping in, ask why.

Single Mothers' Resource Guide

*Vancouver Status of Women,
#309—877 East Hastings Street,
Vancouver, B.C. V4A 3Y1*

Tel: 604-255-6554

Fax: 604-255-7508

Web: www.vsw.ca

For single mothers there is no charge for this Guide. Come by VSW on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday between 10 am—5 pm and pick up a copy, or if you would like a guide mailed to you, please send a self-addressed stamped (\$2.10) envelope (9"x12") to the above address.

Welfare Cuts



You may be aware that our provincial government has initiated a series of welfare cuts.

We are already the result of this in our cities.

The number of homeless (that is, people living in the streets and not in hostels) has

doubled in the past year. More and more families and individuals are living in deeper levels of poverty across this province.

But this is just the beginning.

Beginning April 1, 2004 people who have been on welfare for more than two years will start to be either cut off of welfare for three years or face reductions on their cheques for three years. This means that single people who have been on welfare for over two years will not be allowed to be on welfare for the following three years even if they do not have a job or any other source of income to support themselves on.

Families with children will have their welfare reduced by \$100 for single parents and \$200 for two parent families. The money given to families on welfare, without the monetary reductions, is already not enough to live on.

Food Banks, welfare groups, churches and other who seek to help people living in poverty are already at their breaking point. It is time for us to say "NO!" to this attack on the most vulnerable in our province.

There are many things that you can do:

- Phone your Member of the Legislative Assembly and express your opinion.
- Join with the thousands of other who are signing petitions demanding that the government withdraw the current and proposed welfare time limit legislation and regulations.
- Help collect signatures in your Community, Schools, Churches, Community Centres, Unions, Associations and Local Businesses.

At the very least, take a moment to consider what the impact of these ongoing cuts to our social safety net will mean to you, your Community and our Province.

For More Info Contact:

Megan Oleson – 604-561-5724,

mirth@resist.ca

Benita Bunjun – 604-255-6554,

femantipov@vsw.ca

Faye Hodson

is retiring after a wonderful career of 26 years at Cedar Hills Elementary. Come help her celebrate this happy occasion. A retirement social will be held on Friday, February 27th - 3:00 pm at Cedar Hills Elementary.

Bill—75 the Significant Project Streamlining Act

B.C.'s new Streamlining Act doesn't just trim red tape. Suddenly, projects that pollute and threaten health (or any other "Project" - RK) can be rubber stamped beyond public view.

On December 2, just as most of us were beginning to hang up our Christmas lights, BC passed what is perhaps the most draconian piece of legislation the province has ever known. In fact, outside of emergency legislation like the War Measures Act, no other legislation in Canada, the US or Britain passes such extensive powers from parliament and legislatures to the executive.

But, with almost no media coverage or public debate, Bill 75 - the Significant Project Streamlining Act - passed two weeks ago with barely a whisper. What does it all mean?

Imagine this: a multinational corporation wants to place an open pit mine in the middle of Manning Park. Sure, it might pose threats to local ecosystems and threaten drinking water sources -- but it would generate millions in provincial tax revenue. The problem is, mining in Parks is illegal, pollution from the mine will contravene health protection standards, and the public can appeal pollution permits that threaten their health. Away with pesky constraints.

Now let's say the corporation's CEO has good friends within the provincial government. Cabinet says the project is in the public interest, and orders the Minister of Mines to remove any "red tape" facing the project. And the Minister of Mines makes it happen: there's no public process, no debate in the legislature, no cost-benefit analysis, no health impact assessment, no elements of the transparent and accountable decision-making promised by the current government. Next thing we know, the government announces that the mine is going forward.

But this is the 21st century, you say. We

have laws, like the Parks Act, the Health Act, and the Waste Management Act, that provide checks and balances to ensure development decisions are transparent, responsible, fair and in the best long-term public interest, don't we? There's no way a few politicians could unilaterally sweep aside municipal and provincial laws in order to ram through an environmentally risky development, with no kind of public process and no public explanation. Right? Wrong.

The Significant Project Streamlining Act makes just this scenario possible. It gives BC Cabinet ministers extraordinary powers to make orders replacing any provincial or local government laws, regulations or bylaw perceived to be a "constraint" to projects that cabinet deems to be "provincially significant." But the Act doesn't set out any criteria as to what constitutes a "significant" project. It doesn't set out criteria for the orders replacing the supposed "constraints." And it doesn't set out criteria for the "constraints" themselves. As defined in Act, constraints may include provincial or local laws, regulations and bylaws, as well as any other government policy or program. And a constraint doesn't even have to be real - it only has to be "perceived." A proponent could even argue that paying his or her share of taxes is a constraint on a project.

It gets worse. Under this proposed legislation, the Minister responsible will not even be required to give reasons accounting for his or her decisions.

Examples of projects that could be approved under the Act include:

Projects with pollution levels that contravene health protection standards: Currently, there are few legally binding health protection standards for pollution, but government officials have to approve industrial facilities that threaten public health, and the public has a right to appeal any pollution permits government gives to industry. Under the

Significant Projects Streamlining Act, any health protection standards can be waived, any need for a government permit can be waived and the public has no right to challenge the result.

Mines in parks contrary to the Park Act: Currently, the Parks Act prohibits the expansion of industrial activities in Parks. In most cases the legislature would need to amend the Park Act or park boundaries before allowing expansion of a mine or hydro reservoir in a Park. Indeed, the government recently backed down on allowing hydro development in Strathcona Park, in part because it was illegal. Under the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, a minister could approve "provincially significant" mining or hydro developments in Parks.

Polluters in residential neighbourhoods contrary to local government bylaws: The city council in Port Alberni recently blocked development of a natural gas fired power generation plant that threatened air quality in a neighbouring residential area. Under the Significant Projects Streamlining Act, the Province could declare the project provincially significant and override local concerns. Local nuisance bylaws and zoning bylaws would not apply.

And, although the Significant Project Streamlining Act is technically subject to the Environmental Assessment Act, this provides little comfort. The Environmental Assessment Act was deregulated in 2002, so that the government can already decide to exclude a project from environmental assessment, force fast approvals and eliminate any public consultation or other processes designed to ensure adequate assessment.

So much for open, accountable government.

Chris Rolfe is a lawyer, and the Executive Director at West Coast Environmental Law. For more information, visit www.wcel.org <<http://www.wcel.org>>, or call 604-684-7378.



Mailbag



SHOWING UP FOR THE GAME

Somebody has to ask this: what happened to all the B.C. teachers who didn't support the Democratic College Fund campaign? There were thousands of them; their \$90 went to the College of Political Appointees (or stayed in their pockets) instead of to the BCTF where it might do some good. Ok, some had their fee deducted against their will by their school boards. They are still the good guys if they ask for a refund. Maybe one or two were laid up in a hospital in a full body sling, couldn't write the cheque, and had no one to write it for them. No problem. That still leaves a mass of players who decided not to support the team. How come?

This was the easiest, least stressful collective action I have ever seen. You didn't have to give up any pay, didn't have to walk a picket line in lousy weather, didn't have to suffer through days of crummy donuts and weak coffee just to keep up your walking strength. All you had to do, in the warm confines of your own school, was to write a cheque! How hard is that?

So what were they thinking, these players who didn't show up for the game? Well, some don't support the union at all - on principle - an admirably independent attitude to which I have but one objection: it's unintelligent, for reasons too well known to merit repeating. The rest of the no-shows must have flinched at the intimidation maneuvers executed by the BCCT. They

were afraid of losing their jobs. Sort of understandable, but sad - a failure of nerve based on a failure to think or at least pay attention. The BCCT can't fire anybody, and the Ministry said publicly they would not recommend suspending teachers for failing to pay the College fee.

Truth is, our refuseniks missed the game for no good reason, but that's not the worst part. By declining to support the action, they were saying "It's ok with me if the campaign fails." Are you kidding me? Never mind the Code of Ethics argument, a BCTF defeat is not in your own self-interest, not even close. Here's why.

For the past two years, the government has had nothing to fear from the BCTF with respect to direct action. We looked like a fading giant - clearing the streets after a one-day protest, giving up on the 2002 action plan, caving in on School Planning Councils, offering members nothing significant to do to aid their own cause. This perceived weakness may have emboldened the government to make its move on the College.

Now contemplate, if you will, the following all-too-plausible nightmare: only a few thousand teachers send cheques to the Democratic College Fund, the BCTF calls off the campaign and advises all members to pay the College fee, the campaign is a bust. A disaster begins to unfold. The least of the horrors is a festival of triumphalism in the press hosted by Christy Clark. Every statement she ever made about a rift

between the BCTF Executive and its members is validated. Members lose heart and begin to protect themselves any way they can. Worse yet, the Liberals rightly conclude that we are set up for a knock-out punch in the upcoming round of bargaining and in the Legislature. Why not roll back teachers' wages? Slash benefits? Make extracurriculars compulsory? Why not crank up the College fee a lot higher, declare membership in the BCTF non-compulsory, and watch a demoralized union disintegrate on the horns of that dilemma? With an Orc-dominated College permanently in place to harass activists and terrorize the rank and file, the victory would be complete.

I do not see how the BCTF could recover from such a catastrophe. And that would be the worst possible news for every teacher in the province who values their career. Without a strong and unified BCTF, we would soon become the Wal-Mart workers of the academic world: underpaid, oppressed, fearful, and alone.

The government may still try to destroy the union, but now their work will not be so easy. Our starters feel rejuvenated and strong; public opinion seems to be running in our favor. Hopefully, as more of our colleagues realize where their true safety lies, the BCTF will see an increase in the number of committed players out on the field.

Charles Marxer
Dr. F.D. Sinclair Elementary

BCFED ON LINE NEWSPAPER A REFRESHING ALTERNATIVE

Why The Tyee? Glad you asked. Maybe you mean, why the name? The tyee, generally understood in these parts, is a savvy salmon with plenty of fight. Like this electronic newspaper, it roams free, goes where it wants . . .

But maybe you are asking, why create The

Tyee? Why now? For starters:

Because big media in this province are owned by a powerful few with their own agendas.

Because that leaves many people here hungry for news and comment that reflects their actual lives, their own values.

Because "The Big Smoke" of Vancouver/Victoria hears too little from the rest of the province and together we have plenty of

challenges and solutions to talk about.

And because we British Columbians are such a good story - so many good stories every day that don't get told. At The Tyee you'll find investigative reporting no one else is doing, and fresh viewpoints from all over B.C.

By David Beers,
Editor,
TheTyee.ca

President's Perspective



What to do about the Bell Center?

As you know we have policy in place that does not allow STA funding for any activity in the theatre. The policy arose from the Board's decision to charge schools, and the STA, a fee

for its use. There are other relevant issues; Sullivan Heights has only very limited use its own theatre, public use of the theatre during the day is very disruptive, and CUPE work in the theatre has been contracted out.

There is no doubt that the project was ill conceived. The concept of a world-class performing arts facility for the community is sound. But in this case, community commitment was not secured before commencing the project. In the end, the community declined to be involved, leaving the Board holding the bag. The result is an unfunded liability of 8 million dollars.

The 8 million dollar debt is now a mortgage amortized over 12 years with yearly payments of 660 thousand dollars. Six hundred and sixty thousand is a significant sum and it certainly isn't covered by revenue from the theatre. In fact, theatre revenue just covers the cost of operation. The mortgage payments come from the Capital Assets Reserve Fund. This money is intended for the upkeep of facilities including window repair, painting and play field improvement.

How the Board gets away with paying for a theatre with this money is a mystery.

It's pretty much a debacle all round but remember, this is the Board that lost about 8 million through miscalculated costs two years ago and had to get it back through massive cuts.

It is difficult to find a resolution to this issue. Clearly, schools must have an equal opportunity to use the facility regardless of the fundraising ability of their PAC. The policy of the district charging itself for use of its own facility should cease. It's an absurd practice anyway, the money is all coming out of the same pot. We need to find a resolution but so far the Board has been unwilling to alter their policy in the slightest.

But even if these issues are resolved, the fact remains that education dollars will continue to be used to buy a theatre we can't afford, and a building paid for almost exclusively by tax payer dollars has a 50 foot neon corporate logo pasted on it. When's the next municipal election anyway?



Check us out on the Web!

www.surreyteachers.org

Comments?

jwadge@surreyteachers.org

General Meeting Elects BCTF AGM Delegates - Local Representative

At last week's General Meeting 34 delegates were elected to the BCTF Annual General Meeting. Congratulations to the lucky 34 who will spend 3 days of their spring break representing the STA. Also elected, as Local Representative to the BCTF was veteran activist and past president Peter Ellis. Peter will fill the position made vacant by Kelly Shield's election to the BCTF executive.

AGM Delegates:	Michael Aaku	Keith Parson	Mark Ferguson
	Marian Allingham	Stewart Schon	Pummy Kaur
	Bob Butler	Penny Tyler	Alison Kirkley
	David Chudnovsky	Connie Wadge	Doug Knight
	Pierre Fauchon	Shelley Wilcox	Elise Duchow
	Sasha Fitas	Margie Willers	Alexandra Riley
	Doug Flemming	Philip Wong	Jazprite Atwal
	Mark Keelan	Diane Dunsmore	Victor Guenther
	Phyllis Minsky	Ren Morley	Ian Hart
	Carolyn Neufield	Bela Kovach	Roger Currie
	Marlis Ostermann	Derek Imai	
	Lys Paredes	Peter Bonell	

Job Share Meeting

Tuesday, February 17th

3:30 — 5:00 p. m.
District Conference Centre Room #1