

Issue 3

May 2005



SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TOC NEWS

Dear Teachers,

Many things have happened since January. You will be happy to know that four Surrey TOCs attended the BCTF Annual General Meeting in March. They fought for and voted on provincial wide TOC issues like having a TOC representative at union zone meetings around the province. This is also a great way to network and find out what is happening in other districts.



*Bela Kovach,
TOC Rep*

Secondly, bargaining has commenced and the BCTF has tabled TOC issues such as an increase in pay and accrued seniority. Stay tuned for more information and bargaining bulletins.

Lastly, the BCTF and locals have been encouraging teachers to research their local candidates views on education and vote in the Provincial election May 17th. If you aren't sure if you are registered, you can do so at www.elections.bc.ca

Have a great end of the school year. I will see you at the June 16th TOC meeting.

Sincerely,

Béla Kovach



May 6th is the STA district wide pro-d day. All schools are closed so take the opportunity and go to a workshop. There is something for everyone. You can access the info in staff-rooms or from the website www.staconvention.com

**Remember that there are many ways
TOCs can stay informed**

TOC Hotline 604-592-8396

TOC Website www.surreyteachers.org

TOC Monthly Newsletter

TOC Bulletin Boards in staffrooms

TOC Listserv –virtual staffroom for TOCs

(to register, e-mail Béla at Belajoyk@hotmail.com with e-mail address, employee number and full name)

Upcoming Events:

Friday, May 6th

Wed. May 11th

Thurs. June 16

STA district wide Convention

STA AGM

TOC EI and Year End Celebration

TOC Employment Insurance Meeting

Come and have Francis walk you through the process, fill out an application form and learn helpful hints. There will be food and prizes to end the year off right. See you there!!!

When: Thursday, June 16th
3:30-6:30 pm

Where: 9260 140th St.
Surrey Conference Centre
Room #1

What: Employment Insurance Hints and Year End Celebration

STA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, May 11th

4:00-6:00 pm

9260 140th St

District Conference Centre

Agenda items include: Election of STA Executive, STA budget, etc.

Call For Candidates

Our union is only as strong as members make it! We are always trying to encourage new people to step forward and get involved. You can self-nominate by calling the office and advising staff as to which position(s) you are interested in running for.

If you wish to have a candidate statement (*for Executive positions and Resolutions Committee*) printed for distribution to the membership, please submit it to the STA office **by May 2nd** to meet printing timelines.

Statements can be e-mailed (preferably) to sta@surreyteachers.org or FAXed to 604-594-5176

Tidbits of Info/Reminders

Read the BCTF newspaper for up-to-date info, Pro-d opportunities, travel ideas

Alan Jones (Director of Instruction, Human Resources) has been getting fantastic and positive feedback from principals on the job TOCs are doing. Keep up the good work!

Bill and his bargaining team fight for TOC issues at the bargaining table

Bill Fite, the chief negotiator for the BCTF bargaining team met with some TOC Representatives from various districts to listen to TOC concerns and answer questions. Bill is extremely experienced and a fantastic listener. He understands what a day in the life of a TOC is like. Here are a few answers to some questions asked this weekend.

What is on the bargaining table for TOCs?

- Callout by seniority
- Accrual of seniority for each day worked
- Ability to apply seniority to local collective agreement provisions
- Pro-rating of seniority due to local school calendars
- Recognition of union leave for purposes of EI and pension calculation
- Removal from the TOC list only for just and reasonable cause



Article B.2 language addressed the following TOC Pay and Benefits needs:

- Payment according to qualifications and experience from the first day in any assignment
- Payment of vacation and statutory holiday pay
- A requirement for a minimum callout
- Pro-rating of salary due to part days worked
- Recognition of payment beyond a regular day for extended/modified days
- Ability to access full benefits
- Ability to accrue and access sick leave
- Continuity of service

BCTF Democratic College Fund cheques

TOCs, if you paid into the Democratic College Fund and have not received your cheque, you need to call Pat Balanga at the BCTF. Her direct line is 604-871-1800 and she will be able to trace your cheque and or send you another one. Your cheque probably got sent to a school or an old address. **This would be a good time for EVERYONE to contact the BCTF and make sure your information is current and correct.**

College Fee

Just a reminder that the College fee for 2005/06 can be paid with no penalty up to June 30. The fee remains at \$90.00. Last fall we paid a College fee of \$75.00. This reduced amount was due to the change in the certificate year from a September 1 start date to July 1. The \$75.00 was a pro rated fee based on a ten month year for 2004/05. If you authorized the Board to make the \$75.00 deduction automatically, then they will make an automatic deduction for the 2005/06 fee at the end of the month (April). If not, then you will have to pay the College directly.

Interview Questions and Resume Hints

At our January TOC meeting TOCs were provided with hints on how to land that illusive contract. Principals Margaux Molson (Tamanawis Secondary) and Chris Baldry (Walnut Road Elementary) gave fantastic presentations full of suggestions and hints. The following is a summary.

Your Resume

- Give examples of initiative and leadership
- In your cover letter describe how you are going to add value to the school
- Provide professional references - Surrey if possible
- Provide final practicum reports or principal evaluations
- Think about "How does your cover letter stand out from the rest?"

The Interview and Possible Questions

- Have a portfolio: include lesson plans, thank-yous, visual aids
- Find a way to control the interview - focus on your strengths and passions
- Can you tell me about a teacher who has had an influence on you?
- What is a lesson plan that you are proud of?

What are Principals looking for?

- Interpersonal skills
- Classroom management skills
- Knowledge of IRPs and performance standards
- Willingness to work collaboratively
- Inclusion of parents in your teaching/classroom

Professional Development for TOCs

Apply, Apply, And Apply: there are still pro-d funds available for TOCs. You can download an application from www.surreyteachers.org Go to "forms" and then TOC Pro-d application form.

Some important funding information for the current school year:

- Deadline for professional development application receipts*** for 2004/2005: receipts for the current school year must be submitted to the STA office by June 30, 2005.
- The Consolidation Fund*** – application forms for the consolidation fund will be available on-line or in the STA office in August 2005. The forms, accompanied with receipts, can be submitted to the STA office on (but not before) the first day of September that school is in session. The applications will be considered on a 'first come, first serve basis'. As this is a new procedure, the pro-d committee will conduct a review during the 2005-06 school year.

If you are interested in a Surrey after school workshop, in-service or staff development opportunity and want further information or to register, please do so through First Class. After you have signed in, then.....Look for the ICON - SD36 Staff Conferences, then go to District In service/Focus Days. The DIG updated is the District In-service Guide, and there is an icon for each discipline, click on the discipline that you are interested in, and look for the specific workshop, in-service or staff development opportunity. It's as easy as that.

There are also after school workshops in Langley including Language Arts, Numeracy, Social Responsibility, Art,

Assessment, Classroom Management and General Interests. You can access the information and register on-line on the Langley website at www.thinklangley.com. There is a small charge, but you can access Pro-d funds from Surrey.