

Issue 3

November 2003



SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TOC NEWS

Dear Teachers,

We survived the windy month of October and now we have to stay alert for November, not because of wind storms, but because of political storms. This is the month that our provincial union (BCTF) and all the locals vote on what to do about the British Columbia College of Teachers (BCCT). It is vital that no matter what happens, we stick together in unity and fight this attack on teachers. The BCTF Representative Assembly meets on November 7th and 8th, at which time they will make recommendations as to future action. These recommendations will be posted on the STA website after November 9th. On November 19th at the STA General Meeting, we will vote on the Rep Assembly Recommendations. I strongly encourage TOCs to attend the Surrey Teachers' Association General Meeting to vote on the recommendations. Please check the STA website after November 19th to keep updated as to provincial and local decisions. This is a subject that affects all teachers.



*Béla Kovach,
TOC Rep*

Secondly, I am ecstatic to report that the STA has gone one step further in keeping TOCs informed by implementing a TOC hotline. You will be able to call the hotline and listen to vital information and upcoming events. You will also be able to leave messages, ask questions and voice your concerns. Now TOCs can stay informed through a monthly newsletter, a TOC website (www.surreyteachers.org) and a TOC hotline.

TOC Hotline 604-592-8396

If you need assistance, please call the STA office directly at 604-594-5353

Please feel free to come and visit me at the STA office on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:00 pm or e-mail me at Belajoyk@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

Béla Kovach

Upcoming Events:

TOC Meeting	Mon. Nov. 17th (Conference Centre) 4:00 pm
STA General Meeting	Wed, Nov. 19th (Conference Centre) 4:00 pm
TOC Meeting / Holiday Party	Wed. Dec. 17th (Conference Centre) 4:00 pm

Important Websites:

Surrey Teachers' Association	www.surreyteachers.org
B.C. Teachers' Federation	www.bctf.ca
Surrey School District	www.sd36.bc.ca
CISC: Teachers' Centre	www.sd36.bc.ca/sites/cisc/Teachercentre.html

TOC Meeting

Next TOC Meeting

Where: Surrey Conference Centre
9260 - 140 Street, Surrey.

When: Monday, November 17th
3:45-5:30 pm

Agenda:

- 3:30 **Beverages and Snacks**
- 4:00 **Union Updates**
BCCT Update
Bargaining
Question Period
- 4:45 **What the Teacher Centre has to offer TOCs**
by Dawne Murray
- 5:30 **Adjournment**

We are trying to combine union issues with Pro-D events at TOC meetings. Feel free to e-mail your suggestions for future events to Bela at Belajoyk@hotmail.com

Professional Development for TOCs

I am happy to report that the TOC professional development day on October 24th was a success. I would like to thank our presenters Patti Turner, Mark Keelan, Joanne Rowen, Lynne Sinclair and Debbie Anderson for taking the time to provide us with vital information and answer questions. A special thank you to Lynda Toews (2nd vp) for her help and support.

Don't forget to add the TOC Pro-D day to your resume.



20 WAYS TO GROW PROFESSIONALLY WHILE YOU'RE A T.O.C.

1. Attend a conference/workshop locally.
2. Attend a conference/workshop regionally/provincially/nationally/internationally.
3. Attend a workshop/conference or summer institute/course.
4. Become active in your local association.
5. Begin/continue university studies.
6. Develop innovative programs for use in the classroom.
7. Develop an annual personal PD plan, and maintain a PD portfolio.
8. Hop on the Internet through BCTF Online or another PD site.
9. Join a professional organization/network:
 - Provincial Specialist Association (33 within the BCTF)
 - Local specialist association/Local Chapter of a PSA
10. Observe another teacher, and talk together about the lesson/program.
11. Read professional literature.
12. Reflect, discuss, and research for the purpose of planning individual or group ongoing professional development.
13. Develop the discipline of reflective journal keeping.
14. Share with colleagues what you found at a conference/workshop.
15. Subscribe to/read professional journals.
16. Watch professional videos.
17. Work on your local's TOC committee.
18. Work with a colleague to discuss, observe, and critique a lesson/program (peer coaching).
19. Write professional articles for your local's newsletter, your PSA's publications, or *Teacher* newsmagazine.
20. Keep a journal of the outstanding teaching practices, strategies, ideas, etc. that you see in the schools you work in.

Websites to visit:

STA: — www.surreyteachers.org
BCTF: — www.bctf.bc.ca
Surrey School District: — www.sd36.bc.ca
Langley School District: — www.thinklangley.com

BELL CENTRE BOYCOTT STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE

A reminder that pro-d funds **WILL NOT** be granted for any activity that takes place in the Bell Theatre. Activities elsewhere in Sullivan Heights are eligible for funds. The prohibition is in place until the Board stops charging itself to use the theatre.

STA Pro-D funds WILL be approved for the following Focus Day sessions:

(November 20th, 21st)

Dr. William Bender Keynote (*Sullivan Heights School*)

Diana Cruchley Session Presenter (*Sullivan Heights School*)

(February 19th, 20th)

Anita Chapman (*Sullivan Heights School*)

Susan Close (*Sullivan Heights School*)

Dr. Anne Brailsford & Dr. Jan Coles (*Sullivan Heights School*)

James Hogan (*Sullivan Heights School*)

Speech-Language Provincial Conference

Therasha Szyplski

(*District Conference Centre*)

for TOCs.....

FirstClass In-service

**By James Hogan
IT Helping Teacher**

Where: Curriculum Centre
7532—134A Street, Surrey.

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2003 **or**
Thursday, December 11, 2003.

3:30 pm. to 5:00 pm

If there is interest, there will be an additional in-service of FirstClass level II on Tuesday, December 16, 2003.

Pre-registration is required
contact CISC
604-590-2255

College Update



- ◆ College council of 15 elected teachers and 5 appointees fired;
- ◆ replaced with interim council of 20 political appointees;
- ◆ new council dominated by retired administrators and parents;
- ◆ new council to define and enforce teacher conduct and competence;
- ◆ parents and the general public encouraged to make complaints directly to the council regarding teacher conduct and competence;
- ◆ teachers and administrators under legal obligation to report on colleagues;
- ◆ a public database to be available on individual teacher qualifications and discipline;
- ◆ new College no longer in control of teacher training programs; private, for-profit training possible;
- ◆ teacher upgrading and re-certification program to be implemented;
- ◆ Minister has final say on all College business.

Our Bottom Line

- ◆ two-thirds of the council members must be chosen by members of the profession;
- ◆ members must have the right to see advice from their union confidence;
- ◆ the college must be independent of government;
- ◆ discipline citations should only be initiated by a discipline committee that is comprised of a majority of elected council members.

What We Have Done So far

- ◆ 78% of BCTF members have withdrawn their permission for automatic deduction of College fees;
- ◆ we are pursuing a Charter Challenge in the courts;
- ◆ we have gained the support of 20 School Boards.

What's Next

On November 7th and 8th the BCTF Representative Assembly will make recommendations for a course of action in the ongoing College of Teachers' dispute. These recommendations will be debated and voted on at the November 19th STA general meeting. The BCTF recommendations will be posted on the STA website after November 8th.

It will be brought back to the November 19th, General Meeting for a vote. Please plan to attend as this is a decision for ALL teachers.

The fee is not due until November 30th, even if we decide to pay the fee you have plenty of time to do so after the General Meeting on November 19th.

**TOC Meeting & Holiday Social
December 17th, 2003.
District Conference Centre
4:00-???**

**We will combine a little bit of business with
some holiday fun. Please plan to attend.**