

Issue 5

February/March 2004



SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TOC NEWS

Dear Teachers,

Dear Teachers,

Many TOCs have been voicing discouragement lately: discouragement because new TOCs are hired while those already employed aren't working full time; discouragement over not getting called in for interviews after delivering ten resumes a week; discouragement because they are working hard for Surrey and they don't see a contract in the near future.

We have a difficult job. Facing a new school, new classes, new staffrooms and new children each day is scary. We get up at all hours of the night to call subfinder in hopes of picking up a job. We work hard to impress the teacher we are replacing and those in neighboring classrooms - in hopes of being requested.

But there is good news too. There is a light at the end of the tunnel. A contract is around the corner. Keep working hard because it always pays off. In the interim come and rant, rave, let off some steam and laugh at the next TOC meeting, especially since it is on April Fool's Day. The TOC committee will be giving union updates and we will share our TOC kits and strategies that help us get to "the light".

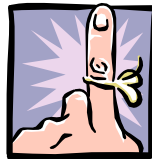
Sincerely,

Béla Kovach



Béla Kovach,
TOC Rep

Remember, 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 Bela at Belajoyk@hotmail.com with e-mail address, employee number and full name)

Upcoming Events:

TOC Meeting

STA Convention

STA General Meeting

Employment Insurance Meeting

Thurs. April 1st (Conference Centre) 4:00 pm

Fri. May 7th (Sullivan Heights Secondary & Lord Tweedsmuir Secondary)

Wed. May 12th (Conference Centre) 4:00 pm

June (exact date to be announced)

Important Websites:

Surrey Teachers' Association

B.C. Teachers' Federation

Surrey School District

CISC: Teachers' Centre

www.surreyteachers.org

www.bctf.ca

www.sd36.bc.ca

www.sd36.bc.ca/sites/cisc/Teachercentre.html

TOC Meeting

Have you ever wondered what other TOCs put in the professional kits they take into the classroom?

Where: Surrey Conference Centre
9260 - 140 Street
Board room # 3

When: Thursday - April 1st, 2004 (No, this is not a joke.)
3:30 - 5:30 pm

What:

3:30 **Beverages and snacks**

4:00 **Welcome and Introduction**
TOC Committee

4:05 **Union Update and Questions**
Bela Kovach – TOC Representative

4:35 **Professional Development Overview –**
Mary Cooper, Chairperson, STA Pro-D Committee

4:50 **TOC Kits and Teaching Strategies**
-small groups to discuss and share kit ideas and strategies

5:30 **Prizes and Adjournment**

Remember to bring:

- ◆ TOC kit
- ◆ Your favourite 5 min. filler strategies
- ◆ And great websites

Updates and Reminders

Just a reminder that there is still money left in the TOC Pro-d fund. Download an application and apply. Places to access information on Pro-d events are,

1. STA website – www.surreyteachers.org
 2. Staffrooms – each one has a clipboard with up-to-date info. Feel free to browse through it in any staffroom
 3. BCTF website – www.bctf.bc.ca
 4. The Langley School District offers many after school workshops at reasonable prices. You can access their guide at <https://apps1.sd35.bc.ca/workshops/>
 5. CISC offers in-service events held mostly after school. You can pick up a brochure at the Teachers' Centre or you can access the information through First Class.
- ◆ Every year the STA organizes a massive district-wide professional development day. This year the STA Convention is on Friday May 7th. There are numerous workshops for every interest to sign up for. Be sure to watch for advertisements and sign up for events as the spaces fill quickly. It is a great way to meet other teachers and give out your TOC cards.

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How do the STA Grievance Officers help TOCs?

Many TOCs may feel like they are fighting a lone battle. Well, this is not true..... They have their TOC Representative, the TOC Committee and the STA Executive. However, the STA has two Grievance Officers whose job is to fight for teacher rights. This might sound scary, but it's not. Mark and Margie are Collective Agreement experts. They are extremely helpful and all information and conversations are confidential.

They can answer any question you have, like:

- ◆ **If I get into trouble at a school, what can I do to protect myself?**
- ◆ **What day exactly will I get a contract if I am in a long term position?**
- ◆ **What are the procedures if a principal asks to evaluate me?**
- ◆ **If I have a problem with a co-worker, who can I ethically talk to about it?**
- ◆ **How many preps should I be getting?**
- ◆ **Do I have to cover other teachers' preps?**
- ◆ **What happens if I get a 'Letter of Investigation' for discipline?**
- ◆ **What happens if I get moved from a long term TOC position?**
- ◆ **What do I do if I have a pay issue?**



Margie Willers
Grievance Officer
mwillers@surreyteachers.org
604-592-8397



Mark Keelan
Grievance/ Health & Safety Officer
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604-592-8393

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Updates and Reminders

- ◆ Subfinder by phone and on-line are still experiencing difficulties. If you have trouble with either system, call dispatch. They can solve many problems over the phone. The two dispatchers are Debbie (604-599-7446) and Leslie (604-599-7496). Their hours are from 5:00 am – 12:30 pm . They are extremely helpful.
- ◆ The British Columbia Teachers' Federation's Annual General Meeting is taking place during March break. There will be three Surrey TOCs attending to voice concerns and issues.
- ◆ Since September there have been 82 TOCs hired, and counting.....

Review of January Interviews

In January, the TOC committee organized a “Successful Interviews” seminar. Two of Surrey’s principals Bonnie Skobel from Westerman Elementary and Denis Hugh from Princess Margaret Secondary School came and discussed what they look for in a teacher and typical interview questions. We had a turnout of 65 TOCs who had the chance to listen, ask questions and learn how to be successful interviewer. Here is a review of some of the important hints

1. Research, research, and more research the school you are applying to (school profile, school goals etc...).
2. Dress professionally
3. Start a resume portfolio. You can add strategies that you use in the class, report card comments, evidence of professional development, types of assessment you use, reading and writing strategies, a copy of a TOC evaluation and anything else you would like the principal to know about your teaching ability.
4. Make sure your resume is easy to read with personal information, qualifications, and experience on the first page.
5. Have your phone number and e-mail address visible so the principal can easily contact you.
6. Be ready to describe a snapshot of your classroom in action.
7. Be ready to answer IRP, assessment and behaviour management questions.
8. Be ready to discuss your educational philosophy.
9. Practice interview questions with someone.
10. Have good questions ready for the principal.



You can now access Subfinder by
phone and on-line at

<https://subfinder.sd36.bc.ca/login/login.asp>

If you have any problems or questions contact Dispatch
at 604.599.7446 or 604.599.7496

The TOC newsletter will be published monthly for the 2003/2004 school year and mailed to the home address of every Surrey TOC for whom we have a current mailing address. It will also be posted on the STA web site at www.surreyteachers.org.

You can help us with our mailing costs. If you do not wish to have this delivered to your home, please call us (604.594.353), give us your name, and tell us not to send the TOC newsletter. If you'd prefer to receive notice of the mailings by email, call us and give us your email address, or send us a message with that information, to sta@surreyteachers.org

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