

Issue 1

September 2005



SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TOC NEWS

Dear Teachers,

No doubt you have been hearing about the crisis of the TOC shortage in Surrey and throughout the province. As a TOC this is a positive thing. You get to work everyday and there is enough work for everyone. Take advantage of it as there will be another round of hiring after spring break. It's great to have new people in the profession, but it also means competition for daily work. Be sure to introduce yourself to the principals. They tend to interview and hire TOCs they know or have seen in the school. Check out the TOC survey done by the BCTF, www.bctf.ca/toc/

We have given tips for TOCing in previous newsletters, but I want to bring up two areas that have been mentioned to me on various occasions. One is to make sure that you leave a dayplan for the next day. Even if there is no schedule, leave something. There might be a different TOC in the next day and we all know what it's like to walk into a job where there is no dayplan. Also, leave the room in better condition than you found it. On a pickier note: teachers like to have clean boards when they return. It's a small thing, but they notice if you did not erase the boards.

In February we had a classroom Management workshop given by Mr. Kevin Fadum, VP at David Brankin. Everyone who attended took away at least two ideas to use the next day. Robyn posted two sets of notes on the TOC Yahoo Groups listserv. We are looking into asking him to present more of his workshops in the future.

We are presenting two extremely popular TOC seminars. The first, in April, is Income Tax filing for TOCs. This is the first year it is being offered in Surrey. The second, in May, is Employment Insurance for TOCs. Please note that it is earlier than in previous years and is the only time we are offering it this year. Last year over one hundred TOCs attended this seminar. In order to run these seminars smoothly, we need you to pre-register. This helps us have enough hand-outs and a proper set up.

Sincerely,
Elise Rozander

Important Websites and Phone Numbers:

Surrey Teachers' Association	www.surreyteachers.org
B.C. Teachers' Federation	www.bctf.ca/toc/
Surrey School District	www.sd36.bc.ca
CISC: Teachers' Centre	www.sd36.bc.ca/sites/cisc/Teachercentre.html
STA Office	(604) 594-5353
Debbie Anderson (dispatch)	(604) 599-7446
Kathy Fournier (payroll)	(604) 599-7449



You are invited to attend the following upcoming STA meetings:

STARA Meeting	Wednesday, Mar 22, 4:00-5:30	District Conference Centre
TOC Tax Seminar	Thursday, Apr. 6, 3:45-6:00	District Conference Centre
STA Meeting	Wednesday, Apr. 19, 4:00-5:30	District Conference Centre
STA Convention	Friday, May 5, 2006	Guildford Park Secondary Johnston Heights Secondary
STA AGM	Wednesday, May 10, 4:00-5:30	District Conference Centre
TOC EI Seminar	Thursday, May 24 3:45-6:00	District Conference Centre

TOC Meetings / Workshops

TOC Income Tax Seminar

Do you know that TOCs can claim expenses?

Thursday, April 6, 2006

3:45 - 6:00

Surrey District Conference Centre - Room One

#400 9260 140 Street



3:45 - Welcome and Food

4:00 - Income Tax Seminar

Francis Zeni, TOCUTAC - BCTF

This two hour powerpoint presentation will help you understand what is involved and will take you through the steps in claiming deductions on your income tax.

**RSVP FirstClass to
Cindy Tierney, Donna Stewart, or
Lorna Sheh**

TOC Employment Insurance Seminar

Monday, May 15, 2006

3:45 - 6:00

Surrey District Conference Centre - Room One

#400 9260 140 Street

3:45 - Welcome and Food

4:00 - Employment Insurance Seminar

Francis Zeni, TOCUTAC - BCTF

This two hour powerpoint presentation will help take through the step-by-step process of filling out the E.I. forms correctly. You will also learn what is expected of you while you are collecting E.I. and what to do if you don't have enough hours to qualify.



***Watch for updates on
the TOC boards***

TWO VICTORIES FOR ADULT EDUCATORS

~ Sue Heuman

It was recently brought to our attention by an adult educator that Adult Ed. TOCs were not receiving their \$3.00 per day in lieu of benefits pursuant to Article 9.91. The School Board has agreed to pay compensation to all those individuals who were employed as Adult Education TOCs since SEPTEMBER 2000 to November 2005.

The BCTF has won a victory for adult educators who are now able to claim 9.1 insurable hours for each full day worked for the purposes of Employment Insurance.

BEING A TOC COMMITTEE MEMBER

~ Sue Heuman

I have been an Adult Education TOC for about 3 1/2 years and on the TOC Committee for about three of those years. During the past year I have become more active in the union and have had more exposure to the Collective Agreement. During union sponsored meetings and conferences, I have heard about TOC benefits and rights and realized that I was not getting some of these benefits. After discussing these with our Grievance Officers, Sarb Lalli and Jo-Anne Thornthwaite, a number of grievances were filed by our union. The first one was S.I.P. that was incorrectly being deducted from Adult Educators going back to 2000. This is still being rectified. The second was the one above regarding the \$3.00 in lieu of benefits, again going back to 2000. The third is being investigated by Sarb Lalli, and involves paying too much in BCTF union dues.

I was only able to discuss these with my union because I attended meetings and conferences, read the collective agreement, and listened to what my union brothers and sisters were saying. I GOT INVOLVED. This has resulted so far in over \$1,000 being paid to me by the Surrey School District for monies they incorrectly took and monies they did not pay but should have.

We are always looking for more TOC reps. Get involved. You might not find any glaring errors but you may find that you will be on guard to protect the rights that our bargaining committees have fought long and hard to get.

Don't let TOCing become an isolating experience.



Come to meetings

Join the listserv

Talk to other TOCs in the schools you go to

You are invited to write an article for

The Examiner or *Teacher* magazine

or even this TOC newsletter.

HELPFUL WEBSITES:

lessonplanspage.com

discoveryschool.com

teachers.net

teachnet.com

eduref.org

thecanadianteacher.com

educationworld.com

edHelper.com (for a fee)

[lessonplanet](http://lessonplanet.com) (search engine for teachers for a fee)

STA Convention - Friday, May 5

This is a one-day Professional Development opportunity organized by the STA Convention Committee for all Surrey teachers. There are no schools in session. Please take advantage of this opportunity to continue your professional development. I had the opportunity to hear Alfie Kohn speak last summer and highly recommend that you attend at least one of his presentations.

Keynote Speaker: Alfie Kohn

"The deadly effects of 'tougher standards'" - 8:30 at Guildford Park

"Overhauling the transmission model" - 10:15 at Johnson Heights

Guildford Park Secondary (10707 146 St.) - Secondary Strand

Johnson Heights Secondary (15350 99 Ave.) - Elementary Strand

www.staconvention.ca - all workshops will be registered online. There is a printable list of workshops available on the website or look for copies in the staffrooms. Registration starts March 20. Some workshops fill up really quickly.

HELP NEEDED: If you would like to help the committee with registration and setting up please contact Julia Poole on FirstClass.

JOIN AN STA COMMITTEE

Are you interested in professional development, social justice, helping your colleagues, or the political side of teaching? If so, consider becoming a member of one or more of the following STA Committees. Some are one year commitments, while others are a two year commitment. Members for these committees will be elected at the STA Annual General Meeting on May 10. Information about putting your name forward will be in a future STA Examiner.

Convention Day Committee

Grievance Committee

Health and Safety Committee (H&S)

International Solidarity Committee (ISC)

Political Action Public Relations (PAPR)

Professional Development Committee (Pro-D)

Resolutions Committee

Status of Women (S/W)

Teachers Interested in Multicultural Education (TIME)

TOC Representative to the Executive: This person chairs and organizes the TOC Committee (which is elected at the first TOC Meeting in the fall.)

Think about becoming a member of the TOC Committee. This committee is made up entirely of TOCs, unless they happen to get a contract. Being on the Committee is a great way to get involved and meet colleagues. As committee member you will be a link between TOCs and the STA. You will also have the opportunity to organize TOC Meetings and Professional Development Workshops, write newsletter articles, and attend STA and STARA meetings.

Remember that there are many ways TOCs can stay informed

TOC Hotline 604-592-8396

TOC Website www.surreyteachers.org

TOC Newsletter (mailed to TOCs)

TOC Bulletin Boards in staffrooms

TOC Listserv - virtual staffroom for TOCs

(to register, e-mail Elise at rozander_e@fc.sd36.bc.ca

with e-mail address, employee number and full name)