

Cranbrook Chronicles

May, 2016

“The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change.” – Carl Rogers

www.cranbrookdistrictteachersassociation.com

Vice President’s Message by Larry Dureski

Hello Colleagues,

Last time I wrote something here, I wrote about history in the making; the 100th AGM of our Federation. Less than one month later, more history in the making, but this time little cause for celebration. Like you, I have been watching the images of the Fort McMurray wildfire on the news and on YouTube. I cannot begin to process the scope of emotional distress and economic loss experienced by Fort McMurray residents.

One could imagine the hasty gathering of valuables upon notice to evacuate, but we do not consider the ordinary items that get us through everyday life. Think of what you may have used since the start of your day and what you are using right now to read this. All gone. All needing to be replaced. A life our Alberta neighbours need to rebuild.

At the last CDTA executive meeting, a motion was passed to send a donation of \$400.00 on behalf of our Association to the relief fund, with the cheque going to the Red Cross so that it gets matched by the Alberta and Federal Governments.

Closer to home, the [Master of Disaster](#) teacher resource kit has been completed by Prepared BC and a working group of teachers from around the province. This teaching kit is designed to help students and their families prepare for situations such as that in Fort McMurray. Because of the geographic diversity of the working group, the end product is not only for earthquakes. Although Master of Disaster was written for Grade 6, it can be adapted easily for older or younger students.

In the meantime, try to keep things as “normal” as you can as we go into the last part of this school year. If my classes from these last two weeks were any indication, students are already thinking about June. I hope that some of you chose to take a break by attending the MBSS musical production of Mary Poppins, leaving the sweating to the students on the stage and those of us in the orchestra pit. If you missed that, Laurie school is gearing up for High School Musical from May 25 to 27 at the Studio Stage Door at 7:00.

See you at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, May 17 at the Heritage Inn. Cast a vote, run for a position, and participate in the business of your union.

President’s Message by Shelley Balfour

Well, at this time of the year when the election for the CDTA Executive looms directly in front of me, it gives me pause for thought. My job as President has prepared me for many roles when I step out of here and move on. Skills I never dreamed of having, I now possess. I never considered when I accepted the job in 2012 that I would learn how to negotiate, mediate, placate, speak in public to adults (not just kids), cool down tempers, ramp up support for the cause, counsel, speak to the press (and make sense), push my way into meetings when I’m not invited (in a polite and teacher-like way), plan social and retirement parties, organize meetings, speak up for the underdog, take on a few persistent members of the public, become a part of DPAC, bargain with the employer, support members through a variety of trials and tribulations and the list goes on. I also took on the position and learned the skills of President of the East Kootenay Teachers’ Association and Secretary of the East Kootenay Labour Council. I wouldn’t trade the knowledge I have gained from these positions for anything. I have made some terrific friends, met all the teachers I had only heard about as legends, stepped way, way out of my comfort zone and survived. It has been an honour sitting in this chair looking after our members. I enjoy the challenge of my job most days. Some days however, although few and far between, I wander home and wonder what I was thinking taking on this job! Then the sun comes up and a new day begins! Whew!

Looking ahead, I will put my name forward again for President but that doesn’t stop anyone else from putting their name forward for this position or any other position on the Executive. I have included a list of positions available for election on May 17th, 2016 later on in the newsletter. I hope to see you all there participating in the business of the union, determining the budget for next year and welcoming the newest members to our fold.

Take it easy out there. This time of the year is stressful and folks sometimes say and do things they regret because they are tired and worn out. Remember that everyone has a life outside of the education system and sometimes that life is a struggle too. Be kind to one another!

Happy Retirement Wishes to the Following CTDA Members

On behalf of all CDTA members, we would like to extend our best Retirement wishes to the following members. After many (some 40+) years of successful classroom experience, these teachers have decided to retire during or at the end of the 2015-2016 school year:

- ✓ Barb Guillen (Parkland)
- ✓ Melonie Whyte (Kootenay Orchards)
- ✓ Don Smith (Parkland)
- ✓ Ron Stocknow (Highlands)
- ✓ Cynthia Walsh (Mount Baker)
- ✓ Stewart Wilson (Gordon Terrace)
- ✓ Marianne Nahm (Gordon Terrace)
- ✓ Carolyn Hunter (TM Roberts)
- ✓ Janice Mayer (Parkland)

If you have sent in your retirement letter and don't see your name here, please let the CDTA office know your plans or you may miss out on the party! Please join your colleagues on Wednesday, June 15 at the Heritage Inn to recognize these new retirees as well as those who join the ranks before then. Doors open at 3:30, speeches begin at 4:00.

Local Teachers get BCTF Committee Appointments

Congratulations to Alison Dawson and Treena Stewart for their recent BCTF committee appointments.

Alison has been appointed as a BCTF rep on a committee that will evaluate Aboriginal Perspective French-Speaking teaching resources.

Treena will be supporting TTOCs through her appointment on a joint BCTF/BCPSEA committee that will study TTOC call-out and hiring practices.

Thanks, Alison and Treena for all that you do for the benefit of our members!

If you are interested in becoming involved on a BCTF committee or as a presenter/facilitator, be sure to check the BCTF website under "Opportunities for Members". You may find openings in your area of interest or expertise. Applying is free. Expenses are covered and training is provided.

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.
- William Butler Yeats

Hot off the Facebook Press:



These kids are alright! The Whistler International Music Festival has been a resounding success, and the judges marks are in!

Mount Baker Concert Band- silver medal, Concert Choir- gold, Jazz Band- gold, and Vocal Jazz- gold, and also the popular vote for Most Exciting Vocal Jazz Ensemble.

Everyone brought their best performances to the stage. Out of all the schools performing, involving 4000 students, only one other school in the festival got a higher mark than Mount Baker Music. Well done and congratulations!

If your school holds an event such as a drama production, band concert, Mother's Day tea, etc. and you have pictures to share, please send them in. I am hoping to celebrate the following events and the teachers involved (hint, hint):

- MBSS' Mary Poppins
- Steeples' The Lion King
- Laurie's High School Musical
- Gordon Terrace's Tulip celebration at the Train
- Parkland's Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery
- Any other school event where teachers are involved in making it happen ☺

BCTF commonly used acronyms

Every organization has its jargon and indecipherable abbreviations. The BCTF is no exception. Here's a partial list of acronyms commonly used by the BCTF:

AGM	Annual General Meeting
BCFed	BC Federation of Labour
BCPSEA	BC Public School Employers' Association
BCPVPA	BC Principals and Vice-Principals Association
BCSTA	BC School Trustees Association
CLC	Canadian Labour Congress
CUPE	Canadian Union of Public Employees
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DPAC	District Parent Advisory Council
EC	Executive Committee
EFAP	Employee and Family Assistance Plan
EI	Employment Insurance (formerly UIC)
FAS	Finance and Administrative Services Division
FIT	Facilitator Institute Training
FLI	Federation Leadership Institute
FNESC	First Nations Education Steering Committee
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
FTTO	Full-time table officers
HSAC	Health and Safety Advisory Committee
IEP	Individual Education Plan
IRP	Integrated Resource Package
LOU	Letter of Understanding
LP	Local President
LR	Local Representative
LRB	Labour Relations Board
LSA	Local Specialist Association
MOE	Ministry of Education
NID	Non-Instructional Day
PAC	Parent Advisory Council
PCA	Provincial Collective Agreement
PD	Professional Development
PSA	Provincial Specialist Association (BCTF has 33 PSAs)
RA	Representative Assembly
RTA	Retired Teachers' Association
SEB	Supplemental Employment Benefits
SER	Student Educator Ratio (formerly PTR - pupil/teacher ratio)
SIF	Salary Indemnity Fund
SIP	Salary Indemnity Plan
SJ	Social Justice Program
SURT	School Union Rep Training
TCA	Transitional Collective Agreement
TFEU	Teachers Federation Employees' Union
TRB	Teacher Regulation Branch (formerly College of Teachers COT)
TTOC	Teachers Teaching on Call
TQS	Teacher Qualification Service
WCB	Workers Compensation Board

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE BCTF

January 14, 1917	The first annual meeting of the newly formed BCTF was held at King Edward high school, in Vancouver.
1917–87	Gains were made in bargaining, salary and benefits, no full or free collective bargaining.
1929	BCTF lobbying resulted in the <i>Teachers' Pension Act</i> , which established years of service and contribution level as the basis for pensions.
1939	The Sick Benefit Fund was established in 1939 at a general meeting to assist teachers who were ill and had run out of sick leave. This program is now known as the Salary Indemnity Plan (SIP).
1943	Code of Ethics was adopted.
Mid-1950s	End of discrimination in salary scales against female teachers and the elimination of differences in pay for teachers in elementary, junior secondary, and senior secondary schools. Subsequently, only qualifications and years of teaching experience would determine a teacher's salary.
1957	Provincial Specialist Associations (PSAs) were created.
1961	BCTF International Program was launched.
May 19, 1971	The first province-wide strike occurred, when teachers protested the government's refusal to improve the pensions of retirees.
1973	BCTF Task Force on the Status of Women resulted in the creation of the Status of Women Advisory Committee.
1975	BCTF established an antiracism program.
Mid-1980s	BCTF initiated Internal Mediation Service (IMS) and Program for Quality Teaching (PQT).
1983	BCTF was a key participant in the Operation Solidarity general strike.
1987	Bills 19 and 20—Teachers were given right to form unions and the right to strike. Administrators were removed from the BCTF. The BC College of Teachers was formed which took on the disciplinary functions previously handled by the BCTF. Also this year, BCTF participated in a one-day general strike and a day of protest.
1988–93	BCTF locals engaged in three rounds of collective bargaining.
1994	Provincial bargaining was legislated.
1997	BCTF established a health and safety program.
2000	BCTF established a task force on Aboriginal education.
2000	BCTF established peer support services.
2000	AGM motion carried to actively support the establishment of Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) in middle and high schools.
2001	BC Liberal government declared teachers an essential service, requiring them to seek approval from the BC Labour Relations Board before commencing strike action.
January 27, 2002	Bill 27—<i>Education Services Collective Agreement Act</i> and Bill 28—<i>Public Education Flexibility and Choice Act</i> —removed class-size and class-composition language from collective agreements.
2003	BCTF affiliated with BC Federation of Labour.
2005	BCTF engaged in a two-week strike in response to the government's contract imposition. This strike was deemed to be illegal by the British Columbia courts.

Coming to a Key City Theatre Near You!

- - Salam Neighbor - -

May 10th, 2016

7:00 pm

Sponsored by the Humanity Network for the East Kootenay

Salam Neighbor is an award-winning film and campaign to connect the world to refugees. Immerse into the life of a Syrian refugee through the journey of Chris and Zach as the first filmmakers allowed to be registered and given a tent inside of a refugee camp.

View the trailer [here](#).

Positions available on the CDTA Executive

Table Officers:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Local Rep (2 year term)
- Alternate Local Rep

Committee Chairs:

- Bargaining
 - Professional Development - Elementary (2 year term)
 - Social Justice
 - Local Election Contact
 - Aboriginal Education
 - Working and Learning Conditions
 - Social
 - Health & Safety - Elementary & Secondary
 - Beginning/New Teachers
 - Teachers Teaching on Call
-

Please remember the Grad dress collection for victims of the fires in Alberta. Drop your dresses off at the CDTA office or TMRES before Friday, May 13th, 2016! Thanks!

Dates to Remember

Date	Event	Location	Start Time
Tuesday, May 10th	Salam Neighbors documentary	Key City Theatre	7:00 pm
Tuesday, May 17	CDTA AGM	Heritage Inn	4:00 pm
May 25-27	High School Musical	Studio Stage Door	7:00 pm
Wednesday, June 15	CDTA Retirement Celebration	Heritage Inn	Doors open 3:30 Speeches at 4:00

Time for some fun....

The GRY Puzzle

Think of words ending in -GRY. Angry and hungry are two of them. There are only three words in the English language. What is the third word? The word is something that everyone uses every day. If you have listened carefully, I have already told you what it is.

[Show Hint](#) [Show Answer](#) [Print](#)

Try this local brain-teaser from ****

A mile-long train pulls into Moyie on its way to Cranbrook. The conductor waits for the train to pass, and climbs aboard on the caboose. As the train continues toward Cranbrook, the conductor walks along the top of the train. Upon arrival in Cranbrook, the conductor jumps down from the locomotive.

How many miles did the conductor ride, and how many miles did he walk?