

CTA Annual Meeting, May 17, 2016

President & Vice President Report

We have worked hard to achieve our President/First Vice President goals this year. Our goals were to provide quality member support, maintain financial stability, develop well functioning committees, meld the contract, and improve relationships with all partners.

Our CTA Executive goals were similar but also included:

- developing a social plan for the CTA (through Friday Socials, Skate Party, TTOC Socials)
- increasing member engagement (through member support, school visits, and social events)
- increasing communication between the CTA and the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee (through research and meetings)
- increasing awareness of the role of the union (through newsletters, the new website, member support calls and a planned BCTF Induction)
- ensuring that members are well informed of potential changes to the Teachers' Pension Plan (through personal calls/emails and the Pension Consultation)

Most of these goals were met and we made solid progress on the others.

Clearly, the majority of our time is devoted to member support and dealing with leaves, short and long term disability, pensions, violent incidents, health and safety, WorkSafe, posting positions, B layoffs and placements, prep time concerns, evaluations, IEPs, DITs, JobShare, Intra-District Exchange and the BCTF Code of Ethics. However, we also support teachers by advocating at the district level on the above issues and others including MyEd, K-6 reporting changes, ADS, New Curriculum, Alt. Ed Review, Ed Fund allocations, school calendar, FSA, workload issues, and TTOC matters.

We represent teachers during investigations. So far this year we have been involved in twelve teacher investigations ranging from inappropriate comments to inappropriate actions. These are often difficult interactions but we believe that we have represented teachers well and ensured that due process has been followed. We have initiated nine grievances including post and fill concerns, the daily TTOC rate, payment issues, school safety and teacher autonomy. Six of these grievances were resolved successfully, one was withdrawn, and two are ongoing.

If re-elected, we will continue to enforce our collective agreement and provide timely, helpful member support. Also, we will focus on continuing the development of our CTA committees, strengthening our CTA training sessions (for Professional Development reps, Staff Reps and Health and Safety reps) and further improving relationships with teachers, administration, DPAC and CUPE.

In Solidarity,

Local Representatives Report
Tammy McKinley and Danielle Bennett

This year Danielle and I represented Chilliwack at the Rep Assemblies in November and January, as well as the Annual General Meeting in March.

At the November Rep Assembly we spent a good deal of time talking about the issues surrounding MyEd BC.

Once everyone has access MyEd will be accessible by more than 1 million people.

School administrators -4,000

Clerical staff and special needs support -10,000

Counsellors -600

Teachers -38,000

Students grade 6-12 -350,000

Parents/guardians - 1,000,000

Plus unknown numbers for independent schools, reserve (band) schools, ministry staff, researchers/ data miners, and academic researchers.

The Rep Assembly directed the BCTF Executive to continue lobbying government to eliminate the mandatory use of this program.

One of the most important decisions being debated was the changes to our pension. While many members agreed with the delinking from the Canada Pension Plan, there were many concerned with the other changes proposed. For the majority of our members the changes will result in an increased pension, but for members with around 20 years of service and 10 years remaining, there were some repercussions for retiring before 61 (which is a change from the current 60). We participated in discussions to voice both points of view and we voted in a split to represent what the teachers of Chilliwack wanted.

At the BCTF AGM, the pension changes were once again the top issue. The pension changes did pass, but not without dissent, and they take place effective January 1, 2018.

Later in May we will be attending the Spring RA where we will be discussing the BCTF's position regarding provincial testing. We are adamant that any new forms of testing not include the public ranking of schools, or the individual names of students. If you would like to have any message regarding this topic relayed to the BCTF Rep Assembly, please contact Danielle or Tammy.

CTA Health & Safety Committee Report

Vicki Willis, Chair

As this was a new position, this year has come with many learning situations. I would like to acknowledge the work that Health and Safety reps are doing on behalf of members. All Health and Safety reps were offered four different workshops in October and November in conjunction with CUPE and Administration. These meetings were well attended and new dates are planned for October. There will also be additional training in September for CTA H & S reps with release time included. A H & S committee was struck and met regularly to work on different issues for the benefit of CTA members. This will continue next year and is open to all members. Also, in the coming year there will be more support in place for H & S reps with more training and communications.

CTA TTOC Committee Report

Jasjit Gill, Chair

The TTOC committee has held three TTOC Socials at the CTA Office. The socials were aimed at answering any questions that the TTOC's might have had for the union and socializing with their peers. The first social was used to welcome old and new TTOC's into the new school year, and they departed with some answers to questions, resources and prizes. The second TTOC social was held during the winter, and focused on providing resources and strategies to use while TTOCing during the winter months. The last TTOC social provided the TTOC's an opportunity to learn and ask questions about the new curriculum, and some tips provided to help with their cover letters, resumes, and interviews. The last workshop to be presented this school year will be the EI workshop on June 8th.

The TTOC chairs also had the valuable opportunity of collaborating with the mentoring committee to provide TTOC's with great workshops. We were in charge of the first workshop that provided great resources and strategies to TTOC's and beginning teachers. Then we had received a chance of participating in the Cover letter, Resume and Interview workshop. Further, we had the opportunity of attending TTOC orientations to welcome and connect new members to the CTA.

CTA Pro-D Committee Report

Clint Johnston, Chair



This report will simply cover some of the key areas that may be of interest to members. I encourage you all to read the Pro-D policy and to talk to your school PD rep in order to be well-informed about your PD funds. That is the key to getting the most opportunities you can.

Intra-District Collaboration

- This year continued to see an increase in the number of participants in the intra-district collab sessions. We have many teachers trained as facilitators now, and the demand for training has decreased as a result. Next year training will be offered for hopeful facilitators in early September, allowing new people to form groups in time for the first collab day.

CARE Fund

- The CARE fund continues to grow in use as well, and it will be increasing for next year to \$350 in order to cover the cost of TTOC replacement. At the last meeting of the CTA PD Committee in June, we will be discussing the overall disbursement model for PD funds in order to ensure it still meets the needs of members in the best way possible.

TLC Conference

- The TLC Conference this year had some changes to the form of the day, and we will be discussing as a committee the feedback from the day in order to inform the planning of next year's day. One step that is likely to continue is the offering of round table sessions for the senior departments. Anecdotal feedback so far has indicated that they were a welcome addition. We continue to look for ways to improve the offerings in order to attract all the teachers in Chilliwack to the day.

This has been an enjoyable year as Pro-D chair, with lots of learning to do. While I am excited to move on to other challenges, I am disappointed that I won't be able to apply all that I learned to another year of this work. Like all jobs, some experience helps you to do a better job. I will work with the incoming Chair to offer any help I can in their transition, and look forward to seeing the continued growth of PD in Chilliwack.

CTA Aboriginal Education Committee Report

Rick Joe, Chair

Highlights of the year:

- Attended BCTF Summer Leadership Conference
- Set up monthly meetings, our first meeting we had fish taco's (fish that I caught myself)
- Chaired Aboriginal Zone meetings
- Presented Project of Heart Book with Local Aboriginal Contacts at Zone meeting
- Helped facilitate New Curriculum at CSS
- Implemented the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory at all CTA meetings
- Helped with a proposal for Aboriginal style BCTF Induction ceremony
- Researched background information into District Aboriginal Advisory Committee

CTA Social Justice Committee Report Parween Irani, Social Justice Chair

This was a busy year for the CTA's Social Justice Committee. Here is a brief summary of our projects to date:

September and October 2015:

Community and Networking Events: The events that our members took part in included, Rally for the Valley, Climate Convergence, KAIROS conference on hydraulic fracturing, and Our Common Home: Climate Change Conference hosted by SFU's Institute for the Humanities.

Get Out the Vote: In the month of October, the focus shifted to helping Chilliwack residents get out to vote, from running information booths with joint non-partisan community groups through to attending, helping arrange carpooling for registering to vote and taking part in the advanced voting dates. Of significant note is the increased outreach in our local Stó:lō community, culminating with the all-candidates' debate at the Stó:lō Nation offices and the First Nations Student Union at UFV's work in getting Stó:lō youth engaged in the election.

Outreach with Local Stó:lō: The Social Justice Committee also represented the CTA in the historic Stó:lō honouring ceremony of the four Tsilhqot'in chiefs whose 2014 Supreme Court of Canada's case is the first time in Canadian history that the courts formally acknowledged that a particular First Nations has title to its land.

November and December 2015:

"This Changes Everything" Film Night: Our community screening brought together members of the CTA, CUPE, BCGEU, members of our local climate justice activist community, First Nations, and interfaith organizations to discuss the issue of climate change and how residents of Chilliwack can move towards community actions to both combat and adapt to the new reality of climate change.

Action Committee: Members of the CTA, interfaith communities, and our local chapter of the Council of Canadians are in the process of supporting our Syrian refugee families. Thank you to those who helped to gather donations of everything from grocery store gift cards and household goods through to clothing.

Global Climate March on Nov. 29th: Members of the CTA carpooled to the Vancouver Art Gallery for the Global Climate March, which placed an added emphasis on how climate change is fueling global conflict, especially in light of the events taking place in Syria.

January and February 2016:

Food Security Project: Martin Armstrong is following up with the Valley Permaculture Guild to look into bringing her team to CSS and speaking to Rick Joe for a pilot project that aims to a) bring healthy, locally sourced fruit and veggies from gleaned items from our local farms, due to damage, irregular size, etc.; b) educate students about our Stó:lō traditional harvests (stinging nettles, chanterelle mushrooms, and smoked salmon); and c) expand the project to other school-based food programs to provide the healthiest food that we can on an ongoing basis.

March 2016:

"Fractured Land" Screening: 75 people attended our screening of "Fractured Land" on the UN's World Water Day, March 22nd. Our panel included guest speakers Sakje Ward and Emma Lui, who shared different perspectives on the issue of water security. We raised \$460 in donations for Unist'ot'en, Madii Lii, and Lelu Island.

May 2016:

Refugee Action Committee: The last Social Justice event of the year was a fundraiser for our Eastern Fraser Valley Refugee Committee to support our sponsored refugee families. Lawrence Hill, author of award-winning Book of Negroes and The Illegal, spoke about refugees, his fiction, and the connection to world events.

New Social Justice Committee Members Needed: With the provincial election in May of 2017, my other volunteer projects are devouring more of my time and energy, so I will not be running as the CTA Social Justice Rep for the 2016-2017 academic year, but I encourage anyone to come on board to help with creating social justice events in the district. The inspiring and innovative community members you meet and befriend will make it all worthwhile!