

Victory at the Supreme Court of Canada!

On November 10, 2016 the Supreme Court of Canada provided some drama with a verbal ruling in favour of the BCTF. Teachers, parents and students have been waiting almost 15 years for this moment. The highest court in the land sided with us...we won!

But what does this mean? It means that the government unconstitutionally stripped language from our collective agreement in 2002. It means that this language is immediately restored and we again have class size, class composition and specialist teacher ratios back in our contract. It means that the government bargained in bad faith and it is up to them to fix it.

The BCTF and the employer are setting dates for meetings to discuss the transition to the struck language. Although we can't expect all of the struck language to be "re-implemented" immediately, we can expect to see some changes in the new year. We can add counsellors, learning assistance teachers, special education teachers, teacher-librarians and ESL teachers without disrupting classes. We could also add extra teachers to assist with particularly challenging classrooms.

We are aware that many of our teachers started teaching after 2002 and are not familiar with the language that was struck from our contract. Even veteran teachers may struggle to remember "the way it used to be." Please [click here](#) or navigate to the CTA website at www.chilliwackteachers.com, select Collective Agreement and click the Struck Language button to view all the clauses that were struck from our contract by the Education Minister, Christy Clark, in 2002.

CTA/BCTF Aboriginal Style Induction Ceremony

Sixteen members of the Chilliwack Teachers' Association were inducted into the BCTF on Friday, October 28, 2016. The aboriginal style ceremony took place in the Sto:Lo Longhouse in Chilliwack. The evening started with our speaker welcoming the inductees and thanking all in attendance for participating in such a unique event. Once dinner was enjoyed, the inductees gathered under an awning outside the longhouse to be blanketed by the CTA Executive (known as the "family" for this ceremony). Once blanketed, a procession of inductees concluded with each inductee stating their name and when they started teaching.

All inductees accepted the BCTF Code of Ethics by reciting one section and several speakers responded to this event. Speakers included Glen Hansmen, BCTF President, Lee-Anne Clarke, CTA President and two local Sto-Lo elders. The ceremony was heralded as a uniquely moving introduction to the teaching profession and we are planning for this to become a regular event in the CTA calendar for years to come.

In Solidarity, Lee-Anne and Ed

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Lee-Anne Clarke | President | chwkpres@shawcable.com |
| Ed Klettke | Vice President | chwkvp@shawcable.com |
| Liz MacKenzie | CTA ProD Chair | chwkprod@shawcable.com |
| Monica Dahl | Office Manager | chwkmonica@shawcable.com |



Navigating the Ministry's curriculum website

Janice Neden, BCTF PSID

One of the key concerns from members early on with the Ministry of Education's curriculum website was the ability to print the elaborations. Based on the feedback the Ministry received, they added a new feature that enables teachers to choose whether they want the curriculum printed with or without elaborations in a PDF or Word document.

On the right side of any subject area curriculum page (eg: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/arts-education/k>), you can choose the English or French option to view and/or print the curriculum. It can also be viewed and printed with or without elaborations. This is a more practical way for teachers to view the curriculum than the presentation on the webpage. When you view/print the curriculum under the download curriculum option you can scroll through all of the grade levels. This provides a functional manner in which to view the progression of the curriculum.

Another feature is the <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/search> which allows teachers to search for key words or select key elements from the specific grades or areas of learning. The results of the search can be exported into a Word document for editing or printing. The curriculum search tool is useful for some aspects of searching but not all. I did not find it particularly helpful when searching for elaborations. However, it is very useful when searching for other key words (eg: Aboriginal).

CPP Enhancement Advocacy

by Victor Choy, BCTF ISD

Recently the Federation has written to Prime Minister Trudeau to encourage work on enhancing the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). As you may know, the provincial finance ministers, including BC's, met on June 20, 2016, and signed an agreement in principle for enhancing the CPP with features that include: a larger CPP pay out, a higher earning limit that counts toward CPP, a gradual 7 year phase-in that starts in 2019, and increase to the Working Income Tax Benefits to help low-income earners, and tax deductibility for the enhanced portion of employee CPP contributions.

However, the BC government refused to approve the major changes at the July 15, 2016, deadline. Premier Clark has opted instead to have public consultations. If BC does not sign off on the major changes, it would destroy the entire deal for all Canadians. We wrote Premier Clark to encourage her to support the CPP enhancements, but we need your help.

We have found the relevant links for information here: <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/canadapensionplan/> and <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/canadapensionplan/general-information/>

You may email your request to the Clark to support CPP enhancements to: citizenengagement@gov.bc.ca

Some supporting thoughts:

- 75% of the cost of the increased benefit is paid for by investment income.
- Tax money is saved in the long run because it will decrease the need for low income supplement, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), which is paid from current operating funds
- Studies show the Canadian economy will benefit from the additional savings for retirement income
- Bank of Canada Governor Stephen Poloz has stated the CPP enhancement will help provide retirement security for Canadians and lift consumer confidence

BC teachers and all workers in BC will benefit from this increase in pension at retirement and must become engaged. We are asking you and your members to take a look at the material in the web links above and write an email to support the CPP enhancement. The more citizens that write in, the greater the impact on this engagement process being used by the BC government. We do not want the BC government to yield to pressure from organization to back away from the agreement. The government will hear from those organizations opposed to the enhancements very soon and may then shut down the website, so sooner responses are better.

Are parents/students asking about tutors? Refer them to the CTA website, chilliwackteachers.com, see the drop down under the header *Chilliwack Teachers Association*, for Tutors. Follow the prompts!

Graduation years curriculum feedback process

In order to collect feedback on the graduation years curriculum the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has designed the following survey tool: questionnaire.research-recherche.net/s/curriculumfeedback

The focus of this survey is to gather feedback from group discussions specific to the graduation years for the BCTF to review and analyze. It is expected that locals and provincial specialist associations will organize their own feedback processes to gather information for submission. The survey will ask you to upload three Word or PDF documents containing feedback, one for each of the following discussion questions:

1. What are the positive aspects of the revised BC graduation program curriculum (Grades 10-12), and what are you looking forward to in education change?
2. What are the concerns?
3. What supports are needed from government, your school district, and your union?

The closing date to submit feedback is December 9, 2016. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have questions please contact jneden@bctf.ca.



Family Holiday SKATING PARTY

Sponsored by the CTA, CUPE and SD33



*All School District 33 staff:
Bring your family for a free skate !*

Seasonal treats to sample!

Where: Prospera Secondary Rink
When: Wednesday, December 21st
12:00 - 3:00pm

**Ice clean break at 1:30pm*

*Skate rentals \$4 and concession is open!
(Debit available)*



Student Vote: Engage your students in the provincial election

Elementary and high schools across the province will have an opportunity to engage their students in the May 2017 BC provincial election through the Student Vote program.

Student Vote enables teachers to bring democracy alive in the classroom and empowers students to experience the democratic process and cast a ballot for the official candidates running in the provincial election. More than 150,000 students are expected to participate.

Participating schools receive a variety of educational materials to teach government, democracy, and the electoral process, and to encourage research into the issues, parties, and candidates. Authentic ballots and ballot boxes are also provided for the co-ordination of Student Vote Day.

The program is free and materials are available in English and French. The first round of packages will be shipped in early March.

REGISTRATION: www.studentvote.ca



CHILLIWACK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

TTOC/New Teacher Meeting & Social

December 14, 2016
3:45pm

CTA Office



Free Winter Resource Booklet!
Snacks to enjoy! Prizes to be won!

We look forward to seeing you and
RSVPs are appreciated:
chwkmonica@shawcable.com

Jasjit Gill and Shelley Jones
TTOC Committee Co-chairs
ttochair@chilliwackteachers.com

CTA Office: 203-45970 Airport Road, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1A2 Tel 604-792-9233

TTOC Committee

Jasjit Gill/Shelley Jones, Co-chairs

TTOC Quick Reminders

- ensure you arrive at least 15 minutes prior to school starting and staying a minimum of 15 minutes after school ends
- ensure you leave a rough sketch of a day plan for the next day
- ensure if the teacher has asked you to mark assignments that you mark them or make an effort to mark them. Leave it in a neat pile with an explanation if you could not mark it for any reason (ex. no answer key, out of comfort zone, etc.)
- ensure you mark any project/assignment you do out of your TTOC bag and leave a criteria for the teacher (if possible or needed)



Winter TTOC/New Teacher Social

(see included poster)

- being held on December 14 at the CTA Office 3:45pm
- come out & meet the CTA Executive and enjoy seasonal treats!
- lots of prizes and free resources!

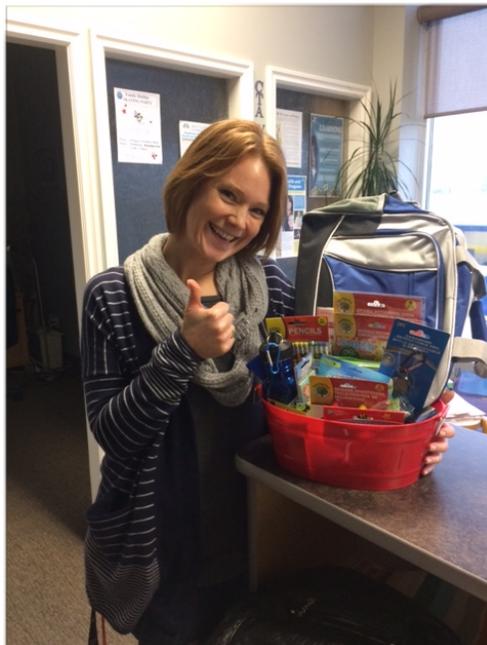
Social Justice - Mollie Lofthouse, Chair

The Social Justice Committee is seeking submissions of lessons and lesson ideas for teaching through the social justice lens. Ideally these themes would be applicable K - 12. Submissions will be reviewed and selected to be shared through the CTA website as resources for all members. There is no deadline on submissions; any and all input is appreciated!

Please send any submissions to: cta.socialjustice@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendar!

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|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| December 6 | -Exec Meeting, CTA 3:45pm |
| December 13 | -Ab Ed Committee, CTA 3:45pm |
| December 14 | -TTOC Meeting/Social, CTA 3:45pm |
| December 21 | -Family Skate Party, Prospera 12-3pm |
| January 5 | -Exec Meeting, CTA 3:45pm |
| January 10 | -H&S Committee Mtg, CTA 3:45pm |
| January 17 | -General Meeting, CSS, 3:45pm |
| January 23 | -SJ Meeting, CTA 3:45pm |
| January 24 | -CTA PD Meeting, CTA 3:45pm |
| January 27/28 | -BCTF Rep Assembly, Vancouver |
| January 30 | -Job Share Meeting, CTA 3:45pm |



Congratulations to Kara Van Leeuwen for winning the draw for the TTOC Survival Bucket!