

What a ride!

CTA  
NEWS

Many veteran teachers still vividly remember “Black Friday” on January 25, 2002. It was on this day the BC Liberals tabled Bills 27 and 28 – the legislation that imposed a three year stripped contract. This legislation removed provisions and the right to bargain class size and composition, specialist teacher ratios, teacher workload provisions and guaranteed support for students with special needs. Many teachers felt betrayed as they had given up salary increases for reductions in class sizes and these hard-earned gains were wiped out when Bills 27 and 28 became law two days later. The next fifteen years involved protests, work-to-rule campaigns, strikes, court cases and the brutal reality of going to work every day knowing that conditions could be and should be so much better for teachers and their students. Many of our colleagues started their teaching careers during these years of turmoil and they have never worked under the struck language.

Hopefully we will all remember “Terrific Thursday” on November 10, 2016. It was on this day the Supreme Court of Canada delivered a surprisingly quick bench ruling that upheld the 2011 court decision. The government actions in 2002 were declared to be unconstitutional. No more appeals, no more court action. We won! But the joy of our court victory didn’t counter our pain from “Black Friday.” The sense of vindication has not erased our memories of fifteen years of government contempt for public education. The possible ratification of the agreement-in-committee and the return to working and learning conditions from 2002 is bitter sweet. It would be a huge step forward. But it also represents fifteen lost years of negotiating for improved conditions. Restoration of the struck language will lead to some implementation hurdles but ultimately provide significant improvements. We hope that this possible step forward could be a turning point away from the turmoil and struggle and towards a fully funded system with a renewed focus on meeting the learning needs of current and future generations of learners.

Recent Board decisions:

We want to acknowledge the confusion generated by two recent Chilliwack Board of Education decisions. First, the Board approved the “concept” of reconfiguration without providing many details on their plans to change the configuration of Chilliwack Schools to: elementary grades K to 5, middle grades 6 to 8, and secondary grades 9 to 12. Rosedale will become a K to grade 8 school but all of this will not occur before September 2018. Concerns about school boundaries, resources, teacher assignment, transition, secondary overcrowding and others have gone unanswered. Also, the Board approved the merging of the Education Centre and CHANCE-Shxwetilthet Alternative Schools. Again, this approval has occurred with very few details and has generated far more questions than answers. We will continue to advocate for our members and will keep you updated.

In Solidarity, Lee-Anne and Ed

Enjoy  
your  
Spring  
Break!



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**BCRTA Opportunity to Win \$1500!**

The BC Retired Teacher Association is offering all teacher the opportunity to win \$1,500 for a program involving students and seniors:

Do you or one of your colleagues have a program that involves students and seniors in an “intergenerational program”? Could you use \$1,500 to enhance your program, buy additional supplies, or add opportunities for interaction between your students and senior citizens in your community?

Go to the BC Retired Teachers Association website [www.bcrt.ca](http://www.bcrt.ca) and click on the Golden Star Awards Program for criteria, application forms and links to past winners! Deadline for completed applications is April 15, 2017.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, contact Charan Gill, Chair, BCRTA Excellence in Public Education Committee ([charankgill@gmail.com](mailto:charankgill@gmail.com) or 604-271-8725)

**Getting to know your Pension!**

Teachers' Pension Plan free member education and new eLearning courses can be found at [tpp.pensionsbc.ca](http://tpp.pensionsbc.ca).

1. **Getting to Know Your Pension** (new eLearning) - a 15 minute course for new members that introduces the value and benefits of plan membership
2. **Making the Most of Your Pension** (*formerly Your Pension, Your Future*) - a two hour workshop for mid-career members focussed on how the decisions members make throughout their careers can affect their pension when they retire. To view schedule or register, go to [top.pensionsbc.ca](http://top.pensionsbc.ca), click on Resources, click on Member Education.
3. **Approaching Retirement** (*formerly Thinking About Retiring*) - a 1.5 hour workshop for members nearing retirement focused on helping them understand the important decisions they need to make about their pension as retirement approaches. To view schedule or register, go to [top.pensionsbc.ca](http://top.pensionsbc.ca), click on Resources, click on Member Education.

If you have any questions, email: [TPPEducation@pensionsbc.ca](mailto:TPPEducation@pensionsbc.ca) or phone 1-877-558-5574 (toll free in BC).

Also, the CTA TLC Conference will be hosting retirement and financial planning workshops on May 5th - watch for the program coming to your school after Spring Break!

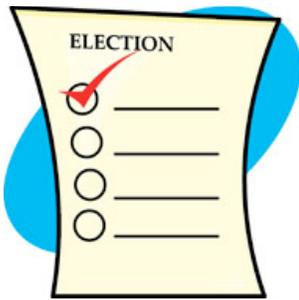
**Thinking of Retiring!**

At least thirty days before your date of retirement you must send in your letter of resignation to your school board with a copy to the CTA. If you are applying for the Retirement Bonus you must do so by May 1st. Check out the website: [www.chilliwackteachers.com](http://www.chilliwackteachers.com) or contact the CTA Office for the Retirement Bonus template letter and *Thinking of Retiring* booklet!

**Article B.20: Retirement Bonus**

1. The Board shall pay a retirement bonus to an employee who is at least 55 years old and who has ten (10) or more years of service with the Board. Employees applying for the retirement bonus shall do so by May 1 with a resignation date effective June 30 of any year if their application is accepted.
2. The Bonus shall be twenty percent (20%) of one year's salary payable at the direction of the teacher no later than the end of the taxation year next following.
3. At the employee's cost, the Board shall continue to make available to retired employees who qualify under part 1, and their surviving spouses, if any, until age 65, medical, extended health, dental and group life insurance coverage. Where similar coverage is provided by a pension plan, the retired employees, and surviving spouses, if any, may choose one plan, but may not enroll in two.
4. A maximum of eight (8) teachers will be eligible in any one year. If more than eight teachers apply, the eight teachers with the greatest district seniority shall receive the bonus.

### CTA Executive Elections



Consider putting your name forward, or nominating a colleague (with their permission), for an executive position as we need and appreciate many levels of viewpoints and experience in the CTA.

The deadline for a short candidate statement to be included in the CTA Election Newsletter is April 15th. Once you have been nominated, or put your name forward, you will be contacted with a reminder.

#### Text the Prez

I've heard talk about something called Deferred Salary Leave? What's that?

It's Article G.32 in our CA. It gives teachers the opportunity to take a year off with partial pay by working for partial pay for the 3 - 4 years previous.

A paid year off - I could use that 🤔 How do I apply?

✍️ You sign an agreement with the Board which includes when you want to start and when you want your year off.

How does that affect my pay and benefits? \$\$

Your salary is spread out over the entire time with adequate deductions to ensure your benefits continue for the year you are off.

So if I can make it on a reduced salary for a few years, I could take a year off with pay? 🤔

Absolutely!

👍 That's such a great option!

Make sure you apply for this leave before April 30th as you will need SDO approval. ⌚

#### Excerpt from the 2017/18 Leadership Report to the BCTF AGM

From what we might have once presumed to be a safe distance, we all witnessed the narrative that unfolded in the lead up to the American election and now dominates south of the border.

It is a story of exclusion, racism, misogyny, and exploitation. It has enabled the theft of individual and collective rights and the denigration of public institutions. It is a narrative that is fuelled by fear, ignorance and extreme inequity, and when broadcast from position of power, gives permission to everyday acts of abuse and makes the lives of many individual and groups more dangerous and more desperate.

As teachers in a digital age, we know that our students are not out of range; this narrative has an impact on children and youth well beyond the confines of the United States and has the potential to undermine the security and well-being of many of our students, their families, our colleagues, and members of our communities. We have a very important role to play in ensuring that the society in which our students will live and lead is one that had been built on inclusion respect and the well-being of all. This is central to being a teacher at the best of times, but never more so when the glaring examples for our children and youth are those that run counter to the core values we model and teach in the classroom.



**THANK YOU** to the Executive and Staff Reps for all their work on the Ratification Vote for the LOU#17 Agreement -in-Committee. The vote came very quickly but due to the efforts of these dedicated teachers, it was handled promptly and efficiently! Well done to all!

The stories a society tells about itself are a measure of how it values itself, the ideals of democracy, and its future.  
*Henry Giroux, American and Canadian scholar, Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University*

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- March 28 -CTA ProD Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- March 30 -CTA Budget Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 4 -Executive Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 11 -Bursary Selection Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 12 -TTOC Social/Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 18 -Staff Rep Assembly, CTA 3:45pm
- April 19 -CTA H&S Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 24 -B Layoff Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 24 -SJ Committee Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- April 25 -DIT Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- May 2 -Executive Meeting, CTA 3:45pm
- May 16 -Annual Meeting, SSS, 3:45pm
- Executive Elections/CTA Budget

**Social Justice Calendar for March 2017**

- 5-11 International Women's Week
- 8 International Women's Day
- 16 Bottled Water Free Day
- 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21-28 Week of Solidarity with People Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination
- 22 World Water Day
- 24 Indspire Awards (formerly National Aboriginal Achievement Awards)
- 31 Transgender Day of Visibility

The BC Teachers' Federation presents a program for BC Teachers...

# LIVING WITH BALANCE

Practical skills and strategies to attain goals toward work-life balance



When: April 13 to May 18 (Thursdays)  
3:45 - 5:45pm

Where: CTA Office

Register Online:  
[www.bctf.ca/livingwithbalance.aspx](http://www.bctf.ca/livingwithbalance.aspx)

This six week group program will provide opportunities for:

- learning practical skills and strategies to attain goals toward work-life balance
- recognizing common barriers and learning new thinking styles
- identifying tools and strategies that are effective in building long lasting resiliency
- defining work-life balance and healthy boundaries
- understanding the effects of work-life balance
- realizing the importance of diet and exercise for sustainable health
- learning about the benefits of employee-assistance providers and community resources
- resolving conflict and learning non-defensive communication skills

Program details:

- 12- hour group workshop which typically meets once a week for two hours
- group consists of 10-15 teachers and 2 group leaders
- leaders are qualified occupational therapists or trained consultants in mental health

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CTA, 203-45970 Airport Road, Chilliwack, BC V2P 1A2 T604-792-9233

[www.chilliwackteachers.com](http://www.chilliwackteachers.com)

**ProD**

Watch for the TLC Conference Program in April!

Some of the great workshops:

- Lori Jameson Rog**
- BCTF Pension Workshop**
- Yoga and Mindfulness**
- Make a Metis Jacket**
- Bracelet Weaving**
- Pioneer Village Tour**
- Qwalena Theater**
- Financial Workshop**
- Teaching Proficiency**
- Voice Care**
- Anyone Can Paint**
- Anyone Can Draw**
- [YOUCUBED.ORG](http://YOUCUBED.ORG)**
- Rekenrek**
- Cyber Bullying**
- Dealing with Stress**
- Project of Heart**
- Apple Canada**
- BC Sports Hall of Fame**
- Fraser River Discovery Tour**
- Coding and Robots**
- Basket Making**
- Mobile Museum Tour**
- Agriculture Tour**
- Inspiring Minds**
- Grouse Mountain Tour**
- Stillwood Camp**