



MEMO TO: All ATU Members
FROM: Doug Smuland, Labour Relations Officer
DATE: May 6, 2020
RE: Professional Development Day Friday, May 15th, 2020

Dear Members,

As scheduled in the district school calendar, Friday, May 15th is a professional development day in Abbotsford. Professional development is a contractual right of teachers, but there are also some responsibilities for teachers to consider.

For those that are new to the district and may be unaware, there is an agreement with the district that teachers supply the “where” and “what” they are doing on a PD day to their administrator if and when asked. The ATU advises that PD Representatives in each school collect this information from teachers and consult with teachers about the specifics of what they are planning should there be any questions. The PD Representative can then provide the “where” and “what” information to the school administrator if asked.

Given that there are limited PD opportunities as a result of Covid-19, and that teachers will remain housebound, teachers may want to consider the following options for the day:

1. Read a book pertaining to educational theory or related to teaching in some manner;
2. Explore subject specific media that supports your pedagogy;
3. Conference with other teachers on-line about teaching and learning;
4. Complete ongoing work or assignments related to a diploma or master's program;
5. Join in on opportunities being created by district helping teachers,
6. Etc.

Teachers should not be using the day to contact students or families or provide instruction to students. This remains a professional day for teachers, and amid the harried and hectic times of COVID-19, having a day to focus on professional growth and learning is paramount.

Please, take a break from being shackled to your computer screen where you can and use this PD day to explore something that brings you joy.

Please note the deadline for submitting reimbursement applications for this school year is **Monday, June 15th**. Forms can be submitted by mailing them to the ATU office or by dropping them off at the ATU office and putting them through the mail slot. Please visit the ATU website for further details and changes implemented during COVID times at <https://www.abbotsfordteachers.ca/covid-19-updates>. Any reimbursement applications that come in after this date will not be processed until the fall.

In Solidarity,

Doug Smuland
Labour Relations Officer
Abbotsford Teachers' Union