

# The Advocate

In consensus atque unitate stat potentia

*"There is strength in unity"*

A Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2019

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The hot topic for the month has been Wombat Security Training. Many members have come forward with concerns but not about the training itself but rather the administration procedure that you are required to agree to once you have completed your training. The ADTA is encouraging all members to make sure to take the time to read AP 417 before agreeing to it. It is important that all members actually read and understand what they are agreeing to. If you have questions about anything you read in AP 417 please talk to your administrator and get the answers to your questions before agreeing. The ADTA continues to encourage members to stop using their personal cell phones or electronic devices while at work for work related reasons, or while on school property.

### Remedy update

In the last newsletter I updated the membership that we were installing a new accounting program for our remedy pro-d account. I am happy to update everyone with the news that the system is up and running and cheques are once again leaving the office. If you have been sitting on receipts please get them in as soon as possible in order to get reimbursed before the end of this school year. The deadline for reimbursement this school year is June 15th. Please note that the remedy pro-d form is slightly different than the regular pro-d form as it has a coloured orange rectangular box at the top. Pro-d remedy reimbursement forms are available at the ADTA office or through your staff rep.

### Staffing Update

The deadline to issue lay-off notices and board initiated transfers is Wednesday May 15th. The ADTA received official notice yesterday that there will be no lay-offs issued again this year. Also at this time of year, the ADTA and the District review any board initiated transfers; we discussed 5 teachers at this meeting and the District has decided to only grant 1 transfer this year. The only other option open to members looking to change schools and try something different is to go through the posting process. All internal job postings must be applied to through the 'job shopping' tab in the atrieve system. Job postings for the 2019-2020 school year are set to come out around May 24th and will be open for all members to apply to.

In Solidarity,

**Jennifer Brooks, ADTA President**

## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

The ADTA is now the ATU. Beginning July 1, 2019, the Abbotsford District Teachers' Association will be known as the Abbotsford Teachers' Union. Teachers voted to change the name at a General Meeting in January. The change has now been approved by the BCTF and we are developing a new logo to go along with the name. What the logo looks like is still a carefully guarded secret but will be unveiled soon. Hopefully, the new name will herald a new beginning for unionism in Abbotsford. At the very least we hope that the SBO will stop getting our mail!

What has this animal got to do  
with digital technology?  
It's a Wombat!!



## Wombat Security Training

The district mandated security training known as Wombat has probably made an appearance in your school. Please be aware that after completing the training, there is a box that you check to agree to AP417. Read the information very carefully before checking that box. By agreeing to the policy, you agree to allow the district access to your personal devices if you are using them in school. Even if you just read email, you could be subject to search and seizure. The ADTA recommends that you do not use your personal device at school or for anything work related.

A bulletin was recently sent out to every member outlining the ADTA's concerns about the potential implications of agreeing to AP417.

There is no District plan for TTOCs to take the training that we know of at this time.

## Between Ontario and Alberta, education seems to be an easy target for “reform”.

Summary by: Khaled Dardir

### Changes expected in Albertas Education:

The UCP would replace Alberta's School Act with the former Progressive Conservative government's education act. It would eliminate changes to bill 24, which requires school principals to immediately grant student requests to form a gay-straight alliance and requires private schools to have publicly available policies to protect LGBTQ students.

The move would return the law to how it read in 2015 after the former PC government passed its Bill 10. Those changes compelled all school principals — public and private — to establish a gay-straight alliance or similar extracurricular club when a student requested one, and said students could choose a respectful club name.

The UCP emphasized a back-to-basics approach to education, pledging to remove “fads” from classrooms and return to “tried-and-true” approaches, like math algorithms and phonics.

Initially, the UCP government states it would return the weight of Grade 12 diploma exams to 50 per cent of a student's final mark, and bring back Grade 3 provincial achievement tests.

UCP is committed to lifting a provincial cap on the number of charter schools in the province. That limit is now set at 15, and there are 13 schools operating. He said he would enshrine funding for private schools into legislation.

“The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress. Out of its bold struggles, economic and social reform gave birth to unemployment insurance, old-age pensions, government relief for the destitute and, above all, new wage levels that meant not mere survival but a tolerable life. The captains of industry did not lead this transformation; they resisted it until they were overcome. When in the thirties the wave of union organization crested over the nation, it carried to secure shores not only itself but the whole society.”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., speech to the state convention of the Illinois AFL-CIO, Oct. 7, 1965

## Deadline for Leave to Seek Alternate Employment is June 1, 2019

### Changes to Qualifications?

Did you complete a program or degree this year that changes your Category on the pay schedule? You need to do 3 things so you can start getting your well earned increase.

- First, you need to apply for a category upgrade from TQS. You can do that online at this link: [Category upgrade application form](#) There is no cost for the TQS upgrade unless you want the copy of your transcript back. You will need to attach a copy of your transcript and a pay statement.
- Second, email teacher payroll informing them that you have completed your program and attach a copy of your transcript.
- Third, email either Karen Baldessara (until May 23 only) or Katheryn Bekkering at SBO Human Resources and tell them that you have upgraded your qualifications in the area you studied.

Once your new TQS card arrives, make a copy and send it along to teacher payroll. If your program or degree is completed by May 31 and you can submit all the documents by June 30, your qualification will be effective May 1. If the documents are submitted after July 1 then your qualification will be effective September 1.

#### Article B21.3

All applications for payment under this article must be accompanied by an official transcript indicating successful completion of the courses. Payment shall be from the first day of the month following application date.

Even if your courses have not raised you up a Category, send an email to HR and let them know about your upgraded qualifications. It will come in handy if you choose to apply for a posting in the future.

### Have You Changed Your Residence Since Becoming a Teacher?

If the answer is YES, have you changed your address with the TRB? If the answer is NO, then the ADTA's advice is to DO IT NOW!! Even if you have not moved, it is a very good idea to make sure that the contact information on file at the TRB is accurate and up to date. They don't always communicate with you but when they do it is important. If they can't reach you, bad things can happen. Make sure you put this on your "To Do" list and get 'er done!

### Fees

One of the least popular and most hotly contested items is that of member fees and changes to them. For example, an increase in the BCTF membership fee for all members was raised to 1.79% of their total salary starting in September of 2019. TTOCs will have their fees raised to 1.59% of their total salary. Fees for associate membership will be \$100, non-certified teachers 179% of their total salary, students \$1, members on leave \$0 and affiliate members to be determined on a case by case basis. Finally, for every member eligible to participate in the Salary Indemnity Fund (SIP) the fee will be 1.87% of the total salary of the member.



“Beginning in 1988 the BCTF engaged in three rounds of local bargaining under the full collective bargaining model, dramatically changing the very nature of the organization and improving teachers’ working conditions and students’ learning conditions. Thirty-two local disputes led to strikes and three resulted in lockouts.”  
“Collective Bargaining” - <https://www.bctf.ca/history/rooms/bargaining> - author unknown

## PRO-D DAY MAY 17th

The next Professional Development day is approaching quickly. Make sure you have organized something interesting and productive to do on this day. You need to tell your AO where you will be on this day. While it is permissible to stay at your site to work on Pro-D, please remember that marking, planning or organizing your room is not considered Pro-D. If you have not signed up for anything, but are looking for something to do, the district is offering a number of workshops. There may still be space in some of them. **More information can be found by clicking on the link.**

There are some interesting options available for the May 17th Pro-D Day:

[Everyone Can Create on iPads for K-12 Teachers \(facilitated by Apple Education\)](#)

[Getting Started with Coding on iPads for K-12 Teachers \(facilitated by Apple Education\)](#)

[First Peoples Principles of Learning \(K - 8 Teachers & P/VP Abbotsford School District staff\)](#)

[Making the First Peoples Principles of Learning Come Alive in the Classroom](#)

[Math Games: Play to Learn \(Grade 1 - 8 Abbotsford School District staff\)](#)

[Planning for Success: Writing Through the Lens of Genre \(Grade 3 - 8 Abbotsford School District teachers\)](#)

[SET-BC is hosting a session on Mental Health & Neurodevelopmental disorders and how technology can be an asset.](#)

## Reminder: Deadline to submit Pro-D is June 15th

The cut off to submit Pro-D forms for reimbursement is June 15th. Please make sure you and your Pro-D rep has signed the form and you attach original receipts that are in your name.

Pro-d claims cannot be processed if they come without the proper receipts. For example, If you are staying in a hotel, make sure the room receipt is in your name. If you are sharing a room with a colleague attending the same event, then you each need a receipt with your name on it. If the hotel will not provide this kind of a receipt, then you need to arrange for your roommate to reimburse you for your half of the bill after they make their pro-d claim.

## News from the BCTF AGM Elections

This year Terri Mooring was elected President by acclamation. Likewise, Clint Johnson was elected to the position of Vice President. The only contest was between members Rae Figursky and Carole Gordon for Second Vice President. Both are long serving, capable candidates and both spoke and answered questions well. In the end Carol Gordon was elected as Second Vice President. Other members elected were: Members-at-large—Racialized—Susan Trabant

Members-at-large—Violette Baillargeon, Karen Edwards, Rae Figursky, Jody Polukoshko, and

Katherine Trepanier. Marjorie Dumont, Robin Toszczak, and Kip Wood are completing the 2nd year of their two-year terms. There are excellent write-ups on all the candidates who let their names stand for election in "Teacher" magazine on the BCTF website.

The link to this is: <http://www.bctf.ca/publications/TeacherNewsmag.aspx?id=52957>

## Events and Festivals (family friendly and free mostly)

The weather is getting warmer and this school year is coming into the home stretch. Most of us are starting to get a little tired and maybe wanting something different to do on the weekend. Or you might already be planning a summer get away without the family. Here's a selection of things to do locally, in the Vancouver area and further afield. Some are totally free and others not so much. There are events for both May and June. All are interesting, and, who knows, maybe something will appeal to you.



### Boot Camp with Steve Nash

Every Wednesday in May 2019 - 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Location: High Street Shopping Centre - 3122 Mount Lehman Road

Back for 2019, Steve Nash is hosting a free group fitness class every Wednesday evening from 5:30pm – 6:30pm in Unit J165 (beside Bank of Montreal). Classes run from February 6 until May 29th.

Experience the fun in fitness with this boot camp! Classes are totally free. Don't forget to bring a yoga mat.

### Morning Yoga with Lululemon

Every Sunday in May and June. - 8:30am - 9:30am

Location: High Street Shopping Centre - 3122 Mount Lehman Road

In partnership with Lululemon, complimentary yoga sessions are happening every Sunday morning, in Unit J165 (located beside Bank of Montreal). Each session will be taught by a local instructor.

### Sunday Family Arts

MAY 26, 2019 @ 1:00 PM – 4:30 PM

THE REACH GALLERY MUSEUM ABBOTSFORD

Pre-Registration is required. To register call 604 864 8087 x 0 or visit The Reach in person.

Starts May 26 and runs every second weekend until December. This is an arts & crafts class that the whole family can participate in!

### Abbotsford Farm and Country Market

Spring/ Summer Season Opening May 4th, 2019, Saturdays from 9am-1pm

### 100TH Annual Bradner May Day Parade & Country Fair

May 20, 2019. - 8:00am - 2:00pm

Location: Bradner Hall - 5305 Bradner Road

Join us at the 100th Annual Bradner May Day Parade & Country Fair!

Pancake Breakfast 8-10am, Parade 10am, Country Fair 10:30-2  
Maypole Dancing | Food | Rides | Live Music | Games | Raffle |  
Petting Zoo | Face Painting and [more!](#)

### Wine + Art Walk | May 30th, 2019 from 4pm-8pm

\*Tickets go on sale to the general public on Monday, April 29th, 2019 at 12pm

### West End Car Free Festival. Noon to 7 p m Saturday June 15, Denman Street

Celebrate Vancouver's diverse neighbourhoods at this multi-site arts & culture festival that reclaims traffic thoroughfares as community-focused public spaces.

### Dragon Boat Festival. June 21-23, 2019

North America's flagship dragon boat festival returns to Vancouver. Kick off summer with us on the shores of False Creek with three days of the continent's best dragon boat racing, headliner music shows, cultural installations, interactive performances, local artisans and shopping, food, and family-friendly activities, all on BC's biggest outdoor patio. Mainstage entertainment schedule link.

<https://concorddragonboatfestival.ca/attractions/mainstage/>

### Cactus Jalopies. May 30-June 2, 2019. Osoyoos

Check out the show n' shine on Osoyoos's most stunning beach. This popular, free event is in its 15th year.

### Take a ride on the BC Ale Trail - Ride your bike or walk

One of the most cosmopolitan cities on the continent, bordered by sea, forest and mountain peaks: Vancouver really has it all. That includes a beer scene that's finding fame across the world, with veteran and start-up breweries alike making superb examples of classic styles while pushing the boundaries of what beer can be.

<https://bcaletrail.ca/ale-trails/vancouver/>

These may cost a little \$\$ but would be well worth it!

Want some pampering? Recharge and Renew: 10 Great Places in BC to Restore Your Energy.

<https://www.hellobc.com/stories/recharge-and-renew-10-great-places-in-bc-to-restore-your-energy>

How about getting back to nature and roughing it a little?

Combine the fun of camping with a city break sightseeing in Vancouver. From oceanside lots to suburban spots, these five campgrounds are all within a reasonable drive or transit ride from the city. Some are open year-round while others are seasonal; reservations are recommended, especially during the summer months.

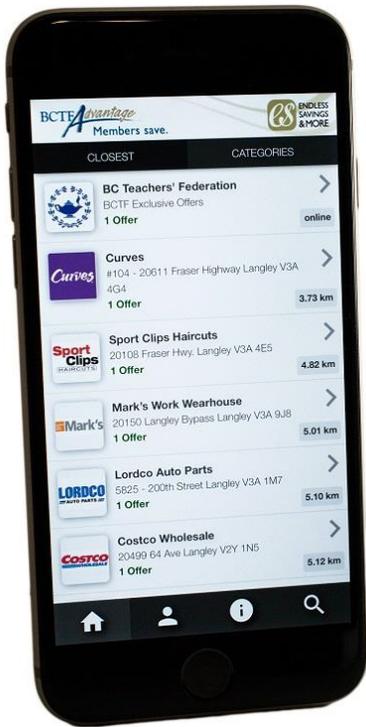
<https://www.hellobc.com/stories/5-places-to-camp-near-vancouver>



Buy More, Spend Less

# Discounts on Your Smart Phone For BCTF Members

Download a BCTF version of the ESM App to save on everyday purchases from hundreds of businesses including national chain retailers, service and travel providers. Powered by Endless Savings & More (ESM), this program is available to BCTF members and their families



### How It Works

- Install the BCTF version of the ESM App on your smart phone
- GPS automatically shows merchants and savings that are closest to your current location
- Tap on a merchant to view offers & tap on an offer for redemption details
- You typically show the offer on your smart phone at payment in physical locations or enter a code for online purchases

### Getting Started

- Go to your app store (Google or Apple) on your smart phone
- Search for: ESM or Endless Savings & More
- During registration you will be asked for an "organization code":

## Your "Organization Code" is: bctf

- Allow location services. ESM uses "locations services" or GPS to automatically show you offers that are closest to your current location first

### How to Save Hundreds

- Check out the BCTF "Exclusive Offers" and save hundreds off your smart phone & plan with public sector pricing from Rogers or Telus. BCTF "Exclusive Offers" always appear first when you tap the ESM App
- Check out the "Travel and Play" category on the ESM App to save hundreds on your next travel
- When in the mall or your shopping district, always "Tap the ESM App" to save additional hundreds per year



www.ESMApp.com

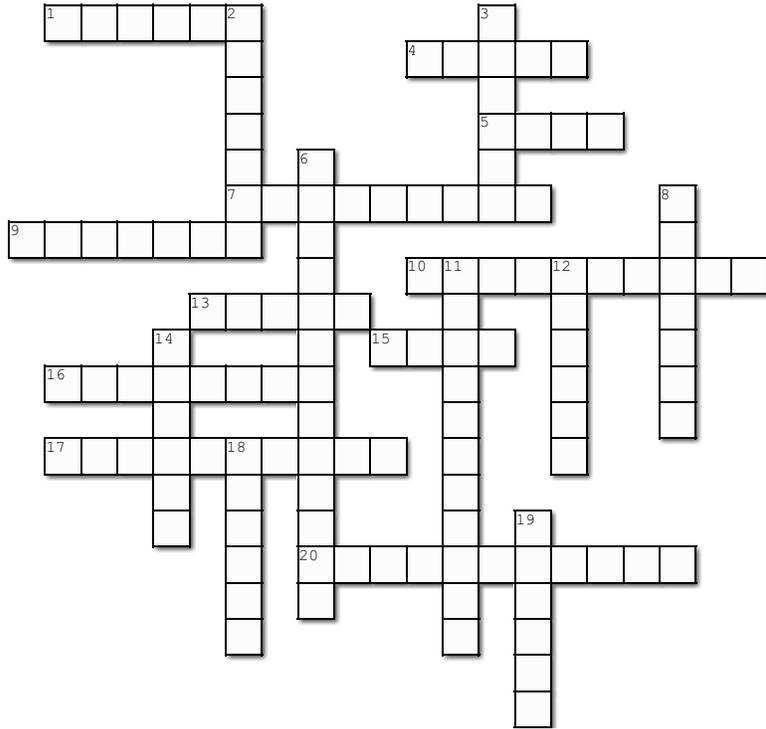
Why did the teacher wear sunglasses?  
Because his class was so bright!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Character Traits

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Horizontal

1. not fair
4. feeling pleased and satisfied over something one owns, makes, does or is a part of
5. a feeling of discontent at the advantages or success enjoyed by another together with a strong desire to have them for oneself
7. to work or act together for a common purpose
9. a feeling of satisfaction
10. to take a hopeful view of situations; positive outlook
13. faithful; firm in support
15. having or showing intelligence and good judgement
16. willing to give or share, unselfish
17. being able to face danger or difficulty bravely; showing courage
20. dependable; worthy of trust

### Vertical

2. regard or consideration for others
3. being straightforward; not hiding anything; not lying, stealing or cheating
6. feeling or showing deep sympathy or a desire to help
8. able to put up with trouble, hardship, or delay without complaining
11. to take the least hopeful view of a situation; negative outlook
12. not thinking too highly of one's own talents, abilities, or accomplishments
14. to feel sorry about a past event or act
18. being selfish
19. having or showing good manners

"Character is doing the right thing when nobody's looking."

– J.C. Watts



The Crossword puzzle is available to print and use with your class if you wish. The answer key is available on the ADTA website.

## CONTEST TIME

**Congratulations to the winners of our last contest!**

**Loreen Craig, Curtis Penner & Erin Perry**

Find the school bus in this newsletter and enter to win a piece of amazing ADTA swag! Find the school bus and then go to the ADTA website and find the Newsletter link.

Enter your name and school and where you found the bus.

A winner will be randomly chosen from all valid entries

Contest closes: Friday, May 24th

I like cooking my family and pets.

Use commas.  
Don't be a psycho.



someecards  
user card

## Teachers Demand Change

The Supreme Court of Canada restored the language that had been stripped from our Collective Agreement. As a result of the restoration of class size and composition language, we have seen increases in staffing in many areas. The restoration of teacher librarians has been especially good. While we have a ways to go before we can say that our province and our district is in full compliance with the language, working conditions have improved. This is not the case in other places. Teachers in Oregon state staged a walk out demanding lower class sizes and more counsellors. Apparently class sizes run from 26-56 in senior English classes. Like BC, Oregon has made drastic cuts in the areas of music, art, PE and libraries. Currently, there are only 158 librarians in the state which works out less than 1 per district. 600 schools had to be closed as a result of the "mass exodus of teachers". Let's hope that their actions result in positive change. You can read the full article here:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2019/05/08/us/oregon-teachers-walkout/index.html>

## Save the Date!!

Thursday June 27 is the last day with kids. It is also the date of the ADTA's year-end bash. Every ADTA member is invited to this event at the union hall. It will be the last ADTA event EVER! Plan to come. More details in the next newsletter.

## CALENDAR

Professional Development Day	Friday, May 17th
Victoria Day (office closed)	Monday, May 20th
Executive Committee Meeting	Wednesday, June 5th
Retirement Gala	Friday, June 21st
Year End Bash	Thursday, June 27th

# MATH PROBLEMS?

Call

1-800-[(10x)(13i)^2] - [sin(xy)/2.382x]

### Contact Us:

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