

Teacher Talk

A publication of the Peace River South Teachers' Association, Local 59 of the BCTF
December 2016

Congratulations to Elaine Fitzpatrick, elected to a second term as PRSTA president!



New PRSTA Office

We are excited to be in our new office space! The address is: 1120 103rd Ave. We will have an Open House **June 3rd**, 11:00 to 2:00. We are holding this on a Saturday so that Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge teachers can check us out if they are coming in to Dawson Creek. There will be a BBQ set up (Elaine says rain or shine) and refreshments. Watch for posters and more information.



E-Day! This is the term the BCTF is using for the upcoming election. Keep checking the PRSTA website for information regarding our candidates and their stands on education. Megan Seymour is our Election Contact and is doing a great job of trying to keep the teachers' message at the forefront of the candidates' agenda.

BCTF AGM

The AGM was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Vancouver March 18th to 21st. The reps from our region were: Leanne Robinson, Colin Macdonald, Karen Edwards, Lindsey Norbury, Elaine Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Fox, Lisa Bradshaw, and Donna Hodgins. Charlene Hodgson was awarded a Life Time Membership. We were very proud to see her receive this honour. Her accomplishments were shared and she gave a wonderful speech.

We were also pleased to hear Peace River South mentioned directly by President Glen Hansen in his opening speech. He thanked Elaine for laying the groundwork about the issue of retention with Mike Bernier.

A number of resolutions were passed and debated. Some of the main topics at this AGM were equity of representation, 'slave auctions', finance, pensions, BCTF social justice projects, TTOC dues, elections and awards. Guest speakers included Irene Lanzinger, Pres. BC Federation of Labour; Heather Smith Pres. Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF); and Pat-President Jim Carnie.

To see the minutes and key decisions from the Federation's **2017 Annual General Meeting** are now at: www.bctf.ca/publications/BCTFNews.aspx

The BCTF has a site called TeachBC which has different resources for teachers. Check it out at: <http://teachbc.bctf.ca/>

Post and Fill

The first job postings are anticipated to be coming out after the the 5th of May.

Those who are in term positions or returning from a leave should be watching for postings. Be very **AWARE** that you need to apply for a job if you are on a term contract or returning from a leave. When the postings come out, please apply for all the positions you are interested in, prioritizing your preferences. Please speak to your staff reps if you have any questions.

Working and Learning

Thank you to everyone who returned the survey we sent out. We have gathered very useful information that has helped in our discussions regarding class composition. The draw for the prize will happen at the AGM.

Teachers First

The PRSTA would like to remind all teachers that whether you are considered enrolling or non-enrolling, if you are working with students you are a teacher first. If you are taking a 'contractual' leave, please call in a TTOC to replace you. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine.

Professional Development

We hope that your Professional Development Day went well. These days take time to plan and your attendance is appreciated. Good job, Sarah Lutgen, and her ProD staff rep support, especially Kristy Rose and Anita Kurjata.

Retirement Celebration!

We have some members who are taking the next step in their lives and retiring. We have tentatively set the date for a celebration of their careers.

June 13th, 4 -7pm, location to be announced

PRSTA AGM- Wednesday, May 24th, 5-8 PM at the inn on the Creek

As the PRSTA plans for the Annual General Meeting we would encourage members to get involved at the Executive level. We have a number of openings at the table for the 2017-18 school year. As many of you know we will be forging some new ground as we go forward with the Restored Language in our contract agreement. We need people at the executive table to contribute ideas, time, effort and understanding to the issues we face in our schools and classrooms. **Please consider putting your name forward for an Executive Committee Chairperson.**

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The new PRSTA website is LIVE!

Please visit the website and set up your personal PRSTA account. Please use a valid personal email address for this account.

Your account will allow you to access private PRSTA event information as well union documentation. The next time we are bargaining we will then have a private email list to work from!

Thank you!
Carol Sapergia

EFAP & WHIP

A reminder that the District has the EFAP program available to support employees. Your family is eligible for up to 6 session total with a counselor.

Check the Walmsley web site regarding accessing this program.



All information is confidential.

<https://www.walmsley.ca/>

Also, a reminder that the District has the WHIP program on the eservices link. Fill in each day and earn points and then treat yourself to a free service or gift certificate.