

KTTA News - February 21, 2017

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KTTA Information can be found at www.kttta.ca

Pink T-Shirt Day - February 22, 2017

Coldest Night of the Year - February 25, 2017 (Riverside Park)

*Next Staff Rep Meeting - Tuesday, February 28, 2017 (3PM at North Shore Community Centre)
After Staff Rep Training*

School PD Day (Feb. 24th)- District Workshops at: www.kttta.ca/professional-development/local-kttta-pd-offerings.html

Provincial Election - May 9, 2017

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A. Provincial Budget - Education Funding

(From BCTF Communications)

British Columbia's 2017 budget is an admission that this government has been shortchanging our schools and students for 15 long years, BCTF President Glen Hansman said today.

"All of the funding increases announced today are because this government has been forced by the courts, by demographics, and by public anger to finally respond to their record of underfunding our schools and students," said Hansman. "This budget is an admission that when it comes to education funding, the government has had it wrong all along. Fifteen years ago, they put tax cuts before kids. Students, parents, teachers, and support staff were forced to pay the price."

On the question of whether this budget contains the funds necessary to fully fund the cost of the BCTF's Supreme Court of Canada win, Hansman was cautiously optimistic, but stressed that parents and teachers should still be wary.

The government's Budget and Fiscal Plan states that any costs of a final agreement with the BCTF "will be managed within the fiscal plan." That plan has a \$400 million contingency fund for 2017-18. The fund drops to \$300 million for the two following years. The government has also budgeted \$228 million for enrolment increases over the next three years and has annualized the \$50 million from the January interim agreement to account for \$320 million over the next three years.

"The specific amount required to implement our Supreme Court of Canada win is not known at this point, but regardless of the cost, the government must provide new funds to pay the full amount,"

said Hansman. "Teachers, parents, and trustees must hold the government accountable this spring so that districts are not forced to make cuts in other areas. The full funding from the province must materialize.

"The BCTF's goal is to wrap up the current discussions within the next couple of weeks. That will ensure planning for the 2017–18 school year, which starts this March, is conducted with our restored language on class size, class composition, and specialist-teacher ratios in place. We expect the next school year to start with the supports our students have been denied for 15 years fully in place and fully funded."

Hansman also expressed concerns with other unmet needs that this budget won't fully address.

"This budget doesn't fully fund the rollout of the revised curriculum," said Hansman, noting students in all school districts around the province need access to modern equipment, as well as accurate, up-to-date, and inclusive learning materials. "The government also needs to bring forward clear and ambitious timelines to deal with seismically unsafe schools and overcrowding in the Fraser Valley and South Island."

B. Class Size and Composition

(KTTA Language at: http://www.ktta.ca/images/Class_Size_and_Comp_2002.pdf)

The BCTF Table Officers and representatives for the government have continued to meet to attempt to achieve a final agreement on the implementation of the 1998-2001 class size, composition, and case load provisions that the Supreme Court of Canada re-instated in November.

Thus far, the BCTF and government have reached agreement on: 1) Non-Enrolling Teacher Ratios, and 2) Ancillary Language (i.e. school based team meetings, equitable workload, gradual K entry) pending a final agreement. The parties are continuing to discuss class size and composition.

The \$50 million interim agreement that was intended to relieve some workload issues until June 30th unfortunately allows the employer to breach class size and composition limits until June 30, 2017. The KTTA had filed a grievance including numerous violations of the 1998-2001 collective agreement language and has put that grievance into abeyance depending on a final outcome with the provincial discussions. However, if the discussions result in an implementation date of September, 2017, those grievances will need to be withdrawn.

The provincial government has annualized the \$50 million to \$100 million and combined it with the \$80 million Education Fund. There is also a \$400 million contingency fund in the budget which should address the implementation of the class size and composition language for September. However, this has yet to be finalized.

C. Priority Measures Funding - Process

The district committee regarding the allocation of the remaining Priority Measures Funding has agreed on the final allocation of funding to the remaining affected schools. The Association office will soon contact staff representatives at each of the affected schools noting the consultation process regarding the allocation.

It is hoped that the process will be completed by early March and the positions will be in place after Spring Break.

D. Two Week Spring Break

(District Seeking Feedback at feedback@sd73.bc.ca)

The district is seeking written feedback on the proposed calendars which can be found here: <http://www3.sd73.bc.ca/general/content/public-feedback-school-calendar>.

Please respond with feedback to the district by Emailing feedback@sd73.bc.ca keeping the following in mind:

1) Parent vs. Teacher: If you are a parent of students in the K-12 system, you may want to note that you are a parent. A trustee noted that the parent perspective is more likely to sway the opinions of trustees who are currently opposed to the 1 week option.

2) Issues to Raise: You may want to raise other reasons for why you are in support of the 2 week option but here are the four points raised at last night's Public School Board meetings.

A) Meaningful Consultation - all employee groups reported that they would like to retain the extended spring break period due to the positives they were observing in the system. Supporting this perspective is Sharon Jeroski (UBC Researcher) from Burnaby who noted that there was no discernible loss of learning or achievement with the 2 week spring break. The district also reported less absenteeism. *(Thank you to Peter Findlay for providing this information).*

B) Field Trips - a longer Spring Break provides more options for field trips. With education becoming more complex and with new curriculum stressing project based learning, field trips are a way for teachers to engage students outside of their schools.

C) Consistency - 53 out of 60 districts will continue with the 2 week spring break period which will keep our district out of alignment with other districts. School sporting events will often take advantage of the breaks for tournaments or events and a shorter break will limit these opportunities.

D) Student Preparedness - Teachers report that students are more reseted and more prepared to learn for the last three months of the year after the 2 week break vs. The 1 week break. This is supported by the research done in the Burnaby district.

We have indicated that there are teachers who are willing to provide programs during the extended spring break (numeracy or reading) as they do in the summer. However, the district noted that there was a lack of interest in these programs when parents were surveyed.

Note: There are 53 out of 60 districts that do not have a two week spring break, but there are other variations to the calendar that some of those districts use *(Thank you to John Annicchiarico for providing this information):*

Campbell River District's Spring Break 2017 starts on Friday March 17 and the last day of the break is Monday March 27, so it's a 7 school day spring break not a 5 day (1-week) spring break <http://www.sd72.BC.ca/Documents/SD72%202016-2017%20School%20Calendar.PDF>.

Haida Gwaii District has eight (8) PD days, and they've attached 1 to Friday March 10, effectively making 2017 a 6 school-day spring break (not 1-week) <http://sd50.BC.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/SD-50-Calendar-2016-2017-.PDF>.

E. Workload / MyEd BC Arbitration

The BCTF has decided to refer to arbitration a local grievance regarding the workload created by district reporting requirements and the new My Education BC program.

This process should create an opportunity to continue to work with the district to alleviate workload concerns created with the introduction of My Education BC for the future. The Association will also attempt to achieve compensation for members who reported workload concerns, consistency with reporting requirements between schools, and changes to district requirements to reduce overall workload.

The KTTA will keep members informed of the process as it progresses.

F. Staff Representative Council Meeting

(North Shore Community Centre - February 28th @3PM)

Meeting Minutes: <http://www.ktta.ca/meeting-minutes.html>

The next Staff Representative Council meeting for Staff Representatives and KTTA Executive Committee members will be held at the North Shore Community Centre on Cottonwood Street. The meeting will be held on February 28th and will start at 3PM (as representatives are provided with release time for February 28th to attend training).

The draft agenda for the meeting will include:

- 1. Call to Order (3PM) - Lorraine Balogh / Gregg Hafeli*
- 2. Acknowledgment of Aboriginal Territory and Commitment to Solidarity*
- 3. Adoption of Agenda*
- 4. Adoption of Minutes (October 17, 2016)*
- 5. Day of Sucwentwecw*
- 6. Political Action - Presentation from Local NDP candidates Barb Nederpel / Nancy Bepple*
- 7. Endorsement - BCTF Judicial Council Nominee (Lorraine Balogh)*
- 8. Notice of By-Law Changes (Society Act, Commitment to Solidarity)*
- 9. Grievance Report - Technology and TTOC / Sick Leave*
- 10. Q and A*
- 11. Adjournment / Draw - 4:30PM*

Day of Sucwentwecw

Brenda Celesta (KTTA Aboriginal Ed Chair) along with Cheryl Sebastian and Judy Dunn will discuss the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement and information on this year's Day of Sucwentwecw.

Political Action

Amanda Jensen (KTTA 1st VP) is the Political Action chair and will provide an update on committee activities and what is planned to ensure public education is a vote determining issue prior to the May 9th election. NDP candidates Barb Nederpel and Nancy Bepple have requested to speak with staff representatives and will have a short Q and A if time permits. The Green Party candidates have asked to speak with representatives as well and time will be provided at the April meeting for this purpose.

BCTF Judicial Council Endorsement

Lorraine Balogh is running for re-appointment to the BCTF Judicial Council and is seeking endorsement from the local to run for this position. This position is filled through a vote by the BCTF Local Representatives at the BCTF Representatives Assembly at the end of May, 2017.

By-Law Changes

The KTTA needs to review by-laws to ensure compliance with the new Society's Act. The Act must prevail over any by-law if there is an inconsistency. As such, notice of motion will be provided as those by-laws will need to be voted on at the KTTA Annual General Meeting in May. A notice of motion will also be made to enshrine the Commitment to Solidarity into the KTTA By-Laws including mechanisms for enforcing those provisions.

Grievance Report

The KTTA Table Officers will provide a written report with the recent grievances and take questions from representatives regarding those grievances. We will focus on the recent referral to arbitration of the grievance regarding the workload related to My Education BC and the recent settlement agreement regarding TTOCs being able to utilize sick leave.

G. Pink Shirt Day - February 22nd

Pink shirt day started from an incident in a Nova Scotia school to symbolize a stand against bullying and specifically homophobic and transphobic bullying. In that incident, a grade 9 student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school which resulted in two senior students purchasing pink.

We are encouraging members to wear pink, purple or blue clothing to help mark the day.

H. Coldest Night of the Year - February 25th *(From KDLC)*

Members of the Kamloops and District Labour Council will be taking action to assist the immediate needs of poverty in our community by joining team KDLC 2017 for the Coldest Night of the Year.

All of the proceeds stay right here in Kamloops and help the New Life Community Kamloops serve the hungry, homeless, and hurting.

And then on February 25th, we will walk as a team with our coveted Coldest Night Toques and union flags to show that labour in Kamloops cares about our community and everyone in it.

How to get involved: You or your local can donate directly to Team KDLC 2017. You can sign up as a team member and gather donations from your local and/or friends.

More information and register at: www.coldestnightoftheyear.org.

Start by clicking on the Register Tab. Scroll down to "join a team" and follow process of creating a profile. Please indicate somewhere in your profile which union local you belong to ("KTTA").

Search for KDLC 2017.

From here there is a lot of resources available to help you recruit team members and donations and it couldn't be more inclusive or user friendly.