

GETCA Edition

NEWSLETTER

2015

With inside recesses and cold temperatures, teachers look forward to turning the calendar to February and the anticipation of teachers' convention.

Please check www.getca.com to read about the great keynote speakers and sessions. Teachers have a professional responsibility to attend convention as outlined in legislation. More information about GETCA can be found in this newsletter.

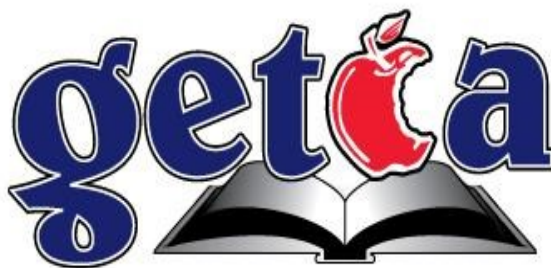
It is time, once again, to fulfill our responsibility to our Association and vote in our Association's Provincial Executive Council elections. Write ups on the candidates for Vice President and District Representatives will be found on our Provincial website over the next few weeks. You must have an online account to vote, so please take a moment to go to www.teachers.ab.ca and sign up.

Where does one begin when reflecting on current provincial politics? How will education be impacted by the provincial budget? Will there be a spring election? How will government deal with a \$7 billion shortfall? I urge you to stay informed, read our Association's ATA News and check the Provincial website. My response to those questions- fasten your seat belt, it's going to be a bumpy ride!

Please stop by our Local's booth at GETCA - I look forward to chatting with YMM teachers!

Nancy Ball

Local President



Our Local Booth

Meet and visit with your local's executive and school reps as we would love to meet you and hear what you have to say! We will also have lots of useful information specifically for Fort McMurray teachers. Just a reminder that each year, **our local collects your hotel toiletries to donate to local organizations.** To encourage you to drop by at some point during the convention, we will have some free giveaways as well as a **FORT MCMURRAY TEACHER ONLY** draw for **TWO AMAZING PRIZES!**

We will be located outside of the entrance to Hall A & B in the **Shaw Centre.** Come and see us!

Shannon Dubé

ATA Local #48

Local Communications Officer

GETCA Keynote Speakers

Ms. Victoria Maxwell

Mr. Bill Belsey

Dr. Robyn Jackson

Mr. Shane Koyczan

Colin Mochrie and Debra McGrath

Dr. Maggie Mamen

Mr. Wab Kinew

Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod

Mr. Jon Montgomery

Mr. Carl Honoré

Mr. Rick Wormeli

Ms. Anne Davies

Mr. Rob Stewart

Ms. Kim Phuc

Mr. Neil Pasricha

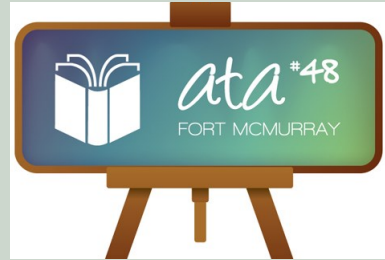
Mr. Dave Hemstad

Ms. Gabrielle Scrimshaw

Mr. Alex Bilodeau

Mr. Joseph Boyden

Ms. Sarah Elton



Special Notes

- Bring your hotel toiletries to the YMM booth as they will be donated to the Centre of Hope. Let's fill a suitcase!
- GETCA wristbands will be replacing the traditional lanyards.
- Tweet your Twitter! Both @PreferEd and @local48 will be tweeting during convention. Follow the tweets and join the conversation!
- See getca.com for more information on keynote speakers and all other sessions and events.

GETCA Socials

Two socials from 4:00 - 5:30

1) Chill and Chat, Riverview Room, Appetizers served, Cash Bar, Entertainment by the Hamilton Trio

2) GETCA at the Craft Beer Market - Appetizers served, Large selection of beers for purchase

Check the GETCA website closer to convention for dates.



A Note from PD

The Local 48 PD Committee would like to offer sponsorship to teachers for personal professional development in the following two formats. Applications for funding may be submitted to PD Co-Chairs Veronica Doleman and Deborah Nicholson.

Book Studies

Groups of teachers who would like to participate in a book study may apply to the PD committee for funds to purchase books for participants. Books could be purchased through a variety of sources, the Barnett House Library being one. The book would need to be related to the participant's professional growth and focus on curriculum, teaching practice, or student wellness. Along with the book requests, a group would be asked to submit a SMART goal and timeline. Groups would also be asked to consider the possibility of sharing their findings at an ATA monthly council meeting.

Collaborative Discussion Groups

The PD Committee would like to facilitate groups of teachers to get together after school hours to share resources and best teaching practices, focusing on individual professional growth. The committee will cover the cost of light snacks and refreshments for participants. Groups would not need to meet at a school; the collaboration could take place wherever the group members chose. Groups are asked to submit a proposal to the PD Committee explaining the focus of their discussion. For example, Grade 4 teachers, Music K-6, DI, or Project Based Learning. Be creative, think cross-districts, think outside the box. After PD committee approval and their first meeting, a group would submit a participant list and receipt with the cost being limited to \$125 per group.



Upcoming Conference Dates

Teacher Growth, Supervision, and Evaluation Seminar (Feb 2—3)

Le Conseil Francais Conference (Feb 5—6)

Teacher Convention—GETCA (Feb 26—27)

Substitute Teachers Appreciation Week (March 9—13)

Educational Technology Council Conference (March 13—15)

Diversity, Equity, and Human Rights DEHR Conference (March 13—14)

Council for School Leadership (March 15—18)

Convention Attendance Guidelines

All teachers have a legal as well as a professional obligation to attend the annual teachers' convention to which they have been assigned as stated in the School Act.

A charge of unprofessional conduct under Association discipline bylaws may be lodged against a teacher who fails to attend the teachers' convention. School boards also have the right to deduct pay from teachers absent from a convention without authorization or reason and, in fact, have done so.

Employers, school staff, Association subgroups and individual teachers shall not organize other school or district activities that conflict with annual teachers' conventions. Any such other activities that are scheduled may be contrary to the School Act.

Notwithstanding teacher rights under collective agreements, teachers are expected to consider convention dates as a professional priority in planning for the school year and as a link to their Teacher Professional Growth Plans.

Check out the new and improved website for your ATA Local 48, where you will find important information, notification of upcoming events, professional development opportunities, everything you need to know about GETCA, and much more! You will also find links to a new website hosted by the ATA that provides guests with the opportunity to write their MLA with questions or concerns regarding education, and to the Members Only area of the Alberta Teachers Association website to register and participate in the upcoming ATA elections! Check us out at: <http://local48.teachers.ab.ca>

