



ATA LOCAL #48

January 2016

From Our President

Here is a list of resolutions for 2016:

- Create a profile and log onto the Association's website: www.teachers.ab.ca
- Stay informed and up to date on educational issues by reading the ATA News
- Read the latest edition of the ATA Magazine to learn about Teacher Welfare
- Attend the January 28th reception with President Mark Ramsankar
- Chair at session at the Greater Edmonton Teachers Convention Association - www.getca.com
- Look in the mirror and ask, 'How can I support my Association?'

Why choose only one? Couldn't you manage all six? This edition of our newsletter contains important information on our annual teachers' convention, GETCA! Many thanks to Lana, James, and Kim for representing our teachers and volunteering many hours to ensure that GETCA is a great success! So, what's it going to be colleagues? How are you going to support those who work on your behalf? C2 Committees and Economic Policy Committees will be seeking your input! All the best.

Nancy Ball, President ATA Local 48

GETCA Tip: Book your hotel room now under ATA.

Visit our local 48 GETCA booth in February for giveaways and enter in to win prizes!



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Did You Know?

Convention Purpose:

Teachers' conventions have been established through provincial legislation in the province to provide teachers a forum to renew their professional skills on an annual basis.

The Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention Association develops programs of general interest to teachers at all levels across a broad field of curriculum. Convention planning takes into account the needs of individual teachers to become aware of new knowledge and trends in teaching and school organization, and also their needs to establish and broaden communications with other teachers on matters of professional concern.

GETCA a Life!

When the going gets tough, the tough GETCA going! This February you can GETCA hip with Hip Hughes; GETCA inspired by the likes of Olympic bronze medalist Joannie Roachette or sports host Michael Landsberg; GETCA a laugh with CBC's long running Irrelevant Show. Or perhaps you GETCA off on literature, so check out the likes of Paulette Bourgeois (you Franklin the Turtle fans) or Lawrence Hill of *Book of Negroes* fame. *Wanna GETCA down and boogie, then maybe Choir! Choir! Choir! is your thing. Or you can GETCA excited by such luminaries as Lewis MacKenzie, Adria Vasiland Adam Kreek.*

GETCA the message? Teacher's convention is just around the corner! The schedule is completed and on the website and interested individuals can register now to chair a session. Pre-registration for sessions requiring it opens February 1. New this year are collaboration sessions put together by teachers themselves. Seventeen rooms are available Friday afternoon for teachers to get together and have some custom PD with their colleagues. Email vpprograms@getca.com to reserve a room. Finally, don't forget GETCA to spend some time socializing with friends and colleagues at the various social events, such as live music at the Riverview Room Thursday afternoon at 4:00, or come over to the Craft Beer Market to quaff some brew and enjoy free snacks. Or take the classy route and plan to register for Friday afternoon's High Tea at the Hotel MacDonald's Empire Ballroom. What ever you do, don't waste time: GETCA off your butt and check out the www.getca.com website for more information on speakers, socials and more!



Teacher Convention

GETCA is full of opportunities for PD! There are sessions for every interest and teaching assignment. There are even famous keynote speakers that come to GETCA to speak specifically to us: teachers!

Looking for resources? Visit the huge resource fair in Hall D.

***Did you know you can chair a session and introduce a really amazing speaker!? Sign up at www.getca.com**

****Did you know that our local helps support [homelessness in Fort McMurray](#) by attending convention? Every year, at our local booth, we [collect toiletries to donate to the Centre of Hope!](#)**



PD Committee

Your PD Committee has reviewed the feedback from Institute 2015; thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. Discussion and planning has begun on next year's Institute. We will keep members updated on plans.

A reminder that funding is available for member book clubs that relate to teacher's professional development. Please submit your applications to the PD Committee via any committee member or PD Chair Deborah Nicholson deborah.nicholson@fmppsd.ab.ca.

The PD Committee would also like to solicit suggestions from members for after school and evening workshops. If you see a professional development need; let us know!

Teacher Welfare Update

With Bargaining right around the corner, and with the many, many changes that are taking place with regards to the process, it is imperative that teachers stay informed and up to date on what is happening. There are a number reasons why teachers should be informed and involved in the process.

- The List of Central Matters that the ATA and TEBA will be discussing is based on your feedback.
- In order to have your say in the ratification of the central table matters between the ATA and TEBA, you must be able to log in to the ATA website using your free username and password.
- A survey will be coming your way to determine the priorities of FMPSD teachers and that information will be used to create our positions for negotiating, make your voice heard.
- Education is important, educate yourselves about the process of bargaining and negotiations
- It is important to build collective support for general bargaining objectives, speak out about your conditions of practice.
- Many questions can be answered behind the members only portal on both the local and provincial websites.

8 WAYS TO STAY INFORMED

- Obtain a login on www.teachers.ab.ca - Winter 2015 ATA Magazine
- Update your profile - Follow ATA on Twitter, Like them on Facebook
- Sign-up for Members' Updates - Download the ATA App
- Read the ATA News

Also From EPC

Your Local ATA is preparing to host it's annual Pre-Retirement Workshop on Saturday February 6, 2016 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at Ecole McTavish School. The workshop is geared towards those ATA members who are considering retirement in the next 5 years, however not limited to those individuals. If you are considering retirement, or are just plain interested in such information, then we would invite you to attend this presentation. Spouses are welcome to attend as well. There will be snacks in the morning and afternoon and lunch provided. There is a registration fee of \$15 dollars per attendee (including spouses) which you can send to me via courier or you can pay your registration fee at the door. This fee will be used to cover the costs associated with hosting this workshop.

Topics being discussed will range from Financial Planning, Retirement Benefits, Alberta Retired Teachers Association, Alberta Teachers Retirement Fund, Retirement Lifestyle Planning, as well as Wills and Estate Planning.

Your cooperation is required however, if you are planning to or wish to attend, please forward me your name as soon as possible so we can ensure that we have enough space, materials, and most of all food for everyone. The deadline for registration will be Monday February 1, 2016.

From Our Vice Presidents

Are you new to teaching in Alberta? We would love to invite you to our ATA Induction for the 2015-2016 school year. This exciting event will take place on **February 11th, 2016**. Save the date as there will be fabulous food and drink provided at our pre-induction reception.

Local Political Engagement

Your Local #48 is launching a new section within the monthly newsletter - Got a question? Our aim is to be able to answer those questions that perhaps are sensitive in nature or to clarify common misconception by giving you accurate information. If you have question about your profession - we want to answer it!

I encourage you to submit your questions from home using your personal email account. Your submission will remain anonymous.

Please send questions to: ariana_mancini@hotmail.com and please place in the subject line GOT A QUESTION

Local Website Updates

We've added a section to the website for Member's Only. In order to access this important section you need to have a login for the website. **To get an account go to www.teachers.ab.ca** - click login - click request an account and enter the information required. You must have your certificate number to request an account. Please let us know if you need any help. **If you have events you want teachers to know about please send us details so we can add them to our calendar. Also we'd love some pictures of teachers in action in the class, school, and around the community to put on our page.**

Your Webmasters,

Sam Livingstone - saaylward@gmail.com
James Hayward - james_hayward@hotmail.com

DEHR News

Did you know that almost 10% of LGBTQ students reported having heard homophobic comments from teachers daily or weekly (17% of trans students; 10% of female sexual minority students; and 8% of male sexual minority students). Even more LGBTQ students reported that they had heard teachers use negative gender related or transphobic comments daily or weekly: 23% of trans students; 15% of male sexual minority students; and 12% of female sexual minority students.

Did you know that hardly any LGBTQ students reported that they never heard homophobic comments from other students (1% of trans students; 2% of female sexual minority students; 4% of male sexual minority students). This suggests that if you are a sexual minority student in a Canadian school, it is highly likely that you will hear insulting things about your sexual orientation.