



Vol. 1 - Issue 2 ~ October, 2019

President's Message

It has been a busy first month as I have visited most of the schools on the Nelson side, set up a new office, reviewed grievance files and attended district meetings. I fully appreciate everyone who came out and meet me and took the opportunity to inform me about the issues you are facing.

Most schools have now had remedy meetings. The process is the same as last year. You are not supposed to prep for your remedy (we don't prep to take our prep). If you are taking a remedy day, when you put your absence into SFE, in the note section, please make it very clear that it is a remedy day and what grade level and subject (s) the TTOC will be required to teach and prep, I do encourage you to guide your TTOC in terms of what you have been working on, resources or text books available and if there are projects in progress.

TTOCs, if you accept to work a remedy day for someone, please make sure that you are comfortable with the subject(s) and grade levels required. Use this as an opportunity to try out some of your own lessons and enjoy the day.

~Carla

World Teacher's Day

Teachers around the province and in more than 100 countries celebrate World Teachers' Day on October 5. World Teachers' Day was proclaimed by UNESCO in 1994 to raise awareness and understanding of the challenges facing teachers every day. The day provides the occasion to celebrate the teaching profession world wide, to take, stock of achievements, and to address the issues central for attracting and keeping the brightest minds in the profession.

Thank you for all the work you do in the classroom and in our community every day of the year to help learners of all ages. I hope you all feel well celebrated.



Dates to Remember

- October 1: Board meeting—6-8 pm
- October 9: NDTA meeting 4:15
- October 10: Pro-D SURT: 9am - 3pm
- October 10: TTOC Meeting and AGM
- October 25: PSA Day

Staff rep training will also be scheduled

Orange Shirt Day

On September 30th, teachers and school communities are encouraged to participate in Orange Shirt day. Orange Shirt day began in 2013 when Phyllis Jack Webstad, a residential school survivor, told her story at a commemoration event in Williams Lake. She shared how her shiny new orange shirt had been taken away upon arrival at St. Joseph Mission residential school.

Phyllis' story is used to teach students about residential schools and their assimilation practices and it helps us remember the 150 000 Indigenous children who were placed into the residential school system from pre- 1876 until 1996. We remember those who survived their experiences at these schools and the tragedy of the 6000 children who did not survive. We recognize that the residential school system harmed Indigenous children significantly by removing them from their families, depriving them of their native languages, and exposing them to physical and sexual abuse.

As we remember these tragic events, let's commit to fostering respect, reconciliation and mutual understanding with all Indigenous peoples



Changes to Board Policy 831

At the most recent board meeting, the board passed changes to policy 831 on cell phones and personal electronic devices. One of the changes, in section 1.2, now states that district management reserves the right to access **ALL** files and content on **PERSONAL** devices connected to district networks to check for inappropriate use.

The school district has assured me that they will not check employees' personal devices without cause, however, if you end up in a situation where you are being investigated, this is something that the management may do. If improper use is found, it may result in disciplinary action. Aside from activities that are clearly illegal, the district states that cell phones should not be used for surfing the Internet or gaming during work hours.

Please keep this policy in mind when accessing district networks using your personal device. For further information on this policy, please go [here](#).

IMPORTANT: Check Your Pay Stub

This is a reminder for everyone to check your pay stub carefully to make sure that you are being paid at the correct category and step. Also check to make sure that your sick days from last year have been ported and that you have been advanced your sick days for this year.

If you are a new teacher to school district 8, the district generally will pay you at the lowest category and step until they have all your documentation. As per section B article B.1—11 and 12, it is the teacher's responsibility to apply for credit for previous teaching experience. The district will pay you retroactively at your designated category and step from your initial date of appointment, **provided** that the necessary proof of experience has been received within the **first four months** from the date of appointment. If you miss that date, payment will commence on the first of the month following receipt of these documents. The district has been very strict on this point and there have been a number of teachers who have lost a significant amount of pay due to not checking their pay stubs.

Email Campaign

It's not too late to participate in the latest email campaign to ask the government to work towards a fair deal for teachers. Please go [here](#) to participate. Simply insert your information and add a personal note and hit send.

Soliciting Workshop Proposals

Members are encouraged to submit workshop proposals for both BCTF New Teachers' Conferences 2020 – Richmond, January 25, 2020 and Nelson, May 23, 2020. The deadline for submissions is Monday, October 7, 2019.

Pro-D Opportunities

October 25th is the provincial PSA day. In addition to whatever workshops the district might be offering, there are a variety of provincial specialist association conferences. You can find a list of all the PSA conferences [here](#).

If you are applying for Pro-D funds, please contact your school Pro-D rep early and fill out and submit your pre-approval form.

BCTF New Teachers' Conferences New Teachers, New TTOCs, and Teacher Candidates



Wellness Safety Balance *In life and on the job*

January 25
Richmond

SHERATON | Marriott.com/YVRVS
7551 Westminster Hwy,
Richmond, BC V6X 1A3
Richmond, British Columbia

January 24, 2020
Pre-conference Welcoming
Reception from 5pm to 7pm

May 23
Nelson

Prestige Lakeside Resort
and Convention Center
701 Lakeside Drive, Nelson BC V1L 6G3
Nelson, British Columbia

May 22, 2020
Pre-conference Welcoming
Reception from 5pm to 7pm

