



Rally in the works to support public education

See story on page 4.

ATAeNEWS

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CRAIG BASKERVILLE

The sun sets over Cold Lake on Aug. 16. Photo taken by Craig Baskerville, a former teacher at Cold Lake Middle School who is now a learning supports teacher at George McDougall High School in Airdrie. See page 12 for more photos showing what teachers got up to during their summer break.



Inquisitiveness, relationships and self-care

Advice for beginning teachers a reminder for everyone.

Read the editorial on page 2.



New website launched

ATA site aims to improve user experience.

See story on page 7.



Focused forward

Teachers have the ability and expertise to build a new future for public education, says ATA president.

See Viewpoints on page 3.



Time to rebuild

UCP leadership candidates pledge to repair relationship with teachers.

See story on page 5.

Recharge as necessary to maximize your power



EDITORIAL

Nancy Luyckfassel
Associate Co-ordinator,
ATA Professional
Development

On Sept. 23 and 24, several hundred teachers will gather in Edmonton to attend the 27th annual Beginning Teachers' Conference. Many of them will show up bright eyed. Some will show up tired. But they will all show up with enthusiasm and a readiness to learn because this is the career they have chosen and the path they want to take. The participants, teachers in their first two years of teaching, will attend a variety of sessions led by fellow teachers—specialist council members and Association staff—focused on curricular content, pedagogy and what it means to be a member of the profession.

I've been thinking about what I would like all participants to leave knowing and, although the list is long and detailed, I've distilled it down to three key messages. The ABCs of teaching to remember as you begin your career and as you move through it in the years and decades ahead.

Ask questions. My dad often said, "You are never further behind by asking questions." So, ask. Ask when you are unclear of a process, policy or procedure. Ask when you don't know how to handle a situation, interaction or problem. Ask when you need a fresh perspective or new way of doing something.

And most importantly, ask when you need help. If you ask, and you get the clarity, advice and support you need, you are moving ahead. If you don't get what you seek, you are where you started, and then you need to ask again (either in another way or a different person).

“... make time every day to recharge and not just wait until the weekend ...”

You would want your students to ask if they were unclear, uncertain or needed help, so give yourself the same grace and ask the questions you have.

Build relationships. Positive interactions between individuals create a sense of belonging, build trust, and lead to improved connections and community in classrooms and schools. When I think back to my favourite teaching memories, the moments that stand out the most are those shared

with students and colleagues for whom there was reciprocal understanding and respect (and which were often filled with good conversation, stories and laughter).

The simplest, most effective way to begin building relationships is to learn people's names and use them as often as you can. This shows respect and makes an immediate connection. By knowing someone's name, pronouncing it properly and using it appropriately, you show them that they are seen, that you recognize them as an individual and value them. This applies not only

and are more willing to ask questions, take risks and be open.

Care for yourself. When you are at your best, you give your best. If you think of your teaching enthusiasm and ability like a battery, you know that your energy is constantly being drawn down by interactions, responsibilities and the act of teaching itself. Teacher well-being is not solely the responsibility of each individual teacher, and there are many other factors that contribute to and influence teacher well-being, but there are self-care strategies that can be used to help recharge.

Much like the batteries on our phones (which need charging numerous times throughout a week), we need to ensure that we make time every day to recharge and not just wait until the weekend to do so. How individuals recharge varies but may include activities like movement, laughter, music, mindfulness, play or sleep (to name a few).

The ideas here are just the first three of an alphabet list I could fill with advice for those beginning their careers as teachers. These ideas would all have the same foundational belief: each teacher has power. Through their attitudes and actions, teachers have the power to influence their own well-being and the lives of students.

We have power. Let's use it. ■

Teachers should take a close look at wanna-be premiers



Q & A

Dennis Theobald
ATA Executive
Secretary

Question: I'm outraged that the Alberta Teachers' Association gave the UCP leadership candidates prime time at Summer Conference to talk to members and even sell UCP party memberships. What were you thinking?

Answer: I'm actually very pleased that six of the seven candidates for the hotly contested leadership of the United Conservative Party took the time to come out to Banff at their own expense to talk to teacher leaders gathered there for the ATA Summer Conference. The "odd man out" was Travis Toews who, having previously accepted the invitation to attend, begged off citing a scheduling issue. Toews sent a milquetoast greeting video instead.

The reality is that one of the seven candidates will, on Oct. 6, become premier of Alberta and occupy that office at least until the provincial election, scheduled to take place on May 29, 2023. The other potential candidate for premier is Rachel Notley, leader of the Alberta New Democratic

Party, who was also invited to attend Summer Conference, but was not available. The NDP did not accept an offer to accommodate them by hosting a meet-and-greet with MLAs representing the party, but Notley did send along her own video that was shared with attendees the day after the UCP leadership candidates' forum.

Given the way our parliamentary system has evolved, the premier has considerable influence over critical policies across all ministries. For teachers, then, the opportunity to understand the intentions and orientation of the next premier with respect to education issues is of critical importance. That is why the Association has routinely invited leadership candidates for parties represented in the legislature to address teachers at various events.

In past years, candidates for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative, Liberal, Alberta and New Democratic parties have all been invited, with most leadership candidates choosing to make an appearance. Furthermore, the Association has encouraged and facilitated its members to take out a party membership in whatever party they may wish to involve themselves.

It is mistaken, and a bit arrogant, to assume that teachers are, collectively,

a political monolith. While the vast majority share a broad common commitment to public education and advancing the interests of the profession and their students, our members reflect the diversity of the province in their personal political allegiances.

I'll note that observers of Alberta's political scene credit teacher involvement with playing a critical role in several notable leadership races in the past. In 2006, in an appearance at the Political Action Seminar, Ed Stelmach announced his intention, if he were to become premier, to fund the \$2.2 billion unfunded liability of the teachers' pension fund. In 2011, Alison Redford similarly sought teacher support by promising to walk back a \$107 million cut in education spending. Both subsequently were elected to the leadership of their parties and became premier. Both kept their promises. We can only speculate, and many have, what role teacher mobilization played in those outcomes.

I encourage teachers to view the video of the UCP leadership forum that was posted shortly after the event at www.teachers.ab.ca/news. It was no walk in the park for the candidates. The questions posed by moderator Kelly Cryderman were developed with input from attendees and covered a range

of tough issues including curriculum, education funding and the transfer of the ATRF to AIMCo.

Interestingly, almost all candidates were all highly critical of Education Minister LaGrange's new curriculum and particularly how it was being rolled out. Even Danielle Smith was lukewarm at best in her support, saying while the math and language arts programs were improved (the audience vocally disagreed, particularly with the former), in other subject areas more work and additional support for implementation was required. All said that Toews' unilateral hijacking of the teachers' pension fund was unacceptable and each further committed to rebuilding the government's relationship with the Association, which has deteriorated severely over the last three-and-a-half years.

Whether an individual chooses to support the UCP or any one of the leadership candidates is their business, but it is in the interests of all teachers to understand what the aspiring premiers think about public education, what commitments they are willing to make, and to hold them individually and collectively to their promises. ■

Questions for consideration in this column are welcome. Please address them to Dennis Theobald at dennis.theobald@ata.ab.ca.



We will build a better future



VIEWPOINTS

Jason Schilling
ATA President

The last few years and months have been challenging, for all of us, both personally and professionally. We all know it was difficult for many reasons, from Covid to curriculum to the teachers' vote on the mediator's recommendations. I think we can all agree that we do not want a repeat of those experiences.

As we begin another school year, and the excitement of another year fills our classrooms, I cannot help but wonder how we can use the lessons learned from the last few months and years to reimagine a better future for everyone involved in public education. How can we take what we have learned, be focused forward on the future, and then work together to create the best schools for ourselves and our students?

Together, we have the opportunity build a new future, one that sees equity for our students and our colleagues – a future for education that respects those who work in schools, honours the professionalism of teachers and school leaders, and respects the modern diversity of Alberta with a curriculum that reflects the future and is not rooted in the past.

Colleagues, we are the leaders that public education needs. Each of you is the voice and face of education that people in your schools and communities have come to trust. Collectively, we will use our expertise to provide long-term solutions to the systemic issues that have plagued our schools for too long – issues such as poverty, class size, funding, resources, supports for learning needs and mental health.

Our students and colleagues have needs that have only been amplified in the the last several years, and the inadequate funding and planning of the government has contributed to greater inequalities and struggles.

Unfortunately, there is a leadership void at the government level, not only in education but also in other sectors. That will also be a focus of the ATA through the next year and beyond. We cannot let others fill in this space and dictate to the profession whichever bad idea they think will "fix" education.

Our classrooms do not need more Band-Aid approaches, which is why on Wednesday, Aug. 10, the ATA hosted a panel for the UCP leadership candidates who are vying to be the next premier of our province. It was our chance to see and hear if, in fact, these candidates have serious solutions for the real concerns teachers have for their students.

“ Each of you is the voice and face of education that people in your schools and communities have come to trust. ”

Candidates detailed their vision for education around funding, curriculum, the relationship with the ATA and pensions.

The 2023 election is a very significant event, as is the leadership race that is happening now, but education should be a top priority every year for people who are elected to sit in the legislature.

The panel was informative, but I reminded the candidates that

their policies in the past two years have failed students, parents and teachers. As we remain focused on the future of public education, I noted that we will be watching to see if they put their words into action, and we will hold them accountable if they do not.

At our 2022 Annual Representative Assembly, we passed a resolution that directed the ATA to “initiate a broadly based, outward-facing program of research, expert consultation, public dialogue and member outreach to examine the academic, social and emotional challenges facing students in the post-pandemic period with the objective of identifying potential education policy responses to improve student well-being and success.”

The work to address this forward-focused resolution has already begun and will continue into the fall with a rally to support public education leading up to the provincial election and beyond. We have the expertise, the dedication and the desire. I believe that teachers and the ATA can and should lead improvements in education by working with others, such as parents and a variety of other stakeholders, who believe in strong public education for all students.

It will not be easy or perfect, and there are still many challenges we face as a profession, but dealing with challenges comes with the territory when you are fighting for something you believe in. Throughout all this, we must also maintain an element of hope and unity. Hope is very powerful, and people will seek to undermine it, yet hope still happens when we work together toward something brighter and better.

I am equally as confident and hopeful that teachers, who are leaders of this profession, will bring new ideas to support each other and the students across this province. Finally, I am confident and hopeful that we will build a better future for our students, together, in strength and solidarity, as one profession united. ■

YOUR VIEWS

ON TWITTER

Dave Martin @d_martin05

With a week away let's remember... students care less about the order of the course or the mark distribution, and more about whether they will be accepted, listened to and cared for. Make the first days about joy and connections, not about the curriculum.

From the ATA's Summer Conference (#sumcon)

Kevin McBean @kmcbean

My phone died (as did part of my soul) during the @Alberta_UCP candidate forum on education, but here are some highlights: heard lots about how candidates will strive for a better relationship with teachers. I hope you sincerely listen to the voices of @albertateachers.

Brice Unland @DrJykill

I appreciate (and respect) that some of my @albertateachers colleagues were not having any of it at the #ATASumCon debate. Teachers have diverse views, like the 49/51 vote. It's important for all of us to remember that.

Miss Dreyer @DreyerMiss

Love ATA Summer Conference! The excitement of teachers coming together, the location, the incredible speakers and sessions! Today was a grand day!

Dahlia Holtet @DahliaHoltet

Such a fun and rewarding experience to spend the week in Banff with so many educators who are so dedicated to advocating for this great profession.

Cherra O @MsOTweets77

Thank you so much @nenshi for beginning by acknowledging that teachers have been through a lot. So many have tried to minimize the hardships we have faced over the past two years.

Mikkel Nannan @mikkel_one

Loved seeing people in person today!!! Putting a face to the @albertateachers that are strong advocates for public education in twitterverse made it even better!

FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

On the government's recent education funding announcement

Kirsten Wright

On LaGrange's Twitter page she has posted headlines making it sound as if they are allocating more funds.... then in the small print it states that they are pulling from reserve funds to fund new hires.

Letters to the editor: We welcome letters to the editor. Please limit your submission to 300 words. Only letters bearing a first and last name, address and daytime telephone number will be considered for publication. Teachers are also asked to indicate where and what they teach. All letters are subject to editing for length, clarity, punctuation, spelling and grammar. Email managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.



FOR THE RECORD

“ The most important day of a person's education is the first day of school, not graduation day. ”

– Harry Wong, co-author: *The First Days of School: How to Be an Effective Teacher*



A fall rally is expected to draw participants from all over the province.

FILE

New staff officer joins TES

Sandra Bit
ATA News Staff

New ATA staff officer Christien Perrault will be using his teaching experience and expertise gleaned from working on multiple Association committees to help teachers navigate employment issues.



Christien Perrault,
ATA staff officer

A native French speaker, Perrault started working in Teacher Employment Services (TES) on Aug. 1. He will be helping members with employment concerns and assisting with collective bargaining. He feels that knowledge acquired from the various ATA committees he has served on during his 16-year teaching career, as well as courses he has taken, will help

him succeed in this new and challenging role.

"During my teaching career, I had the pleasure of negotiating three collective agreements, and I had the opportunity to take courses to deepen my understanding of bargaining styles and processes," he said.

Perrault began teaching at St. Gregory's Elementary School in Hinton, where he taught for three years. He later moved to teaching junior and senior high mathematics, physical education and CTS courses at École Alexandre Taché in St. Albert for 13 years.

"My colleagues' collective rights have been a passion of mine since the early years of my teaching career. As a result of this passion, I have invested a lot of my time serving on many ATA committees at the local level," Perrault said. His committee experience includes Teacher Welfare, Negotiating Subcommittee, Teacher Workload and Efficacy, Grievance, and Teacher and Board Liaison, to name just a few. ■

ATA plans Oct. 22 rally

ATA News Staff

Teachers will come together with parents, students and allies at a family-friendly rally in support of public education planned for the Alberta legislature on Oct. 22.

"This rally is our chance to create a new narrative about what we want to see for public education, now and in the future," said ATA president Jason Schilling.

After years of government decisions that have negatively impacted classrooms, including funding cuts and a disastrous curriculum, the Association's Provincial Executive

Council determined that, as the Association works to make education a top priority in the 2023 provincial election, a rally to stand for public education will be key to sending a message to the new Alberta premier, who will be chosen on Oct. 6.

Thousands of teachers standing together in solidarity to support public education will help send a clear message: Albertans value public education and want to see changes that will help improve supports for students and their teachers, Schilling said.

Further details will be announced as they become available. Stay tuned to the ATA's social media channels and its website at www.teachers.ab.ca. ■

5 MORE THINGS

about Christien

What makes you the most excited to start work at the ATA?

Finding career growth while continuing to support my colleagues. I am excited about the new challenges I will face.

Knowing what you know now, what advice would you give yourself in your first year as a teacher?

Take time to enjoy the process and ensure that you find a work-life balance that is sustainable for you.

What is the greatest life lesson that teaching has taught you?

Every student has a story—take the time to learn it.

Favourite song to put you in a good mood?

Le Parapluie by Georges Brassens

Favourite summer activity/hobby/project on the go at home?

My favourite summer activity is anything outdoors with my family. My hobby is woodworking, and I have too many projects on the go to list them all!

Association awards fellowships and scholarships

ATA News Staff

Provincial Executive Council has announced the winners of the 2022 ATA fellowships and scholarships.

Doctoral Fellowship in Education

Each year, the Association awards two fellowships, valued at \$15,000 each, to ATA members who have been accepted into, or have already embarked upon, full-time study in a doctoral program in education at a recognized public university. The fellowship program is intended to recognize academic excellence and to help defray the financial costs of university study.

Mat Campbell

Mat Campbell is from Fort McMurray and currently serves as the director of curriculum, instruction and assessment with Fort McMurray Catholic Schools. Previously, he was a school-based administrator, learning coach and high school science teacher.

Campbell is interested in studying change leadership and how it intersects with creating more equitable school systems. He holds an M.Ed. (2014), a B.Ed. (2009) and a B.Sc. (2007). Campbell says he is proud to teach and lead in northern Alberta and is a fierce promoter of the Wood Buffalo region. In his spare time, he works as



Mat Campbell



Linda Doyle

a contract instructor at the University of Alberta and enjoys travelling and spending time with his family.

Linda Doyle

Linda Doyle is currently a principal with the Calgary Board of Education and has held various roles in outreach education, secondary humanities and Indigenous education over her teaching career. Most recently, Doyle served for two years as the co-chair with Calgary Public Women in Leadership and currently serves as a member at large. She also sits on the ATA's Indigenous Education Committee.

Doyle is pursuing her doctorate of education with a focus on school-based leadership for reconciliation. She hopes to contribute to her field and her community through building



Jillian Marino

an understanding of the necessary conditions for improving education for self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit learners.

Nadene M. Thomas Graduate Research Bursary

The Nadene M. Thomas Graduate Research Bursary in the amount of \$5,000 is offered annually to a member of the Alberta Teachers' Association who is enrolled in a graduate program in a specialty in education at a recognized Canadian university. Research must focus on health issues affecting teachers and/or on teachers' working conditions.

Jillian Marino

Jillian Marino is the principal at Vimy Ridge Academy, a sports alternative school in Edmonton Public Schools

serving 1,160 students in Grades 7–12. Previously, she was the principal at John D. Bracco Junior High in northeast Edmonton.

Marino began her leadership journey as a department head of social studies, and then continued in the role of a high school assistant principal at various Edmonton schools. She has been with Edmonton Public Schools for 26 years and worked as a teacher at several schools.

As a school leader, Marino believes in building community, supporting students in academic achievement, developing leadership and citizenship in youth, mental health safety and wellness, and ensuring student and staff success in the teaching and learning journey together. She is currently completing her masters in counselling psychology at Yorkville University, New Brunswick. ■

MORE INFORMATION

For a list of Association grants, awards and scholarships that are available to subgroups and others, visit www.teachers.ab.ca >For Members>Grants, Awards and Scholarships.



The Alberta Teachers' Association

UCP candidates pledge to regain teacher trust

Leadership hopefuls offer differing views on curriculum

Mark Milne
ATA News Staff

The adversarial tone of Alberta's UCP government has eroded teacher trust and that cannot continue.

This was a point of agreement for all the UCP leadership candidates who participated in an education forum hosted by the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) on Aug. 10. Six of the seven candidates vying for the UCP leadership took part in the forum: Leela Aheer, Brian Jean, Todd Loewen, Rajan Sawhney, Rebecca Schulz and Danielle Smith. Travis Toews was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Held during the ATA's Summer Conference in Banff, the forum attracted nearly 500 teacher delegates.

Following candidate introductions, moderator Kelly Cryderman from the *Globe and Mail* posed curated questions previously gathered from teachers. Questions touched on topics ranging from curriculum development to the AIMCo "pension grab."

Of the six candidates present, Aheer, Sawhney and Schulz agreed that any further curriculum development must stop, but only Sawhney committed verbally to halting implementation of the new curriculum that's being rolled out this fall.

Both Loewen and Jean felt curriculum development should continue but with greater teacher input. Jean went a step further and proposed turning September's implementation into an optional pilot.

"Teachers are to decide whether or not they teach it," Jean said.

Smith defended the language arts and mathematics portions of the new curriculum, saying she's been hearing from parents that literacy and numeracy are two subject areas where the public education system was failing their kids. Her answer was not well received by the audience, which appeared to put Smith on the defensive.

"Look, if you want us to listen to you, you have to hear what we're hearing from parents."

Smith also named Postmedia newspaper columnist David Staples (an outspoken critic of the ATA) as someone she takes a lot of advice from on educational issues. This brought an audible groan from the crowd.



An education forum held during Summer Conference in Banff drew nearly 500 teacher delegates.

KIM CLEMENT

"Respect is a two-way street, guys. Honestly," replied Smith.

"That's all that we're asking," replied an unidentified woman in the crowd.

Aside from Smith, each candidate outlined their concerns with how the new curriculum was developed.

"The biggest concern I heard was around the process," said Schulz. "Teachers didn't feel like we had enough Alberta teachers involved in providing feedback in the process."

"It's not just about pulling this curriculum. This is about restarting an entire system of trust," added Aheer. "My job is to work with you. My job is to be your partner. My job is to make sure that you can do yours."

"We need to be able to listen in government," said Loewen. "We need to be able to take constructive criticism and be able to move forward and collaborate to get the proper results that we need."

Another hot-button issue was

the transfer of the Alberta Teacher Retirement Fund (ATRF) to AIMCo.

"Well, if you want to understand the deepest disrespect that we could have done to our teachers," said Aheer, "that was it."

Five of the six candidates agreed that lack of consultation with the ATRF was inexcusable. Smith, the other candidate, only commented that, if AIMCo had been able to provide better returns, the decision probably wouldn't have been so controversial. This comment drew another round of jeers from the crowd.

President issues warning

ATA president Jason Schilling wrapped up the forum with some stern words for the candidates.

"These are my colleagues," said Schilling. "These are teachers. And to be perfectly honest and frank with you, your party and your government has failed them."

"Our education system is an investment in our youth and our future," Schilling added. "It's not an expense."

Schilling told the candidates that when the new leader is elected, Alberta teachers and the ATA will hold them accountable to the promises they've made.

"I don't value dishonesty. I don't value empty words," Schilling said. "I'm hoping what we heard up here today are going to be things that you believe and you will champion and you will fight for." ■

SEE FOR YOURSELF

A full recording of the UCP candidates' education forum can be found in the news section of the ATA website at www.teachers.ab.ca.



Danielle Smith looks on and Leela Aheer addresses teachers during an education forum that included six of the seven UCP leadership candidates.

KIM CLEMENT



The ATA Educational Trust

Morgex/Johnson Insurance Centennial Fund for Teacher Development (\$600)

Through this grant program, the Trust encourages teachers to advance their knowledge and teaching skills by attending a non-ATA conference, a workshop, a seminar, an institute or a symposium. Grants are paid after the recipient has attended the professional development event, submitted proof of payment and a completed claim form.

Application deadline: September 30, 2022

ATA Specialist Council Conference Grants (\$500)

Each year, the Trust awards a number of grants to help defray the costs associated with attending an ATA specialist council conference. Eligible expenses include registration, accommodation, fuel and food. Only expenses not covered by other grants will be considered for compensation.

Application deadline: September 30, 2022

www.teachers.ab.ca > My ATA > Programs and Services > Grants, Awards and Scholarships > The ATA Educational Trust

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Quebec's Heidi Yetman to lead CTF in 2023



Heidi Yetman, president, Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers

Ottawa — Heidi Yetman, president of the Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT), was elected president-designate by acclamation at the first in-person annual general meeting of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) since 2019.

"It is a privilege to participate in this 100-plus year's special edition of the AGM," Yetman said. "As president-designate, my goal is to continue the important work that the CTF/FCE has been doing to improve the lives of teachers, and advocate for quality publicly funded public education and social justice on a national level."

Before becoming QPAT president, Yetman was president of the Pearson Teachers' Union and taught science and art for 23 years at the high school level. She served as a vice-president of the CTF/FCE from 2018 to 2019 and again beginning in 2021. She currently holds the role of executive committee liaison for the CTF/FCE's Comité consultatif du français langue première.

Yetman's invaluable experience at the CTF/FCE has allowed her to chair two advisory committees and attend the Education International 2019 World Congress, where she facilitated a women's caucus session. Her journey has also led her to moderate the 2019 AGM Women's Caucus and a women's panel at the CTF/FCE Women's Symposium. In 2020, Yetman was a keynote speaker at the Manitoba Teachers' Society Women's Symposium.

Past president Shelley Morse has now completed her term on the executive committee. All other members will continue their two-year terms until 2023, including President Sam Hammond and Vice-President Jenny Regal, who is also a vice-president of the ATA. ■

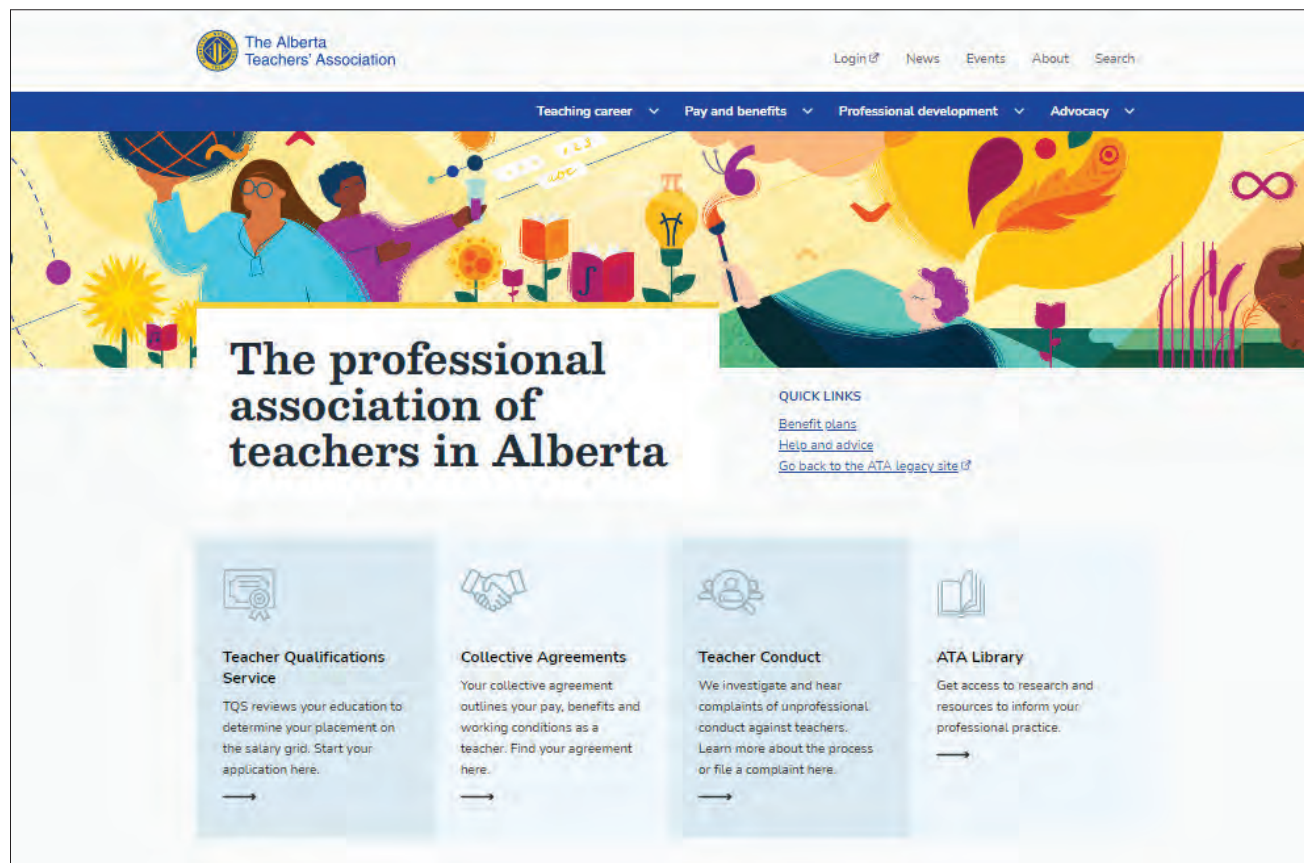
NOTICES

On Dec. 9, 2019, a hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee established under the *Teaching Profession Act* found that Dwayne Schnell engaged in unprofessional conduct. The hearing committee ordered that Schnell's membership in the Association be suspended effective Dec. 9, 2019.

On Dec. 8, 2021, a hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee established under the *Teaching Profession Act* found that Catherine Rolica engaged in unprofessional conduct. The hearing committee ordered that Rolica's membership in the Association be suspended effective Dec. 8, 2021.

On Dec. 9, 2021, a hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee established under the *Teaching Profession Act* found that Ulanda Ryder engaged in unprofessional conduct. The hearing committee ordered that Ryder's membership in the Association be cancelled effective Dec. 9, 2021.

On Feb. 23, 2022, a hearing committee of the Professional Conduct Committee established under the *Teaching Profession Act* found that Andrew Philip Jissink engaged in unprofessional conduct. The hearing committee ordered that Andrew Philip Jissink be permanently ineligible for membership in the Association.



CORY HARE

The new website is intended to be more user friendly for members.

ATA launches new website

ATA News Staff

A completely redesigned ATA website will enable Alberta teachers to more easily access their association's information and services.

Launched in July after months of development, the new website at teachers.ab.ca has been organized to provide a more intuitive experience that enables users to find what they're looking for more quickly, said ATA president Jason Schilling.

"I'm excited," Schilling said. "Our staff has worked really hard, along with an external web design firm, to create a useful, user-focused site."

Research suggests that users don't read websites; they scan in search of the content they want. To help ATA website visitors do this, the new website uses short sentences, bulleted lists and "chunkified" text.

The site was created through extensive user testing. Content has been grouped by function rather than following the ATA's program areas and departments, which are sometimes confusing to members.

"Websites are constantly evolving to serve users, and ATA staff will be updating the new site regularly with thoughtful consideration for the needs of both our members and the public," Schilling said.

The previous version of the ATA website had been the source of member criticism for being difficult to navigate and for containing too much information. (It contained 50,000 pages, 40 times more pages than *War and Peace*.)

The new site represents the first of several phases and contains only about 50 pages. Some additional content will be included as future phases are completed. At the moment, the old website is available at legacy.teachers.ab.ca. ■

Council establishes new awards

PEC POINTS

Audrey Dutka
ATA News Staff

Highlights of the Provincial Executive Council meeting held June 9 and 10, 2022, Barnett House, Edmonton.

1. Authorized the provincial Association, with the assistance of local presidents, to create a political rally in the fall of 2022.
2. Declared in effect an amendment to General Bylaw 70, as contained in Electoral Ballot 1 of 2021 and approved by the 2022 Annual Representative Assembly. The amendment removes the unnecessary step of having Council authorize, prior to each election, the processes for electronic voting for Council general elections and by-elections, as the Administrative Guidelines already set out these processes.
3. Established a President's Award of Merit and an Association Award of Merit and set the criteria for each award.
4. Approved in principle the Grievance Approval and Appeal Policy of the Alberta Teachers' Association and authorized that the finalized policy be registered with the Alberta Labour Relations Board.
5. In accordance with section 31(2) of the *Teaching Profession Act*, approved an extension to the time period to commence a hearing.
6. Received the report of a hearing committee that

rendered a decision of not guilty to a teacher accused of unprofessional conduct for speaking to a staff member loudly in an argumentative way.

7. Received the report of a hearing committee that found a teacher guilty of three counts of unprofessional conduct for purchasing and providing alcohol to students and consuming alcohol with students, for allowing students into the teacher's home where inappropriate socializing occurred and for physically grabbing a student.

The hearing committee imposed a penalty of a letter of severe reprimand to encompass all charges, a \$3,000 fine and a one-year suspension of membership from the Association. The suspension shall be placed into abeyance for a period of five years under the condition the teacher meets a list of specified conditions. Failing to meet the conditions would result in a recommendation from the Association to the minister of education to suspend the teacher's teaching certificate for one year.

8. Received the report of a Professional Conduct Appeal Committee that upheld an appeal and quashed both the findings and the order of a hearing committee.

9. Approved costs of up to \$1.2 million for implementation of the Election Readiness Plan 2023, with costs charged to the Special Emergency Fund or the Defence and Advocacy Fund as determined by Finance Committee.

10. Amended the frame of reference of the Communications, Advocacy and Public Education Committee to add one additional field member to its membership. ■

FEED YOUR FUTURE

Step Into an Agriculture Career

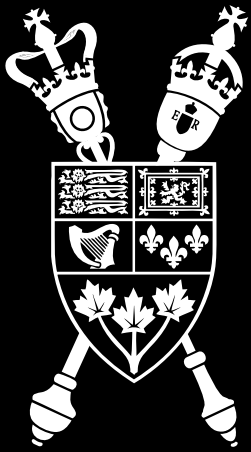
Find the perfect fit with a diverse STEM-based career in agriculture and food production. Ag for Life's *Feed Your Future* initiative is designed to empower young women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and promote ways to advance education and provide networking opportunities, professional development, mentorship and collaboration.

Thursday, November 24, 2022
9 a.m. to noon, MST.

This free, half-day virtual event is open to girls in Grades 9 to 12 and post-secondary students. Visit FeedYourFutureCareer.ca to sign-up and get full event details.

FEED YOUR FUTURE

Ag for Life



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Apply by
Oct. 10, 2022



DIG IN TO GEOSCIENCE!

FREE for all ages

Inspire your students with the wonders of geoscience and see what a career in geoscience could look like.

Saturday, Oct. 1

Virtual Experience: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Play along to the Geoscience Game Show and attend mini interactive activities

In-Person Events: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Visit partner organizations throughout Alberta or compete for prizes in a self-guided GeoHunt



Register by Sept. 28 apega.ca/rock-fossil

Receive up to

\$5,000

for your engineering- or geoscience-focused classroom initiative!



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INNOVATION
in EDUCATION
AWARDS

Apply by Oct. 30

apega.ca/education-awards

Up to 10 awards available

Mark Your Calendar Registration opens Sept. 6

SCIENCE
OLYMPICS

Compete in person or virtually alongside teams in grades 1–12 to create innovative solutions to engineering- and geoscience-inspired challenges.

Win prizes, trophies, and more!



Learn more at apega.ca/sciolympics

Learn to think like a geoscientist on guided geoscience walks!

Just for educators—ideal for grades 3 and 7 curricula.

Friday, Sept. 23
Calgary

Friday, Sept. 23
Medicine Hat

Friday, Oct. 21
Edmonton



Cost: \$20 + GST

Contact outreach@apega.ca to register.

Follow us on social media



The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta

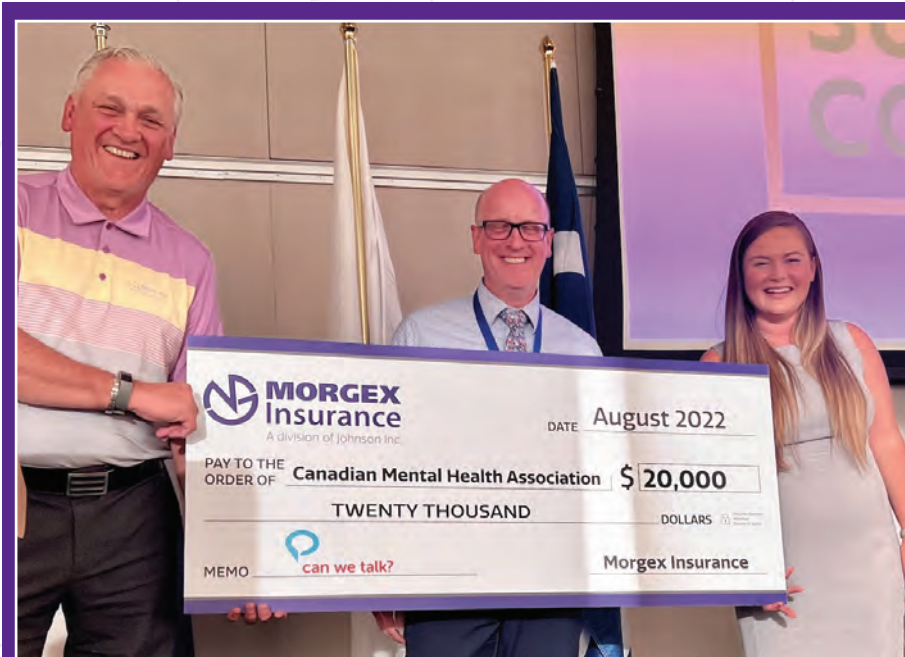


CONGRATULATIONS

Coast 2 Coast

CONTEST WINNERS

Sharon Barry and Danielle Rambaut



can we talk?

During the ATA's Summer Conference, Randy Pearson (left) of Morgex Insurance presented a cheque for \$20,000 to Jason Schilling (right), ATA President and Kolbi Kukurba, (Director of Advancement & Social Enterprise for CMHA-Alberta). The donation will go toward the CMHA's Can We Talk program, which is a partnership between the CMHA, the Alberta Teachers' Association and Global Television. Morgex pledged to donate \$20 for every price quote requests received from teachers in April, May and June.

Teachers get more with Morgex

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- Save up to \$960 when you bundle your home and car insurance*
- 24/7 Emergency Claims Service
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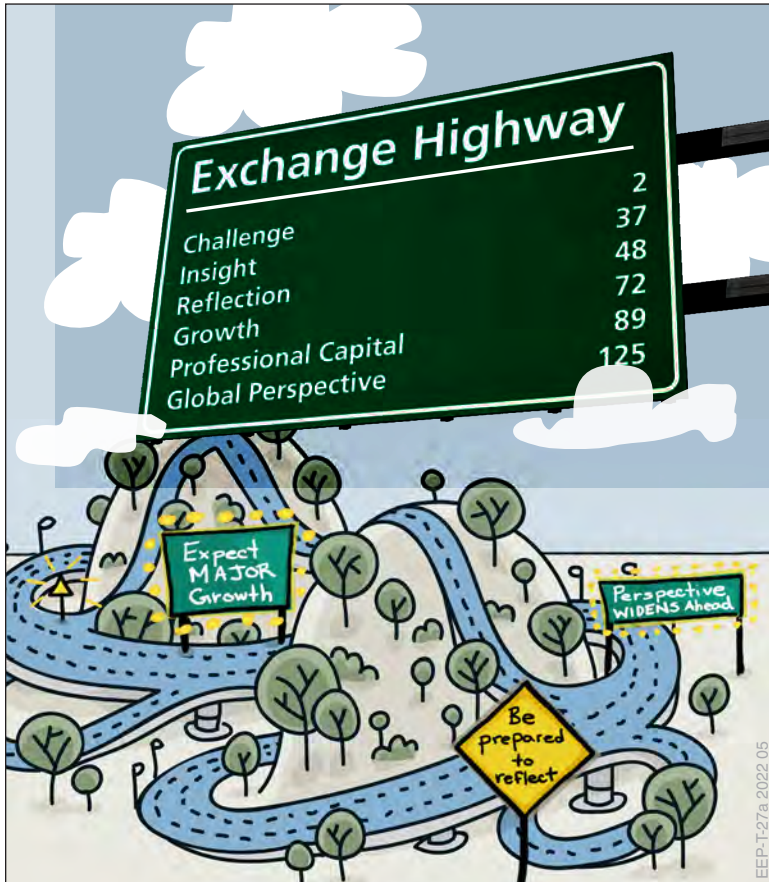
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The Alberta Teachers' Association

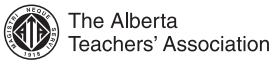
Morgex Insurance is a tradename of Johnson Inc. ("JI"), a licensed insurance intermediary. Home and auto policies underwritten exclusively by Unifund Assurance Company ("UAC"). Described coverage and benefits applicable only to policies underwritten by Unifund in Alberta. JI and UAC share common ownership. Eligibility requirements, limitations, exclusions, additional costs and/or restrictions may apply. *As of March 1, 2021, \$960 combined savings available on home and car insurance if the following discounts are applicable: conviction free, multi-line (home and auto), multi-vehicle, winter tire, new business, and member (home and auto). Dollar savings may vary otherwise.



EEP-T-27a 2022-05

Virtual and in-person short-term exchanges for teachers and school leaders.

Visit teachers.ab.ca, search "teacher exchange" for applications and details.



It's that time of the year again!

As we head back to school we want to wish you the very best for the year ahead and thank you for all your hard work and dedication. We know you've got a lot to think about and lessons to plan, so we're here to support as you prepare for your own future.

Visit atrf.com to find the answers to any questions you might have about your pension.



Visit: [ATRF.com](https://atrf.com)



Substitute Teachers' Conference

The

The Alberta Teachers' Association

Joy of Teaching

October 14(eve)–15, 2022

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel West Edmonton

Register online at <https://bit.ly/2022-STC>

Registration deadline
October 3, 2022



IMS-16-17 2022-07

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How do our students become Albertan?

Join ATA teachers and University of Alberta researchers to improve the way we teach identity in our classrooms.

Many of us look at Alberta through a wild west lens — a land of cowboys and oilmen. How does that image impact our students? This study explores how Alberta youth see themselves as part of this broader community.

Go to the link below to sign up for this study: bit.ly/becomingalbertan



STORIES AND PHOTOS WANTED

If something newsworthy is going on in your school, district or local, please let us know. We will also consider articles, photos and cartoons. Please email tips and submissions to managing editor Cory Hare: cory.hare@ata.ab.ca.



Follow us on Instagram: [abteachers](https://www.instagram.com/abteachers)

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Next deadline Thursday, Sept 8, 2022, 4 p.m. (Publication date Sept. 20, 2022) Advertisers are encouraged to book early – space is limited.

Circulation: 38,000 We accept Visa, Mastercard, cash or cheque.

TALENT

August 30, 2022 | Volume 57, Number 1



My husband and I went to Takakkaw Falls for our first anniversary. This is a selfie I took with one of our pups, Kela.
Ashley Connors



Winning a gold medal at the Lethbridge Dragonboat festival!
Chris Sathar



At the top of Sulphur Mountain in Banff, with my pups Bubba and Rusty.
Adriana Klassen



I had the privilege of visiting Keith Lefthand and his family at the Eden Valley reserve near Longview.
Andrea Catan

Summer fun

Teachers made good use of their summer breaks to relax and take on challenges, whether it be in their own backyards or throughout the world.

See the ATA's Facebook page for many more photos.



This photo sums up our family vacation in the Shuswaps.
Melanie Johnston



Sunset in downtown Edmonton from a kayak.
James Grondin



Machu Picchu, Peru
Kristen Blundon



Summer fun at Bandon Beach on the Oregon Coast.
Stephani Clements



Swam with sea turtles in Maui!
Michelle Dickie