

# ATA NEWS

September 20, 2022 | Volume 57, Number 2 | News Publication of The Alberta Teachers' Association



## We need numbers, people!

The future of public education depends on teachers leading the way.

Read the editorial and Q&A on page 2.



## The long road to reconciliation

We've only just begun to learn some difficult truths about this country.

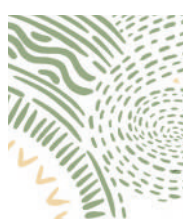
See Viewpoints on page 3.



## New resource available

Truth and reconciliation made real in new ATA resource.

See story on page 4.



ATA employees at Barnett House are busy readying for the Oct. 22 rally in support of public education. In this photo, graphic designer Gela Cabrera Loa shows off a poster that is being sent to every school in the province to raise awareness of the rally. Read more on page 5 and watch for a special edition of the ATA News in October.

YUET CHAN

# Take a stand for public education

In the months ahead, the Alberta Teachers' Association will work with classroom teachers, parents, grandparents, allied organizations and interested community members to define and bring forward a vision for a strong and supportive public education system in Alberta, one which will allow all students to reach their full potential.

Launched on Sept. 6, the [Stand for Public Education](#) campaign is designed to ensure that Albertans continue to benefit from a world-class public education system that will prepare our next generation to prosper, even in the face of the social, political, climate and economic challenges facing our province and the world.

After years of disruption and misdirection, Alberta needs a coherent, far-reaching plan for education that includes a collaborative process for developing and implementing curriculum, improved inclusion and support for students with special learning needs, and classroom conditions that are conducive to meaningful learning.

With the provincial election mere months away, we need to show all parties and candidates that public education is one of the most important investments we can make in the future of our children and this

province. We need to advance the voices of the families and communities served by the public, separate and francophone schools that 95 per cent of Alberta's K-12 students attend every school day. We need to ensure that the professional voices of teachers are heard and respected.

The Alberta Teachers' Association, in partnership with the Alberta School Councils' Association, will kick off the campaign with a major rally for public education at the Alberta legislature on the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 22.

We are calling on all concerned citizens to join us at the rally at 1 p.m. on Oct. 22 and to sign on to the Stand for Public Education campaign.

Let us stand together and ensure that all students in Alberta have access to an exceptional public education system.

Thank you,

Jason Schilling, president  
Alberta Teachers' Association

Brandi Rai, president  
Alberta School Councils' Association

## The future of education starts Oct. 22



### EDITORIAL

**Shelley Magnusson**  
ATA News Interim  
Editor-in-Chief

So we are having a rally. You may be asking: why now? There were so many times we could have organized a protest.

We could have protested when the UCP government first decided to move ahead with developing a new curriculum without any consultation with the ATA, basically ripping up the memorandum of understanding we had with the government. That was a big deal — a very big deal. For decades, the ATA and Alberta Education had worked together on curriculum development. It was not a conservative curriculum or an NDP curriculum. It was just a curriculum, developed by teachers for teachers.

We could have held a protest rally when the government unilaterally moved our pension from ATRF to AIMCo. This was done despite the fact that there was no economic benefit to the government or teachers in this change. For 80 years, ATRF had the optimal situation: complete control of our own destiny, including

managing our plan's assets, a board made up of members appointed by government and members appointed by the ATA, and a proven track record of investment decisions.

We could have held a protest rally when the government stripped the ATA of its ability to police its own members, something we have been doing since 1935, when the *Teaching Profession Act* was proclaimed. Even though we have shown time and time again that our process is fair and transparent, the government decided that it could do it better.

We could have protested when teachers and students were sent back to school in the middle of a pandemic without adequate preventive measures. (And, no, I don't believe that handing out two ill-fitting cloth masks to each student constituted a safe return-to-school plan.) Or when the government introduced Bill 32 or Bill 85 or Bill 15. Or, or, or — the list of things we could have protested seems daunting and endless.

But here's the thing — the rally on Oct. 22 isn't about what the government has done to us, or what it may do in the future. The rally is about us. It's about the coming together of parents, grandparents, allied organizations and interested community members to define and bring forward a vision for a strong and supportive public

“ This ... is the beginning of a campaign to ensure that every politician from every party understands that education is more than a political football. ”

education system in Alberta — one that will allow all students to reach their full potential.

This rally is the beginning of a campaign to ensure that every politician from every party understands that education is more than a political football. Education policy shouldn't be used to score political points. Funding for classrooms should not be predicated on high oil prices. Schools should be able to welcome all students knowing that their education will be fully funded. And teachers should be fairly compensated for the tremendously important work they do.

I don't know how many of you reading this attended the Get the Message rally in 1997. I was there, along with my colleagues, who got on a bus at 5:30 in the morning and rode for five hours from Grande Cache to amass, with teachers from across Alberta, on the grounds of the legislature to tell the government that enough was enough. That was our moment. For many of us, it defined who we were as a profession, as teachers and as a union.

Charles de Gaulle famously said, “I have come to the conclusion that politics are too serious a matter to be left to politicians.” I would change that to “I have come to the conclusion that education is too serious a matter to be left to politicians.”

On Oct. 22, we will have our moment to show that education matters. We will gather at the legislature not to protest but, rather, to profess. We will profess our love of teaching. We will profess our belief that the public education system in Alberta is still one of the best in the world. We will profess that teachers, parents and students working together can create strong, vibrant communities for learning.

ATA president Jason Schilling tells us that we need to be future focused. That future starts on Oct. 22, 2022. I will be there — will you? ■

## It's time to assert ourselves in massive numbers



### Q & A

**Dennis Theobald**  
ATA Executive  
Secretary

**Question:** What is the point of having a rally — will it change anything and why should I make the trip to Edmonton to attend?

**Answer:** Public education in Alberta is at a crossroads. As the school year commenced, teachers have returned to work in classroom conditions that frustrate their efforts to meet the increasingly complex learning needs of their students. Many are having to implement new and problematic curriculum without adequate orientation, access to resources or professional development. At every step, they are subject to the whim of government policy that seeks to diminish the exercise of their professional judgment and, indeed, diminishes their very status as professionals. The decisions that have been made by the current government have already had a lasting impact on the educational experience of students, as well as the ability of teachers to teach

and the capacity of our schools to meet the expectations of Albertans.

These are problems and issues that cannot be adequately addressed through collective bargaining processes. They cannot be solved by teachers alone. And while many can be directly linked to the policy of the UCP government and the decisions of Education Minister Adriana LaGrange, most have festered and grown worse over the span of many years and different governments. These are, at their root, hard political and moral problems that will take the engagement of all teachers, all elected leaders, all parents and, indeed, all Albertans, to solve.

Now, then, is the time to send a clear message to all political parties that they need to make concrete commitments to improving public education. The rally on Oct. 22 at the legislature is important in its own right as a way of building solidarity among teachers and supporters of public education, but it is just the first step in advance of the pivotal provincial election that will take place on May 29, 2023.

Following up on the rally, the Alberta Teachers' Association will be facilitating a series of broadly based consultations with the education community, businesses, civil society groups and

academics across the province. Out of this consultation process, a bold vision for public education for the present and the future will emerge, as well as an alliance of those who will commit to working together for the future of education in the run up to the spring general election and beyond.

“ The rally provides an opportunity to amplify our voices and to build solidarity and a sense of common purpose. ”

Over the past few years, teachers have justifiably felt that the provincial government has not listened to them or their association. The rally provides

an opportunity to amplify our voices and to build solidarity and a sense of common purpose. For most of the last two years, circumstances have kept us apart; the rally will bring us together again to celebrate and to renew our collective efforts.

Ultimately, the success of the rally will depend upon the support we are able to demonstrate through our presence. In these things, size matters and because of that, each one of you matters.

Please plan on making your way to the legislature on Saturday, Oct. 22. Bring your friends and families and convince your colleagues to join you. If teachers are not willing to stand up and be counted on something as critical as the future of public education, why should anyone else? As Margaret Wheatly observes, “It is time to stop waiting for someone to save us. It is time to face the truth of our situation — that we're all in this together, that we all have a voice — and figure out how to mobilize the hearts and minds of everyone in our workplaces and communities.” ■

Questions for consideration in this column are welcome. Please address them to *Dennis Theobald* at [dennis.theobald@ata.ab.ca](mailto:dennis.theobald@ata.ab.ca).



# Asking questions + seeking answers = reconciliation



## VIEWPOINTS

**Yvonne Poitras Pratt**  
Special to the ATA News

For teachers who are waking up to the truths of Canada's colonial past, the stories that surround the residential school era are deeply disturbing and revealing of Canada's colonial past. Collectively, we are reeling from the horrors of the mistreatment of innocent children and, for some, we are wondering what form of hatred fuelled this type of abuse. The growing number of children's remains found on residential school grounds is both heartbreaking and further evidence of colonial truths that can no longer be ignored. For those of us who have dedicated our lives to teaching, the idea that children were so maltreated in schools, to the point of death, is repugnant. And so, we pledge to one another, we want to be better and to do better.

“... the best we can do is to keep learning and model lifelong learning for our students.”

We should also be aware that the learning of difficult truths has only started. We have only to look back over time to realize that the slate of colonial injustices extends far beyond residential schools. For instance, many of us have taught celebratory accounts of how the rich resources of the New World — including fish, furs and other staples — were taken and sold at great profit to overseas buyers. Yet how many of us have taught this lesson asking, at whose expense were these great profits made?

If we have listened carefully, we have learned how early explorers took Indigenous people overseas, without permission, to satisfy the curiosity of royal audiences and how Indigenous lives were cut short and family members devastated because of this action. What lessons might teachers have shared about this act?

Others may have learned alarming statistics showing how newcomers introduced diseases that invaded the homes and communities of First Peoples across Turtle Island, taking loved ones, both young and old, in the early days of contact. As teachers, how might we explore the topic of infectious diseases and the impact they have had on certain populations? How might we make that learning relevant and meaningful in today's world?

In this time of truth and reconciliation, we are learning the devastating impact of outside religious and patriarchal structures imposed on First Peoples and how these insidious forces continue to wreak havoc today. We are further

reminded by the Pope's recent visit that the theft of lands from First Peoples took place through the so-called Doctrine of Discovery. What do students need to know in order to critically analyze what is often set out as fact?

We know the treaty system and the scrip system further justified the taking of lands from the original occupants, but do we consider whose worldview is being privileged in this system?

These truths, these injustices, are many — far too many to list here — but what educators are becoming increasingly aware of is the fact that these previously hidden truths have had dire consequences for the First Peoples across Turtle Island.

So, how can we as teachers best share these hard truths? There is no easy answer to this question. Teaching these truths is challenging for all teachers, whether non-Indigenous or Indigenous. It can make you question your own worldviews and raise complex, unsettling questions about your very identity.

My Indigenous colleagues and I often share these truths from our own perspectives, from our lived experiences, as a way to bring others into the fold of understanding.

For instance, as a Métis educator, I have ancestors who are implicated in the profiteering venture that was the fur trade and, at the same time, were labelled “dirty half-breeds” by the racist powerholders of the times.

Knowing that the treaty and scrip-making process sanctioned the takeover of lands from the First Peoples and made possible a new nation called Canada, I question why a corporate entity like the HBC (a place where I am loath to shop but still do) would have had any rights to our ancestral homelands.

I talk about the role of my great-great-grandfather, Pierre Poitras, in the 1869 provisional government and wonder if his standing as a Métis lawyer in the legal petitioning to join the newly formed Dominion of Canada had any role in why he was “brutalized” by the colonial forces?

For all teachers, whether Indigenous or non-Indigenous, the best we can do is to keep learning and model lifelong learning for our students. We can also hope that what we share may be helpful or resonate with others.

As an Indigenous educator, I know my ancestors are watching me, so I will always be asking questions and seeking answers. I encourage all teachers to do the same. ■

*An associate professor at the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary, Dr. Yvonne Poitras Pratt is a Métis scholar whose family ancestry traces back to the historic Red River Settlement and, more recently, to the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement in northeastern Alberta.*

Opinions expressed on this page represent the views of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

## YOUR VIEWS

### FACEBOOK FEEDBACK

#### On the government's new public teacher registry

**Kim Jordan**

I have zero issue with my professional standing being available to the public. I take issue with private information being available. I should also not have to relive and share my personal trauma just to have former information removed. The information provided by the ATA was plenty as it identified any professionals that were under review

for disciplinary or unprofessional issues — without adding the cost to taxpayers.

**Koralee Loria**

I've never taught with my maiden name. Why has it been posted? It's none of anyone's business.

**J Boutet**

Note: this affects teachers who are women.

### ON TWITTER

**Thomas A. Lukaszuk @LukaszukAB**  
@albertateachers Thank you for including me in your Strategic Planning Council's planning meeting. Together, as teachers, parents and a business community, we must safeguard our public education. Your commitment to our students and to Alberta's future is inspiring.

class sizes. Until you have taught 35+ students, with no support, you have no idea.

#### On the ATA inviting UCP leadership candidates to speak at Summer Conference

**Luigi Pollio @lupollio**

If there is even one teacher that supports the UCP (there are many thousands), then this was worth doing. We cannot claim to be an apolitical organization and then disregard a leadership race that will produce our new premier.

#### On class size

**CareForEd @CareForEd1**

Alberta teacher here. I have never heard so many experienced teachers looking to retire early or get out of the profession. The #1 reason: large



### FOR THE RECORD

“To help preserve some level of relevance and usability for people whose teachers have changed their name, a search of current legal names will also show a person's previous legal names. This way, users whose teachers have changed their name still have some way of confirming their teacher's professional status.”

- Part of a statement issued by Education Minister Adriana LaGrange's press secretary on the teacher registry.  
As reported by Global News.

# New resource helps teachers address reconciliation

Mark Milne  
ATA News Staff

The ATA is set to release a new resource guide aimed at helping teachers connect their students with the heart and stories of truth and reconciliation.

Called *Strengthening the Heartbeat of Reconciliation*, “the resource invites teachers to reach out to local Indigenous peoples and communities and learn more about the personal experiences of residential school survivors,” said author Melissa Purcell, who oversees Indigenous education in the ATA’s Professional Development program area.

“I hope that this guide will allow teachers and school leaders to identify an entry point that will allow them to feel confident and comfortable when talking about residential schools and reconciliation in their classroom,” Purcell said.

Purcell developed the guide with input from the ATA’s Elders and Knowledge Keepers Advisory Circle as well as Indigenous teachers and leaders in the field.

Purcell received the green light to begin work on the project at the 2021 Annual Representative Assembly. Shortly thereafter, the discovery of mass graves at the Kamloops residential school highlighted the urgent need for this type of resource guide for members.

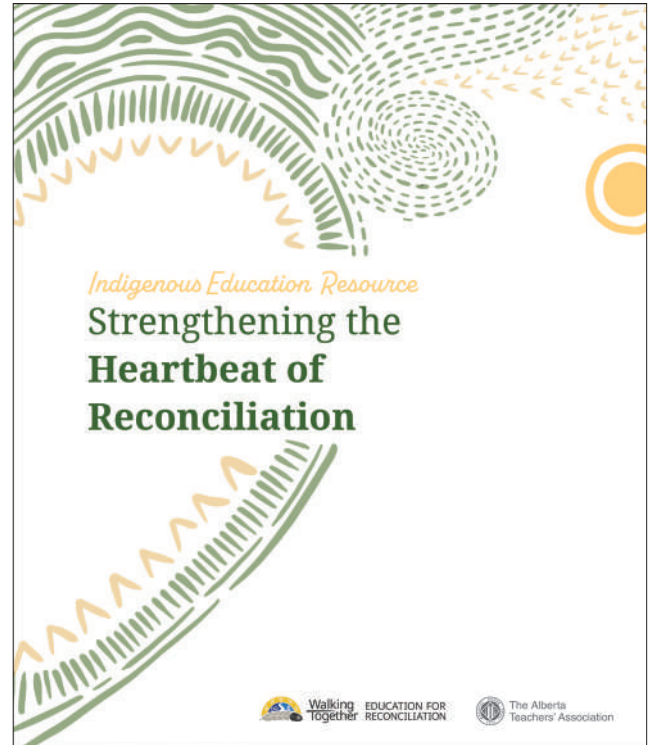
“We evaluated the multitude of resources that are out there, both nationally and provincially,” Purcell said. “This will help teachers and school leaders bring the learning closer to their classroom and community.”

The guide is broken down into five general categories of classroom resources, ranging from reading suggestions to potential learning activities.

“It was challenging to find resources that captured the essence of all survivors’ stories and lived experiences,” Purcell said. “Everybody’s story is unique.”

The guide is also broken down into age-appropriate resources, allowing teachers to pick the elements that are best suited for their grade level. It contains suggestions on how teachers may plan their approach to this sensitive topic with their students and, to some extent, their students’ families.

The guide places a strong focus on the Indigenous competencies as outlined in the *Teaching Quality Standard and Leadership Quality Standard*. ■



**5 PARTS** The *Strengthening the Heartbeat of Reconciliation* guide consists of five resource areas:

<b>1</b> National Day of Truth and Reconciliation	<b>2</b> Moving beyond performative gestures of reconciliation	<b>3</b> Nurturing and protecting hearts and spirits – getting prepared	<b>4</b> Inviting residential school survivors and intergenerational survivors	<b>5</b> Orange shirts – creating, purchasing and wearing
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**When will the guide be available?**  
The guide is scheduled for release near the end of September.

**Where can I find it?**  
*Strengthening the Heartbeat of Reconciliation* will be available under the Professional Development tab on the ATA website at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca). It will be found through the Indigenous Education and Walking Together link.

# Daily mental health supports just a text message away

*New program targets teachers*

Cory Hare  
ATA News Managing Editor

Remember you have strengths and gifts to help you manage and be proud of your accomplishments. Share them with others.

This is an example of a daily supportive text message that teachers can subscribe to as part of a new mental health service that is now available.

The Wellness4Teachers program is a free subscription that sends a daily supportive message designed to help teachers build resilience and improve professional satisfaction. Based on cognitive behavioural therapy, the messages have been crafted by a team of experts with backgrounds in psychology, mental health and education.

“The pandemic has been difficult for everybody but particularly for teachers,” said project lead Belinda Agyapong, president and CEO of Global Psychological eHealth Foundation. “We feel like, why don’t we focus on teachers and see how much this program will be of benefit.”

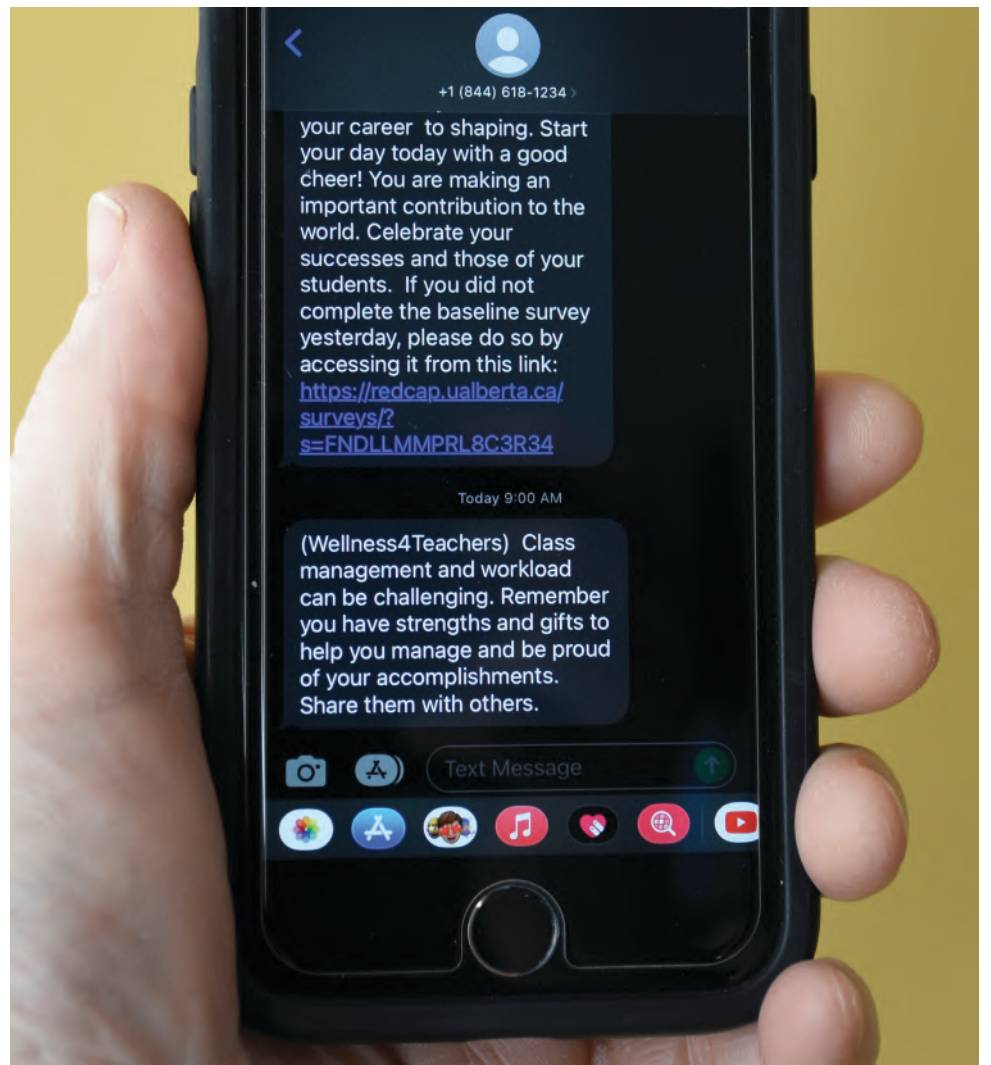
A former teacher, Agyapong is a University of Alberta student who created the project as part of her PhD thesis in psychiatry. As part of the program, subscribers will be asked to complete voluntary, anonymous surveys so researchers can track the program’s effectiveness.

Agyapong is aware of several previous studies involving daily supportive text messages based on cognitive behavioural therapy. For example, the technique was used in Fort McMurray following the wildfire of 2016 and has also been employed in Ireland.

Previous studies have found that subscribers experienced a 25 to 50 per cent reduction in depression symptoms and a 23 per cent reduction in anxiety symptoms. Overall mental well-being improved in more than 75 per cent of subscribers.

Cognitive behavioural therapy is a form of psychotherapy that aims to help individuals develop positive thought and behaviour patterns, which contributes to them experiencing more positive feelings.

“It’s just changing the way we think and moving from negative to positive and seeing ourselves as capable and able,” Agyapong said. ■



CORY HARE

A new mental health service aimed at teachers will send a supportive text message every day.



Belinda Agyapong, project lead

**HOW TO SUBSCRIBE**

Teachers can subscribe to the Wellness4Teachers program by texting **TEACHWELL** to **1-844-618-1234**. Each day, subscribers will receive a message with or without a related web link to provide support and build coping skills for managing stress, burnout, anxiety and depression symptoms. Subscribers can opt out at any time by texting **STOP TEACHWELL**.

Wellness4Teachers is adapted from the ResilienceNHopE program, which is funded by the Alberta Mental Health Foundation and the Global Psychological eHealth Foundation, with support from the University of Alberta, Dalhousie University, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Alberta Teachers’ Association.

For more information, visit [www.gpehealth.org](http://www.gpehealth.org) or [www.resiliencenhope.org](http://www.resiliencenhope.org).

The Alberta Teachers' Association is encouraging teachers from all over the province to attend a rally in support of public education at the Alberta legislature on Oct. 22. ATA president Jason Schilling says that the 2022 rally is about what's happening in Alberta in the here and now, and is not about recapturing the mood of 1997, when thousands of teachers mounted a historic legislature rally. The following account of the 1997 rally is offered as historical context for the current challenges facing public education in Alberta.

# Teachers mount historic rally

*Historic 1997 demonstration the result of frustration over budget cuts*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Maggie Shane  
ATA Archivist

On Saturday Oct. 4, 1997, in the sunshine of a crisp autumn afternoon, thousands upon thousands of teachers gathered at the Alberta legislature grounds, raising their collective voices in support of public education. It was a historic show of professional solidarity in support of students and against drastic cuts to education funding by the Progressive Conservative government of Premier Ralph Klein.

The next day (which was the fourth edition of UNESCO's World Teachers' Day), the headline on the front page of the Edmonton Journal read "Teachers slam funding cuts; 12,000 march on legislature to demand more cash for education."

The story described the scene: "Angry teachers jammed the legislature grounds Saturday in one of the largest demonstrations in Alberta history, to demand more spending on education. An estimated 12,000 chanting people covered the lawns on the south side of the legislature while speaker after speaker condemned provincial budget cuts."

ATA president Bauni Mackay was inspired by the sight of colleagues wrapped in "Get the Message" scarves arriving from every corner of the province.

"This is absolutely overwhelming to see so many teachers — active teachers, retired teachers, student teachers — and other supporters, standing together," she said.

"We want Albertans to get the message that teachers can no longer hold together an excellent public



ATA ARCHIVES – MERLE PROSOFSKY

On Oct. 4 1997, close to 20,000 teachers and other supporters of public education rallied at the Alberta legislature.

education system under increasingly deteriorating conditions."

In an article published in the 1999 book *Contested Classrooms: Education, Globalization and Democracy in Alberta*, authors David Flower and Larry Booi described the mood of the day as a "combination of pride and frustration."

The impetus behind the rally was a desire to demand student learning conditions that were conducive to learning, a long-standing concern and priority for teachers of all previous generations. Still, in Alberta's history, mass demonstrations by teachers were

all but unheard of; this was something new. If this extraordinary event was the result, what was the cause?

The answer to that question is complex and of long standing. In short, by 1997, teachers had long been taking on far more than their professional duties. Classroom teachers were contending with the full range of social issues that impacted student learning. At the same time, a narrative of "back to basics" and "failing schools" was brought to bear upon public education.

Citing fiscal concerns, the Klein government was engaged in drastic cuts

to education, health and social services. Many teachers reported that they were experiencing the cuts first-hand as an assault on schools to the detriment of students and their communities. The cuts were drastic enough to bring teachers to their feet, then to their locals, and finally to buses and private cars on the highways to Edmonton.

Teachers arrived by the thousands (ATA officials estimated the total was close to 20,000) determined to raise the alarm over the need to properly fund public education. And raise the alarm they did. ■



**Off Script**  
with ATA President  
Jason Schilling

## Despite distractions, a new school year is exciting

Labour Day is not only a day to celebrate the labour movement across the world but also a day that escorts summer out the door while we welcome students and colleagues back. The start of a school year is an exciting yet exhausting time for teachers, school leaders, students and parents.

A friend recently asked me how the start of this school year was going, and I responded by stating that it seemed to be a weird mixture of excitement, angst and downright anger. I noted teachers' excitement to be back without controversial return-to-school COVID

plans, yet the newly implemented K-6 curriculum compounded with increased class sizes and a lack of funding put a damper on the return.

Teachers also saw, on what was the first day of classes for many students, the disastrous release of the government's teacher registry, a database that no one asked for or wanted. Not much was known about the registry in June when government informed teachers about it via email, and the ATA shared several concerns with the government and privacy commissioner. Like many things, the registry provided an unwelcome

distraction to the start of the school year.

When I speak with retired teachers, they often comment about how the start of a new school year can be bittersweet. There is nothing like meeting new students, seeing how former students have changed and grown over the summer months, and connecting with colleagues to see how their summers unfolded. Despite the pressures and stresses of the job, our classrooms and schools provide wonderful opportunities and rewards. I still miss the start of the school year and I imagine I always will. ■

## Meet your next premier

See page 17 of this issue for a special supplement on the candidates vying for the leadership of the United Conservative Party.

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# Record your weekly hours in case you need EI

## ATA Teacher Employment Services

During a teacher's career, there are certain times when the support of the Employment Insurance (EI) program is available. Benefits may be available during a maternity or parental leave, when sick leave has been exhausted, for a period when compassionate care is being provided or when employment with a school division is no

longer available. Qualification for EI benefits is based in part on obtaining sufficient insurable hours of work.

When a teacher ceases to work or goes on certain types of leave, employers produce a Record of Employment (ROE) that the teacher uses for filing an EI claim. The number of hours reported by the school division on the ROE varies from division to division. Since teacher work extends beyond regular school hours, the ROE may not reflect the actual

amount of time worked. Many professional responsibilities can only be accomplished after school, during evenings or on weekends.

Typically, substitute teachers, part-time teachers and teachers who work only a portion of a full year are most vulnerable when it comes to being denied an EI claim due to insufficient hours.

If an EI claim is denied due to such a shortage of hours, teachers can file a reconsideration to address that shortage of hours. In the past, teachers who filed for reconsideration had kept accurate and detailed records of additional hours

they spent outside their normally scheduled instructional hours and were able to prove that they qualified for benefits.

If you are a teacher working as a substitute, part-time or less than a full school year, you are advised to keep a record of any time worked so that if you ever file for EI and are denied benefits, you will be able to provide evidence of work you have done.

Keep an ongoing record of hours and days worked. Keep a daily planner and a copy of your school calendar and timetable. Note when you arrive at work and when you leave. Record all hours worked,

including preparation time before and after school, supervision and completing report cards and time spent marking assignments at home. Where possible, have your log book hours signed by a principal or other supervisor who can certify these are hours you spent working. This log book record can be extremely helpful if you are denied EI and wish to appeal the decision.

For more information, visit Service Canada's website or contact the Association's Teacher Employment Services program area at 780-447-9400 (Edmonton area) or toll free at 1-800-232-7208. ■

## Locals gear up for more bargaining

### ATA News Staff

Local bargaining has started in earnest now that a central table deal has been reached and summer break is over, said Sean Brown, the ATA's associate co-ordinator of collective bargaining.

Local Teacher Welfare Committees (TWCs) are currently reviewing and revising the surveys that they will roll out within their individual bargaining units this fall.

"Local bargaining is the final

step in the overall process of finalizing a collective agreement with both central and local terms for Alberta teachers," Brown said. "I encourage teachers to share their views with their local TWCs and stay informed of the issues that are most relevant within their jurisdictions."

Central table bargaining concluded in June with Alberta's teachers narrowly accepting a mediator's recommendations for central table bargaining. Those recommendations will be incorporated into the 61 collective agreements between

school boards and each local bargaining unit.

The goal will be to complete most of the local negotiations during this school year, but some bargaining units will likely require mediation and negotiations that could continue into the next school year, Brown said.

"While we are expecting some challenging conversations with employers, these are important conversations that continue to build the meaningful relationships at the local level." ■



## NCTCA

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

# FINANCIAL ADVISOR



The North Central Teachers' Convention Association (NCTCA) is looking for someone to provide year-round financial management support for the convention board.

Proposals from interested individuals and firms will be accepted until October 7, 2022.

**L.EAD.ME/NCTCA-RFP**

# Planning your finances for retirement?

## ARTA can help.

It's important to have a financial plan in place before you retire, and while it's best to start early, it's never too late to put one in place.

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Embark on a guided geoscience-themed walk in **Edmonton** on **Friday, Oct. 21**, and learn to think like a geoscientist—open to all educators and ideal for the grades 3 and 7 curriculums.

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These events are proudly brought to you by:



The Association of Professional  
Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta



# READY... SET... GROW

This is the time of year when teachers turn their attention to (among dozens of other things) their professional growth plans.

## TEACHERS' CONVENTIONS

Teachers' conventions enhance professional practice by providing teachers and school leaders with opportunities to share innovative practices, discuss professional issues and meet the learning goals identified in their professional growth plans.

Each of the Association's nine teachers' conventions is organized by a regional convention board. Members are assigned to conventions based on their employing school authority and ATA local.

Teachers' conventions will take place in person during the 2022–23 school year. Following the 2022 teachers' conventions, Provincial Executive Council made the decision to return to fully in-person teachers' conventions for 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact executive staff officer Danny Maas at [daniel.maas@ata.ab.ca](mailto:daniel.maas@ata.ab.ca).

### North Central Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 9–10, 2023  
Contact: Carryl Bennett, president:  
[president@nctca.ab.ca](mailto:president@nctca.ab.ca)  
Website: [www.mynctca.com](http://www.mynctca.com)

### Calgary City Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 16–17, 2023  
Contact: Lisa Fulton and Shae Frisby,  
co-presidents:  
[cctcapresident@gmail.com](mailto:cctcapresident@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.cctca.com](http://www.cctca.com)

### Endless Skies Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 16–17, 2023  
Contact: Melissa Petruk, president:  
[Estcapresident@gmail.com](mailto:Estcapresident@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://estca.teachers.ab.ca>

### Central Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 23–24, 2023  
Contact: Brenda Lewis, president:  
[brendalewis@gmail.com](mailto:brendalewis@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.mycatca.com](http://www.mycatca.com)

### Palliser District Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 23–24, 2023  
Contact: Jill White, president:  
[jill.k.white@gmail.com](mailto:jill.k.white@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.pdtca.org](http://www.pdtca.org)

### Southeastern Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 23–24, 2023  
Contact: Cam Bernhard, president:  
[cam.bernhard@grasslands.ab.ca](mailto:cam.bernhard@grasslands.ab.ca)  
Website: <https://seatca.atapd.ca>

### South Western Alberta Teachers' Convention

Dates: Feb. 23–24, 2023  
Contact: Pascale Jakobsson, president:  
[president@swatca.ca](mailto:president@swatca.ca)  
Website: [www.swatca.ca](http://www.swatca.ca)

### Greater Edmonton Teachers' Convention

Dates: March 2–3, 2023  
Contact: Lloyd Bloomfield, president:  
[president@getca.com](mailto:president@getca.com)  
Website: [www.getca.com](http://www.getca.com)

### Mighty Peace Teachers' Convention

Dates: March 9–10, 2023  
Contact: Jodie Dell, president:  
[mptcpresident@gmail.com](mailto:mptcpresident@gmail.com)  
Website: [mptca.teachers.ab.ca](http://mptca.teachers.ab.ca)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about teachers' conventions, visit [legacy.teachers.ab.ca](http://legacy.teachers.ab.ca) > My ATA > Professional Development > Teachers' Conventions.

## SPECIALIST COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

The Association has 21 specialist councils that organize annual conferences, workshops, webinars and other opportunities to help teachers and school leaders meet their professional development goals.

### Alberta School Learning Commons

No events scheduled at this time.

### Career and Technology Education Council

Date: Nov. 17–19, 2022  
Location: Canmore Hotel and Conference Centre, Canmore  
Theme/topic: REConnect  
Website: <https://event-wizard.com/CTEC2022/0/welcome>

### Conseil francais

No events scheduled at this time.

### Council for Inclusive Education

Date: Oct. 13, 2022 (preconference), Oct. 14–15, 2022 (conference)  
Location: Coast Hotel, Canmore  
Theme/topic: Celebrating the Challenges—Partnering for Possibilities  
Website: <https://event-wizard.com/ctc2022/0/welcome>

### Council for School Leadership

Date: April 15, 2023 (preconference workshops), April 16–18, 2023 (conference)  
Location: Banff  
Theme/topic: uLead 2023—The Summit of Educational Leadership  
Event details: <https://event-wizard.com/ulead2023/0/welcome>

### Council of School Counsellors

No events scheduled at this time.

### Early Childhood Education Council

Date: March 16–18, 2023  
Location: Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge, Kananaskis  
Theme/topic: Diversifying Our Narrative  
Website: <http://www.ecec-ata.com>

### Educational Technology Council

No events scheduled at this time.

### English Language Arts Council

No events scheduled at this time.

### English as a Second Language Council

No events scheduled at this time.

### Fine Arts Council/Science Council

Date: Oct. 20–22, 2022  
Location: Banff Centre, Banff  
Theme/topic: First STEAM 2022  
Website: <https://event-wizard.com/FirstSTEAM2022/0/welcome>

### Global, Environmental and Outdoor Education Council

Date: Sept. 9, 2022  
Theme/topic: K–3 explorer Backpack Event with Inside Ed

Date: Sept. 27, 2022  
Theme/topic: Virtual Campfire

Date: Oct. 25, 2022  
Theme/topic: Virtual Campfire

Date: Oct. 28, 2022  
Theme/topic: Nature Playlist in Bow Valley—Guest Speakers and Venue Support

### Health and Physical Education Council

Date: May 4–6, 2023  
Location: Lethbridge  
Website: <https://www.hpec.ab.ca>

### Indigenous Education Council

Date: Nov. 17–19, 2022  
Location: DoubleTree by Hilton, West Edmonton  
Theme/topic: Soaring with Knowledge Conference—Indigenous Ways of Knowing: Land, Treaty, Language  
Website: <https://event-wizard.com/IndigenousWaysofKnowing/0/welcome>

### Math Council

Date: Oct. 21–22, 2022  
Location: Delta Hotels Edmonton South Conference Centre  
Theme/topic: Play is Learning 2!  
Details: <https://event-wizard.com/MCATAConference2022/0/welcome>

### Middle Years Council

Date: April 27–29, 2023  
Location: Banff  
Theme/topic: Back to Banff  
Details: <https://www.ata-myc.com>

### Outreach Education Council

Date: Oct. 13–15, 2022  
Location: Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton  
Theme/topic: Outreach Reaches Everyone  
Website: <https://event-wizard.com/OEC2022/0/welcome>

### Religious and Moral Education Council

Date: Oct. 14, 2022 (preconference 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.), Oct. 14 (evening)–Oct. 15, 2022 (conference)  
Location: Banff Centre, Banff  
Theme/topic: Braiding Together: Dialogue Towards Truth and Reconciliation  
Website: [www.braidingtogether.ca](http://www.braidingtogether.ca)

### Science Council/Fine Arts Council

Date: Oct. 20–22, 2022  
Location: Banff Centre, Banff  
Theme/topic: First STEAM 2022  
Website: <https://event-wizard.com/FirstSTEAM2022/0/welcome>

### Second Languages Council

Date: Oct. 15, 2022  
Location: Virtual  
Theme/topic: PD and AGM Event  
Website: SLIC 2022 PD Day and AGM Registration (google.com)

### Social Studies Council

Date: Oct. 13–15, 2022  
Location: Banff Park Lodge, Banff  
Theme/topic: Building Bridges: Connecting Through Our Shared Histories  
Website: [www.atassconference.com/registration](http://www.atassconference.com/registration)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about specialist councils, visit [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca) > My ATA > Professional Development > Specialist Councils.

To select your no-cost membership to a specialist council, visit <https://bit.ly/SpecialistCouncilJoin>.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Active ATA members are able to choose a no-cost membership in the specialist council of their choice. To choose yours, visit <https://L.EAD.ME/SC-SIGNUP>.

The ATA Educational Trust offers \$500 grants to members to help offset the costs of attending specialist council conferences. Apply by Sept. 30 at 11:59 PM at <https://L.EAD.ME/CONF-GRANT>.

# Congratulations

to ATA Member **Angelo Delli Santi**, recipient of John Mazurek Memorial – Morgex Insurance Scholarship 20201/2022.



Randy Pearson of Morgex Insurance is proud to present Angelo Delli Santi, from Red Deer, Alberta with his cheque for \$2,500.

The John Mazurek Memorial–Morgex Insurance Scholarship consists of \$2,500 to be used for an approved professional development course or part of an organized program of study in the field of business education and/or the use of computer technology in education. Visit the ATA website to learn more.

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## Contribution Rate Changes


Following a year of outstanding investment returns, paired with meticulous planning and management, we were pleased to reduce contribution rates for the Teachers' Pension Plan by 2% of teachers' salaries this year. Members will now start to see those reduced deductions on their paycheques.

Get full details at our website [atrf.com](http://atrf.com).



**ATRF**  
Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund

Visit: [ATRF.com](http://ATRF.com)




# DIGITAL NEWS

**The ATA News is available online.**

For the latest issue, visit [www.teachers.ab.ca/news](http://www.teachers.ab.ca/news). Subscribe to receive an email when a new issue is available. <http://bit.ly/ATAeNews>



## Are you interested in facilitating workshops?

### BECOME AN ASSOCIATION INSTRUCTOR!

Association instructors facilitate a variety of workshops for school and district-based professional development events, teachers' conventions, and specialist council conferences, both in person and online.

The Alberta Teachers' Association is seeking outstanding classroom teachers and school leaders from across the province for immediate appointments to begin January 2023.

#### The application process has three parts:

1. Provide a letter of interest, including the following information:
  - Areas of interest and expertise (referencing the competencies of the Teaching Quality Standard)
  - Experience leading professional development (online and in person)
  - Reasons for applying
2. Download and complete the application form on the Alberta Teachers' Association website (see below for website information).
3. Provide a resume outlining education, work experience, leadership experience, publications, presentations, and volunteer experience.

**Successful candidates** are expected to deliver 7–10 workshops per year and are required to attend two training sessions per year. The Association covers release time and associated expenses and provides an honorarium for workshops delivered. As a courtesy, please advise your superintendent and principal that you will be applying prior to doing so. All applicants must be active or associate members of the ATA and hold an Alberta teaching certificate.

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 21, 2022.

Send your letter of interest, resume, and completed application form to Nancy Luyckfassel, Associate Coordinator, Alberta Teachers' Association, [nancy.luyckfassel@ata.ab.ca](mailto:nancy.luyckfassel@ata.ab.ca)

**For information or to download an application form, visit** [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca)>My ATA>Engage with us>Getting Involved as an Individual>Joining a Corps>Association Instructors.



*In making an application to become an Association instructor for the Alberta Teachers' Association, you are voluntarily providing your personal information to the ATA. Visit the ATA website for more information.*



The Alberta Teachers' Association



- Scientists and Engineers-in-the-Classroom
- Chemistry All Around You
- Teacher PD Workshops



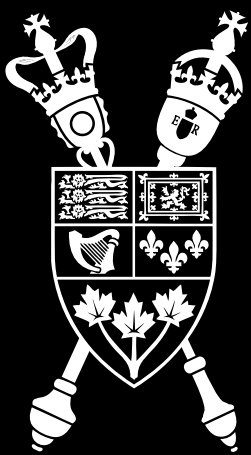
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Participate in a week-long intensive training opportunity for educators at Parliament

[learn.parl.ca/teachers](http://learn.parl.ca/teachers)

**Apply by  
Oct. 10, 2022**



## The Truth Is Here.

Made for Teachers by an Indigenous teacher, James Darin Corbiere.

Play the Game and live vicariously to understand the Indigenous experience in Canada!

Help us GIVE AWAY 20,000 copies of **The Truth in Truth and Reconciliation Game** by raising 1.5 million dollars to pay for the cost of printing and distributing **The Truth in Truth and Reconciliation Game** and the 100-page "Genuine Indian Guide Book"

Learn more at [easternwoodlandart.ca](http://easternwoodlandart.ca)

Visit our GoFundMe: [gofund.me/2bb5d7ad](https://gofund.me/2bb5d7ad)

# 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](http://FeedYourFutureCareer.ca) to sign-up and get full event details.

**FEED YOUR FUTURE**



Ag for Life



# EMPOWER, ENCOURAGE, and INSPIRE Future Generations of Leaders

Get your class involved with United Way's Make Your Mark and help shape the next generation of changemakers

Apply this fall at [myunitedway.ca/makeyourmark](https://myunitedway.ca/makeyourmark)



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## MyRETIREE PLAN

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Thinking of retiring, or already retired, from Alberta's public education sector? We've got you covered with our **IMPROVED** retirement benefit plan!

### COMING OCTOBER 2022

- Benefits for eligible **Canadian residents** (except Quebec)
- Revised **survivor age** eligibility
- **No** late application restrictions (for new applicants)
- **NEW** dental option (coming January 2023)

### PLUS, OUR EXISTING

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- And more!



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# CELEBRATING THE CHALLENGES CONFERENCE 2022

## PARTNERING FOR POSSIBILITIES

**OCTOBER 13, 2022**  
PRE-CONFERENCE

**OCT 14 & 15TH**  
CONFERENCE

**Pre-Conference Topics Include:** Unpacking the new Math and English curriculums through a Disability Inclusive Lens and a deeper investigation into the Indigenous Foundational knowledge in the new curriculum.  
Both sessions are focused on consolidating teacher expertise in these new curricular areas.

**Conference Speaker Topics Include:** Response to Intervention (RTI), ADHD, Modifying Sport for Students with Special Needs, Curriculum Design, FASD, Low Arousal approach to Behaviour Challenges and Art for the Brain to name a few!

### Registration Now Open

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<https://www.cieducation.ca/>





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# Thanks!

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- free guidance & advice
- a professional community dedicated to the success of those with LD or ADHD

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We accept Visa, Mastercard, cash or cheque.

# TALENT

September 20, 2022 | Volume 57, Number 2



ISTOCK

In praise of

# young teachers!

## MOOT POINTS

Ray Suchow  
Special to the ATA News

Young teachers are amazing human beings! Headlong they rush into the multitude of moments that mark the first few years of teaching – evaluations, parent-teacher interviews, report cards, successful lessons, students they just can't seem to help but won't give up on, late nights spent marking and planning, and transforming a random room into their first classroom.

They're surprised that the days go by

so fast, though there are those lessons and classes that can last so long. Before they know it, the weekend is here again, then Christmas, spring break and soon the push toward year end, with finals and professional evaluations. At last, it's blessed summer break, soon followed by mid-August and the knowledge that it all begins again.

All the stages and lessons that a young teacher experiences during the first years of their career are accompanied by a wondrous, ongoing dialogue that I'm honoured to witness and often be a part of. I delight in and relive these moments with them. Their energy and optimism reminds me of myself – both then and now!

However, despite their knowledge and enthusiasm, young teachers don't quite have all the answers yet, and I'm proud to be there to help with as many questions as I can. I don't know it all yet either, but having taught for over 30 years, I know a fair amount – especially about how to get from there to here and still love what I do every day (and hope to continue doing for a number of years yet).

Also, through our collaborations, I hope they'll glimpse a long-term vision of their career and see that, even after having engaged in this challenging profession for 20 or 30 years, there's still much joy to be experienced, as well as pride in having done well at

the most difficult and rewarding job there is.

In the final consideration, it's in the belief, strength and optimism of our vibrant young charges that the future of our profession rests. We must nurture them, guide them, pick them up when they have one of those days, and celebrate with them when they reach those contract and long-service milestones we veterans take for granted. In that way, we'll continue to mutually inspire each other in amazing ways for years to come, to the betterment of our profession. ■

*Ray Suchow teaches computer science and religious studies at Christ The King Secondary School in Leduc.*

Substitute Teachers' Conference

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

MS-15-17-2022-07

REGISTER NOW!

# FIRST!

A joint conference of the ATA Fine Arts & Science Councils

October 20-22, 2022 • Banff Centre • Banff, AB

QR Code

Keynotes by Simon Jackson & David Usher! Over 40 art & science breakout sessions!

[LEAD.ME/ATA-STEAM](https://LEAD.ME/ATA-STEAM)



# Meet the UCP candidates

One of these prospective leaders will be Alberta's next premier.

Seven candidates are vying for the leadership of the United Conservative Party (UCP), which will announce their next leader on Oct. 6.

As a non-partisan organization, the Alberta Teachers' Association encourages its members to engage in the political affairs of the province through individual partisan and non-partisan activities. To that end, we seek to keep them informed about all candidates and parties for political office.

The seven UCP candidates were invited to submit a biography and statement of educational beliefs for publication in the ATA News. Rebecca Schulz, Brian Jean and Leela Aheer responded to the invitation.



REBECCA SCHULZ

Rebecca Schulz was elected in 2019 as the MLA for Calgary-Shaw. Most recently, she served as minister of Children's Services, where she fought for and successfully negotiated a fair deal on child care with the federal government.

She first got involved in politics in 2009 working in the premier's office in Saskatchewan under Brad Wall. Rebecca chose Alberta and lives in Calgary with her husband and two children.

She believes unity matters for free-market, pro-growth governments to succeed, and that a strong economy provides opportunity for people to provide for their families and allows us to invest in things like health care and education.

Rebecca believes in education. She has a bachelor of arts honours from the University of Saskatchewan, a master of arts in communication from Johns Hopkins University and, in addition to energy and politics, has worked in both education and post-secondary.

#### Statement of educational beliefs

A Schulz government will put students first with more resources for our schools targeted supports for students and teachers, while respecting parents as children's primary educators and decision-makers.

Rebecca has committed to address class size and complexity, and recognizing kids and teachers need to be at the heart of the education system. This includes adding at least 3,500 education assistants across the province to address complex student learning challenges and help kids get caught up in reading and math. It also means ensuring dollars go to the classroom and directing additional dollars to hire new teachers or incentivizing teachers to return to the system. This will happen within the first 30 days of a Schulz government.

Building on the findings of the child and youth well-being initiative spearheaded by Rebecca Schulz, a Schulz government will also expand pilot programs for true wraparound supports in schools, including mental health, across the province.

To account for enrollment growth, a Schulz government will double capital funding for new schools and modernizations over the next three years.

A Schulz government will stop social studies curriculum development. All content in the social studies curriculum needs to be age and culturally appropriate. English, math, and physical education and wellness will continue, and feedback from teachers will be listened to. We also need to ensure students know where their food and energy come from.



BRIAN JEAN

Brian is a father, a grandfather and a husband. He is a proud Albertan and a huge defender of our energy industry and his hometown of Fort McMurray.

Brian has a law degree and an MBA and went on to practise law for a decade as one of the busiest litigators in northern Alberta. In 2004, Brian ran for office for the first time and became the member of Parliament for Fort McMurray Athabasca.

In 2014 Brian retired from federal politics to spend more time with his family. It was his son's illness and death at the hands of our broken health system that motivated Brian to get back into politics. Brian became the leader of the Wildrose Party and with only a week to prepare between becoming leader and the election starting, Brian led Wildrose to its best result ever.

In 2017 he co-founded the United Conservative Party.

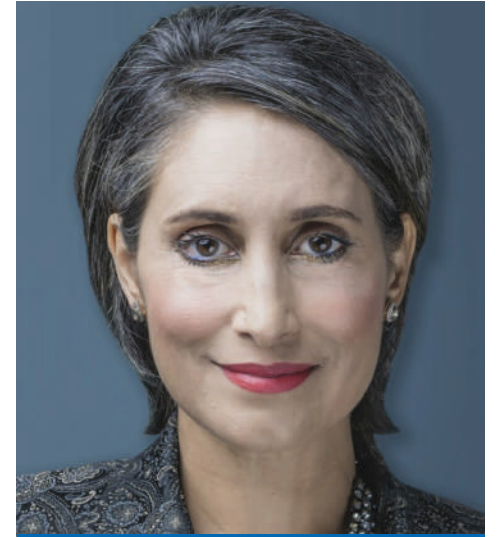
#### Statement of educational beliefs

Education is the long-term solution to prosperity. If you get education right, everything gets easier in the future. Get education wrong and everything becomes harder and more complicated.

I want to improve the relationship between the ATA and this government. I am proud to say that the Wildrose under my leadership had a very good working relationship with the ATA. We didn't agree on everything, but we talked a lot. There is no more important education stakeholder than the ATA.

Albertans don't want politics hidden in the K-6 curriculum. By anyone. There is good and bad in the draft curriculum. Lots of teachers will privately tell you some parts are quite good. But they will also rightly tell you that some parts won't work. We should listen to the concerns of parents and teachers and rework the flawed parts of the curriculum. Let's break the curriculum into chunks and roll it out slowly. One subject a year.

With regards to the K-6 items that we are rolling out in September, I think we need to change course. If elected leader and premier, I will declare that the new elements of the K-6 curriculum will become an optional pilot for this year. I will encourage and allow teachers to try out the pieces that they think will work, then do true consultation to find out from teachers what worked with the goal of releasing a properly done revised version to be implemented in September 2023.



LEELA AHEER

In 2015, Leela was elected as the member of the legislative assembly for Chestermere-Rockyview. At the time, she was one of only two female MLAs in the Wildrose Party to be elected to the Alberta legislature and the first ethnic woman to run and get elected in a rural riding.

Leela has held more shadow cabinet positions than any other UCP/Wildrose member, having been named shadow minister for education, the status of women, children's services and energy. In addition, Leela proudly served as Alberta's minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women from 2019 to 2021.

#### Statement of educational beliefs

Leela believes in a strong public education. Funding should follow enrollment, growth and inflation. We cannot balance our budget on the backs of our students.

We need to let teachers teach. We also need to halt the curriculum. We have lost sight of best practices, and we need more consultation.

Our students deserve a safe, welcoming and loving environment.

I am elected to serve my constituents and Albertans. Not a leader.

A strong education system today means a prosperous future tomorrow. Working in collaboration with our teachers should be a priority. Constant fights and using our teachers and students as a political football should be a thing of the past. We have a great reputation; people choose Alberta for the quality of its curriculum. It should be a constant reminder of our why.

Our students and our teachers deserve our full support. Not the opposite.

MEET THE UCP CANDIDATES  
continued on page 18



# MEET THE UCP CANDIDATES

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**TODD LOEWEN**

Alberta is home to me, my wife Teena, our five children and eight grandchildren. I love this province and its people. As a lifelong Albertan, I know first-hand that Alberta is the best place in the world to raise a family and earn a living. It has always been a place of opportunity and liberty, and this must be preserved for future generations.

I was first elected in 2015 by my constituents in the Peace Country and re-elected in 2019. Having had the privilege to serve in the legislature for two terms and as the UCP caucus chair for two years, I will never forget that the Albertan people must be my priority and my guide. As an elected MLA, I have always stood up for my constituents and will do the same for ALL Albertans, no matter the cost.

– Source: [www.unitedconservative.ca](http://www.unitedconservative.ca)



**RAJAN SAWHNEY**

Rajan Sawhney is a modern, moderate conservative who is authentically invested in creating a better future for the United Conservative Party, the province and Alberta families.

Rajan Sawhney was born and raised in Calgary. She spent two decades working in Alberta's energy industry as an economist and entrepreneur before becoming an MLA. She has served in two key portfolios, as Alberta's minister of Community and Social Services and as minister of Transportation.

Married to her husband Gurpreet for almost 29 years, Rajan is a mother of four. As a passionate lifelong Albertan, Rajan believes wholeheartedly that Alberta is the best place to live, work and raise a family.

– Source: [www.unitedconservative.ca](http://www.unitedconservative.ca)



**DANIELLE SMITH**

Danielle is a proud Albertan. She is a University of Calgary graduate with degrees in economics and English. Danielle has had a lifelong interest in Alberta public policy and finding the right balance between free enterprise and individual freedom, and the role of government. She was a member of the legislative assembly for Highwood, leader of the official opposition and leader of the Wildrose Party.

Before re-entering politics, Danielle had extensive experience in the media and in business. Most recently she was president of the Alberta Enterprise Group. Before that she was a radio host with Corus Entertainment for six years.

She married her husband David in 2006, and together they own and operate The Dining Car, a fully renovated 1940s railcar dining car. She is the proud stepmother of David's son Jonathan. Danielle and David live in High River with their two dogs, Caine and Colt.

– Source: [www.unitedconservative.ca](http://www.unitedconservative.ca)



**TRAVIS TOEWS**

I am a proud, lifelong Albertan. My wife Kim and I have three children and 11 grandchildren. We have had the opportunity to pursue careers and business interests and to raise our family in this province of possibility and prosperity; a place where the principles of freedom and self-determination are held in high regard.

Until 2019, I spent my career entirely in the private sector, first as a chartered professional accountant for 12 years and then, with Kim, growing a corporate family cattle operation and oilfield environmental company. I dedicated considerable time to provincial and national industry boards, including time as the president of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association.

Four years ago, concerned with the direction of the province, I sought public office to help ensure our children and our grandchildren would have the same opportunities that I had been afforded.

– Source: [www.unitedconservative.ca](http://www.unitedconservative.ca)

