

District Representative Dec. 2023 Report
Provincial Executive Council Meeting
Rick Kremp, Central North

Provincial Executive Council (PEC) met Thursday Nov. 30 and Friday Dec. 1, 2023.

Member Organizing Strategy

Since we first presented the idea of a member organizing strategy, we heard significant feedback with respect to the challenges and opportunities. As a result, we have made changes to streamline the process and refocus the messaging.

Locals are encouraged to host one in-school organizing meeting in each school by June 2024. The focus of the organizing meeting is on initiating conversations and actively listening to teachers. Locals can choose between one of two themes for their meetings: the collective bargaining process, or education funding, class size and composition. The ATA will provide resource materials and discussion guides for each theme on the Members' Only website. The ATA will also develop an online tool for the use of school representatives and local officials to verify and collect data from teachers participating in the meetings. Local representatives leading the meetings will need to attend one of four online training sessions in January. Once local representatives have been trained, in-school meetings can commence. Local/schools that complete the first meeting, could choose to offer a second meeting using the other theme. Locals have considerable autonomy and flexibility on determining how best to deliver this program in their schools.

Provincial Executive Council has approved grants to be offered to locals to help support this work. The grants are primarily intended to offset the costs associated with mileage for local representatives to attend meetings in person. Each local can access a grant equal to \$200 flat rate per local, plus \$15 per school, plus, \$50 per school located over 100km from the local's geographic centre. Locals can apply to receive their grant once they have completed meetings in at least half of their schools. Locals can apply for the grant simply by sending an e-mail with the list of schools where meetings have been completed to kim.clement@ata.ab.ca.

The local programs course at summer conference is going to be adjusted next year to be a staff/school representative course with eligibility for those who have not previously attended this course.

PISA 2022

Once again Alberta is home to one of the top education systems in the world. While it is important to celebrate this milestone its also a time to reflect on the future of public education in Alberta. The feedback around the current curriculum report, the workload we are faced with, the class sizes and complexities continually growing; we are doing the absolute best we can with what we have but how much longer is it sustainable?

Central Table/Local Bargaining:

The LAM was approved by PEC. CTBC will begin list bargaining in the new year.

Classroom Violence

We continue to experience acts of aggression in our classrooms. Teachers who experience violence or are victims of assault from students need to contact the ATA. They will be able to support you through a variety of processes to ensure you get the support you need. As I stated last month it might be assisting with filing an OH&S complaint, it may be calling the police, whatever the case, the ATA is here to help.

Scope of Practice

A large portion of our PEC member reports involved teachers performing non-educational related duties such as cleaning up spills, accidents, or even emptying mouse traps. Again, this is not your responsibility, please discuss these assignments with your administrators. I encourage administrators to also call the ATA for support if these responsibilities are being placed on your backs.

Noncertificated Staff

Remember, as per legislation, it is the responsibility of the teacher to provide instruction and assess student learning. If your division utilizes classroom supervisors, please ensure that they are not being directed to deliver instruction or assess students work.

Reminder – Criminal Record Checks – Get them DONE!

Interim ATA Policy

Council approved multiple interim policies and referred to ARA 2024 for confirmation:

The first dealt with the issue of the CPP and the potential establishment of an APP. The interim policy essentially states this should be the right of plan contributors and beneficiaries to decide where their money is directed.

The next set of interim policy addressed a UCP AGM policy “Ensure that teachers, schools, school boards, and third parties providing services to kindergarten to Grade 12 schools do not provide access to materials of a sexual, racist, or abusive nature, including, but not limited to, books, handouts, online materials, and live events that are not part of the Alberta Program of Studies.” On the surface this policy may seem sensible, however it may allow individuals to use their own personal definitions of such issues and could be used to remove from student access materials that, for example, deal with issues of gender and/or relationship diversity or address uncomfortable historical and contemporary issues. In response, Council passed interim policy affirming the professional judgement and autonomy of teachers in the selection of learning resources and management of classroom and library collections in support of students' freedom to engage with media and material that depicts and respects the dignity and diverse lived experiences of all persons.

Professional Development

The ATA has established a beginning teachers’ network which also has a mentorship aspect. Please check out the link for more information. [Mentorship | Alberta Teachers' Association](#)

DEHR

The SORT (Status of Racialized Teachers) Working Group provided a recommendation report with the goal of the recommendations to ensure that racialized teachers in Alberta are fully supported in their professional work. Provincial Executive Council elected to send the recommendations to Table Officers to create an implementation plan prior to voting on the recommendations individually. These will then be brought back to council for consideration.

The ATAGSA continues to meet monthly, with provincial locals taking turns hosting the meeting. Topics of the 2023/24 year are as follows: Document review: Breaking the Silence—A Guide for Sexual and Gender Minority Teachers in Alberta and Forming a Teacher GSA/QSA in Alberta—A Guide for Teachers; Policy review: resolutions for ARA; Catholicity and queerness: human rights lawyer; Resource sharing; Education of the greater membership/public. If you are interested in joining, please email atagsa@ata.ab.ca.