

Annual Representatives Committee Report - December 6, 2023

This month we met on the 23rd to discuss and debate ideas for resolutions we would want to present at ARA. We had a lot of good discussion of ideas and decided on five resolutions to bring forward to the local for approval.

Before we discuss the resolutions, the committee thought we should review what ARA actually is, so who better to explain than long-serving member Scott Onuczko in this [historic video](#).

The following resolutions are ideas that we think should be brought forward to all locals for discussion. Approval at the local level does not mean we will adopt this policy, only that we will submit them for discussion and debate at the provincial level. Please keep this in mind when voting today:

ARA 2024 - Proposed Resolutions for Parkland Local 10

1. Be it resolved that the Alberta Teachers' Association engage in a convention review to survey members about delivery methods and quality and diversity of programming
 - a. Rationale: The most recent convention review conducted by the Association was done prior to COVID when the possibility of a large-scale online PD was not something seriously considered. Before COVID, we did not have a concept of what online PD was like so the scope of the most recent convention review did not accurately consider this new reality. In order to get an accurate assessment of what is possible, and what teachers want and need, we need to engage in a new convention review.

2. Be it resolved that the Alberta Teachers' Association's Convention Boards have the authority to determine the appropriate mechanism of delivery of convention to meet the needs of their members with full support from the Alberta Teachers' Association.
 - a. Rationale: The decision to return to fully in-person conventions in 2023 was made without consultation of membership. There are multiple conventions that require a significant number of their members to travel and book accommodations for the two days. Providing each Convention Board the authority to determine how their convention will be delivered will allow them to survey their members to assess what format is preferred, meet the accessibility needs of members in remote locations, and eliminate the need for Provincial Executive Council to make decisions for the entire province. As is the current

practice, ATA staff is and would still be provided to assist in the execution of convention, regardless on the mechanism for delivery that is chosen.

3. Be it resolved that the Alberta Teachers' Association explore the viability and logistics of creating one central convention board with representation from all locals in the province.
 - a. Rationale: A single convention across the entire province that runs some local in-person sessions at multiple sites across the province and offers access to online sessions would address several issues that currently exist in our current convention model of 9 separate convention associations, including issues of access by members in remote communities and issues around equity and quality of conventions. One central convention board and one convention would also be a more financially responsible way of using convention dues as it would eliminate duplication of costs and would enable smaller boards access to more prominent speakers and sessions currently only available to larger boards. This concept would raise the profile of our Teachers' Convention and would draw attendance from teachers nationally and internationally, providing an alternate source of revenue for the association. It would create a higher caliber of professional development that teachers could stand behind and may flock to if future Governments decide to amend current legislation that enables us to have a teachers' convention currently.

4. Be it resolved that the Alberta Teachers' Association amend current processes for resolutions referred to study and report at ARA to enable locals to submit related resolutions prior to the submission deadline for the following ARA meeting.
 - a. Rationale: Current timelines in the study and report policy do not allow for meaningful feedback from sponsoring locals who usually have a very strong interest in the topic being studied. Historically there have been very few, if any, study and reports that have led to any significant changes in policy. This suggests that the policy needs to be updated or it should be removed altogether. This could become a very effective mechanism in generating future policy in a more timely manner.

5. Be it resolved that the Alberta Teachers' Association urge the Government of Alberta to maintain funding for provincially-funding organizations regardless of the existence of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion policies.
 - a. Rationale: The UCP AGM recently proposed Policy Proposal 9 that stipulates Universities would lose funding if they have or develop EDI policies. EDI policies

reinforce the fundamental human and charter rights that all staff and students are entitled to welcoming, supportive, and safe campus experiences. Removing or restricting funding because these policies exist is essentially a statement to the public that post-secondary education is not a space for all.

In January we will vote on electoral ballots that were submitted last year by locals and involve proposed changes to bylaws. Each local has a weighted vote and electoral ballots that pass the pre-vote will be presented and voted on at ARA by all delegates.

The committee will meet two more times before ARA to review the budget and discuss and complete a pre-vote on all resolutions. If you have any questions, please reach out to a committee member or send me an email.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Boer
ARA Chair