

District Representative Apr. 2024 Report
Provincial Executive Council Meeting
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Provincial Executive Council (PEC) met April 10 - 11, 2024.

In addition to the recommendations passed and information itemized in PEC Points (The ATA News) and Precis, <https://legacy.teachers.ab.ca/membersonly/Pages/PRECIS.aspx> the following provides information discussed that may require special mention. Stay informed and up to date with direct emails to your personal email address.

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Government Program Area

Budget - The government tabled its 2024 budget in February. The education budget projects a \$393 million (4.4 per cent) increase in operational spending for the next year, driven mainly by a projected 3.6 percent increases to enrollment. The budget projects hiring an additional 800 teachers next year, with 3,000 more teaching and educational staff positions added over the next three years. Spending on instruction is slated to increase by 3.8 per cent, which is only equivalent to the increase in student enrolment. However, the increase for special needs is only projected to be 2.3 percent, and Operations and Maintenance funding is set to increase by 2.6 per cent. Two areas that are getting higher increases: student transportation and private schools are slated to get a 15% increase.

Finance

In response to survey feedback, the finance committee opted to increase the full-time assumption (34, 800) and delete both the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Audit and the Teacher Exchange Program. These changes will bring the proposed full-time fee of \$1,422. This is a \$15 decrease from the \$1,437 originally proposed (\$75 increase or 5.6%).

CAPEC (Communications, Advocacy and Public Engagement Committee)

Please check out the new campaign at StopTheExcuses.ca. It has had good traffic to date with over 4000 visitors to the site.

Regulatory Affairs

[Reminder to contact the Association's Regulatory Affairs and Member Supports \(RAMS\) ASAP if you are subject to a complaint filed with the Alberta Teaching Profession](#)

[Commission's' discipline or competency process.](#) The Association continues to have concerns regarding the process. Staff continue in their efforts to work with the government to help shape regulatory processes of the Alberta Teaching Profession Commission's (ATPC) to ensure they are fair, follow due process and natural justice. The ATPC has received close to 600 cases since January 1, 2023. The Association has represented or is currently representing 41 per cent of all known commission cases.

Interim Policy

With anticipation that the Alberta Government was going to be investigating the ban of cellphones in schools, PEC took a proactive approach and passed interim policy that agrees that cellphones should be banned in schools, except where teacher professional judgement identifies a pedagogical purpose.

The GOA has invited Stakeholders to share their views about the future of student cellphone use in schools. The survey is open until May 3, 2024 and can be found [here](#).

Professional Development

ATA staff, Association Instructors, Indigenous Education PD Facilitators and PD Facilitators presented to over 4,720 members during the month of February (not including convention sessions). I encourage teachers to browse the extensive list of workshops available on the website.

Professional Development staff has created a detailed response to the Social Studies Curriculum Draft. There are many recommendations that came from the over 600 teachers involved in focus groups and feedback sessions. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

The Spring Professional Development Conference will be held in-person on Apr. 26(eve) – 27 at Barnett House in Edmonton.

A reminder to pass along the Beginning Teacher Network information to those new teachers in your building. Session details are available on the Association Events Calendar and PD Sched website. Beginning teachers can still subscribe to the Beginning Teacher Network at the following link:

https://www.ibelieveinpubliced.ca/subscribe_now

The 2024 DEHR Conference for Locals was held on April 18-19 at Barnett House. The theme for this year's conference was Upholding Human Rights in Challenging Landscapes. A huge thank you to those that attended, it is always a highlight of my year! A reminder that the DEHR Grant application deadline is April 30.

Bargaining

Local bargaining has now concluded for the 2020-24 round of bargaining.

The most recent Worth Talking About documents containing information for teachers have been shared with Local Presidents, Teacher Welfare Committees (TWC) and posted online. The new additions, on the List of All Matters (LAM), survey and Mandate Creation, are important for all members. All previously published Worth Talking About documents (including Worth Knowing and Worth Doing) are located on the Association website.

CTBC held a Telephone Tall Hall on March 20, 2024 to share with members draft goals and priorities recapped from the bargaining needs survey. Over 5,000 teachers participated in the event and over 260 voice messages were recorded. A recorded version of the event can be found Online. The Association has released the next two videos in the Bargaining Basics series:

- Video 3 provides an overview of the bargaining process.
- Video 4 discusses who represents you in bargaining.

The bargaining needs survey asked respondents if they wished to take part in a focus group relating to central table bargaining and to help validate the survey responses. The Association has contracted Janet Brown to facilitate six focused conversations with eight participants in each group. The group are broken into the following categories/criteria: Administrators, Substitute Teachers, Experience, Metro, Rural/Remote, and Mid-Conviction.

At the recent Collective Bargaining Conference, members of the Bargaining Advisory Committee (BAC) were provided with a draft copy for their feedback. The Central Table Bargaining Committee (CTBC) is hosting two Zoom webinars to share aspects of the draft initial proposal for central table bargaining for 2024. Members will receive an overview of the opening position for central bargaining, an update on where we are in the bargaining process and information on next steps. You will also have an opportunity to provide feedback. Two sessions will be offered, but members only need to attend one. Following the webinars, recordings will be uploaded to the Bargaining Updates 2024 site. These are closed sessions so please Register to attend the session of your choice:

- Tuesday, April 23, at 4 pm ([click here](#))
- Wednesday, April 24, at 7 pm ([click here](#))

A draft version of the initial proposal has been posted to the members only section of the ATA website for members to view and provide feedback on during the webinars.

The next regularly scheduled Provincial Executive Council meeting is May 9 and 10, 2024.
Respectfully submitted,
Rick Kremp