

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 1

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 1



This issue of *Leadership Update* is the first in a continuing series of newsletters for administrators. *Leadership Update* is meant to provide quick and accessible information regarding some of the many issues currently faced by administrators and information about Association services.

The Circle Is Unbroken: Back to School for the 30th Time

Wayne Street

My name is Wayne Street, and I am heading back to school for my 30th year as a school-based administrator in Alberta. I still get excited at the start of the new school year. I love to see students arrive the first day in their new clothes, eager to renew old friendships and make new ones.

I am also the president of the Council on School Administration (CSA) a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. If you are a returning administrator, I welcome you back and wish you a successful year. If you have just been appointed as a school-based administrator, then allow me to offer you a special welcome to the world of administration.

This year the CSA will continue to provide outstanding professional-development opportunities for administrators through the Western Canada Educational Administrators' Conference, being held at the Delta Kananaskis Lodge on October 28–30, 2004. Conference director Konni DeGoeij and her committee have put together a panoply of timely and relevant sessions to help you "Challenge the Leadership Within." Check out the website at www.wceac.org for information and registration. Also, watch for details on the Banff Spring Leadership Seminar, which will take place on April 10–12, 2005.

We look forward with great anticipation to the upcoming year. It's probably fair to say that we are as excited as our students.

I wish you a rewarding and productive school year. Please feel free to contact your regional president or me if you need assistance.

Upcoming Events

"Changing Face of Leadership"
September 24, 2004
Peace Area Regional, CSA, Grande Prairie (stefuram@gpcsd28.ab.ca)

"Teacher Supervision as Moral Action"
An Evening with Dr Robert Starratt
Distinguished Visitor,
University of Alberta
October 13, 2004
Greater Edmonton Regional CSA
Edmonton (jfraser@escrd.ab.ca)

"Challenging the Leadership Within"
October 28–30, 2004
Western Canada Educational
Administrators' Conference
Kananaskis (www.wceac.org)



What Are They Trying to Fix?

There is no doubt that the Alberta education system has endured significant turmoil over the past decade. That Alberta's students continue to achieve stellar success in the face of these considerable challenges is largely attributable to the positive and encouraging climate in our schools and to the collegiality of teachers and school administrators working together as members of the same professional body.

It is not at all clear what problem the government is trying to fix with its proposal to create a separate professional body for principals, nor is it clear what message the province is trying to send. What is clear is that

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if the government implements actions to divide school staffs, it will cause enormous turmoil in schools. Administrators, teachers, parents and the public want peace and stability in their education system. Splitting the profession in any way is guaranteed to create uncertainty and hostility without any educationally sound justification for the move.

Did you know that ...

Over the last eight years, administrator allowances have risen at a much higher rate than have teachers' salaries. On average, teachers' salaries (at category four maximum) rose 35.79 per cent while principals' allowances (based on 500 students or 25 teachers) rose 54.56 per cent.

For more information, contact Teacher Welfare at 1-800-232-7208.

Successful, Effective Supervision and Evaluation of Professional Staff

Dealing with supervision and evaluation problems is always a challenge. Administrators often ask themselves how to

- * support teacher professional growth,
- * undertake a fair, reasonable and effective evaluation of a teacher,
- * develop a remediation plan, and
- * facilitate ongoing supervision of teachers.

Join the ATA's Val Riewe and Michael Podlosky for a two-day interactive workshop where answers to these questions will be explored. Share experiences and build strategies with other administrators.

Reference Guide for School Administrators

The third edition of the highly rated *Reference Guide for School Administrators* will be distributed to all schools in September. Small schools will receive one copy of the *Guide*; larger schools will receive two copies.

To ensure that your guide is up to date, please replace the old edition in your binder with the new one.

Should you require another copy in your school, call the ATA's Professional Development program area at 1-800-232-7208.

Workshop Area	Dates
Calgary	2004 11 08-09
Central Alberta (Red Deer)	2004 10 13-14
Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium	2004 10 07-08
Learning Network (Northeast)	tba
Northwest Regional Learning Consortium	2004 11 01-02
Southern Alberta Professional Development Consortium	2004 10 18-19

For further information, in Edmonton call Val at (780) 447-9429 or Michael at (780) 447-9466; toll free in Alberta call 1-800-232-7208.

For further information, visit www.teachers.ab.ca or contact Member Services at the Alberta Teachers' Association, 447-9400 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (from elsewhere in Alberta).