

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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New ATA Administrator Instructor Corps

Last year, the Association established a corps of administrator instructors to expand the availability of professional development opportunities for school and central office administrators and to establish an effective mechanism for administrators to provide PD programs to fellow administrators. As the work of the corps continues, programs will be devised and delivered by administrators. While administrators have been and continue to be members of the corps of Association instructors, this new corps of Association administrator instructors will be dedicated to program specifically for fellow administrators.

While the initial intention was to establish a corps of 10 people, the interest in the corps and the early indications of demand for programs dictated the establishment of a corps of 15 members. J K Skytt, Coordinator, Professional Development, will provide training, and an intensive training session will be held at Barnett House on 2005 01 14/15 to prepare the corps to deliver the Association's professional learning communities workshop and to begin to identify and develop future programs.

The members of the Association's administrator instructor corps represent a broad cross-section of administrators from elementary, junior high, senior high and central office. Corps members are Ray Battocchio, Clearview; Karen Beaton, Edmonton Public; Sheila Bliss, Peace River; Brian Boese, Rocky View; Dave Fender, Palliser; Maureen Ference, Northern Lights; Sandy Gillis, Edmonton Catholic; Nancy Gorgichuk, Grande Prairie Public; Randy Heatherington, Northern Gateway; Daryl MacDonald, Calgary Public; Wayne Neilson, Wetaskiwin; Lynne Paradis, Red Deer Catholic; Carol Steen, Lethbridge Public; and Judith Sykes, Calgary Public.

Additional information about the Association's administrator instructor corps is available from J K Skytt at Barnett House.

Work Continues on Practice Review Bylaw

Work is continuing on the development of a practice review bylaw which, once approved by the Minister of Education, will provide formal authority to the Association to enforce the teaching profession's professional practice standards (Teaching Quality Standard set by the Minister). Amendments to the Teaching Profession Act, which were proclaimed last July, make the Association responsible for ensuring the competence of teachers. These amendments fulfill one more step in the Association's goal to establish a self-governing teaching profession.

Under the proposed bylaw, the practice review process will be triggered when the superintendent of schools believes that a teacher is not meeting the teaching quality standard, may no longer be suitable for permanent certification, and the provincial teacher growth, supervision and evaluation policy has been followed. The Association's role in the process is to prosecute, not defend, a teacher whose professional practice has been called into question. In this respect, the process is parallel to the Association's role in addressing allegations of professional misconduct.

A full review of the process will be featured in a future issue of *Administrator Update*. The Association's contact on practice review matters is Executive Secretary G R Thomas.

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Blue Ribbon Panel Update

The Association's Blue Ribbon Panel on the School Administrator met in December 2004 to commence its work. The panel, which functions at arm's length from the Association, is chaired by D Paul Stevenson, retired deputy superintendent of schools, Lethbridge Public, and has been established to make recommendations to Provincial Executive Council on the structure and services of the Association relating to administrators.

The panel is preparing recommendations for revisions to Association structure and expanded and targeted services for school administrators. A consolidated model will be considered by the panel at its next meeting, 2005 02 04. Provincial Executive Council will consider the proposals to revise Association structure and services.

The panel's secretary is Dr Gordon Thomas, the Association's executive secretary, who facilitates the panel's work. Dr Charles Hyman provides research support to the panel. Members are Joanne Hunt, a principal from Calgary Public; Mark Yurick, a principal from Edmonton Public; Kathleen Murphy-House, a Fort McMurray principal and CSA executive member; Peter Driedger, a vice-principal from Foothills; Kelly Lewis, a Hanna teacher; Rosemary Foster from the University of Alberta; John Waterhouse, Grande Prairie principal and Provincial Executive Council vice-president; and Susan Fraser, of the ATA.

Proposed revisions to Association structure and administrator services will be provided to school administrators across the province for review and discussion.

Staff Relations Service: A Joint Project of the ATA and CASS

Occasionally, disputes among staff might be resistant to usual methods of resolution. These disputes can range from interpersonal difficulties with co-workers to problems with supervisors, and may involve few or all staff. To assist school staffs in this predicament, the ATA and the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) have instituted a joint project entitled the Staff Relations Service (SRS), which operates at arm's length from both organizations under an independent director.

SRS provides a proactive, informal way to assist members in the resolution of problems. The service uses facilitation

and limited mediation to provide positive and efficient dispute resolution. The SRS facilitation team helps parties in a dispute develop a solution they can all agree on and teaches them the skills to settle disputes in the future.

SRS facilitators are retired educators, who work in confidence with the people involved in a voluntary, transparent process. Their services are available at no cost to the school or the individuals involved.

For more information on the SRS process, please contact Dr Calvin Fraser, Coordinator, Member Services, at (780) 447-9445 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta).

2Learn.ca Takes Over SATIR/RITAS

The 2Learn.ca Education Society/ TELUS Learning Connection is a partnership between the Alberta Teachers' Association, the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) and the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. In addition, Alberta Learning and TELUS Corporation provide substantial funding for the project. The goal of the partnership is to help teachers implement technology in curriculum delivery. This year the TELUS Learning Connection won the prestigious [American] National Staff Development Council award for staff development, the first time a group outside of the U.S.A. has received this award.

Thus it is good news for administrators that SATIR/RITAS (School Administrators' Technology Integration Resource, Ressource pour l'Intégration de la Technologie destinée aux Administrateurs et Administratrices Scolaires), a site originally built by Industry Canada as a resource for administrators, has recently been taken over by the 2Learn.ca Education Society. The 2Learn team has updated the site with a multitude of useful resources and tools for administrators. Check it out at www.2learn.ca/satirritas/satirmain.html.

For further information on this and other 2Learn projects, please contact Calvin Fraser, Coordinator, Member Services, or (780) 447-9445 (in Edmonton) or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta).

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).