



# RTA Newsletter

February 3, 2017

## **A Message from the Old Guy in the Office**

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the current school year. As usual, there is a lot going on – I hope you are all finding time to look after yourselves and stay healthy during this busy time. The next few months will go by quickly as we all know, and we have some things to look forward to. Posting have gone out for new teaching positions created by the funding provided by the Memorandum of Agreement between the BCTF and the Ministry of Education. Talks continue between those parties around the implementation of our restored class size and composition collective agreement clauses, and hopefully more funding will become available when an agreement is reached. If you have not yet had the chance, please take a few moments to go to our website <http://www.revelstoketeachers.ca> and read through the language that was removed from our contract in 2002, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## **From the Collective Agreement** **Pro-D Release Day**

Are you aware that our contract provides us with one Pro-D Release Day? Do you use it? Article F.4.3 states;

“Each September, a ProD Release Bank shall be provided with sufficient funds so that it contains the value of the “pay rate of a Teacher on Call” times the number of days which is equivalent to one hundred per cent (100%) of FTE.”

This release time can be used for any Pro-D activity, or to travel to a Pro-D activity out of town. I encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity for release time.

## **Elementary Preparation Time and Prep Make-Up**

Our collective agreement provides for 100 minutes of preparation time per week for elementary teachers (pro-rated for part-time teachers who teach at least 0.4 FTE). There is some confusion as to when missed prep time will be made up, so I thought it would be useful to clarify this. Preps that are missed due to statutory holidays, Pro-D days and NI days are to be made up. Preps that fall on early dismissal days are not required to be made up. If your prep time falls during a school activity or event (such as a sports day), whoever provides your prep should take over your duties for the duration of your prep time. Also, teachers are encouraged to keep prep times in mind when scheduling field trips and other class activities that take place outside of the school. Preps that are missed due to activities planned by the teacher are not required to be made up, but often teachers are able to coordinate with other teachers and whoever is providing prep time to adjust schedules in order to avoid missing prep time. I hope this helps to clarify this issue, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

## **MoA Funds for Class Size and Composition**

As a result of an interim agreement between the BCTF, BCPSEA and the Ministry of Education, we have received funding in our district which has enabled increased support for many teachers around issues of class size and composition. This funding has resulted in an additional four blocks at RSS for the second semester and increased learning support time at all three elementary schools. While we acknowledge that this is but a small part of what is required to fully address these areas, it is still a positive step in the right direction. Thank you to all staff members who participated in meetings at your schools and helped to direct this funding towards areas which best addressed the needs of teachers and students in your schools. Hopefully the coming weeks will see a final agreement between the provincial parties with regards to the implementation of our language on class size and composition and increased stable funding from the Ministry of Education to support this.

## **RTA Website**

Have you checked out the RTA website? If so, fantastic! If not, here's a little challenge to motivate you to check it out. Email me the correct answer to the following question by the end of the weekend and I will draw a name from the correct answers on Monday morning. Someone will win some sweet recess/morning break snacks delivered by Bob on Friday, February 10th. Find the answer somewhere on <http://www.revelstoketeachers.ca> The question is, "On what date was the RTA Constitution adopted?" First correct answer emailed to rtapresident19@gmail wins the prize. If the prize is won by a TTOC they can pick the school and the day of delivery. If you have any suggestions as to any other useful links or info that could be accessed on the website, please let me know.