

RTA Newsletter

June 2023

Happy Summer!

With only a few more days from the end of what can only be described as another very challenging and difficult year for all of us who work in education. I have been inspired and amazed by the creativity and resilience all our members have shown again this year. The teacher shortage and underfunding has taken a toll on our members' physical and mental health.

A summer break is necessary and beneficial because it gives us a rest from our hectic schedules and allows us to unwind, decompress, relax and rest. A complete summer break is important for our physical and mental well-being, giving us time and space to take care of ourselves and to spend quality time with family and friends. The following are thoughts and tips to help us maximize the benefits of our summer break.

Ten Summer Break Tips

1. **Just take it.** Schedule a break and make it happen. Don't let anything interfere with it.
2. **Take a break from technology.** No electronics for work purposes. Don't check your email and text messages. Give your social media a break.
3. **Make the break real.** Give yourself time to unwind, to get rid of the mental clutter and to recharge. Allow your mind and body to take a rest.
4. **Avoid thinking about what anyone else is doing or things you 'should' do.** Avoid comparing yourself to others or making lists of things you need to do. Do what's right for you. After all, you're the only one who counts.
5. **If finances are tight, enjoy a 'staycation'.** Become a tourist in Revelstoke. Take advantage of the free or inexpensive summer activities for adults and children.
6. **Improve your physical health.** Get the body moving and do at least one physical activity a day. Walking, biking, hiking and swimming are all free activities that have tremendous benefits for our physical and mental health.
7. **Improve your mental health.** Relax, rest and spend time with positive, energizing, supportive people. Do nice things for you and enjoy the moment.
8. **Revamp your relationships.** Reconnect and revitalize relationships that have taken a toll from an on-call, always-on and ever-demanding work culture.
9. **Be creative.** Do a project that's different and will exercise an underutilized part of your brain. Gardening and getting your hands dirty, being in the fresh air, reading a novel and

cooking a gourmet dinner will help you focus your attention and crowd out pestering intrusive work-related thoughts.

10. **Have fun and enjoy life.** Let yourself go, laugh, do some things you loved as a child, allow yourself to play and to be as carefree as a child.

Lastly, make your plans, take off and enjoy your summer break!

Energize Your Life Program?

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this year's Energize Your Life Program. The School District 19 Energize Your Life Program is getting an overhaul. Staff Reps will be getting feedback from members at your next staff meeting in September. A new and improved program will be launched in the fall after gathering your feedback.

K-12 Reporting Policy Update

The Ministry of Education and Child Care has said that it will, over the summer, produce a concise guide on reporting for educators. This should be released in time for back-to-school. They will involve BCTF members from the Ministry Implementation Committee in the development and it will outline the normal reporting expectations.

The French translation of the Proficiency Scale has been revised (with significant input from BCTF members) to better match the English version.

The Learning Pathways are an updated version of the Performance Standards that have existed for the last 20 years or so. Like their predecessor, they are in no way mandated by the Ministry. They are offered as a tool that may help teachers with the assessment of student work. Similarly, we would not expect districts to mandate their use. They are currently used by many teachers who have been requesting an update to match the new curriculum. They also contain many examples of what is considered proficient, which may be useful when determining how to place a student on the proficiency scale.

The Ministry will work on providing more exemplars where there are concerns/confusion.

The Ministry will connect with Teachers of Inclusive Education BC (TIE-BC) to try to better understand the issues regarding reporting and Individual Education Plans and try to find solutions.

In the 2023–24 school year, the Ministry will be monitoring for issues as reporting occurs and will be able to provide support to districts. The Ministry Classroom Assessment and Reporting Committee (CAR) will meet during the year and review how it is going and provide input/guidance to the Ministry where needed.

Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement

Effective as of the 2023–24 school year, all students working toward a BC Certificate of Graduation must successfully complete at least four credits in Indigenous-focused coursework. Ministry [implementation resources](#) include a provincial recognized course list and support materials, for students, parents, and schools. The Ministry has also now released official guidelines for the development of [Board/Authority Authorized and First Nation Authorized Courses](#).

RTA Executive Committee 2023-2024

Thanks to everyone who will be serving on our executive committee next year. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our executive committee members.

You will notice that there are a few unfilled positions on the executive this year. If you are interested in any of the vacant positions, please don't hesitate to contact me. The RTA Executive Meetings are the second Thursday of each month. A motion was passed at the June RTA Executive Meeting to have all future executive meetings start at 3:45 pm and end at 5:00 pm.

Table Officers

President - Barry Rourke (RTA Office)

Vice-President - Unfilled (TBA)

Secretary - Jillian Russell (CPE)

Treasurer - Jason Stevens (RSS)

Officers

Local Representative - Jason Stevens (RSS)

Aboriginal Education Chairperson - Erin England (RSS)

Bargaining Chairperson - Unfilled (TBA)

Health and Safety Chairperson - Unfilled (TBA)

Professional Development Chairperson - Tammy Tomm (BVE)

Social Justice Chair - Bethan Sheldon (CPE)

TTOC Chair - Kirby Miller (TTOC)

Local Election Contact - Unfilled (TBA)

Social Convenor - Unfilled (TBA)

Staff Representatives

TBA - Arrow Heights Elementary

TBA - Begbie View Elementary

TBA - Columbia Park Elementary

TBA - Revelstoke Secondary School

TBA - Revelstoke Secondary School

Staff Representatives

The Staff Representatives will be elected in September at your first school staff meeting. Staff Reps serve a one-year term ending in June. This position can be shared with another RTA member. There will be a Staff Rep per every 15 FTE teachers, or portion thereof. Staff Reps provide a report at each executive meeting (**2nd Thursday each month 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm**) regarding activities, concerns, and other relevant information from their school. Staff Reps also provide information to their staff from the Association and the BCTF.

Employment Insurance (EI) Benefits for Teachers

TTOC's and teachers who are completing temporary appointments at the end of June may be eligible for EI benefits through the summer.

Qualifying for EI:

- You must have stopped working
- Terminated temporary contract
- Benefits will be ineligible upon the "acceptance" of a new appointment
- TTOC's claim after the last day worked
- Second or subsequent claims require _____ hours of insurable employment in the last 52 weeks • First time applicants need 910 hours
- One teaching day is 9.1 hours
- Waiting period is 2 weeks from the Sunday after the last day worked
- Amount of benefit: 55% of average earnings over the last 26 weeks or maximum of \$413 per week
- Duration of benefit: 17 to 45 weeks of entitlement
- Can earn up to 25% of weekly benefit without deduction
- Earnings above 25% will be deducted dollar for dollar

Maintaining Your EI Claim:

- You must continue to be available for work
- You must actively seek work
- EI staff are not your advocates – you must prove eligibility
- Phone, write, fax or e-mail 4-5 employers per week

- Use the job bank at <http://jobbank.gc.ca>
- Fill out the Service Canada Job Search Log
- EI audits 1 in 10 applicants
- EI requests an interview in writing, giving a week's notice
- You are not required to sign any statements
- Do not make any statements placing restrictions on your employment opportunities
- Ask for a copy of the interview form before you leave the office
- Advice about Appeals and Audits call the BCTF at 1-800-663-9163
- The Service Canada online EI application can be found at the following link [Employment Insurance and Teachers](#).

Applying for EI:

- Request ROE from your employer
- Apply when ROE has been sent to Service Canada
- Include SIN and voided, personalized cheque
- You have up to 4 weeks after your last day to apply

Pro-D Information

Many thanks to Tammy Tomm and our Pro-D committee for all their hard work providing us with meaningful professional development opportunities throughout this challenging year. We are hopeful that we will be able to travel and/or meet in person for our Pro-D next year. The committee has several exciting opportunities planned for our Pro-D Day on August 31 so stay tuned for more details coming later in the summer.

RTA Retirees 2022/2023

Enjoy having the time to do all the things you've always wanted to do. Now that you're retired, hope you'll have time for all you've got planned! Congratulations to the following RTA members who retired this year.

- ***Julia Crucil - RSS***
- ***Rory Luxmoore - RSS***
- ***Sarah Newton - BVE***
- ***Shannon Sternloff - TTOC***

Contacting the RTA

Do not hesitate to call, text (250.837.2255) or email Barry rtapresident19@gmail.com. Please make sure the RTA has your personal email to receive valuable information like this newsletter.

RTA Newsletter Challenge

Thanks for reading the newsletter! As always there is a newsletter challenge question designed to help you become more familiar with our contract and other related issues. The names of all of those who submit a correct answer by **Wednesday, June 28th** will be entered into a draw. **Three** lucky winners will each receive a **\$25** gift card from **Southside Market or Save-On-Foods**.

June's newsletter has two questions.

Question 1: "What day of month are RTA Executive meetings held, and what time do the meetings start and end?"

Question 2: "At the end of June what members are eligible for employment insurance benefits?"

Email your answers and gift certificate choice to rtapresident19@gmail.com by **Wednesday, June 28^h** to be eligible for a gift card.

Have a great week!

