



TWC REPORT

Edmonton Public Teachers Local No. 37 of the Alberta Teachers' Association
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September 14, 2018

Bargaining Update:

Central Table Bargaining Update: The List of items that can be bargained at the Central Table and items that can be bargained at the Local Table has been agreed upon. The Central Table Initial Proposal has been finalized after consultation with teachers through a survey, focus groups and a telephone town hall. The Central Table Bargaining Committee will soon be sitting down with the Teachers' Employer Bargaining Association (TEBA) and exchanging initial proposals and commencing Central Table Bargaining. The Initial Proposal and bargaining updates will be available on the Members Only Website.

NOTE: You will need a user name and password to access this information.

In regard to the 2016-2018 round, Teacher Welfare is in the process of amalgamating and proof-reading the 2016-2018 Collective Agreements. **The Edmonton Public agreement will be posted on the Local Website and delivered to teachers as soon as it is available.**

There are 15 bargaining units still not settled for 2016-2018. In some of these bargaining units, the employers have taken very aggressive action against their teachers by, for example, unilaterally altering group benefit coverage, reducing leave entitlements, demanding the removal of principals from the bargaining unit or generally stalling to keep teachers from settlement. These teachers still need and deserve settled collective agreements containing similar improvements as enjoyed by other bargaining units.

Other Important Information:

Rest Breaks

Effective January 1, 2019, the Employment Standards Code changes to reflect a 30-minute break in duties at some time during each shift in excess of five consecutive hours of work. If a teacher agrees, it can be split into two 15-minute breaks. School staffs cannot vote to collectively agree to two 15-minute breaks. Unassigned (a.k.a. "prep") time counts toward this 30-minute break. Teachers with administrative designations are also entitled to this break.

Pilot Project on Revised School Calendar: Unbalanced Schedules

According to the Pilot Project on Revised School Calendar, "A teacher must confirm their agreement in writing, prior to assignment, to be timetabled for instructional duties which may vary in the number of hours assigned per semester."

If you have any questions regarding rest breaks or are uncertain how to calculate your instructional and other assigned time, please contact the Local office at (780) 455-2164.

Benefits and Health Spending Accounts (HSA)

Reminder for teachers on continuing contracts:

Any unused Health Spending Account dollars from 2016-2017 that were not spent by August 31, 2018 and claimed prior to October 30, 2018 will be forfeited back to the Board as per Canada Revenue Agency rules. Health Spending Account dollars from the 2017-2018 school year can be carried forward for one (1) year; expenses cannot. For tax purposes, you need to keep your receipts for seven (7) years.

General information on your Health Spending Account can be found at <https://bit.ly/2p57e8J>. Claim forms can be downloaded from <https://www.asebp.ca/forms> (choose Claim Form).

Be sure to update your information for ASEBP and get your login password so you can check your statements on their website or on the ASEBP smartphone app.

Which medical expenses can be claimed on an HSA?

Items and services that can be claimed are dictated by Canada Revenue Agency. Guidance can be found on the CRA website: <https://bit.ly/2vDmeic> or in the CRA S1-F1-C1: Medical Expense Tax Credit: <https://bit.ly/2x9dKPI>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Local Office (info@edpub.org) or contact me at kucher@shaw.ca.

Aaron Kucher
Chair, Teacher Welfare Committee

In Order to Stay Informed about Bargaining

1. Obtain a login at www.teachers.ab.ca (you will need your teaching certificate number).
2. Update your online member profile if necessary
3. Check for Bargaining Updates on-line.
4. Follow on Twitter: @albertateachers
5. Or "Like" on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ABteachers
6. Come to Member Information Meetings when they are announced.