



TWC REPORT

Edmonton Public Teachers Local No. 37 of The Alberta Teachers' Association
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September 13, 2019

Bargaining Update

Local Table Bargaining

The Local's Initial Proposal for Local Bargaining was approved by the membership at the May 24, 2019 Bargaining Unit General Meeting. It will be posted on the Local's website as soon as it has been shared with the Board's bargaining team.

Central Table Bargaining

The Central Table memorandum is available on the ATA website: <https://bit.ly/2IGd8Pd>.

Salary Arbitration

Teachers have a 2018-20 collective agreement in place for central terms (salary, benefits, etc.) because of the ratification by teachers and the Teacher Employer Bargaining Association (representing School Boards) in the spring. Salary arbitration coming out of the mediator's recommendations from Central Table has been delayed, as a result of Bill 9 (*Public Sector Wage Arbitration Deferral Act*), which was originally mandated to be completed by September 30th. The arbitration hearing has now been rescheduled to November. The work to prepare for the salary arbitration continues on as before. The Association has launched a Charter challenge to Bill 9 and will continue to take all possible legal action(s) required in the event of new legislation.

NOTE: You will need a username and password to access bargaining information.

In Order to Stay Informed about Bargaining

1. Give your personal email to your school representative or to info@edpub.org.
2. Obtain a login at www.teachers.ab.ca (you will need your teaching certificate number).
3. Update your online member profile if necessary.
4. Check for Bargaining Updates on-line: local37.teachers.ab.ca
5. Follow on Twitter: @edpubteachers
6. Or "Like" on Facebook: facebook.com/EdPubTeachers

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 (5) 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 Catherine LeBlanc in the Local office 780-455-2164.

Benefits and Health Spending Accounts

Reminder for teachers on continuing contracts

Any unused Health Spending Account dollars from 2017-2018 that were not spent by August 31, 2019 and claimed prior to October 30, 2019 will be forfeited back to the Board as per Canada Revenue Agency rules. Health Spending Account dollars from the 2018-2019 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://www.asebp.ca/my-benefits/spending-accounts>

Claim forms can be downloaded from: <https://asebp.ca/forms> (choose claim form). You can also submit claims via the ASEBP smartphone app that can be downloaded from the App Store.

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