

To: Tracy Kuehnemuth <info@edpub.org>
From: Edmonton Public Teachers Local 37
From Email: info@edpub.org
Subject: Local Updates
Preheader: Important information and reminders from your Local



April 2021

Good Afternoon Friends,

In addition to the information in the message sent to you at your work email, we've included information below on a variety of topics. But before we get to that, I wanted to clear up some information that I have heard circulating.

My understanding is that there is information being communicated around what teachers can (or can't) say or how they can (or can't) express themselves concerning the recently released draft curriculum.

First and foremost, you have a fiduciary responsibility to your employer (Edmonton School Division). Which means (in essence) that you should not be criticizing them in a public or in public forums. How does this relate to the draft? Technically it doesn't, but we wanted to make sure that people understood this.

Now, related to the government and curriculum.

In addition to being a teacher, you are also a tax-paying private citizen that elects members of government to represent you and your constituency.

Not only do you have a right, but in my opinion, also a responsibility to speak out against any level of government that you believe to be making decisions that are not in the public interest. Or, in this case not in the best interests of our students.

Organizing petitions, peaceful protests & demonstrations, speaking at rallies, getting lawn signs, calling/writing government members, or giving a personal opinion in an interview are all ways that you can, and are allowed to, make a difference.

There are only two cautions I give.

1. Please do so respectfully and rationally, remember that we represent teachers and the profession 24-7, and we are **always bound by the Code**.
2. If speaking to media, be clear that you are expressing **your own personal opinion**. Not that of all Alberta teachers, nor that of your Board.
(Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself as Local President or provincial President Jason Schilling if you are contacted by media.)

One last reminder... please remember that you have colleagues that have been seconded to Alberta Education. Many of them had to "review" the draft. However, all of them had to sign confidentiality agreements. We don't know what (if any) of their feedback was actually used (or ignored). We do know the Advisory Panel had unprecedented access and decision making authorization. I do know after having some conversations with a few of them that they are feeling the same frustrations and anger you are. This is not the curriculum that they wanted, or signed-on to be a part of.

I think we can all agree that our anger, frustration, and criticism is directed solely towards the government in this regard.

With that all said, if you are told anything contrary to what I have said in regards to your freedom to speak against this draft, please don't hesitate to call the Local or to ask them to call the Local for clarification.

We are in this together, and together we are stronger (and louder).

Heather

Edmonton Public Local Information

Communications Committee Survey:

Please, please, please take a moment to complete the Communication Committee's survey and be entered to win prizes!

This will assist us in how to better communicate with our members. We know in the next upcoming year being able to get information out to our members in a timely manner will be **crucial**. Please complete this survey and then also **ensure the local and provincial ATA BOTH have your home email address** (See *bottom of email*).

Here's the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLQJRVD>

Upcoming Local Events:

Please see local37.teachers.ab.ca for links to register.

My Name is Trauma Online Workshop - April 21, 2021

The PD Committee presents My Name is Trauma on April 21, 2021 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm - a self-directed PD Day. This workshop will help educators and administrators understand the nature of trauma and its impact on everyone's physical and mental health. Participants will leave the session with effective resilience building techniques, proactive classroom management, and positive support coping strategies.

"We Rise by Lifting Others" with Michael "Pinball" Clemons - April 21, 2021

The PD Committee welcomes Michael "Pinball" Clemons virtually on April 21, 2021 from 1:00 to 2:15 pm - a self-directed PD Day. "Pinball" is a much sought after international speaker who will bring a message of hope, going through COVID and bringing together communities with a short Q&A to follow.

Financial Wellness Session - May 8, 2021

The ATA will be hosting a Financial Wellness Session on Saturday, May 8th beginning at 10:00 am. The two-hour session will give you tools to take control of your financial situation.

Braver Together 2021! with Dr. Jody Carrington - May 8, 2021

The PD Committee is offering 100 tickets in the form of discount codes to attend this powerful one-day workshop with Dr. Jody Carrington. This special code is limited to members only.

Maternity/Adoption Information Session - May 31, 2021

Expecting? Adopting? Plan to attend the virtual maternity/adoption information session on May 31st beginning at 5:00 pm. Our next session will be held in the fall.

Outdoor Yoga - May 31, 2021

Join the Social Committee for this refreshing outdoor activity. This class is suitable for all levels - no experience necessary! Space is limited!

Kayaking at Riel Park on St. Albert Trail - June 12, 2021

The Social Committee is hosting Kayaking at Riel Park on St. Albert Trail on June 12th. There are three time slots available with a maximum of 12 participants per time slot (11:00 am-1:00 pm; 1:00-3:00 pm; and 4:00-6:00 pm). The cost for the rental and guide is \$5 for members and \$30 for non-members.

Information from your Teacher Welfare Committee

1. Capital Estate Planning is offering **free** two-hour financial **Wellness Seminars** this Spring which are opened to all teachers! The focus of the seminars is on both saving for the future and managing debt. The next one is Saturday, May 8th, 10 am to 12 noon via Zoom. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

2. The **Assignable Time Excel Calculator** and supporting instructions on how to use it is available

under Members Only on the Local website [HERE](#).

3. If you are not scheduled for a 30-minute uninterrupted break during your work day, please contact the Local. They can only schedule you for 2 x 15 minutes with your permission, and that has to be on an individual basis. (ie. The vote can't be take at a staff meeting with the majority deciding.)

If your 30 minutes includes a staggered exit at lunch, or supervising kids entering your class after lunch, or cleaning.....then it is probably not a full 30 minutes.

We do our best to ensure this is happening at every school, but if we don't hear from you then we don't know to try to fix it.

[Additional information](#)

Please see below for a copy of an email a member had put together to help inform her staff. **Thank-you to Kathleen Silverman for her hard work in putting this together.** Please share as you see fit.

Hi everyone,

Many of you know that the AB government recently released a draft curriculum for K-6. Many of you have probably already looked at it all or parts of it and understand what all the fuss is about (and there has been A LOT of fuss). You can find it [here](#). Please consider taking a look at the information below and getting involved. We are all maxed out and have little, if any energy, but it is so important that the government hears as many voices as possible. This draft curriculum will affect every one of us. Please feel free to forward this email, including family and friends outside of the school system!

As of today, there are **29** Alberta school boards who have said they will not pilot the draft curriculum, including Edmonton Public. Many organizations have expressed their serious concerns with the draft, including but not limited to:

- Alberta Teachers Association
- The Métis Nation of Alberta
- The Confederacy of the Treaty No. 6 First Nations Chiefs
- AB French Canadian Association
- Canadian Teachers Association
- Black Teachers Association

SURVEY! - Alberta Education wants your input. Complete their survey [here](#).

The Minister of Education stated that there would be **public town halls** during April, but I have not heard of any yet. If you know when/where to get the link, please share and then voice your thoughts!

SURVEY! - [Alberta Teachers' Association survey](#).

The Alberta Teachers' Association is calling for the Government of Alberta to stop all work on the piloting and implementation of the draft curriculum until an independent, open and full review and rewrite can occur. The Association published full-page ads in daily newspapers across Alberta to issue the **call for a moratorium** and to show support for school boards and teachers that decide not to participate in piloting.

Did you know that "[p]reliminary results from an extensive survey [by the ATA] on the draft curriculum show that **91 per cent** of teachers are unhappy with the draft, including 3 in 4 teachers stating they are "very unhappy." The curriculum evaluation project launched by the Alberta Teachers' Association shows that **90 per cent** of elementary school teachers are uncomfortable teaching the new K-6 curriculum, and **95 per cent** of principals are uncomfortable supporting the curriculum in their school and community." A PDF document with additional data from the survey is [here](#).

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

The ATA is directing parents and the public who are concerned about the draft curriculum to pledge support for the moratorium and review by visiting [The Learning Team website](#).

Albertans Reject Curriculum Draft >[click here](#)<

- A public facebook group that anyone can access (no facebook account necessary to view).
- "This group is for ANY Albertan who has concerns about the curriculum changes. Grandparents, friends, family, neighbours."
- Great information and people have posted issues with the curriculum in various areas - good if you haven't had a chance to sift through it yourself yet).

Students Deserve Better >[click here](#)<

- Request a [lawn sign](#)
- Write a [letter](#) (this is a fantastic webpage that helps you generate a letter)
- [Curriculum comparison](#) (current vs draft)

Support Our Students Alberta (SOS) >[click here](#)<

"A non-partisan, non-profit public education advocacy group fighting for the rights of all children to an equitable and accessible public education system".

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Do the surveys above.
2. Write a letter/email (no matter how long or short) sharing your concerns about the draft curriculum. Consider sending it to:
 - Your MLA (even if they are not UCP)
 - The Minister of Education, Adriana LaGrange
 - The Premier of Alberta, Jason Kenney
 - Your elected school board trustee
3. Display a protest [sign](#)
4. Download a [facebook banner](#)
5. Download a [Twitter banner](#)
6. Sign a petition
7. Download a petition and gather signatures (signatures must be in pen)
8. Share other resources, surveys, links, events, etc.
9. Spread the word far and wide!

Links:

- Find your MLA: <https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/members-of-the-legislative-assembly>
- Find your school board trustee (all of AB): <https://www.asba.ab.ca/school-boards-and-zones/school-boards/>
- Find your school board trustee (EPSB): <https://www.epsb.ca/ourdistrict/board/trustees/findmytrustee/>

Thanks again Kathleen for such a comprehensive call to action!

****Important Reminders:****

If you have not already registered a home/personal email with the Local please do so at your earliest convenience. While we are able to communicate once a month to you through the employer's email, this will only be to serve as **a reminder to check your home/personal email** where we will go into more detail around important key items. You will not be bombarded with emails, and you can unsubscribe at anytime. To register your home email, or to double check that we have one on file for you, please email Tracy at: info@edpub.org

As well, our database and the Provincial Association's database are **separate**. To insure you receive important notices from Provincial ATA (such as the upcoming Provincial Executive Council Election, or important bargaining information and subsequent voting, etc), or to update your personal information with them, please follow this link: <https://profile.teachers.ab.ca/Pages/ProfileUpdate.aspx>.

Lastly, if you do not yet have an account with the Provincial ATA, it's very important that you take the time to create one. You will need your **teaching certificate number** to do so. If you need a reminder of what yours is phone Tracy or Wendy in the Local office at **780-455-2164**.

Contact Us!

Questions? Need some assistance?
Call us at 780-455-2164 or email us at info@edpub.org.





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