

**SURREY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

# Heads Up

**For Members**

## **Summer is almost here!**

**I**f you're feeling exhausted, you're not alone. The BCTF commissioned a telephone survey of 1000 teachers, conducted by Viewpoints Research. A majority of teachers reported that their workload has increased in the past year. Only 6% of teachers surveyed said that their workload had decreased. 79% of teachers said that the government is on the wrong track when it comes to providing quality education. The survey also showed that teachers' biggest concern was reduced funding for education and program cuts (36%), not enough support for special needs students (14%), and class size (10%). Three-quarters of teachers reported that conditions have worsened since 2002, when the provincial government refused to allow the inclusion of class-size and composition limits in teachers' contracts.

But enough with the bad news. Let's end the year on a positive note! A group of counsellors presented to the Board on the negative impact of the recent cuts to Elementary Counselling and the new Family of Schools model. Their message was heard loud and clear, as 3.0 FTE has been restored to Elementary Counselling for next year! Three counselors: Judy Jardin, Ren Morley, and Sharon Sall, also made the trek to Victoria to advocate for increased funding for education. A big thanks to all the counsellors who took the time to advocate for public education.

Now, let's all go enjoy our well-deserved break and hope that with summer vacation comes some summer weather!

## **Steps for Students**

**P**rince Rupert teacher Tulani Ackerman will be walking and biking through B.C. to gather ideas regarding the challenges faced by our provincial education system. She will arrive in Surrey on August 7<sup>th</sup>. You can read more at <http://stepsforstudents.ca/>

## **International Solidarity Committee Year End News**

**T**he International Solidarity Committee promotes solidarity with teacher organizations in Latin America and brings international solidarity issues to the attention of STA members. We recommend to the STA Executive the disbursement of the International Solidarity Fund, which is an STA budget line item of \$7500. This year we continued our commitment to FOMCA, an organization of women teachers in Central America, COLPROSUMAH, the Honduras teacher union, and Sopudep, a school in Haiti. We continued our partnership with CoDevelopment Canada.

In fact, this year the STA was awarded the CoDev Solidarity in Action award, which recognizes the international work done by the STA for many years.

We continue to develop Justice to Go, our social justice DVD lending library. Check out our interactive WIKI at <http://justicetogo.wikispaces.com/>

STA members Lisa Domeier de Suarez, Laura Barker, and Julia MacRae did most of the committee work this year. If you are interested in joining the committee, you can call the STA (604-596-5353) for more information.

## ***Retired, but not Tired!***

**T**his year's Surrey Teachers' Association dinner had more than 100 people in attendance. Congratulations to all those teachers who've chosen to work less and live more!

On behalf of the STA, we wish all the retirees a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

IT'S YOUR TIME!

Ashworth, Barbara	Deane, Shirley	Howe, Diane	Richardson, Edwin
Avery, Margaret	Desilets, Diane	Hull, Allen	Ritchie, Richard
Bagnall, Dariya	Dhaliwal, Surindar	Jackson, David	Ross, Reuvena
Baluk, Lloyd	Donnelly, Phyllis	Kazuta, Mary	Sawkins, Melody
Barteluk, Judith	Dumanski, Susan	Kilpatrick, Beverly	Scherck, Carolyn
Bateman, Jeanne	Duncan, Ann	King, Beverly	Scott, Maureen
Battaglio, Carol	Durkin, Margo	Korst, Carol	Seib, Joanne
Beach, Betty	Duthie, Carol	Kosty, Janice	Shamash, Yom-Tov
Beaman, Karen	Dyck, Kathy	Kroeker, Karen C.	Simonsen, Carol
Blanchflower, Dawne	Eddleston, Reta	Kula, A.	Slade, Russell
Brooks, Maureen	Endersby, Margaret	Lavers-Erickson, Linda	Smith, Debra
Broomhead, Chloe	Eng, Margaret	Loosemore, Michael	Stables, Roderick
Brown, Susan	Ethier, Guy	Macleam, Tracy	Stansfield, Charles
Butchart, I. Karen	Griffin, Kathleen	Mageau, Eileen	Strand, David
Cameron, Brian	Hall, David	Mahony, Marian	Sullivan, Diane
Campbell, Jude	Hans, Kris	Mcarthur, Linda	Summers, Janet
Carter, Sharon	Hanson, Irene	Mckay, Anne	Tapella, Karen
Cassie, Brent	Hart, Michael	Meek, Sheila	Temple, Alison
Chudnovsky, David	Harvey, Susan	Melrose, Sandra	Terepocki, Inger
Clark, Judith	Hazelton, Dennis	Mezo, Mariana	Trask, Donna
Clifford, Mary	Heath, Vivian	Motek, Stephen	Undurraga, Maria
Connal, Peter	Hendren, Lucinda	Murtsell, Linda	Wainwright, Cheryl
Cook, Barbara	Hennessey, Ruby	Noor, Naeema	Waldman, Elinor
Coon, Guyle	Henry, Diane	Pack, Gail	Wang, Charles
Cosens, Carol	Henwood, Karyn	Pedersen, Karen	Wheeler, Russell
Cullen, Mary	Holan, Krystyna	Phillipps-Wolley, Vicki	Wood, Darhl
Dale, Ralph	Holland, Carol	Powell, Elizabeth	
Dandy, Anneke	Hollett, Dean	Prysunka, Sid	
Davison, Dorthe	Horsting, Marinus		

### ***Pension Information***

**M**embers on leave have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to purchase service at the old rates. The higher contribution rates will be in effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>.