

Government

1. There is still a strong desire to develop a rural education strategy to address the teacher/staff recruitment/retention challenges being felt by some districts
 - a. This may fold into the **efforts of some NW locals** to raise awareness of this issue. Moving into 2019/20 those efforts might target the 2020 **Rural Education Symposium** as a way of drawing the media spotlight: <https://www.albertaruraleducation.ca/>.
 - b. ARA passed a resolution on this issue in May, and [the ATA News has chimed in](#).
2. The ATA hosted a public lecture by Dominic Barton, Global Managing Partner Emeritus of McKinsey & Company. The lecture received rave reviews. The topic was “Artificial Intelligence, Automation, and the Future of Public Education.” Sobering stuff.
 - a. Lecture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBs79gYnkJU>
 - b. Slides from Lecture:
<https://www.teachers.ab.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/ATA/About/Education%20Research/Barton%20and%20McRae%20-%20AI%20Automation%20%26%20Future%20of%20Public%20Ed%2020190605.pdf>
3. You can expect to see the publication of ATA research on “**School Leadership and the Teaching Profession**” in July. It looks to contain some interesting insights, both positive (leaders are committed to instructional leadership, inclusion, Indigenous education) and negative (leaders are struggling to meet mental health needs, classes are becoming more challenging and complex, administrator workload is too high and getting higher, parents and technology are creating new demands, and work-life balance is seriously out of balance).
4. Regarding your AGMs: quorum for an AGM varies, but it is usually 10% of teachers (all teachers, including subs, as of the November 30 count).
 - a. If quorum is not achieved, the business of the AGM passes to the next local council meeting.
 - b. One way to deal with this: schedule an LCM right after your AGM. If you get quorum, cancel the LCM. If you don't get AGM quorum, no problemo! Just transition to the LCM.

Professional Development

1. **The new TQS standards, including the standards related to Indigenous culture and Reconciliation, will come into force next fall.** Teachers will want to deepen their understanding of these topics:
 - a. The National Film Board has a [three year action plan](#), and a [proud history of supporting Indigenous film-making](#). The film “[We Will Stand Up](#)” is especially highly recommended; it is about the death of Colten Boushie at the hands of Gerald Stanley.
 - b. [Legacy of Hope addresses the Sixties Scoop](#).
 - c. [Speak Truth to Power Canada](#) has some interesting lesson plans.
 - d. [Where are the Children](#) speaks directly to reconciliation for residential schools.
 - e. The reaction to the [Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) has been rather dramatic, especially to the use of the word “genocide.”
2. The government is, apparently, taking a second look at the draft K-4 program of studies.
3. **The window on the “short cut” LQS certification is closing.** There are three scheduled LQS sessions scheduled as of now.
 - a. 24/25 June in High Level
 - b. 2/3 July in Edmonton at the ARCA banquet hall
 - c. 2/3 July in Calgary at the Best Western Plaza Hotel

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- d. Other sessions may or may not be planned for the fall; we are not sure
4. Those with leadership ambitions may be interested in an update on what's available from a "leadership certificate" perspective. [Such an update is available!](#)

Member Services

1. **The Committee on Understanding Aggression in Alberta Schools and and School Communities** is slated to report in the fall.
 - a. Spoiler alert #1: some district policies and procedures seem to be in need of an update
 - b. Spoiler alert #2: stats and reporting of these incidents vary widely between districts and even, in some cases, within districts.
2. Important tip: **you might want to make sure that your insurance company has all of your current contact information.** If they need to contact you in an emergency - like the recent fires in Northern Alberta - you might be glad of that contact.
 - a. Morgex apparently experienced a surge in calls - which caused some delays - during the fires that threatened High Level and other Northern communities. This, it seems, has been addressed.

Teacher Welfare

1. **The Province has invoked closure Bill 9 to delay public sector arbitrations - including the ATA's arbitration set for the fall.**
 - a. The Government has indicated that they want the delay so that they have a chance to hear from their "Blue Ribbon Panel" on public sector spending.
 - i. That seems unlikely since the Panel is due to report in August ... some time before the ATA's arbitration date. There was not need to delay our date.
 - ii. It's also pretty obvious that the Blue Ribbon Panel - which cannot consider revenue solutions - will recommend at minimum a spending freeze, and very possibly spending cuts. Those cuts are almost certain to include cuts to Education budgets.
 - b. The Alberta Federation of Labour contends that Bill 9 will empower the UCP cabinet to unilaterally impose wage and salary cuts, overriding signed and legally binding collective agreements.
 - c. This could become quite ugly. Hopefully cooler heads prevail and the government honours signed agreements, as they should. **Teachers should contact their MLAs and express their dismay over these decisions.**
 - d. Please be attentive to the news and to the ATA's website for updates, like [this one](#).
2. If you are interested in labour market trends in the province you can find current "**Bargaining Updates**" here: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/1192-9146>
3. There is **ONE local table still engaged in bargaining for the agreement that ending in August of 2018!**
4. The **processing of agreements into a single unified document continues!** Here's where Northwest local agreements stand as of 2 May 2019: all done except Northland and PRSD (revisions with each district as of mid-May)
5. Don't forget that your benefits package includes access to Homewood Health, who have counselling services for debt, elder care, and other stuff!

Other Stuff: Peter MacKay's [Northwest DR Calendar](#) and the [ATA Calendar](#)

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