

## Government

### 1. News around the province:

- a. District Reps have heard word of fewer teachers, larger class sizes, and more assigned time for teachers; in the Northwest, two GP Catholic schools saw supervision increases of 16 and 30 hours/year, respectively.
2. 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 in the Northwest

- a. Teachers in Fort McMurray (along with Edmonton McMurray DR Nancy Ball) made a point of **advocated for a solution for the plight of Northland teachers** (with strong suggestions of some kind of allowance structure for those teachers) in their conversation with Education Minister Adrianna LaGrange. Their words are much appreciated.
- b. Efforts to raise awareness of this issue by some locals are ongoing. 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/>.

3. With regards to **public opinion polling**, Albertans continue to express concern about class size and supports for special needs and ELL students. The public continues to have a positive view of the Association as an advocate for the needs of students. Public support for the government's handling of education is slipping.

4. **It's difficult to determine the precise intentions of this government.** We know that they plan to reduce public sector spending, but we are not yet certain how fast or what other changes they might consider. There is also a lack of coherence in messaging: sometimes the Education Minister's words don't match her tweets, and sometimes her message doesn't seem to match that of the Premier or other representatives of the government. Sometimes we are just left confused:

- a. Superintendents are now going to be called "work administrators" in the practice review regulation. What this means is a mystery, at the moment.
- b. There has been much consternation about the word "public" being exiled from the official names of publicly funded school boards. It's important to note that only 8 of 41 public school boards used the word in their official name. So it might not be quite as big a deal as some thought.

### 5. What has this government done so far regarding education?

- a. Proclaimed the Education Act; [a summary of the Act is here](#).

- b. **Deferred public sector salary arbitration dates** (the Association's will be mid-November)
- c. **Indicated that something like a gr. 3 PAT will return in the future.** We shall see.
- d. **Didn't table a budget**; indicated that funds would be provided to account for enrollment growth; indicated (via the McKinnon report) that public sector spending (including education spending) needed to be trimmed and that enrollment should not be the basis for such funding. If all of that seems confusing, that means you read it correctly.
- e. **Cancellation of the memorandum of understanding with the ATA** on curriculum development and the establishment of a "curriculum review panel."
- f. Restoring to school divisions the power to **charge instructional fees and bussing fees.**
- g. The restoration of the "**seclusion room**" option for schools and school divisions.
- h. Re: the **McKinnon Report**, there were 4 main points relevant to education:
  - i. **Rec 5** - *decrease percentage of funding that goes to administration and governance from 25% (current) to 17% (more like BC).* The comparison to BC may be an apples to oranges situation: administration means different things in BC than it does here; our mandated bussing distance is larger, etc.
  - ii. **Rec 6** - *review and revise the current funding formula to ensure that enrollment growth is addressed, and to incentivize sharing services AND student outcomes.* What "student outcomes" might mean is not defined.
  - iii. **Rec 10** - *establish a labour relations framework with long-term goals for compensation to be in line with comparable provinces.* This neglects the simple fact that Albertans in general (public and private sector) make more than Canadians in other provinces. Public sector workers in Alberta still need to work here, buy homes here, etc.
  - iv. **Rec 12** - *establish a legislative mandate (i.e. a law) that sets salary levels for all public sector employees. This would apply to all negotiations and arbitration. In the event of a strike, the mandate would form the basis for back-to-work legislation.* If you are wondering how meaningful collective bargaining would occur in such a scenario you are not alone.

- i. **Other changes appear to be proceeding in the quiet background.** We have reason to believe that the Department of Education, which once had over 700 employees, now stands at around 550. We also have reason to believe that the new funding formula may be actualized as soon as the 2020/21 school year. So change is afoot!
6. Teachers and Local officials continue their outreach to their MLAs and to the Education Ministry. [Talking points in support of this work](#) can be found in the members only section of the ATA website.
7. You can expect to see the publication of ATA research on **“School Leadership and the Teaching Profession”**

### **Professional Development**

1. **Teachers are strongly encouraged to consider presenting at Teacher Convention**; presentations from colleagues receive consistent high ratings from attendees. Convention boards provide honoraria for such sessions, usually around \$200 for a 75 minute session (but check with your convention board for particulars).
2. Summer conference happened, and as usual a good time was had by some.
  - a. Contrary to rumours, **there is currently no plan to move summer conference from that location**; that news will please some and displease others.
  - b. There is one bit of good news: **we can expect 70 more rooms to be available at the Banff Centre for accomodation**. So that's good!
3. The “short cut” window on **Leadership Certification** is closing fast. The remaining dates are October 17/18 at Barnett House (French and English) and a date to be determined at the Fort Vermillion School Division Central office.
  - a. [A summary of university paths to certification](#) is attached and linked.
4. Don't forget that various [Grants, Awards and Scholarships](#) are available from the Association.
  - a. The [Communities of Practice Grant](#), for example, offers matching grants of up to \$2000 for inquiry projects.

### **Member Services**

1. **Member services continue to report increases in the number of professional conduct complaints and investigations.** Surprisingly, teacher complaints about other teachers is the largest single driver of this increase. The reasons for this are unclear.

## Teacher Welfare

1. Teacher Welfare staff have noted the need for “financial wellness” to be considered as a component of teacher wellness. We shall see where this goes in the future, but in the short term remember that Homewood Health offers financial counselling.
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. The **2016-18 bargaining round is now completed** (with a mediator’s recommendation).
4. So far **ONE agreement has been reached in the 2018-20 bargaining round.** We’re off to a slow start, but that’s understandable: school divisions still don’t have their budgets.
5. **There is a lot of frustration and “what can we do” talk among teachers.** Teachers are reminded that we are currently under a valid, ratified collective agreement; we need to honour that; labour action is not an option for us right now. However, our agreement ends in August of 2020. Teachers need to prepare for that moment in a number of ways:
  - a. Have their **financial houses in order** or get there in 18 to 24 months
  - b. **Take part in advocacy for the profession, for education funding, and for the government to honour the collective bargaining process**
  - c. **Make sure your TWC has your contact info**, and stay informed:
    - i. **Since 2012 teachers have had one 2% increase.** Since the Consumer Price index jumped 12.4%, shelter is +11.4%, food is +17.5%, transportation +15.2%. Other Alberta workers have seen increases during that time: AAWWE jumped 14.6%.
      1. And that doesn’t take into account regional variations in cost of living and struggles in teacher attraction/retention.
    - ii. **Classroom conditions have also eroded over that period:**
      1. In the 2027/18 school year over 81% of Division 1 classes were over the Alberta Commission on Learning recommendation of 17 pupils. And they weren’t just a little bit over; on average they exceeded the recommended number by 29.35% (i.e. classes average almost 22 students). In addition, supports for inclusion have been less than optimal in many cases.

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

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# University Courses and Programs

## Leadership Certification and Superintendent Leadership Certification

Teacher Education University	Coursework or Program (Start Dates)	Results in:	Contact Information
<b>Non-Credit</b>			
Ambrose University (Calgary)	ELQS 001 – Becoming a Transformational Leader (Fall, Summer) ELQS 002 – Becoming a Transformative Principal (Winter, Summer)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:sherry.martens@ambrose.edu">sherry.martens@ambrose.edu</a> (403) 410-2000 Ext 6919
University of Calgary	Modules for Leadership Certification - 2 course equivalent (Fall, Spring, Summer)	Leadership Certification	403-220-2866 1-866-220-4992 (Toll-Free)
Continuing Education (Calgary)	Superintendent Leadership - 1 course equivalent (Winter)	Superintendent Leadership Certification	
Saint Mary's University (Calgary)	EDLD 551 Theory and Practice in Educational Leadership I EDLD 552 Theory and Practice in Educational Leadership II	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:sarah.twomey@stmu.ca">sarah.twomey@stmu.ca</a> Dr. Sarah Twomey Professor and Dean of Education
<b>For Credit Graduate Courses, Graduate Certificate or Master of Education</b>			
	EDUC 680 Introduction to Educational Leadership (Fall) EDUC 685 Principal Leadership Development (Winter)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:edgar.schmidt@concordia.ab.ca">edgar.schmidt@concordia.ab.ca</a> Dr. Edgar Schmidt
Concordia University (Edmonton)	EDUC 690 Superintendent Leadership Development (Winter)	Superintendent Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:edgar.schmidt@concordia.ab.ca">edgar.schmidt@concordia.ab.ca</a> Dr. Edgar Schmidt
	Master of Education in Educational Leadership (Summer)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:edu.coord@concordia.ab.ca">edu.coord@concordia.ab.ca</a> Dr. Lorin Yochim, MED Coordinator



University	Coursework or Program (Start Dates)	Results in:	Contact Information
University of Alberta (Edmonton)	EDU 520 Foundations of School Leadership (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:pluinfo@ualberta.ca">pluinfo@ualberta.ca</a> 780-492-0998
	EDU 521 School Leadership: Theory into Practice (Fall, Winter, Spring)		
University of Alberta (Edmonton)	EDU 523 System Leadership: Theory and Practice (Winter, Summer)	Superintendent Leadership Certification	
	Graduate Certificate in School Leadership (inclusive of EDU 520 & EDU 521) (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)	Leadership Certification	
University of Alberta (Edmonton)	Master of Education (inclusive of EDU 520 & EDU 521) (Fall)	Leadership Certification	
	CEDUL 501 L'administration de l'éducation (Automne, Été)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:selatia@ualberta.ca">selatia@ualberta.ca</a> Samira ElAtia, PhD Vice Doyenne aux Études Supérieures 780-485-8630
	CEDUL 502 Formation des habiletés de supervision et de leadership (Automne, Été)	Superintendent Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:emmanuel@ualberta.ca">emmanuel@ualberta.ca</a> Emma Yellowbird Responsable Chef, Administration aux Études Supérieures 780-465-8754
	Certificat des études supérieures (CEDUL 501 & CEDUL 502 inclus) (Automne, Été)	Leadership Certification	
University of Calgary	Maitrise en sciences de l'éducation (CEDUL 501 & CEDUL 502 inclus) (Automne)	Leadership Certification	
	Graduate Certificate in School Leadership (4 courses) (Summer)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:gpe@ucalgary.ca">gpe@ucalgary.ca</a> 403-220-5675
University of Lethbridge (Lethbridge)	Master of Education in Leadership for Learning (Summer)	Leadership Certification & Superintendent Leadership Certification	1-877-623-0292 (Toll Free)
	Master of Education in Educational Leadership (Summer)	Leadership Certification	<a href="mailto:edu.masters@uleth.ca">edu.masters@uleth.ca</a> 403-329-2256

