



The Alberta
Teachers' Association



WE ARE **teachers.**
TEACHING IS OUR
profession.

$$\int (a \cos y + b \sin y) \cos y \, dy$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \, dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) \, dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} f(t) \, dt$$





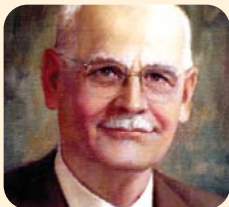
who we are...

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foundations



HISTORY



When John Walker Barnett – a teacher and former member of the National Union of Teachers in England – immigrated to Alberta in

1917, he was shocked by the deplorable working conditions for teachers, which included poor wages and wrongful dismissals. Through his efforts, the Alberta Teachers' Alliance was established in 1918.

In 1935, the government passed the *Teaching Profession Act*, which gave the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) its legal foundation.

In 1936, the act was amended to require mandatory ATA membership for all certificated teachers employed by a public or separate school board.

Over the next ten years, the government approved legislation giving teachers a process for appealing dismissals, a pension plan and the right to bargain collectively.

In 1942, Alberta's first faculty of education was established at the University of Alberta.

MISSION

The Alberta Teachers' Association, as the professional organization of teachers, promotes and advances public education, safeguards standards of professional practice and serves as the advocate for its members.



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what we do...

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standards



TEACHER PROFESSIONALISM

One of the most important functions of the Alberta Teachers' Association is to maintain the high regard the Alberta public has for teachers. This is done by upholding standards related to teacher education, practice and conduct.

Alberta's teachers are among the best in the world, and the ATA supports the highest professional standards. Teacher competency, as outlined by the Teaching Quality Standard, is upheld by the Association's Practice Review process. Standards of conduct prescribed by the Code of Professional Conduct are enforced through the Association's discipline process.

The ATA represents the interests of teachers on issues of teacher education and certification through liaisons with Alberta Education and Alberta's universities. It also operates, at arm's length, the Teacher Qualifications Service (TQS), which is responsible for evaluating teacher education for salary purposes.

ADVANCING TEACHING QUALITY

The ATA is the premier provider of teacher professional development in education in Alberta. Each year, the ATA organizes hundreds of

institutes and workshops; dozens of conferences, seminars and symposiums; and ten teachers' conventions that are planned and operated by regional boards and funded through ATA fees.

The Association's 21 specialist councils foster the professional development (PD) of teachers interested in common curriculum for specialty areas. Through organizing annual conferences, producing publications, maintaining websites and offering regional workshops and seminars, specialist councils provide members with opportunities to share ideas and gather new information. One of the benefits of active membership in the ATA is the opportunity to join one specialist council each year at no cost.

Every year, the Association organizes and hosts a number of professional development opportunities, including annual conferences for administrators and beginning teachers. With the help of teacher instructors and facilitators, the ATA also supports school-based professional development by coordinating numerous workshops and events.

The ATA Library houses an extensive collection of books, periodicals, videos and other resources to help teachers advance the quality of their teaching practice.



well-being

ENSURING FAIR TEACHER COMPENSATION

The Alberta Teachers' Association is the bargaining agent for all teachers employed by public, separate and francophone school jurisdictions in the province, as well as for school-based administrators, and nearly all central-office-based teachers and administrators. Salary, benefits and employment conditions are negotiated by experienced and effective Association bargainers, who ensure that collective agreements are followed.

The ATA also represents the interests of teachers on the boards of the Alberta School Employee Benefit Plan and the Alberta Teachers' Retirement Fund.

RESPONDING TO TEACHER CONCERNS

Advice is available from executive staff officers, who are well recognized for their expertise and knowledge. They can provide help on virtually all issues related to professional life, including contracts, evaluation, medical issues, maternity, benefits, retirement and professional development.

The Association gives professional educational advice to members focused solely on their interests.

Association staff is available to represent individual teachers in meetings or hearings related to any employment-related issue, including disciplinary matters, transfers and terminations. If it is necessary, the ATA will obtain legal advice or assistance for its members.

Teachers are encouraged to call for assistance when employment-related issues arise. All calls are confidential, and courses of action are left to the discretion of the member.

780-447-9400 in Edmonton

1-800-232-7208 from elsewhere in Alberta





advocacy

SPEAKING OUT FOR TEACHERS

As outlined in the *Teaching Profession Act*, the Alberta Teachers' Association is the voice of the teaching profession in Alberta and advocates on behalf of teachers and students.

To ensure that the profession speaks from a position of knowledge and authority, the ATA conducts research on a variety of issues related to education, teaching and learning. Its advocacy work includes public relations and political engagement activities to promote public education and the professional role of teachers.

To keep members informed and up to date on professional, legal and political issues, the Association produces many publications, including the *ATA News*, a biweekly newspaper, the *ATA Magazine*, a quarterly magazine, as well as scholarly journals and educational research monographs. It also maintains an informative website at www.teachers.ab.ca.

HOW WE FUNCTION

The ATA is a democratic organization governed by teacher representatives elected from the membership. Teachers are organized into local associations (based on school jurisdictions)

whose executives are made up of active teachers from that local. Association policies and annual budget are set at the Annual Representative Assembly (ARA), which is attended by approximately 450 teacher delegates selected by their local associations. ARA is held each May long weekend, and alternates between Edmonton and Calgary.

The Provincial Executive Council serves as the executive branch of the Association. It consists of fifteen district representatives and five table officers (the president, two vice-presidents, a past president and the executive secretary). The president, vice-presidents and district representatives are elected every two years through direct ballot of active and associate ATA members.





involvement

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – GET INVOLVED

The well-being of the teaching profession is dependent on the hard work of nearly 3,000 teacher volunteers. The ATA *is* its members.

All ATA subgroups – locals, specialist councils and teachers' convention boards – are operated by teacher representatives. The continued success of these groups requires the infusion of new ideas and the active involvement of members. Teachers interested in contributing to their professional organization can get involved by contacting their school representative or emailing getinvolved@ata.ab.ca for more information.

The Association also needs consultants, instructors, facilitators and committee members. These positions give teachers the opportunity to share and develop valuable skills and knowledge in a number of professional areas. Check the ATA website (www.teachers.ab.ca) and the *ATA News* for information on how to apply.



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