

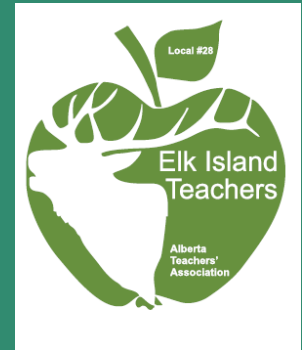


# THE FACE OF EDUCATION

FIND OUT MORE - THE PLEDGE FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION - [WWW.IBELIEVEINPUBLICED.CA](http://WWW.IBELIEVEINPUBLICED.CA)

## THE BUGLER

ATA Local #28



November/December 2018

TEACHERS SUPPORTING TEACHERS

## BE INFORMED, BE INVOLVED

by Deneen Zielke

The upcoming provincial general election and its connection to crucial issues regarding your work as a professional teacher should be a major concern for us all.

Alberta's provincial election is coming soon, probably in May, just six months away.

As your local president, I want to let you know why this election is so important for your work in the classroom, what actions your ATA representatives will be taking, and why your own involvement is so crucial.

### **Classroom conditions are political decisions**

There has been a growing concern about classroom conditions that increasingly make it difficult for teachers to do their best work with students – too many large classes, and too little support for students with complex needs. And the situation seems to be getting worse rather than better for too many teachers and students.

How many students are in our classrooms, how much support we receive in terms of teacher aides and other resources, how much

(continued on page 2)



### **Let's Make Education an Election Issue!!**

Find out how to get involved and add to our collective voice. Pages 9-10



### **Mark Your Calendars**

Find out about special events being hosted by your Local. Larry Booi will be visiting us on January 24<sup>th</sup>  
Page 8

(From the Local President continued)

support there is for early learning, student mental health and other crucial concerns – all these decisions are made by our elected representatives, mainly at the provincial level, the very people who will be chosen in the May election.

**If we want to affect the decisions that will determine the teaching and learning conditions for the years to come, we must do all that we can to influence this election so that the need to improve classroom conditions is a top issue, and candidates who support strengthening public education are elected to office.**

**At present, education issues are not seen as important**

In the 2015 election, education and health care concerns were by far the most important issues in the lead-up to the vote.

By contrast, recent polling indicates that in the lead-up to the next election the top concerns of voters and political parties have to do with a cluster of other issues: pipelines, energy, the economy and jobs.

**We need to take action to ensure that public education issues once again become a top election focus of candidates and parties, or our concerns about improving classroom conditions will continue to be ignored, and conditions will continue to worsen.**

**What your ATA representatives are doing on behalf of teachers**

While the ATA is fully *non-partisan* and does not support individual candidates and parties, it is very definitely *political* – that is, your Association is very involved in the political system, and advocates forcefully on behalf of teachers for policies that will strengthen public education and support the important work of teachers and their profession.

To that end, the provincial ATA has recently announced a major program of actions related to the coming provincial election, including public advertising and supporting advocacy by locals and teachers in a variety of ways (check the ATA website, [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca), for details.)

Your Elk Island Public Local representatives have made political engagement in this election by teachers a top priority for this year. We started planning our strategy at the Provincial ATA Summer Conference, continued at our strategic planning meeting in October, and have been working with a number of partners to strengthen and maximize the work we are doing.

In November we invited Jonathan Teghtmeyer from the provincial association to our Local Council meeting and invited all teachers to come and hear about the current political environment and how education issues are being addressed by the various political parties.

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, Larry Booi, Past-President of the provincial association, advocate for public education and political commentator will be addressing members of our Local to share his insight, knowledge, and suggestions. As well, it will be time to ask questions and learn what we can do as a group and as individuals to make education a top election issue.

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, we are planning a Meet and Greet

with local MLAs and candidates. This will be an (continued on page 2)

(From the Local President continued)

opportunity to personally share your opinions with candidates and hear from them regarding their understanding of the issues we are facing in the classroom and how they plan to address them.

We have invited Elk Island Catholic teachers, retired teachers from our Local, as well as Edmonton Public teachers who live in our area to join us. I am in regular contact with Heather Quinn, Edmonton Public President, and will continue to work with her and Darryl Webb our Political Engagement Officer to act on emerging issues or suggestions. This is the work being done on your behalf, but **the key to our success will be the extent to which individual teachers like you make the time to get engaged in at least some of these advocacy efforts.**

### **What we are asking of individual teachers**

While the ATA must be non-partisan, the same is not true of individual teachers: As citizens, you are fully entitled to choose individual candidates and parties that you wish to support.

In addition, the critical element in elections is not advertising or actions by leaders of organizations, but rather it is the concerted actions of many individuals who get actively involved in the democratic process by identifying and supporting candidates and parties which offer the best approaches on key areas of concern – and in this case, that should center on their clear commitment to improving classroom conditions and strengthening public education.

Of course teachers are very busy, and it is true that “we can’t all do everything” – but in this case, I believe strongly that we all need to do *something*.

Your ATA Local will be asking you to choose from a wide range of possible engagements over the coming months, which include the following:

- Making a political donation to a candidate or party that you choose to support (a \$100 donation results in a \$75 tax rebate)
- Working for a candidate or party of your choice during the campaign (a wide

range of possible involvements)

- Working with your Local on political engagement activities
- Contacting your MLA to stress the importance of education issues in the election
- Meeting with other party candidates in your constituency to advocate for policies to improve classroom conditions

Over the coming months, I will be in touch to report further on what is being done on your behalf by your provincial association and your Local, and on the opportunities for individual teachers to be engaged in meaningful and effective ways.

**In the meantime, I encourage you to set aside a small amount of time in the coming months to exercise your democratic right as a citizen to do more than simply vote, but rather to help us make education issues important in this election and to advocate for policies and resources so that teachers can do their best work with students**



**and all students are fully supported in being successful as learners.**

## CONFERENCE CORNER

by Irene Deatcher

Here are more professional development activities and conferences which are on the horizon!



### HICE Conference

**WHO:** Professionals from a wide variety of education related fields from around the world.

**WHAT:** The 17<sup>th</sup> annual [Hawaii International Conference On Education](#).

**WHERE:** [Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort](#)

**WHEN:** January 5-8, 2019

**WHY:** This is an opportunity to meet and interact with other professionals outside of your own disciplines and focus on interests and issues related to education.

The [upcoming program](#) is still in development but you may want to refer to the [2018 program](#) as an example of possible events and topics.

**HOW:** [Register online](#). Costs do NOT include accommodations but DO include 4 breakfasts and all morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

### Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Workshop

**WHO:** School and district based administrators.

**WHAT:** A workshop sponsored by the ATA which focuses on accountability, supervision, evaluation, and professional growth, in relation to the role of administrators as defined in the School Act.

**WHERE:** [Calgary Plaza Hotel Conference Centre](#)

**WHEN:** January 24-25, 2019

**WHY:** The first day will concentrate on topics related to teacher growth, and supervision. Evaluation will be discussed on the second day. For full details about the agenda, visit the [event website](#).

**HOW:** [Register online](#).

There is no registration fee for ATA members. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Attendees must make their own arrangements for costs regarding travel, substitute teachers, and accommodations.



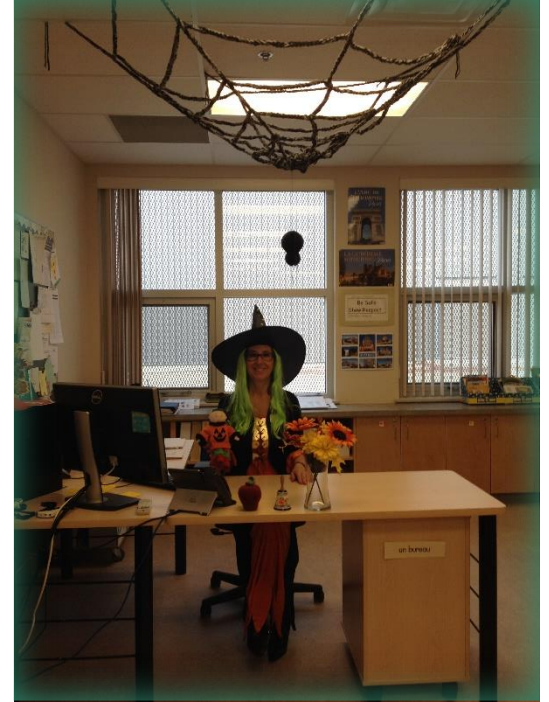
# HALLOWEEN PHOTO CONTEST - RESULTS

by Irene Deatcher

There were SO many creative and fun photos to choose from – making a decision was very difficult. Thanks go out to all who participated!



**First place** prize goes to Alfred Yung (FSE) for his perfect posing in his "Salt-bae" costume (of internet meme fame). The other first place prize has been awarded to Ms. Da Costa (FSE) – the whole ensemble becomes even more impressive when you realize that her first name is Charlotte and that the impressive web was hand-crocheted! They each will receive a \$50 gift card for either Indigo or Amazon.



**Honorable mention** prizes were won by Kristian Basaraba (SPO) for the playful photo of coffee and a donut, and to Kasie Aasen (CBN) for the moody haunted houses. Kristian and Kasie will each receive an ATA 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary journal. Congrats, everyone - thanks for sharing your Halloween adventures!





By Maxine Holm, Kindergarten Teacher (MHV)

## MINDFUL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

From March 2018 to November 2018 I had the opportunity to participate in 200 hour Yoga Teacher Certification Training and Yoga for Kids Training at Yoga For Today.

I pursued this avenue to enhance my teaching in the areas of body awareness, strength and flexibility, focus and concentration, mindfulness, and calming and relaxation strategies in my Kindergarten classroom. From the very beginning I had many questions about the value of this training for me as a Kindergarten teacher and these are my reflections.

Physically, children enhance body awareness, strength, and flexibility by exploring movement and using muscles in a variety of ways. It also helps improve balance and coordination. By doing breathing and physical poses children learn to focus and concentrate on their physical efforts. It allows them to set aside 'wandering thoughts' as they concentrate on balancing, lifting arms, counting breaths, etc. This work on focus and concentration can help them focus and concentrate on school work.

Our modern world is busy and full of external stimulations and pressures that impact the children in our classrooms. Practicing breathing and mindfulness can help children alleviate the pressures and develop calming, relaxation, and resiliency strategies.

It is exciting when a parent tells me that they found their child doing downward dog in his room, or when they see a child sitting cross legged on the carpet with his eyes closed, taking a moment to breathe during playtime because he needs a moment, or when a child asks for a "mindfulness minute" after lunch.



teacher

Lunch in the kindergarten room is chaotic, disorganized and loud. Right

after lunch, I find my students to be restless and irritable so I have begun using "Mindful Minutes" to help us calm our minds and bodies before getting going ahead with the afternoon. So far, I have used mindful minutes to eliminate excess external stimulation and it's something you can easily try in your classroom, too!

1. Ahead of time, prepare a tray of different objects (feathers, pom poms, rocks, beads, styrofoam balls, popsicle sticks, etc.) and cover the tray with a scarf.
2. Have the children sit cross legged on the floor and close their eyes.
3. Encourage them to sit tall by pulling up our imaginary puppet strings attached to our heads to sit tall, breathe deeply, and un-round and relax their shoulders. Inhale the shoulders up and exhale them back down.
4. Walk around the room and have children reach in to grab the first object they touch. Encourage the children to explore their object.
5. At first, I say words as they explore (I tied this into an earlier Attributes lesson) and ask them to concentrate on the word(s) that describe their object. I ask them to do this mindfully by focusing on feeling the object without speaking or peeking!!

Now you can be as creative as you like. I integrated learning about our 5 senses with Mindful Minutes by introducing calming music and different smells (peppermint, orange, etc.) but I'm sure that there are many other great ideas you have that will make this work in your classroom, too!

# INDUCTION 2018

by Irene Deatcher

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, many colleagues gathered to honour and celebrate new teachers in our district who were officially inducted into the ATA. Many guest speakers delivered messages of encouragement, inspiration, and congratulations. President Deneen Zielke welcomed all attendees and Paul Froese (our District Representative) was present to bring greetings from the ATA. Representing the Elk Island Public School Board was Board Chair, Trina Boymook and MJ Nam (AJS) delivered a message on behalf of principals.





## INJURY REPORTS & NEAR-MISSES!!

By Stephen Anderson, TBAC Chair

Greetings Teacher friends! We had our first TBCC (Teacher Board Consultation Committee) meeting of the year on October 29<sup>th</sup>. One of the main issues we have been strongly advocating for is ensuring the safety of all students and staff. I have heard from many teachers that safety, especially when dealing with students with moderate to severe behavioural issues, is a growing concern. We addressed this issue with the board, however, it seems that they are not receiving many reports from teachers and are unaware of many issues. After hearing from multiple teachers, this does not seem to align with what is truly happening in several classrooms. I cannot help but feel that many of these incidents are going unreported and so we have been strongly encouraged to report all incidents and near misses by completing a report. The form can be found on [Staff Connect](#) by searching the documents for the **Occupational Incident/Injury Report**.

Also, if it is a student who is injured or experiences a near miss please ensure to search for and fill out a **Student Incident/Injury Report**.

I recognize that filling in these forms may add to your workload, however, without these reports it is difficult to get you and your students the supports you need. Please, no matter how small the incident/near miss, take the time to complete these forms for every incident so that action can be taken to ensure we are all able to do the great work we do in the safest possible manner.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION – SPECIAL EVENTS!!

By Darryl Webb, Political Engagement Officer

Please mark your calendar for Thursday January 24<sup>th</sup> to **hear Larry Booi speak** about getting our public education message across in the upcoming election.

[Larry Booi](#) has long worked to strengthen education and support the public good. He is a former president of the ATA and is instrumental in getting the government to pay attention to classroom conditions. This event will take place at the [Sherwood Park Log Cabin](#) (50 Spruce Ave Sherwood Park) at 4:30 P.M. Food and beverages will be supplied.



Another very important calendar item is our **political party meet and greet**. This is your chance to raise important educational issues to the political parties running in the next election. This event will take place Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at [Hunters Social Grill](#) (#42 - 975 Broadmoor Blvd) from 4:30 to 6:30. A complimentary drink and food will be provided. Please bring teacher ID for your drink. Examples include; ATA card, School ID, ASEBP card, Pay stub etc. This is your chance to make a difference!



# TEACHERS WANT WHAT STUDENTS NEED – YOUR HANDY GUIDE FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE



By Irene Deatcher



At the last Local Council meeting, members were invited to hear Johnathan Teghtmeyer (Associate Coordinator for Communications for the ATA) speak about the current political environment and ideas for how teachers can become involved to **MAKE EDUCATION AN ELECTION ISSUE**.

One core statement that he shared was **\*\*TEACHERS WANT WHAT STUDENTS NEED\*\***. We believe in public education and education NEEDS to be at the forefront of discussions regarding the future in this province.

## How Do We Raise Awareness and Grow the Conversation?

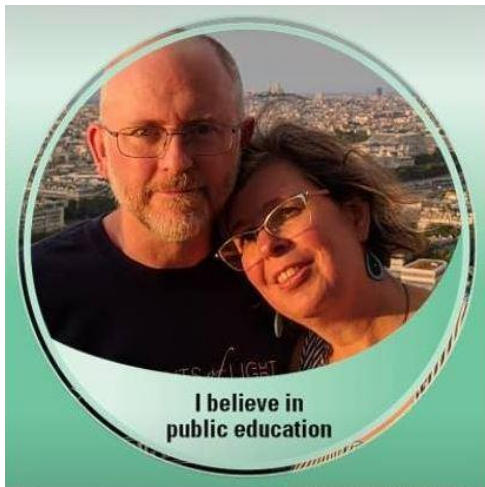
Consider the following actions:

- Visit the [ibelieveinpubliced.ca](http://ibelieveinpubliced.ca) website and sign the pledge.
- Take a selfie holding one of the pledge statements and share on Facebook, Twitter, or other social media.
- Encourage others to take the pledge.
- Email candidates / your MLA with your concerns about and hopes for education in Alberta - ***\*\*Did you know that candidates start to treat a topic as an issue worthy of***



**attention when they have received 6 emails about it?\*\*** That's all it takes – six people emailing 😊

- Attend the Larry Booi event on January 24<sup>th</sup>
- Attend the Meet & Greet event involving local MLAs and election candidates (to be co-hosted by Local 28 and Elk Island Catholic Local 41) which will be held on February 12th (more details will be shared at a later date).
- Prepare for discussions with candidates and others by checking out [key talking points](#) regarding issues related to education.



- Add the “I Believe in Public Education” frame to your Facebook photo. Visit [Local 28’s Facebook page](#) and scroll down to find the link.
- Donate to a political party of your choice.
- Get involved with the campaign of a candidate or party you wish to support.
- Stay informed by visiting <https://www.elkislandlocal28.ca> and [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca).
- Distribute pamphlets (which will be given to members sometime in the near future by staff reps).

### **Core beliefs regarding education include:**

- \* all students should be able to learn in small class sizes
- \* students with special needs should receive the supports and resources they need
- \* students should have the opportunity to benefit from full-funded junior kindergarten and full-day kindergarten programs
- \* all students should have access to a teacher-certificated school counsellor in their school

## QUICK BITS

by Irene Deatcher

Browse through these 'bits' for fast facts and information for our local.

### MOVIE TICKETS

Discounted movie passes are available for certificated staff for a limited time. Up to 10 passes may be purchased per member for \$8.50 per ticket. ***Send a notice to Administrative Assistant Karen Topma with your request.*** Make cheques payable to Elk Island Local #28.

### PEC ELECTIONS

Nominations for all elected positions on the Provincial Executive Council are now open. Any active and associate members of the ATA are eligible to run and to vote in the 2019 election.

Nominations will close on January 18<sup>th</sup> and candidate information and campaign materials will be distributed to schools starting January 25<sup>th</sup>. Online voting will take place between March 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, with results being announced on March 19<sup>th</sup>. To be able to vote, members **MUST have an online account.**

For more information about nominations, PEC, and the

election, check out the [article in the ATA News](#).

### TEACHERS' CONVENTION – HOW TO PRE-REGISTER FOR SESSIONS

The [North Central Teachers' Convention Association](#) has published the event schedule and, on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, they opened [some sessions for pre-registration](#). Many of these sessions fill quickly and the ability to pre-register will end on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm. [Tickets must be purchased](#) (costs vary) online. The password for ticket purchases is "North".

### ALTERNATE PD FOR CONVENTION

The 2019 [North Central Teachers' Convention](#) will be taking place on February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. If you plan to attend alternate professional development activities on those dates, you **MUST submit an application** for approval at least 20 days before the event (by January 17<sup>th</sup> at the latest).

Alternate PD will only be approved IF 1) it is relevant to professional practice and is NOT already included at convention, 2) it is an extraordinary opportunity that cannot be accessed at another time, and 3) it is an

organized pd event that exceeds ones provided at convention.

### CLAUSE 9.5 FUNDING

Term 2 applications are now being accepted. Funding for term 2 applies to professional development activities which occur between February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Currently, there are also still funds available for Term 1 opportunities (events which take place up to and including January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019).

### UPCOMING LOCAL 28 TWC EVENTS

Our Teacher Welfare Committee is arranging two sessions for Local members.

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a ***full-day retirement session*** (9am to 4pm, lunch and a binder of pertinent materials will be provided) at Salisbury Composite High School.

There will be a ***maternity session*** on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 at Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary.

Locations for each session are still being confirmed. Spouses/partners are welcome. Please contact [Jennifer Fredeen](#) to register and let her know how many spots you want to reserve.

Registrants will be contacted with updated information once locations are confirmed.



## IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

### December 2<sup>nd</sup>

First day of Hanukkah

### December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Pre-registration opens for Teachers' Convention.

### December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Nominations for Provincial Executive Council positions open.

### December 10<sup>th</sup>

Last day of Hanukkah

### December 18<sup>th</sup>

Nominations for Provincial Executive Council positions close.

### December 21<sup>st</sup>

Last day of school before the winter break.

### December 25<sup>th</sup>

Merry Christmas!!

### December 26<sup>th</sup>

First day of Kwanzaa.  
Boxing Day.

### January 1<sup>st</sup>

Happy New Year – 2017!!  
Last day of Kwanzaa

### January 7<sup>th</sup>

Ukrainian Christmas  
First day back at school.

### January 17<sup>th</sup>

Final day to submit alternate PD applications for Teachers' Convention

### January 24<sup>th</sup>

Larry Boo event at the Log Cabin.

### January 24-25<sup>th</sup>

Teacher Growth Supervision and Evaluation workshop for administrators

### January 25<sup>th</sup>

Pre-registration closes for Teachers' Convention.

### January 28

Edmonton Catholic Local #54 is holding a GSA meeting at Barnett House starting at 4:30 until 6:30

CAN YOU FIND HIM???



### WHERE'S SANTA - 2017

This month marks the return of our popular "Where's Santa?" contest. To participate, you must find the word "SANTA" hidden somewhere within the Bugler (any mention in THIS article does NOT count). "Santa" is hiding in a phrase just

like CAT is hiding in the beginning letters of "Calling All Teachers!"

If you find him, email the phrase to me – please put "SANTA Contest" as your email heading. He is a little harder to find this year, but not impossible! All people who reply with the correct answer will have their names put in a draw (cut-off will be 9pm on December 21<sup>st</sup>). The winning participant will be notified on December 22<sup>nd</sup> by email.

Because it may be harder to find the jolly fellow, this month the prize is a whopping **\$150 gift card** for Amazon.ca OR for The Keg restaurant! Ho-ho-ho!

## LOCAL #28 EXECUTIVE

**President:**

Deneen Zielke

cell: 780-940-5525

[President@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:President@elkislandlocal28.ca)**Treasurer:**

John Murphy

(school) 780-992-1272

[treasurer@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:treasurer@elkislandlocal28.ca)**Local Communications Officer:**

Irene Deatcher

cell: 780-937-4915

[lco@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:lco@elkislandlocal28.ca)**Professional Development Chair:**

Janet Vader

(school) 780-449-2787

[pdchair@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:pdchair@elkislandlocal28.ca)**Teacher Welfare Committee:**

Jennifer Fredeen TWC Chair

cell: 780-217-3197

[twcchair@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:twcchair@elkislandlocal28.ca)**Secretary:**

Maxine Holm

[secretary@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:secretary@elkislandlocal28.ca)

Linda Butler Dunn (NSC Chair)

cell: 780-281-0850

[butlerdunn@gmail.com](mailto:butlerdunn@gmail.com)**Political Engagement Officer /  
Annual Representatives****Assembly Chair:**

Darryl Webb

[politicalengagement@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:politicalengagement@elkislandlocal28.ca)**District Representative:**

Paul Froese

cell: 780-951-2461

[Paul.Froese@teachers.ab.ca](mailto:Paul.Froese@teachers.ab.ca)**Teacher Board Advisory  
Committee Chair:**

Stephen Anderson

cell: 780-267-2419

[tbacchair@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:tbacchair@elkislandlocal28.ca)

## LOCAL #28 OFFICE

**Administrative Assistant:** Karen Topma**Office number:** 587-988-3663[elkislandpublicata@gmail.com](mailto:elkislandpublicata@gmail.com)**Address:** #847- 33 Blackfoot Road  
Sherwood Park  
T8A 4W5**Office Hours:** Tuesday 08:30 - 15:00

Wednesday 11:30 - 17:00

Thursday 08:30 - 15:00

# The Bugler ATA Local #28

WHO  
ARE  
YOU  
GOING  
TO  
CALL?



For policy concerns, working conditions and issues related to how things operate in EIPS contact the Teacher Board Advisory Committee (TBAC):

**Stephen Anderson TBAC**  
[tbacchair@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:tbacchair@elkislandlocal28.ca)

For questions about ARTA (Alberta Retired Teachers' Association) that are not answered on [the website](#) or for questions about EIRTA ([Elk Island Retired Teachers' Association](#)):

**Karen Atkinson**  
[Elk.Island.RTA@shaw.ca](mailto:Elk.Island.RTA@shaw.ca)

Twitter: [@ElkIslandLocal](#)



For pay issues, leaves and anything related to the [collective agreement](#), contact the Teacher Welfare Committee (TWC) or the Negotiating Sub-Committee (NSC):

**Jennifer Fredeen TWC**  
**780-217-3197**  
[twcchair@elkislandlocal28.ca](mailto:twcchair@elkislandlocal28.ca)

**Linda Butler Dunn NSC**  
**cell: 780-281-0850**  
[butlerdunn@gmail.com](mailto:butlerdunn@gmail.com)

Facebook: [ATA Local #28 – Elk Island Public](#)



For professional conduct issues, contract concerns and employment issues, contact the [ATA at Barnett House](#):

**The Alberta Teachers' Association**

**780-447-9400**

**OR**

**1-800-232-7208**