

ECSSA News

Edmonton Catholic Support Staff Association

April 2011



Welcome to ECSSA's Newsletter

We are the proud Local 52-A of the Communication Energy and Paperworkers Union
We are here for YOU, the support staff of Edmonton Catholic Schools

Lobbying

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

“Lobbying (also Lobby) is the intention of influencing decisions made by legislators and officials in the government by individuals, other legislators, constituents, or advocacy groups. A lobbyist is a person who tries to influence legislation on behalf of a special interest or a member of a lobby. Also, governments often define and regulate organized group lobbying that has become influential.”

Our members by now must realize that CEP, in conjunction with Local 52-A, has started a campaign to influence our provincial government that educational supports need to stay in place with appropriate funding provided. In order to effectively challenge the government with our message it is necessary for all members to ask themselves “how can I help” and “what can I do”. We are looking out for members and the children they support.

The Alberta Provincial Government funds and supports their school boards. Yes, they have honored the commitment to fund the wage increase to certified staff. Where does that leave us? I guarantee that every member wants to work in a positive, healthy and safe environment. Is this possible when the children’s support is taken away or reduced? We want quality education for all children.

Every single member is the expert of their own experiences. Do not buy into the message that you are not political. We need to work together on this where everyone will play an important part. When your union taps you on the shoulder, no matter how uncomfortable it might be for you, I ask that you give your support.

Your ECSSA Vice President, Elaine Cardinal, summed it up perfectly this past weekend by saying “Kids are our special resources; resources come from special support”. Let’s make sure that our politicians not only see the fire but also feel the heat.

In solidarity,

Wilma Ellenburgh
President

“Your Union says it has to be done this way. According to your union rules we have to make these cuts.”

You might hear these phrases or ones like them from some of the administrators during this staffing round.

- ◆ It is not the ECSSA’s collective agreement. It is a contract between **both the district and your union.**
- ◆ It is not your union that wants to move people, cut FTE, or bump our members. It is the district’s decision when facing the economic situation based on the Conservative budget to make these staffing decisions.
- ◆ It is the onerous job of the District’s Human Resources Department to implement the staffing procedures and to ensure that our members are provided employment for the following school year.
- ◆ It has been your executive’s job to ensure that the Collective Agreement is followed and to provide protection for you and your sisters and brothers during this staffing cycle and beyond.

We will continue to be there for you through out and are expecting your calls and emails .

If you are not sure whether to phone, phone. 780 456 3277

Call for Nominations

At this year’s general meeting in May or June (TBA) elections will be held for the following positions.

President – elect for the 2011-2013 term of office

Duties of the President:

- ◇ **To preside at all meetings of the Local and its Board of Directors**
- ◇ **To have signing authority for the withdrawal of the funds of the Local**
- ◇ **To appoint and be and ex-officio member of all Local committees**
- ◇ **To enforce the National Constitution, Local By-Laws and all union rules and regulations**
- ◇ **To represent the Local in all affairs the he/she feels necessary to efficiently serve the best interest of the Local**
- ◇ **To attend all National Conventions**
- ◇ **Other duties as directed by the Executive**

Secretary – elect for the 2011-2013 term of office

Duties of the Secretary:

- ◇ **To keep correct minutes of all general, Executive and Board of Directors meetings**
- ◇ **To conduct all correspondence of the Local**
- ◇ **To distribute all correspondence addressed to the Local to the appropriate persons and keep on file all documents which are necessary for the accountability of the Local.**
- ◇ **To submit such reports and information to the National President as the National President may require**
- ◇ **To distribute copies of minutes and agenda respectively, to the general membership, Executive and Board of Directors**
- ◇ **Maintain updated record of all committee and representatives**
- ◇ **Other duties as directed by the Executive**

Any member in good standing who wishes to put their name forward for these positions please contact Petrina Chan (petrina.chan@ecsd.net)

DON'T KID YOURSELF.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT WORKERS BENEFIT ALBERTA'S FUTURE

As mentioned in the President's Address, CEP is launching a campaign to raise awareness about the value of Alberta's Educational Support Staff Workers and the amazing services and supports we provide to our province's children and future. This month CEP locals representing over 3000 Educational Support Staff members from across Alberta met in Red Deer to discuss the issues and work with Public Interest Alberta and the Alberta Federation of Labour to plan the provincial campaign.

ECSSA CEP 52-A is very proud and excited to be a driving force in this campaign and will be ensuring that you will have the information and resources you will need to begin the discussion with your neighbours and elected officials about the worth of your work and the effect that the distribution of Alberta's resources has on that work and the care of your students. It will be an exciting adventure as we become a political voice and as each of us, as members, contribute to the conversation and inspire hope that things will change.

Bill Moore-Kilgannon from Public Interest Alberta provided us with information on how to become advocates and political activists. He will continue to work with our group to guide us through the timing and messaging of our concerns.

Alberta Federation of Labour's Ishani Weera gave a wonderful speech. She was suffering from laryngitis so she needed to speak very quietly. It was very inspiring and emphasizes that a quiet voice can be very powerful. Here is an excerpt from her speech:

"The political gets personal. Canadian writer Himani Bannerji once wrote: "When the women's movement came along and we were coming to our political consciousness, one of its slogans took us by surprise and thrilled and activated us: The personal is political!" This is, indeed, true. But, in the same way that Himani came to learn the reverse is also true, as we see students in classrooms lose resources that we know our government could easily afford, when your ability to do your work is continually and systematically underfunded, when your time is not valued and your contributions are undermined ... we see that the political is also deeply personal."

Excerpt from presentation by Alberta Federation of Labour special projects organizer Ishani Weera's at the 2011 CEP Education Support Staff Conference, Red Deer

Call For Support Staff Job Descriptions – Deadline April 29, 2011

Human Resource Services (HRS) is now accepting requests for reclassification of Support Staff jobs. Support Staff jobs include: Teacher Assistant, Special Needs Teacher Assistant, Instructor, Counselor, Coordinator, Administrative Support, Media Resources, Printing Services.

If an employee, or their supervisor, feels a job is inappropriately classified now is the time to submit an updated Support Staff Job Description. The deadline to submit a job description for review is April 29, 2011.

If you are requesting a reclassification, please read the Call for Support Staff Job Descriptions procedures under Newsletters and Caring Forms on our ECSSA website. www.ecssa.ca

ECSSA Report

With spring comes the melting of snow and the start of the staffing cycle. This is a complex, often frustrating time. Please continue to contact the ECSSA office with any questions.

Your Board of Directors were busy with preparing the newsletter, getting ready for the upcoming annual banquet, ensuring that our brothers and sisters experiencing loss or illness are acknowledged, sending out resources from our ECSSA library, working with the district on OH&S issues, preparing for bargaining and being there for you.

We are very pleased to have the Women's Committee be present at our table and welcome their input and passion. Please take time to read their inaugural report attached to this newsletter.

Caring Report

We extend our prayers and sympathies to **Jacqueline Mailhot** of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on the loss of her husband, **Danielle Pointer** of St. Vincent on the loss of her father, **Sandra Potts** of St. Francis Xavier on the passing of her step-father and **Ilda Julio** of St. Dominic on the passing of her father.

Flowers and wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to **Teresa Hooper** of Monsignor William Irwin School.

Please remember to notify ECSSA if someone at your site has experienced a loss or is ill. The caring forms can be found on our website www.ecssa.ca and then click on the "Newsletter and Caring Forms" link. Please ensure that all information requested on the form is filled out. Thank you.

MMMM Cookies

The winners of the last contest were **Rita Storti** from St. Gerard, **Jan Doblanko** over at LSI St. Peter, **Vicky Bastide** at St. Clement, **Liz Emery** from CES and **Claudette Juba** at St. Monica.

This month's contest is about being political. To be enter the draw please email your name, site and the answer to this question "*One way I am politically active is by...*" to ecssa@shaw.ca by May 1st. Individual entries only, winners will be picked by a random draw.

ECSSA's Social Justice Shoe Box Campaign

YESS!!!!!! Once again we have made a difference! 30 tote boxes of a difference to be exact. With your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity we were able to pass on 30 boxes of supplies to the Youth Emergency Shelter Society.

Thank you for coming through for your Social Justice campaigns; your support is simply the best.

**Elaine Cardinal
Social Justice Committee**

ECSSA Women's Committee



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Statement	1
Did You Know?	1
"We Want to Hear You from You!!"	
Feedback-Form	1



Did You Know?

That each month, starting next month, the Women's Committee will be submitting useful information tidbits in a small space in the newsletter called...**Did You Know?**

And...Did You Know?

That the newly formed Women's Committee is committed to finding out what the key issues are that you, our members, would like us to address.

And So...

We have compiled this feedback-form which we would love to receive back! Please take a moment to fill it out and send it back through IMC to: **Vicky Bastide at St. Clement School. CSCN veuillez remettre votre sondage à Marie-Eve Lizotte Ecole Alexandre-Taché**

ECSSA Women's Committee Writes Mission Statement!

Breaking News!

ECSSA Women's Committee announced yesterday that it would be releasing it's newly written mission statement. Below is the final draft!

"To give women tools to empower them with strength to stand up for the choices they make, and have their voices be heard."

"N otre mission est de donner aux femmes les habiletés afin d'être outillées avec la force nécessaire pour assumer leur choix et pour que leur voix se fasse entendre."



Feedback Form: We Want to Hear from You!

Please check the boxes for sessions you may be interested in, or fill in "other".

- Self-esteem/Empowerment (estime de soi/affirmation de soi)
- Pottery (poterie)
- Pension, Retirement (pension et retraite)
- Money Management (Gerer son portefeuille et budget)
- Gardening (Jardinage)
- Sexual/Spousal Abuse (Abus sexuel et abus dans le couple)

Other, please specify (autre specifiez)

Please indicate which time would be best for you:

- Evening: _____
- Saturday a.m. or p.m.
- Sunday a.m. or p.m.



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Support Staff

The glue that holds it all together!!