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Diversity • Equity • Human Rights Diversity • Equity • Human Rights

Specialist councils' role in promoting diversity, equity and human rights

Alberta's rapidly changing demographics are creating an exciting cultural diversity that is reflected in the province's urban and rural classrooms. The new landscape of the school provides an ideal context in which to teach students that strength lies in diversity. The challenge that teachers face is to capitalize on the energy of today's intercultural classroom mix to lay the groundwork for all students to succeed. To support teachers in their critical roles as leaders in inclusive education, in 2000 the Alberta Teachers' Association established the Diversity, Equity and Human Rights Committee (DEHRC).

DEHRC aims to assist educators in their legal, professional and ethical responsibilities to protect all students and to maintain safe, caring and inclusive learning environments. Topics of focus for DEHRC include intercultural education, inclusive learning communities, gender equity, UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network, sexual orientation and gender variance.

Here are some activities the DEHR committee undertakes:

- Studying, advising and making recommendations on policies that reflect respect for diversity, equity and human rights
- Offering annual Inclusive Learning Communities Grants (up to \$2,000) to support activities that support inclusion
- Producing Just in Time, an electronic newsletter that can be found at www.teachers.ab.ca; Teaching in Alberta; Diversity, Equity and Human Rights.
- Providing and creating print and web-based teacher resources
- · Creating a list of presenters on DEHR topics
- · Supporting the Association instructor workshops on diversity

Specialist councils are uniquely situated to learn about diversity issues directly from teachers in the field who see how diversity issues play out in subject areas. Specialist council members are encouraged to share the challenges they may be facing in terms of diversity in their own classrooms and to incorporate these discussions into specialist council activities publications and conferences.

Diversity, aquity and human rights affect the work of all members. What are you doing to make a difference?

Further information about the work of the DEER committee can be found on the Association's website or www.teachers.ab.co.under Teaching in Alberta, Diversity, Equity and Human Rights

Alternatively, contact Andrea Berg, executive staff afficer. Professional Development at andrea berg@ata.ab.co.for.more information.

Five great reasons to get (or update) your online ATA account now!

Please encourage teachers you know to get or update their ATA account. Here are some reasons to share with them on why they should do this.

1. Receive bargaining updates

All collective agreements between ATA bargaining units and their respective school jurisdictions expire August 31, 2016. As new negotiations get under way, regular updates and other information critical to keeping you informed of developments regarding bargaining will be posted in the Members Only section of the Association website. To gain access to the Members Only section, you must have an online ATA account.

2. Use ATA library online resources and databases

The ATA library has an extensive collection of books, periodicals, videos and other materials for teachers focusing on educational research and professional development. Library services and materials are available in both French and English. An online ATA account is necessary to log in to our catalogue to reserve books or videos.

3. Vote in ATA elections

Provincial Executive Council conducts the business of the Association and is made up of 20 members, 18 of whom are elected by you. To vote in Association elections, you need an online ATA account.

4. Get no-cost ATA specialist council memberships

As a benefit of ATA membership, active members are entitled to join one specialist council of their choice each year at no cost. Active members must have an online ATA account to select and join the specialist council of their choice.

5. Print your own ATA member card

The Association is launching online self-serve membership card distribution. With an online ATA account, you will have the convenience of printing your own ATA member card from the Association website when you need it. ATA member cards are useful when your identification as a teacher or member of an association is needed to attend events, receive discounts or be eligible for other offers from retailers and service providers.



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MCATA Mission Statement

Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics.

