

The report raised many important questions and resulted in interesting discussions. Numerous concerns such as inservice sessions have since been addressed by MCATA. Ten

years later, another question to reflect on might be "How much has changed in the interim and what has remained the same?"

## Blue Ribbon Panel

THE RESULTS OF THE Mathematics 30 diploma exams were being questioned by the media during 1991 and 1992. As a result, The Alberta Teachers' Association appointed a panel of mathematics educators to operate at arm's length from the Association. The terms of reference of the panel were

- to review the results of the Mathematics 30 diploma examinations,
- to review the structure and nature of senior high school mathematics,
- to identify concerns and expectations of education partners with respect to senior high school mathematics, and
- to make recommendations directly to education partners.

Part of the panel's work involved surveying high school students, secondary school mathematics teachers and postsecondary institutions. A report of the panel's work was released at a press conference in March 1993. The report contained 53 recommendations to Alberta Education, school boards, teachers, the ATA, postsecondary institutions,

departments of mathematics, teacher preparation programs, students and parents, business and industry. A copy of the report is available through the ATA.

The Blue Ribbon Panel was disbanded in fall 1994. A number of the panel's recommendations have been addressed by the various educational partners. In particular, Alberta Education has seriously examined all recommendations.

Two major problems remain: first, Mathematics 30 does not reflect the students who enroll in the course, and, second, postsecondary math prerequisites must be further reviewed. Some institutions are still using Math 30 as a screening device to limit student admission.

The following leaders of mathematics education served on the panel: Art Jorgensen (chair), Helen Stewart and Ken May (mathematics teachers), Florence Glanfield (Alberta Education representative), Tom Kieren (professor, University of Alberta), Jean Phelps (associate dean, Lethbridge Community College) and Bob Hart (mathematics teacher and then president of MCATA).

AD 1971

Canada adopts metric measurement system.

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Texas Instruments produces first electronic pocket calculator (weight: 1.1 kg; cost \$150).