

## LET'S GET POLITICAL!

On Thursday, October 22nd, a group of Edmonton Catholic high school teachers joined President Carol Henderson at MCATA's panel discussion with Education Minister David Hancock. One of the topics of concern was the recent decision of the Alberta government to eliminate the written portion of the Math and Science diploma examinations. Teachers spoke to the value of retaining the written response section as an integral part of the exam and to the need for teachers themselves to conduct this part of the assessment. Thanks to: Krys Guspie and Greg Carabine (AOB), Mike Szojka and James Kriese (St. F.X.), Carolyn Martin and Pat Wachowich (Mac High), Anthony Stauffer and John Fiacco (O'Leary), Katherine Jolin (J.H. Picard) and Linda Eisner (Romero) for agreeing to represent their colleagues at this important event.

## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ON WEDNESDAY, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Here's another opportunity for all Edmonton Catholic teachers to express their opinions about the proposed 300+million dollar cuts to education. Join your Local Executive, Superintendent Joan Carr and CFO, Barry Devlin, in the auditorium at Barnett House for an important round table discussion co-sponsored by the Local and our District. Let your voice be heard by our government! Confirm your attendance by email to: [kathy.macisac@ecteachers.ca](mailto:kathy.macisac@ecteachers.ca)



## New Teacher Mentorship

### Mentorship Program Off and Running!

Statistics provided by the Canadian Teachers' Federation tell us that 30% of teachers leave the profession within their first five years. It is with this in mind that the Edmonton Catholic Teachers Local has committed \$25,000 to offer a mentorship program for our 63 newly-hired teachers. Human Resource Services has joined us in providing support as we bring young teachers together to explore such topics as:

- Report cards
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Writing IPPs
- Classroom management
- Your collective agreement
- Professional growth plans
- Meeting special needs
- Why Catholic education?
- Technology in the classroom
- Bullying and cyber-bullying
- Teacher evaluation

## this issue

New Teacher Mentorship  
Leadership in the Local  
Let your views be known!  
Awards for our teachers

In addition to formal sessions and presentations, we will be pairing up our new teachers with mentors to provide meaningful opportunities for dialogue on a more consistent and informal basis. Thanks to all mentor teachers who have volunteered so far.

We would also like to acknowledge the members of our Mentorship Steering Committee who, in addition to their teaching responsibilities, have made a year-long commitment to this project:

Chair: Kristina Kastelan-Sikora  
Toni Kalita, Gail Jenkins, Marcel Evaristo, Elizabeth Evaristo, Linda Muench, Phil Scott, Karen Rutar, Melanie Mercier, Claudia Pederson, Azza Ghali, Christine Bowers, Charolette Player, Heather Jamieson, Sandy Gillis, Kathy MacIsaac



## CONGRATULATIONS TO AWARD RECIPIENTS!

The Local is proud to announce that our Social Justice Committee Chair, Amber Nicholson, recently received an award of merit from RMEC for her leadership and service in the field of religious and moral education. Our Local President, Sandy Gillis, was also presented with an honorary lifetime membership, the William D. Hrychuk Award, for his outstanding achievement and distinguished service in religious and moral education in Alberta. Bravo!

## \$ 15,000 FELLOWSHIP GRANTED

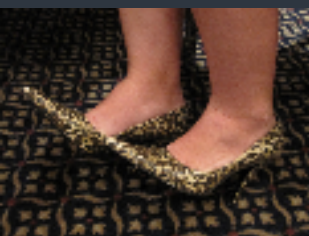
At our Council meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, District Representative, Markiana Cyncar-Hryschuk presented Rhonda Nixon with an ATA fellowship to pursue her doctoral studies in education at the University of Alberta. All the best, Rhonda!

## “WHOSE SHOES?”

Win a fabulous prize by identifying the newsworthy teacher to whom this pair of shoes belongs! The first correct answer received will be the winner.

Email:

kathy.macisaac@ecteachers.ca



# What makes a leader in our Local?

At time of writing, we await the results of our by-election for Vice President of our Local. As I reflect on the role of leadership, I commend both Azza and Greg for offering themselves for this role, knowing that taking this on is an additional responsibility to those they already have in their schools and within the District. The invitation to leadership is fraught with many challenges, not the least of which is the scrutiny of our peers. In our teaching world, we have our Professional Code of Conduct to govern our behavior and, as Catholic leaders, we acknowledge the fact that we are called to an even deeper level that is reflective of our religious beliefs.

The characteristic of integrity articulated by Reverend Ron Nuzzi says that a person of integrity is one who is the same in any forum: whether that place be at home, school, church or favorite coffee house. In caring for the members of our Local, I believe that I speak for the whole of your Executive when I say that we all want to be known as people of integrity who will work diligently to represent the teachers of Edmonton Catholic in every way we can and take every opportunity to celebrate the good news that takes place in our schools day in and day out. This coming week, we are all encouraged to publicly celebrate the good news of Catholic education in our province and wherever possible take advantage of any situation to speak clearly in support of Catholic schools. Continue to care for each other.

-Sandy

Greg Carabine  
Austin O'Brien High School



Azza Ghali  
Annunciation

