



# British Columbia Science Teachers' Association

A Provincial Specialist Association of the British Columbia Teachers' Federation

September 2005

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite educators to our annual conference, Catalyst 2006 ***“Inspiring Science”***, to be held at TELUS Whistler Conference Center. The conference features the following opportunities:

- Networking opportunities with educators and BC scientists
  - Presentations by researchers and colleagues
    - Idea/Activity Exchange Market (refer to website)
    - Practical workshops for educators K-12
      - A wide variety of featured speakers
        - Refreshments, lunches and Awards Reception
        - Latest Research featuring BC Innovation
          - Science Publishers and Associations
          - Curriculum-specific strategies

Our opening keynote speaker is Dr. Joe Schwarcz of McGill University and Discovery's Daily Planet. Dr. Schwarcz is one of North America's foremost educators and is the Director of McGill University's Office for Science and Society. He is also a professor in the chemistry department and teaches nutrition and alternative medicine in McGill's Medical School. Professor Schwarcz has received numerous awards including the Royal Society of Canada's McNeil Award and the American Chemical Society's prestigious Grady-Stack Award.

“Dr. Joe” appears on the Canadian Discovery Channel, TV Ontario, Global Television, CBC-TV, CTV-TV and various radio stations. His 4 books, Radar, Hula Hoops and Playful Pigs, The Genie in the Bottle, That's The Way The Cookie Crumbles and Dr. Joe and What You Didn't Know were all best sellers.

New this year is a conference partnership with the Provincial Intermediate Teachers' Association. PITA will be hosting a mini-conference on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. BCScTA delegates are welcome to attend the PITA sponsored-presentation by Dawn Reithaug. Dawn Reithaug is presently part of a District Learning Support Team in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. She is also a part-time consultant, and gives workshops based on her publications throughout Canada. The author of five books, Dawn holds a Master of Education degree in Special Education from the University of Victoria, British Columbia.

The conference hotel this year is the Hilton Whistler Resort. The Hilton Whistler Resort is located at the base of both Whistler and Blackcomb Mountain gondolas in the heart of Whistler Village - site of the 2010 Winter Olympics- and is just a 2-minute walk from the TELUS Whistler Conference Centre. Please ask for the rate reserved for the BCScTA.

Please share this information with your colleagues, post the enclosed conference poster in a prominent place and mark the conference dates in your calendars. We look forward to seeing you at Catalyst 2006!

Sincerely,

Catalyst 2006 Conference Co-chairs

**Anne Laite**  
[alaite@dccnet.com](mailto:alaite@dccnet.com)  
ph 604-885-3216  
fax 604 -885-7991

**David Barnum**  
[dbarnum@dccnet.com](mailto:dbarnum@dccnet.com)  
ph 604-740-0806

[www.bcscta.ca](http://www.bcscta.ca)

## Conference Sponsors:



## **BC Science 8-10 Draft IRP's now On-line!**

The Alberta Science Teachers Association held their annual conference in Banff, Alberta, this past November. A topic of interest for many teachers was the new Science 10 curriculum. Like BC, Alberta has moved towards the Pan Canadian curriculum model and in doing so, has moved topics from place to place in junior science. As in BC, many topics that were formerly addressed in grade 11 are now included in the grade 10 curriculum. Math and science prerequisite concepts are listed for each unit and are comprehensive.

Teachers at the Alberta conference were concerned about the breadth of the new curriculum. From the point of view of many teachers the number of lesson days for each topic was not enough. "Energy flow in Global Systems," a new unit on weather, climate and global warming had not been attempted by many of the teachers present.

BC's new draft 8 to 10 curriculum is now on the web, for our perusal and comments. Based on the Alberta teacher's experiences of grappling with their new Science 10 curriculum, BC Science teachers are encouraged to take a look at the BC draft document. It is important that you express your concerns and comments! **Teachers are invited to submit their opinions up until November 1, 2005.** Implementation dates for the new curriculum are September 2006 for grade 8, September 2007 for grade 9 and September 2008 for grade 10.

Please refer to the following url: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts/> There you will find the IRP and the response form. Your feedback is important! If you have any concerns you wish the BCScTA executive to consider please refer to the PSA website for contact information.