

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Every story starts somewhere. “They need to be true stories and they need to be your stories....” (Stuart McLean, Vinyl Café, CBC Radio)

Here are some ideas for possible conversations about teaching today in Alberta:

- When I started teaching #___ years ago, my classroom was.... Now, it is more like....
- I strive every day to meet the needs of all of my students but I am concerned about.... (*do not use names*) I could do so much more for him/her/them if....
- In my school, over the last #___ years, we have implemented #___ new initiatives/pilot projects. Some of these have very little to do with student learning, such as....
- I was inspired to become a teacher by.... I still want to be a teacher because....
- When I started teaching I thought I would teach forever, but now I’m not so sure because....
- As a principal, I am so proud of my teachers because.... But, more and more, I see them struggling to keep up with.... I would really like to be able to support them by....
- I have my school family and I have my home family – sometimes my home family feels that they play second fiddle. They don’t mind if it is because I am doing something that I want to do for my students, but my family really resents the time I spend away from them doing things like....
- Even with #___ students in my class, I try to connect with them individually, but....
- As a _____ teacher, having #___ students in my class poses some concerns for safety/quality of educational experience/____ due to.... The alternative to doing labs/group work/hands on activities with this many students is....
- I know what I need to do to teach to the best of my capabilities. But with all of the professional development that my board assigns, I do not have time to do what I need in order to accomplish the goals in my professional growth plan. If I could decide my own professional development I would.... This would make my classroom a better learning place by....
- My students like coming to school because....
- What I like best about teaching is.... But when I have to do ... I wonder....

This ain’t your MLA’s Classroom anymore...

Tell them what it’s like....

