

## From the President's Pen



Earlier this school year, the MCATA executive affirmed its direction and the work it does on behalf of members. We identified the following list of activities and goals:

- Pursuing MCATA's mission: Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics
  - Planning, organizing and holding the annual MCATA conference
  - Ensuring diversity in member representation on the executive by including K-12 mathematics teachers from around the province, a Faculty of Education representative, a Mathematics Department representative, an Alberta Learning representative, a PEC liaison and an ATA staff advisor
  - Conducting regular executive meetings (four per year) that focus on MCATA's business, implementing our strategic plan and promoting our mission
  - Producing a variety of publications including *delta-K*, a newsletter, monographs, position papers and a website ([www.mathteachers.ab.ca](http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca))
- Submitting advocacy positions to NCTM and the ATA's Annual Representative Assembly (ARA)
  - Planning, organizing and holding two Math Leaders Symposia in cooperation with Alberta Learning
  - Promoting the importance of mathematics in schools and communities through promotion materials and contests
  - Maintaining our NCTM affiliation
  - Involving MCATA executive members in NCTM leadership training courses, liaison roles with NCTM and promotion of NCTM materials
  - Representing MCATA on Alberta Learning committees
  - Participating in the Beginning Teachers' Conference
  - Sponsoring and/or supporting math camps, special projects and contests
  - Sending representatives to the ATA Summer Conference and seminars
  - Recognizing teachers through the Math Educator of the Year award
  - Recognizing teachers, MCATA members and/or nonteachers with the Friends of MCATA certificate
  - Awarding grants to members in support of teaching and learning projects

As we examined the work necessary to maintain each of these areas, it became apparent that there was considerable overlap. We also realized how involved each executive member is in making MCATA activities work for members.

I would like to thank the executive members for their work this year. It is a huge commitment on their part—all of them volunteer their time outside of their full-time jobs.

I would also like to thank the MCATA members who call or e-mail us with concerns, issues and comments about mathematics education in the province. We represent you best when we understand your concerns and opinions.

Don't forget the annual MCATA conference! Registration will be on the evening of Thursday, October 25, 2001. Sessions will be held all day Friday, October 26, and Saturday, October 27. The conference theme is "2001—A Math Odyssey," and we already have a good lineup of speakers. The venue is the Fantasyland Hotel in the West Edmonton Mall, which is a great place for your family to enjoy a getaway, too. Visit our website at [www.mathteachers.ab.ca](http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca) for more information.

*Sandra Unrau*