From the President's Pen

In the previous issue of *delta-K*, I brought forward the idea that we are all mathematics leaders and concentrated on John C. Maxwell's (1998) law of reproduction, from his book *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*. As I talk with teachers in Alberta, especially those on the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association (MCATA) executive and the U.S.-based National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) regional conference planning committee, I continue to be struck by their dedication, commitment, work ethic and boundless energy. Again I refer to Maxwell's work, specifically to the law of magnetism and the law of the Big Mo.

The law of magnetism says that who you are is whom you attract. No wonder study groups are popping up all over our province, attendance at our symposia is increasing, our annual conference fills up early, MCATA has created a new executive position with the sole mandate of working on special projects and the NCTM has selected Alberta as the site of its next leadership conference. Teaching, motivating and learning are second nature to Alberta mathematics teachers, and that is being recognized by individuals and organizations from far and wide.

The Big Mo is the law of momentum, which helps us perform better than we ever thought we could. Against all odds, Alberta's mathematics teachers are inspired and inspiring. The mathematics horizon looks bright, trouble seems temporary and our obstacles are surmountable. Alberta mathematics leaders do not sit back and give up but, instead, look for ways to move forward and ensure success.

Thanks, Alberta mathematics leaders, for the following:

- Attending MCATA's annual conference in record numbers
- Working so thoughtfully at the symposium and on many special projects
- Trying to implement collaborative-learning environments in classrooms and on committees
- Believing in a constructivist philosophy of teaching and learning
- Volunteering on countless committees
- Planning an infinite number of meetings and inservices
- Burning the midnight oil for the sake of mathematical understanding
- "Growing leaders" wherever and whenever possible
- Never forgetting, even in the hectic pace of everyday life, why we became mathematics teachers
- Always putting students first
- Helping the "unmathematically inclined" to understand what the teaching and learning of mathematics is all about
- Although sometimes becoming discouraged, never giving up what we believe in
- Sticking together, through thick and through thin, and making MCATA stronger than ever

I hope that you enjoyed your summer and a well-deserved break!

Reference

Maxwell, J. C. *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership: Follow Them and People Will Follow You.* Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 1998.

Cynthia Ballheim