



NWTU

UNION NEWS

March 2019

President's Message

Eric Young

With just two weeks this month before Spring Break the farthest thing from my mind should be June 30, but it's not, because that's when our collective agreement expires. For this reason our Union News this month has a clear focus on collective bargaining.

When I think about our contract, something that I look at regularly in my role as President, I am constantly reminded that our contract doesn't include everything I would want. Yet, I am also regularly reminded that our contract provides members with sick days, prep time during the school day, a set pay schedule with increments based on experience, and language that protects jobs when they go off on a leave. Our employer cannot dictate what professional development looks like, and we are also not required to give up vacation time to attend District in-service or training days.

Collective bargaining is the mechanism we have to make improvements in our contract. Some items like salary, benefits, prep time, work load, paid leaves are left up to the BCTF at the provincial bargaining table. The NWTU is able to bargain local items like, post & fill, layoff & recall, staff committee, access to information, and part-time teaching (job shares); basically items that do not have a cost associated

Right now the NWTU Bargaining Team wants to hear from you before setting our local bargaining priorities. Soon we'll be coming to your school for a visit. We would like you to take our survey (page 3). You can also email one of us.

Important Dates

March 12 - NWTU executive meeting – NWTU Office

March 16-31 – Spring Break

March 16-19 – BCTF AGM - Victoria

Want to be up to date on local bargaining and other union issues? Subscribe to our NWTU EMAIL LIST with your personal email!

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Project Overseas 2019

Anahita Konjin, currently a French Immersion teacher at École Glenbrook Middle School, has been selected by CTF (Canadian Teachers' Federation) to participate in PROJECT OVERSEAS 2019: Burkina Faso. PROJECT OVERSEAS (PO) is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and its member organizations to support overseas partners in developing countries as they deliver professional services to teachers.

Anahita started her career with New Westminster in 2004. She is a seasoned traveler who takes every opportunity to visit a different part of the world. Her most recent trip in December 2018 to North Korea was an enlightening experience both for her and her students who were fascinated by her anecdotes from the hermit country. Her role as a PO team member is to collaborate with three other Canadian teachers while offering workshops to local teachers. Women's rights, girl friendly schools, inquiry based methods of teaching, critical thinking, inclusion, and AIDS prevention will be the focus of workshops. Anahita believes that this project will provide an opportunity for growth, and that she will be learning a great deal while teaching in an environment with very different standards.

This is the first time for a decade that the BCTF has sponsored participants in Project Overseas and is a pilot.



Anahita Konjin

Meet Your Executive Member

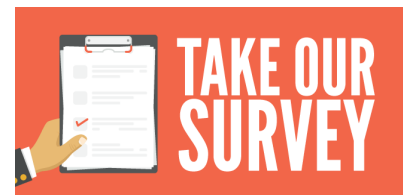
Darryl Schelp – Bargaining Advisory Committee Chairperson

Darryl Schelp was elected as your Bargaining Chair at the general meeting on February 19. He is also one of your Local Representatives to the BCTF.

Darryl started teaching in New Westminster in 1995. In 1998, he received his first continuing contract at Connaught Heights Elementary. The following year he moved to Lord Kelvin Elementary, where he has continued to work as a Teacher-Librarian, computer teacher, and classroom teacher. Darryl currently teaches a grade five class.

From the beginning of his time in School District 40, Darryl has taken an active role in the Union. “I’m very proud of the work that I have done for the union, doing what I can to support teachers in the work we do.” Some of his other union roles have included being a long-time staff representative, pro-d treasurer, pro-d chair, president of the New Westminster Teacher Librarians’ Assoc. (NWTLA), and delegate to the BC Federation of Labour.

Outside of teaching, Darryl enjoys time with friends, listening to live Jazz music, watching movies on the big screen, and, most recently, becoming a fan of the Vancouver Warriors lacrosse team.



**PLEASE TAKE FIVE MINUTES TO COMPLETE OUR
NWTU LOCAL BARGAINING SURVEY.**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/2I0CGS3](https://bit.ly/2i0cgs3)



Bargaining Advisory Committee Members:

Chairperson, Darryl Schelp (dschelp@telus.net)

Neesha Blajberg (neesha@shaw.ca)

Maureen Gilhespy (mgilhespy@telus.net)


Sarah Wethered (sarahwethered@gmail.com)

Bruce McCloy (bmccloy@gmail.com)

Eric Young (lp40@bctf.ca)

Where does language get bargained?

Green means **GO** for local bargaining

Local Language Negotiated Locally	Local Language Negotiated Provincially	Provincial Language Negotiated Provincially
<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post & filling of positions • Layoff & recall • Non-discrimination • Staff committee • Access to information • Most non-cost items <p>And other items currently listed in Appendix 2* of the Collective Agreement</p> 	<p>Pre-1994 language locals might have pertaining to items currently listed in Appendix 1* of the Collective Agreement</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowances • Workload • Time worked • Paid leaves unique to your local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary • Benefits • Workload • Time worked • Paid leaves <p>And other items currently listed in Appendix 1* of the Collective Agreement</p>
Bargained locally	Bargained provincially	Bargained provincially

Process



*Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 are found in LOU#1 of the 2013-2019 Collective Agreement and define the local/provincial split of issues. The split of issues is negotiable at the provincial table, within the parameters of the Public Education Labour Relations Act.

Image source: iStock.com

July 2018 