



NWTU UNION NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kristie Oxley

Welcome back, everyone!

I hope you all had some time to relax and unwind this summer and are looking forward to the new school year.

For most local presidents, the school year starts with the annual BCTF Summer Institute, which ran from August 23rd to 26th this year. A Special Representative Assembly (RA) was also added on the evening of August 22nd. Sarah Wethered and I were able to attend the RA, which covered the sole topic of bargaining. There is much to share on this topic, and a Special General Meeting has been scheduled for NWTU members on Tuesday, September 20th to go over the details. More information, including the Zoom link for the meeting, will be sent out soon. In the meantime, members can find up-to-date bargaining information on the BCTF website in the Members Only section. Additionally, the NWTU VPs and I will be reaching out to staff reps to organize school visits so members can ask questions in smaller groups.

During Summer Institute, local reps in a variety of positions were invited to attend targeted training for their role. Thank you to all the NWTU members that attended this important training.

On August 24th and 25th, BCTF members attending Summer Institute had the opportunity to question NDP leadership candidates, David Eby and Anjali Appadurai. This was an opportunity for members to express their concerns about issues such as cost of living increases, classroom conditions and recruitment and retention problems. The BCTF is encouraging members to reach out to MLAs throughout the bargaining process and will be sending support materials such as talking points to local offices soon.

Wishing you all a smooth beginning to the school year!

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept. 6 - First Day of School for 2022/2023

September 13 - NWTU Executive

September 20 - NWTU Special General Meeting

September 30 - National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

October 10 - Stat holiday



Summer Institute Delegation

From left to right -

Samantha Dowdell, New Teacher/TTOC Chair, **Tammy Le**, BCTLA President (from Surrey), **Sarah Wethered**, 2nd VP/WIN Facilitator, **Lisa Seddon**, Professional Development Co-Chair, **Rome Lavrencic**, BCATML President/NWTU Treasurer, **Kristie Oxley**, NWTU President.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Spring Retirement Tea

June 9th, 2022, marked our first in-person Spring Retirement Tea in a few years. Volunteers decorated the Sapperton Pensioner's Hall in spring colours and flowers and welcomed our retirees with tea and treats.

A great big thank you to NWTU Office Manager, Taryn Townshend and NWTU Office Assistant, Meaghan Chabot. Taryn and Meaghan put countless hours into the planning and running of this event.

Thank you also to Brenda Lee, CL Chen, Jodie Haraga, Jennifer Purdon, and Sunita Devi for their assistance at the spring tea.



Brenda Lee and
Meg Chabot



Taryn Townshend



One More Time...

Congratulations 2022 Retirees!

Nancy Alexander

(Lord Kelvin)

Heather Avison

(Virtual School)

Joe Filippone

(QE)

James Janz

(NWSS)

Shannon Lange

(Skwo:wech)

Andrea Luck

(NWSS)

Kathleen MacDonald

(NWSS)

Tina McCloy

(Skwo:wech)

Anne Marie Milner

(QMS)

Kelly Ranford

(RCAP)

George Somogyi

(NWSS)

Cindy Vit

(NWSS)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Bargaining



June 30th, 2022, marked the end of our current Collective Agreement (CA). The BCTF bargaining committee has been hard at work negotiating a new CA since last spring, and continues to post bargaining updates on the BCTF website at <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/bargaining-updates-and-information>. You will need to log into your account to access this link. Please check this area regularly for updates on bargaining.

An online Special General Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 3:30 pm and a BCTF Executive member will be on hand to speak about bargaining and answer questions.

Solidarity with BCGEU

NWSS Teacher, Dominic Pistor, visited the BCGEU picket line on August 22nd to show support from the NWTU. He shared the following story:

I attended the Richmond picket line. The NWTU was the first teacher union local to show solidarity at this particular line although other unions have already been by: IWA, ATU, etc. I mobilized three of my friends to come along. The BCGEU folks were really grateful for the food and beverages - they really suffered during the heat last week! Later on, several BCTF members came over from UBC to show their solidarity - including a big chunk of the BCTF Executive. Teri Mooring was there too. In the end we stayed on the line for a bit over 2 hours. Overall morale was high.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

September 30th is the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** in Canada.

September 30th is also **Orange Shirt Day**, a grassroots campaign founded by Phyllis Webstad. Orange Shirt Day grew out of her own experiences and the experiences of other residential school survivors who attended St. Joseph's Mission near Williams Lake. It's a day to honour the healing journeys of residential school survivors and their families and a time to engage in meaningful discussions about the history and legacy of the residential school system.

In June 2021, the Government of Canada passed Bill C-5 to name September 30th as a federal statutory day. It is observed as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This directly responds to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #80. Action #80 calls upon the federal government, in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, "to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour survivors, their families and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

Information retrieved from the BC Government's [National Day for Truth and Reconciliation](#) webpage.

Teaching Resources

The Aboriginal Education Department at the BCTF has fantastic resources to support teaching about Orange Shirt Day as well as to help mark the second annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. You can view these supports at <https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/aboriginal-education>

Highlights include:

- [Project of Heart lesson](#) materials and [e-book](#)
- [Gladys We Never Knew: The life of a child in a BC Indian Residential School](#)
- [The Aboriginal Lens – Education for Reconciliation](#)

Remember to check back throughout the month as additional items will be added leading up to September 30th.



The First Nations Caring Society website also features resources that can be used in conjunction with September 30th, or throughout the year. Highlights include:

- [Spirit Bear's Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action](#) which presents the Calls to Action in child-friendly language (scroll down for PDFs in both French and English).
- [Child-friendly Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) poster



Is your class or school doing something to honour the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation?

Send your story and pictures to lx40vp@bctf.ca so we can feature you in our next newsletter!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Aboriginal Employment Equity Agreement

On June 8th, 2022, outgoing president Sarah Wethered and HR Director, Robert Weston signed into effect a Letter of Understanding on Aboriginal Employment Equity. This agreement serves as a recruitment and retention tool for the district when hiring teachers who self-identify as Indigenous. It took almost two years to come to fruition and is a small step towards the greater goal of truth and reconciliation. Many thanks to Sarah and Gordana Ballarin for doing this important work.



REMINDERS

Pensions

A reminder that if you are turning 71 by the end of this calendar year, you must begin collecting your pension no later than December 1st, although you can still continue working for the school district without any interruptions.

If you have any questions, please contact teacher payroll at payroll@sd40.bc.ca.



REMINDERS



Member Supports

BCTF Members have access to a number of support services, such as:

- Employee & Family Assistance Plans
- Online Mental Health Therapy through Starling Minds
- "The Well Teacher" support groups

Additional professional supports, such as mediation and peer support, are also available through the BCTF.

You can learn more about these supports by visiting the [BCTF Wellness](#) or [Professional Development](#) pages, or by contacting the NWTU president at lp40@bctf.ca.

Medical supports, such as massage therapy, chiropractic treatments and physical therapy, are available through our extended medical coverage. Visit Pacific Blue Cross at <https://www.pac.bluecross.ca/> to see a full description of services NWTU members can access. You will need your policy number and employee number to sign in.

New H&S Reporting Form

The District has created a new [Health and Safety Reporting Form](#). This form should be used to report injuries, near misses, hazards, work refusals, and bullying & harassment. If you have any questions about this form, or what to do if you experience any of these H&S issues, please contact your school's Health and Safety teacher rep.

2022-23 NWTU Executive

Table Officers	Name
President	Kristie Oxley
1 st Vice President	Darryl Schelp
2 nd Vice President	Sarah Wethered
Bargaining Chairperson	Darryl Schelp
Treasurer	Rome Lavrencic
Recording Secretary	Jim Russell
Pro-D Co-Chairs	Lisa Seddon & Kristie Oxley
Aboriginal Education Chairperson	Bertha Lansdowne
Health & Safety Chairperson	Karin Krueger
Social Justice Chairperson	Currently vacant
New Teacher & TTOC Chairperson	Samantha Dowdell
Diversity & Inclusion Chairperson	Satnam Sangra
Local Reps to the BCTF	Bruce McCloy & Andre Kozak

Thank you to everyone who put their name forward for a position on the 2022-23 NWTU Executive Committee!

REMINDER

BCTF Committee Opportunity

The BCTF is looking for members to sit on the Advisory Committee on French Programs and Services.

Applications are due by Monday September 12th, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2022/07/13/advisory-committee-on-french-programs-and-services>

The BCTF is also looking for members to sit on the TTOC Advisory Committee.

Applications are due by Friday, September 16th, 2022 at 5:00 pm. For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2022/07/27/teachers-teaching-on-call-advisory-committee>

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Do you know an NWTU member that has received special recognition for their work as an educator? Or do you know a member that you would like to highlight work they are doing in their school?

If so, please send an email to Sarah at lx40vp@bctf.ca to have them included in an upcoming edition of the NWTU Union News.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you find yourself living at a new address, please take the time to update the following:

- **BCTF:** Go to <https://www.bctf.ca/> and login to access your member profile.
- **New West School District:** Update through Gordana Ballarin (Manager of HR, Teacher/Admin), gballarin@sd40.bc.ca
- **NWTU:** Update through Office Manager, Taryn, at nwtuadmin@telus.net.

STAY UP TO DATE

NWTU Email List

http://bit.ly/NWTU_email_list



NWTU Facebook Page

http://bit.ly/NWTU_Facebook



New Teacher & TTOC Email List

http://bit.ly/NWTU_NT-TTOC_Email



CONTACT US

- Kristie Oxley, President, lp40@bctf.ca or 778.789.5713 (cell)
- Darryl Schelp, 1st VP, lx40vp2@bctf.ca
- Sarah Wethered, 2nd VP, lx40vp@bctf.ca
- NWTU Office: 604.526.8990.