



NWTU UNION NEWS

MARCH 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Wethered

In last month's president's message, I tried very hard to be optimistic in a very trying time. This month, I've found it easier to be an optimist as we've had some great accomplishments in February.

Our first major accomplishment has been the conclusion of another successful round of local bargaining. We have negotiated some new articles for our collective agreement, as well as improved language in existing articles. Under the skilled leadership of 2nd VP/Bargaining Chair, Darryl Schelp, we were able to wrap up our bargaining three weeks early. After Spring Break, the NWTU will be holding townhalls to discuss our new language, and a ratification vote will take place on April 26, with implementation of the new language on July 1, 2022. Thank you to the bargaining team – Darryl Schelp, Eric Young, Kristie Oxley, and Andre Kozak (and alternate Jim Russell) – for their commitment to this process. It was an honour to work with this great group of educators.

This month, I also signed a new Letter of Understanding outlining class size limits for summer school and night school classes. This came out of a mediation, in which we discovered that the committee that was supposed to negotiate this back in 2002 never met. This led us to be in the position of being the only local within the BCTF who was authorized to negotiate class size limits. Thank you to Darryl Schelp and Glenn Bullard for their assistance with these negotiations.

Lastly, I have been working with Gordana Ballarin, HR Manager, to develop an Aboriginal Employment Equity Agreement, and I believe we have completed this important work. At the May 2021 AGM, the NWTU passed an agreement in principle to do this work. Once the agreement is signed off, I will send a copy to all members.

I will end this message with a big thank you to our elementary and middle school members who are now in the midst of report card writing. Thank you for all you do for the young people in my adopted home town.

IMPORTANT DATES

Mar. 8 - NWTU Executive Meeting

Mar. 11 - *Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Resource* and *Indigenous Courses for Teachers* applications due

Mar. 12 to 27 - Spring Break

Mar. 19 to 22 - BCTF AGM

Apr. 12 - NWTU Executive Meeting

Apr. 22 to 23 - Zones

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Local Bargaining

The local bargaining team has reached a potential agreement with the district. The next step in this process is hold a ratification vote.

The ratification vote will be held digitally on April 26th. More information will about voting will come out closer to that date.

The NWTU will be holding a series of **Bargaining Townhall Meetings** so that members can hear about the potential agreement and ask questions before voting. These meetings will be held on Zoom starting at 3:15 pm on the following days:

- April 5
- April 13
- April 20

Please register for the session of your choice [here](#). Registrants will receive the link to the Townhall 24 hours before the meeting.



BCTF Annual General Meeting

The BCTF AGM is March 19 to 22 this year.

A great, big thank you to this year's AGM Delegates:

- Andre Kozak, NWTU Local Rep
- Rome Lavrencic, NWTU Treasurer
- Bruce McCloy, NWTU Local Rep
- Kristie Oxley, NWTU First Vice President & PD Co-Chair
- Lisa Seddon, NWTU PD Co-Chair
- Sarah Wethered, NWTU President

This meeting is a time for members from each local to hear about and debate recommendations and resolutions on important issues from around the province.



New Member Induction

Thank you to all the new members who attended the induction ceremony on Tuesday, Feb. 15th. It's truly amazing to see so many new teachers in our district.

Those who attended should have received their induction package by now. If you didn't, please contact our office manager, Taryn Townshend, at nwtuadmin@telus.net. New members who were unable to attend the induction ceremony can also contact Taryn to have their names added to a list for future induction ceremonies.

Congratulations

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Equity, Inclusion & Diversity Resources

In consultation with the Equity & Inclusion Chair, Satnam Sangra, the NWTU is offering members a chance to request a resource related to equity, inclusion and diversity. These may be resources for your own professional development or for use with your students. In exchange for receiving the resource, members are asked to write a short (5 to 10 sentence) article about the resource or how it was used for our monthly newsletter.

Resource requests must be emailed to Kristie Oxley at lx40vp@bctf.ca by **Friday, March 11th**. Resources will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis until we reach the \$500 limit budgeted for this initiative.

To learn more about this initiative, including resource parameters, please visit the [Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Resources document](#).



Indigenous Courses for Teachers



The NWTU has created a fund to pay for 6 teachers to take one of the following online Indigenous Education courses:

- [Reconciliation through Indigenous Education](#) (UBC)
- [Indigenous Education](#) (University of Alberta)
- [Aboriginal Worldviews and Education](#) (university of Toronto)

Please note:

These courses may offer a free option as well as a paid option. Select the paid option. You will need your receipt for reimbursement. If the registration deadline has passed, you may register for a later cohort and still be reimbursed.

If you have any questions or would like to apply for this opportunity, email Kristie Oxley at lx40vp@bctf.ca by **Friday, March 11th**.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WorkSafe BC Claims

While the COVID wave that hit our schools seems to have subsided a bit, it is still important to know your Worksafe rights in this area.

Luke Olver, Assistant Director of WCB Advocacy in the Income Security Division of the BCTF has shared the following recommendations for filing claims related to COVID absences.

If a member has COVID-19, the COVID-19 infection coincides with employment in a classroom environment, and they are missing work due to this condition, they are encouraged to apply for WCB using the Teleclaim service (1-888-WORKERS, toll-free). This applies to teachers regardless of employment status (contract, temporary, TTOC, continuing, etc.). The WCB claimant must have COVID-19 to file a claim. Verification is either from a test result, or a diagnosis from a physician, or other evidence of infection.

Members are encouraged to call the claim number even if they are unsure if they qualify for filing a claim. You will be walked through the process and have your questions answered.



Special Technology & Pro-D Fund

The draw for additional Pro-d Funds or Technology will be held at the NWTU Executive Meeting on March 8th. Winners will be contacted by the following day.

If your name is selected, you will be contacted on the **personal** email address you provided in your application. Please keep an eye on this email address from March 8 to 9 to avoid missing the notification.

NWTU Vacant Positions

The following positions are currently open on the NWTU executive:

- Aboriginal Education Contact
- Political Action Contact (2 positions)
- French Language Education Chair
- New Westminster and District Labour Council Rep

If you are interested in any of these positions or would have questions about these roles, please email NWTU president, Sarah Wethered at lp40@bctf.ca



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



New Teachers' Conference

Registration is now open for the 2022 New Teachers' Conference.

[Click here to register.](#)

New teachers with a teaching contract can have their registration reimbursed through their personal pro-d funds.

TTOCs can apply to the NWTU to have their registration paid. Fill out [this form](#) and send it to Kristie Oxley at lx40vp@bctf.ca.

Spring Conference

The Provincial Intermediate and Middle Years Teacher Association, Teachers of Inclusive Education, the Assessment Consortium of BC and the BC Science Teachers' Association will be holding a joint Spring Conference on May 20 in Whistler.

To learn more about this conference or to register, go to <https://spring.ourconference.ca/>.



Professional Development Reminders

- All treasurers should have received the Indigenous Pro-d cheques in February. Please contact the NWTU office if you have not received your cheque.
- Pro-d forms have recently been updated to reflect higher amounts for meals and gas mileage reimbursement
- Currently, there is a variance in place allowing members to have up to \$4500 in their person Pro-d account. This variance will end as of Nov. 1, 2022. At this time the maximum amount will drop back to \$3000. Please make sure to spend down your Pro-d money in the coming months.
- Voting for Summer Pro-d should happen before March Break if at all possible.

REMINDER

Mentorship



Mentorship release time is back on!

Mentors and mentees should have received updated instructions for booking their release time. If you have not, please email Kristie Oxley at lx40vp@bctf.ca.

Release time can be used for observing other classrooms, lesson or unit planning, writing report cards and more!

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 Kristie 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, Yvonne, 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

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