



NWTU

UNION NEWS

October 2019

President's Message

Eric Young

As we near the end of October I'd like to take a moment to provide you with a quick update on what we've been up to. Besides our normal day to day duties of supporting members and working with the District to solve a myriad of contractual issues, listed below are just a few of the highlights.

Although we still have classes in Remedy this year, there are far fewer classes than last year. Please note, this year our Flex Factor (+2) class size language will likely be followed this year by the District. It was not followed over the last two years of Remedy. What does this mean? Well, it means that if a student enrolls after September 30th (Elementary/Middle/Semester 1 Secondary) they may not necessarily create a new class size remedy, however, they may create a class composition remedy. It will all depend on your individual class make-up. If you have any questions or concerns about your class, please contact your school site staff representative.

Also with respect to Remedy, the NWTU is very close to finalizing a local Letter of Understanding for this year's Remedy process, so stay tuned. It will include a member's Remedy options, calculations/values for individual Remedies, and the process for Remedy carry-over from last year. As for now, all Remedy meetings with affected members and administration may/should occur with a Staff Rep present.

We were also able to sign off on a local Letter of Understanding around "lost preps". Something long overdue! However, as this is a new agreement it may take some time for any kinks to be worked out.

Lastly, with respect to local bargaining, we are getting very close to being ready for a membership ratification vote on our locally negotiated contract provisions; a big thank you to our NWTU Bargaining Team! We will be informing members of the proposed changes in a variety of ways, including school visits, emails, newsletters, and at a General Meeting information session, in order to educate members on the proposed contract changes prior to a membership ratification vote.

Provincial collective bargaining continues to proceed with mediation. The best place to obtain information from the provincial bargaining table is on the BCTF Members' Portal: <https://members.bctf.ca>.

As a reminder, you may contact me via email at lp40@bctf.ca, or call our office at 604-526-8990, or call my cell phone at 604-765-4322.

Important Dates

October 8 – NWTU Executive Committee Meeting

October 9 – Staff Representative Training (SURT)

October 14 – Thanksgiving

October 21 – New Westminster Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Day

October 25 – Provincial Pro-D Day

October 28 – National School Library Day

Want to be up to date on local bargaining and other union issues? Subscribe to our NWTU EMAIL LIST with your personal email! Scan the QR Code below or call our office (604-526-8990) to be added to our mailing list.



Search "NWTU"



October 25 is PSA Day



October 25 is Provincial Specialist Association Day. On this province-wide Pro-D day, most PSAs offer a conference. Remember that our Pro-D funds, as well as Pro-D remedy funds will pay for the registration for PSA conferences, as well as PSA memberships. PSA Conferences are a great way to connect with other teachers and learn about the latest ideas in your teaching area.

Go to the following link to read about all the conferences offered October 25

<https://bctf.ca/uploadedFiles/Public/PSAs/conferences.pdf>



November 12 Pro-D Day Opportunity for NWTU Members

On November 12, the BCTF will be presenting a workshop on Professional Boundary Issues: Teacher/Student Relationships

Sometimes the standards of conduct between students and teachers are ambiguous. Teachers place themselves in jeopardy when boundaries are crossed. This workshop helps school staffs and TTOCs identify the boundaries and provides them with support and resources. Reference will be made to the BCTF Code of Ethics.

8:30-11:30 in room 149 at NWSS

Please complete this Google Form to let us know you will be attending.

<https://forms.gle/4pDacNpLeGBRDBGbA>



Local Letter of Understanding on “Lost Preps”

On September 27, 2019, an agreement was reached between the NWTU and SD40 concerning what constitutes a lost prep and the procedures surrounding how these preps will be rescheduled.

From this agreement:

Prep Time as per Article D.4 (Preparation Time) is considered unencumbered time for an individual NWTU member to engage in professional activities to support teaching and learning in relation to their assigned instructional duties. It is expected that the member will be permitted this time without any conflict with other assigned responsibilities. It is also understood that any loss of preparation time for a member should be an exceptional circumstance.

When is it a lost prep?

If a member is directed by the principal to participate in an event or attend a meeting, at a time that conflicts with a member’s Prep Time, that period of time will be considered a “lost prep”, and recorded as such (in the district standard record of lost prep) and rescheduled at another time. **All administrative requests and directions must be in writing or email, otherwise the member's attendance at the event or meeting is voluntary.**

What some type of requested events or meetings might result in a lost prep?

- IEP Meetings
- School-Based Team Meetings
- Early dismissal (for the purpose of meeting with parents/guardians)
- Principal scheduled collaboration time
- Assemblies
- Sports Day
- May Day
- Field trips
- Emergency and fire drills

How do I get my lost prep rescheduled?

The member’s Prep Time will be rescheduled at a mutually acceptable time between the member and their administrator. In the event mutual agreement is not achieved, the principal shall provide the member with a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours’ notice and at least two (2) options (times) for that member to select from.

It is also recognized that due to scheduling conflicts non-enrolling teachers (members) are responsible for arranging, and if necessary rearranging, their schedule to make up their “Lost Prep” Time when unavoidable conflicts occur.



Non-Enrolling Member (r/e TTOC) Survey

Attention all non-enrolling members (i.e., LSTs, Teacher-Librarians, School Councillors, District Itinerants, etc.). Please complete the following online Google form if you requested a TTOC when you are absent, and you:

- were pulled from your non-enrolling position to cover another teacher's class, or
- requested a TTOC when you were absent and one was not dispatched, or
- requested a TTOC when you were absent and the TTOC was pulled to cover another class.

Thank you, this information may be helpful in an upcoming failure to fill arbitration. There is no end date attached to this survey, and you are encouraged to revisit this survey every time one of the above instances occurs.

<https://forms.gle/7R5j4e2PtaxBwXsA9>



NWTU Member Satisfaction Survey

Attention all NWTU members, please complete the following survey to help us gauge your general sense of connectedness to other NWTU members and your sense of support provided by the NWTU Executive (i.e., Staff Reps and Table Officers). We hope to find out information that will help us support you even better!

Please share your thoughts on or before November 30, 2019.

Thank you in advance! <https://forms.gle/f3oSyoChz89RM2FHA>



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