



NWTU UNION NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Wethered

I hope that all of you had some much-needed rest during our summer break. I managed to take almost five weeks off, and spent the time visiting my family on Vancouver Island and reconnecting with friends here in the Lower Mainland that I hadn't been able to see in person for a very long time. And with a blink, September is almost over.

Over the summer, many members of our executive committee attended the BCTF Summer Leadership Conference. Thank you to all executive members who took time out of their summer break to attend this very important training.

I also want to acknowledge the sense of uncertainty that many members had returning to work this September as we did not have the new Communicable Disease protocols until August 26. I was saddened to see that these protocols did not provide sufficient money from the provincial government to have full-time day custodians this year, nor was the mask mandate extended to K-3 students. I will continue to work with CUPE 409 president, Dave Bollen, to advocate for the reinstatement of full-time day custodians. I am also committed to working with the other BCTF local presidents to seek an extension of the mask mandate to K-3 students.

This year, I will be working with the district to ensure that there is a heat stress plan in place prior to the warm weather. I heard many complaints about what occurred on June 28, and I have passed on those complaints to senior administration. I have also put the district on notice that I will be bringing forth all complaints that I hear about air quality and temperatures in portables.

Before I end this message, I want to mention that the NWTU has made two donations to the Indian Residential School Survivors' Society. I hope that all members will take time on September 30 to learn more about residential schools and the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and to remember those students who never made it home, or returned home traumatized by their experience at school.

As always, I would like to end this message with a big thank you for all that you do to make our schools a safe, kind, and caring place for the students of my adopted hometown.

--Sarah

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 1 and 2 - BCTF Zones Meeting

Oct. 5 - Pro-D Rep SURT

Oct. 12 - NWTU Executive Committee Meeting

Oct. 19 - Staff Rep SURT

Oct. 22 - PSA Conference Day

Oct. 25 - Drop Everything and Read Day

Oct. 28 to 30 - Bargaining Conference

PENSION QUESTIONS?

Wherever you are on your pension journey, now is the best time to get answers to your pension questions and prepare for your future!

Whether you're thinking about joining the plan, establishing your career, several years from retirement or nearing retirement, explore your education options:

- **Getting to Know Your Pension**—15-minute online course for new or potential plan members
- **Making the Most of Your Pension**—45-minute online course or 75-minute instructor-led webinar for members establishing their career or several years away from retirement
- **Approaching Retirement**—45-minute online course or 75-minute instructor-led webinar for members planning for or within five years of retirement

For current information and to take online courses and webinars, please visit tpp.pensionsbc.ca and click on *Learning Resources*. Online courses are done at your own pace, anytime and anywhere.

WEBSITE REFRESH



Image retrieved from: <https://www.bctf.ca/>

The BCTF website has undergone a complete refresh!

Launched in August, the new site offers streamlined organization and enhanced search features.

Information is organized into four categories:

- **Advocacy and Issues:** Links to information on current professional and social issues and advocacy campaigns.
- **Services and Guidance:** Check here for information on our collective agreement, benefits, current Health & Safety measures, pensions and more.
- **Classroom Resources:** A quick link to Teach BC, a database of educator-created lessons, units and resources freely available to all teachers.
- **What's Happening:** News updates, committee postings and more!

Members can also now sign in using their personal email on file with the BCTF instead of your BCTF member number. Check out the new site at <https://www.bctf.ca/>

Thinking of Early Retirement?

You might qualify for the

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PLAN!

Check out [Article C.34](#) in our collective agreement for the full details of the plan.

Deadlines for applying are **October 1** if retiring by December 31 or **April 1** for those retiring by June 30.

Remedy Funds

If you have remedy funds to spend this year, make sure to check out the **Remedy Letter of Understanding** under the *Documents* tab on our NWTU website.

This important document outlines how remedy funds may be used by teachers.

If you have any questions about remedy, please contact your staff rep or NWTU President, Sarah Wethered at lp40@bctf.ca.

2021-2022 NWTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thank you once again to all those who stepped forward and took on NWTU Executive Committee roles this year.

Members can also find a list of Executive Committee members on our website under the NWTU tab.

Table Officers	Name
President	Sarah Wethered
1 st Vice-President	Kristie Oxley
2 nd Vice-President	D'Alice Marsh
Bargaining Chairperson	Darryl Schelp
Treasurer	Rome Lavrencic
Recording Secretary	Jim Russell
Aboriginal Education Chairperson	<i>Currently Vacant</i>
Health & Safety Chairperson	Karin Krueger
Social Justice Chairperson	Bertha Lansdowne
New Teachers & TTOC Chairperson	Karin Krueger
Diversity & Inclusion Chairperson	Satnam Sangra
First Local Rep to BCTF	Bruce McCloy
Second Local Rep to BCTF	Dominic Pistor
Alternative Local Rep	Sarah Wethered
Bargaining Advisory Committee Members	Darryl Schelp (Chair) Andre Kozak D'Alice Marsh Eric Young Jim Russel Kristie Oxley Sarah Wethered

REMINDER



WHAT'S HAPPENING...

NWSS Teacher-Librarians Jenny Chang and Brenda Kwok welcomed back students in a big way this fall.

Building on the recent popularity of 80's culture, students were invited ***Back to the Library*** to grab a great book.

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 D'Alice, lx40vp2@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
- D'Alice Marsh, 2nd VP, lx40vp2@bctf.ca
- NWTU Office: 604.526.8990.