



# NWTU UNION NEWS

MARCH/APRIL 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Sarah Wethered*

I hope that all of you had a safe and restful Spring Break. I took the opportunity to sleep in, binge watch some old favourites on Netflix, read for pleasure, and knit something fabulous for myself.

On March 20-23, the BCTF held their annual AGM. It was the first time the BCTF had attempted a full AGM online. A few of our delegates attended this virtual meeting with me, here at the union office. While it was not the same as being at an in-person AGM, it was great to spend some time socializing with people other than the small bubble I have been in since last March. Rest assured, we followed strict COVID-19 protocols while in the office, including masking and physical

distancing. The AGM elected our BCTF Executive, set a status quo fee, and reduced our monthly SIP payments. The debate was lively and we all certainly learned more about Robert's Rules. Thank you to Tammy Dewar, D'Alice Marsh, Bruce McCloy, Darryl Nakashima, Kristie Oxley, Lisa Seddon, and Carmen Woo for attending this meeting on behalf of all NWTU members.

While it seems like we only just held elections a few months ago, we will begin electing our new NWTU executive in May. On May 4, we will be holding a special nominations general meeting to confirm nominations, and acclaim those people who run unopposed. More information about this meeting and what each position entails is included in this newsletter. I am proud to once again put my name forward for the position of president. I encourage anyone who wishes to run for a position to contact me if they have any questions.

We will be conducting a local bargaining survey from April 6-19 to collect your thoughts about what you believe we should be bargaining locally next year. Thank you to Darryl Schelp for all his work on this survey. It seems incredulous that we are starting another round of bargaining, when we haven't even finished finalizing our last collective agreement, but such is the cycle of negotiations. I hope to actually finalize and sign our current Collective Agreement in the next few months.

Lastly, I am continuing to advocate on behalf of all members to enact a full mask mandate in our schools, from K-12. Dr. Bonnie Henry's announcement on last Monday has left many questions unanswered and I am continually advocating for exceeding the recommendations, not just meeting them. Over the weekend, I reached out to everyone and anyone with any authority expressing this message. I am also working with the other local presidents in the Fraser Health region to extend this mask mandate to include K-3.

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 home time.

~ Sarah

## IMPORTANT DATES

**April 2** - Good Friday

**April 5** - Easter Monday

**April 13** - Executive Meeting

**April 21** - Non-Instructional Day

**May 4** - Special Nominations  
General Meeting for Table-Officer  
Positions (Zoom link to be  
provided)

# Elections for Table Officer Positions

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It is that time of year again when we start to prepare ourselves for the nominations and the elections of the Table-Officer positions for the NWTU Executive Committee. As such, we thought it was imperative to provide members with a brief explanation of the elected positions, to encourage members to run and to seek election.

We want to stress, if you have any questions regarding any of the positions please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to answer all questions. The strength of the NWTU rest on the dedication and volunteerism rest of our Executive Committee.

## ELECTION PROCESS

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### Step 1: Call for Nominations

- Towards the end of April an email will be sent to all members inviting them to complete a curriculum vitae (CV) for the positions they are nominating themselves for.

### Step 2: Special Nominations General Meeting

- A meeting will be held on May 4 over Zoom.
- At this meeting members will also be able to nominate themselves from the "floor" to run for the election of any of the table-officer positions.
- Positions with multiple nominees will have the opportunity to speak to the floor.
- Positions that are uncontested will be acclaimed by the nominee.

### Step 3: General Elections

- Contested positions from the Special Nominations General Meeting will be voted on.
- The method is yet to be confirmed for this year; however, it is likely that voting will be conducted online similar to last year.
- This will be conducted within 7 days of May 4.

## BY-LAW 3. ELECTIONS (AMENDED WINTER GM 2020)

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- A. Only active members in good standing shall be eligible to vote and hold office as table officer or staff representative. The number of votes necessary to elect every table officer and staff representative shall be a simple majority, 50% plus one of the members voting. All elections shall be by secret ballot, and balloting shall continue until a decisive result is achieved. For all general elections, the executive committee shall choose the method of voting, whether online voting, voting at all schools, or voting at a general meeting, and shall determine the rules and procedures for voting. (Amended Winter GM 2020)
- B. All table officers shall be elected in general elections by the active members of the union in May or June of each calendar year, for a one-year term from July 1 until June 30 of the school year following their election.
- C. In May of each year, at least one week before any general elections, a special meeting shall be held for the purpose of receiving and confirming all nominations for table officer positions, allowing the nominees present at the meeting to speak, and acclaiming the election of nominees who are unopposed. All contested positions shall be filled by general election in accordance with 3A above. (Amended Winter GM 2020)
- D. When any table officer or position falls vacant, the executive committee may appoint a replacement, subject to ratification at the next general meeting. (Amended Winter GM 2019)
- E. Staff representatives shall be elected in school-based elections by active members at the school in May or June (or early in the new school year) for a one-year term from July 1 until June 30. (Amended Winter GM 2020)

# Description of Table Officer Positions

Below you will find a description of the elected Table Officer Positions. To see the "official" broad explanations of the positions please see the [Constitution and By-Laws of the New Westminster Teachers' Union](http://bit.ly/NWTU_Constitution_ByLaws) ([http://bit.ly/NWTU\\_Constitution\\_ByLaws](http://bit.ly/NWTU_Constitution_ByLaws)).

## PRESIDENT

- The President shall have general supervision and direction of all matters and affairs of the union
- a full-time officer of the Union
- a member, ex-officio, of all committees of the NWTU
- the local union Grievance Officer;
- a delegate to the BCTF AGM
- the Alternate Local Representative (LR) to the BCTF
- a signing officer of the NWTU
- Advocate for NWTU members
- represent members through Investigations and Grievances
- Attend District Health & Safety Committee Meetings
- Attend school site Staff Committee Meetings when invited
- And much more
- Time Commitment:
  - 9 hrs/day average in office, additional hours outside of office
  - 4 weeks off in the summer (last 2 weeks of July and first 2 weeks of August)

## VICE-PRESIDENTS(1ST & 2ND)

- Assist the President in the performance of their duties.
  - Approximately 30 days of released-time to be shared between the VPs to support the president.
- Signing officers of the Union.
- Attend Contract Management Meetings (1/month)
- Attend Executive Committee Meetings (1/month)
- Supporting members through Investigations and Grievances
- Acting member of various committees, when others are absent or the position remains vacant
- Help support and organize SURT Training
- Attend meetings with other locals
- Write the monthly news letter
- Time Commitment:
  - 5-8 hours a week (does not include the shared release days)

## BARGAINING CHAIRPERSON

- Survey general membership for their input in Articles and items of importance to them
- Review Collective Agreement (CA) and look for areas to have clarified
- Prepare and update local CA language
- Attend BCTF Bargaining Conference (bargaining year)
- Time Commitment:
  - Non-Bargaining year: average of 5 days over the year
  - Bargaining year: average of 20 days over the year - dependent on the year
  - may include bargaining days over the weekend and the summer

## TREASURER

- Assist the President and Office Manager in managing the Union's finances
- Maintain accurate records of all financial transactions
- Submit financial reports to meetings of the Executive Committee and to the Annual General Meeting;
- Signing officer of the Union.
- Assist President and Office Manager and President to set the recommended budget for the following year
- Time Commitment:
  - 1-2 hours a month average
  - 0.5-1 day of a meeting to set the proposed budget

## RECORDING SECRETARY

- Prepares Executive Meeting and General Meeting agendas with support of the President.
- Collects committee reports for the Executive Committee meetings
- Records meeting minutes for Executive Meetings and all General Meetings. .
- Edits for distribution to membership.
- Signing officer of the union.
- Attend all Executive and General Meetings
- Time Commitment:
  - 2-4 hours per month (including attendance of meetings)

# Description of Table Officer Positions(continued)

## PRO-D CHAIRPERSON

- Chairs meetings of school-based Pro-D Chairs several times a year
- Organizes Pro-D Rep SURT training once a year
- Reviews Pro-D Guidelines with Pro-D Reps annually
- Make recommendations for the Pro-D Days for the District Calendar
- Reviews and revises Pro-D Forms on the NWTU website
- Answers Pro-D questions from school-based Pro-D Reps
- Compiles and shares list of Pro-D opportunities monthly
- Co-chairs District Pro-D Day Committee meeting
- Time Commitment:
  - 2 hours a week on average

## HEALTH AND SAFETY CHAIRPERSON

- Chairs meetings of school-based Health & Safety Reps several times a year
- Organizes Health & Safety training once a year for school-based H&S Reps
- Potential to organize SURTs with consultation with the President
- Answers H&S questions from school-based H&S Reps
- Attend NWTU Executive Meetings monthly
- Attend Zone Meetings (twice a year - Winter & Spring, typically a Friday/Saturday)
- Attend Summer Conference (in August, typically 3 or 4 days)
- Attend District Health & Safety Committee meeting monthly
- Time Commitment:
  - 0.5 day meeting monthly
  - 2 - 3 hours per month on average



## SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAIRPERSON

## NEW TEACHERS AND TTOC CHAIRPERSON

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

The follow description holds for the Social Justice, New Teachers & TTOC, and the Aboriginal Education Chairpersons.

- Chairs Committee meetings with school-based representatives several times a year
- Answers questions from school-based AE Reps
- Provide reports to the NWTU Executive Committee
- Attend NWTU Executive Meetings
- Attend Zone Meetings (twice a year - Winter & Spring, typically a Friday/Saturday)
- Attend Summer Conference (in August, typically 3 or 4 days)
- Possibility on sitting on District Committees if they are struct and pertain to the chairpersons' positions
- Time Commitment:
  - will vary dependent on year
  - can average of 2 - 3 hours per month on average

## LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES (LR) - TWO POSITIONS

- In consultation with the President and the NWTU Executive Committee, represent the general membership of the NWTU
- Attend BCTF Representative Assemblies, 4 times per year
- Attend the BCTF Annual General Meeting
- Provide reports to the NWTU Executive Committee and to the NWTU General Meetings
- Time Commitment:
  - 8 days for Rep Assemblies (Fridays & Saturdays)
  - 4 days for BCTF AGM (over Spring Break)



# Description of Non-Table Officer Positions

There are a number of Non-Table Officer positions in which NWTU members can be nominated for as well. For details on these positions please reach out to Sarah, lp40@bctf.ca, or D'Alice, lx40vp2@bctf.ca.

- **BARGAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UP TO 5 POSITIONS)**
- **FRENCH EDUCATION REP**
- **ADULT EDUCATION REP**
- **FRENCH EDUCATION REP**
- **DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL REP**
- **POLITICAL ACTION CONTACT (2 POSITIONS)**
- **LOCAL ELECTION CONTACT (2 POSITIONS)**



## RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS

### An Essential Workshop from BC Retired Teachers' Association

- The important decisions that will determine your retirement lifestyle should not be made at the last minute as you fill out your forms.
- This seminars will prepare you to confidently make choices that are right for you.
- All teachers age 50+ should plan to attend one of BCRTA's Pre-Retirement online (Zoom) workshops. The workshops are free. You get great planning materials along with answers to questions you have about your retirement.
- **The agenda includes:** Teachers' Pension Plan, Canada Pension Plan, Old Age Security, and voluntary group benefits. Information about choosing your group benefits (dental, extended health and travel).
- We show some of the differences between the plans and help equip you to select the plan that best suits your needs.
- **Please pre-register at** <https://bcrta.ca/workshop>
- Upcoming Sessions:
  - April 21 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm
  - May 12 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm
  - May 26 - 7:00pm - 8:30pm
  - June 2 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm

## COVID-19 SURVEY

The COVID-19 AD-HOC Committee has put together a survey for the general NWTU membership to provide feedback. We are looking for input on your experiences this year, in hopes to provide more direct feedback to the District in our pursuit for safer working conditions.

The form can be accessed here, [http://bit.ly/COVID-19\\_Survey\\_April2021](http://bit.ly/COVID-19_Survey_April2021).

## BARGAINING SURVEY

Yes, there is a bargaining survey that has now been distributed to the NWTU general membership. The Bargaining Chairperson would like your feedback on items that are important to you in the upcoming

The survey has been sent through the BCTF Research and Simply Voting. If you did not receive the email to complete the survey, or if your personal link does not work, please contact Sarah at lp40.bctf.ca

**Responses to the survey will be accepted until April 19th.**

## PRO-D OPPORTUNITIES

A reminder to all teachers, even though we are amongst a pandemic, there are still many professional development opportunities available online.

Please take the time to visit, <http://www.nwtu.ca/pro-d.html>, for information on upcoming events.

Additional information on Professional Development opportunities can be found by going through the BCTF Member Portal. To access the Pro-D Calendar visit, <https://bctf.ca/PDcalendar/>.

## PRO-D FUNDS FOR TTOCS

A friendly reminder to all Teachers Teaching On Call, you are able to apply for \$100 to be spent on Professional Development opportunities. This can include things such as conferences, Provincial Specialist Association (PSA) memberships, and much more.

The form can be accessed here, <https://bit.ly/2PcMix7>.

# REMINDER

## BCTF AGM 2021



Screenshot captured by D'Alice Marsh during the AGM.

Above you will find your eight delegates that attended the BCTF AGM. A great amount of appreciation to each of these NWTU members for volunteering four nine-hour-days of their Spring Break. There was a lot of lively discussion and debate on hot topics.

**Top Row:** Tammy Dewar (EGMS), D'Alice Marsh (2ndVP & FRMS), Sarah Wethered (President)

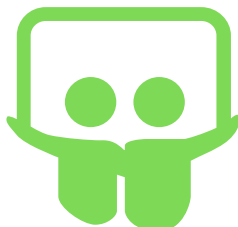
**Middle Row:** Darryl Nakishima (LR & NWSS), Bruce McCloy (LR & NWSS/Distributed Learning), Kristie Oxley (1stVP & District)

**Bottom Row:** Lisa Seddon (QMS), Carmen Woo (Pro-D & EGMS)

## 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.



## STAY UP TO DATE

### NWTU Email List

[http://bit.ly/NWTU\\_email\\_list](http://bit.ly/NWTU_email_list)



### NWTU Facebook Page

[http://bit.ly/NWTU\\_Facebook](http://bit.ly/NWTU_Facebook)



### New Teacher & TTOC Email List

[http://bit.ly/NWTU\\_NT-TTOC\\_Email](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.

