



NWTU UNION NEWS

OCTOBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kristie Oxley

September is always a busy month, and this September was no exception.

Provincial bargaining is well underway. On September 20th, BCTF President, Clint Johnston, attended our NWTU Special General Meeting and gave a bargaining update. The following week, NWTU First VP and Bargaining Chair, Darryl Schelp, was able to observe a BCTF/BCPSEA bargaining session and will be able to share his observations during our October Executive Committee Meeting. Members can view the most recent updates to bargaining on the BCTF website at <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/bargaining-updates-and-information>. You must be signed in to view the information.

According to the numbers shared by senior administration at the October 4th Board Meeting, student enrollment increased this year by 335 students. This is a significant difference and has created challenges in class organization in some schools. In order to meet the needs of a growing student population, the district continues to work on plans to provide additional space for students. These plans include a potential new build on the Fraser River Middle site. The NWTU will follow up with requests for consultation at the Contract Management meeting scheduled for late October.

September 30th was the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Many schools marked this day with events scheduled throughout the preceding week. The growth in understanding about residential schools and the commitment to reconciliation is evident in the assemblies, guest speakers, art projects and more around the district. If you are able to share how your school marked the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, please email your story and/or pictures to me at lp40@bctf.ca so I can share them with the district.

Wishing you all a fabulous October!

~ Kristie

IMPORTANT DATES

Oct. 11 - NWTU Executive Committee Meeting

Oct. 13 & 14 - BCTF Zones Meeting

Oct. 21 - Provincial Pro-d Day

Oct. 24 - Diwali

Oct. 24 - D.E.A.R. Day

Oct. 31 - Halloween

Nov. 2 - I Read Canadian Day

Nov. 4 & 5 - BCTF Rep Assembly

Nov. 8 - NWTU Executive Committee Meeting

Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day

Nov. 14 - Professional Development Day

Nov. 15 - NWTU General Meeting & New Teacher Induction

HAPPENING NOW

October 5th is World Teachers' Day

Teachers make a difference in so many lives!

As a small thank you for all you do, World Teachers' Day chocolates were delivered to schools for October 5th. Enjoy!



Social Justice at the BCTF

The BCTF is a Social Justice Union.

Under the umbrella of Social Justice, the BCTF has created a number of committees, each tackling an element of social justice. These committees are:

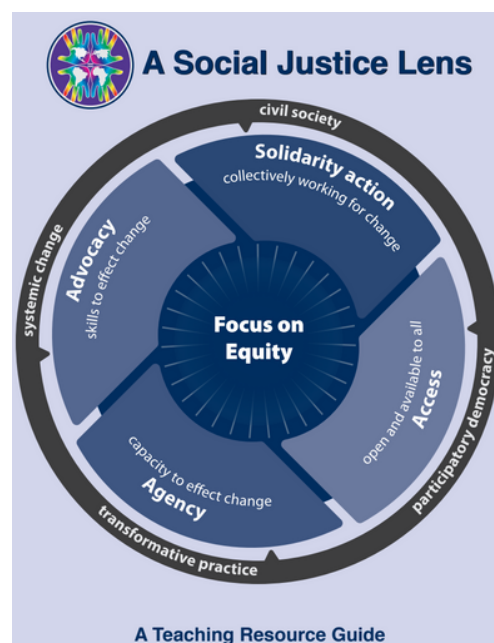
- Aboriginal Education
- Antiracism
- Disability Justice
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Justice
- LGBTQ2S+
- Peace and Global Education
- Status of Women

Comprised of dedicated and passionate educators, BCTF Social Justice committees work on advocacy efforts, including creating resources and posters that teachers can use in their classrooms, which can be found here: <https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/social-justice>

The BCTF Social Justice Calendar outlines observances throughout the year. October is *Women's History Month* and *Learning Disabilities Awareness Month*.



Please note: These calendars are from last year. The 2022-23 posters will be available at <https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/social-justice> soon.



The Social Justice Lens teaching resource is also available on the BCTF Website. Go to <https://www.bctf.ca/advocacy-issues/social-justice> and click the *Social Justice Lens* link.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Cross-District Art Exhibit

On May 6th, 2022, students from the Burnaby, New Westminster and Vancouver School Districts participated in a cross-district art exhibit highlighting the work of students with diverse needs. Ninety-three students showcased their talent in this exhibit, hosted by the Roundhouse Community Arts and Recreation Centre in Yaletown.

District Inclusion Facilitator, Sarah Lyles, helped organize the event. *"This show was such a success that we are continuing to partner with Burnaby School District to make it a yearly tradition. We are hoping to have the show at the Anvil Centre in New West this spring. It's wonderful when our students living with diverse abilities are highlighted for their accomplishments."* ~ Sarah Lyles



An article in the September/October 2022 edition of Teacher magazine outlines the event from conception to reality. You can read about it at https://issuu.com/teachernewsmag/docs/teacher_sept_oct_2022_-_issuu

Two of the students from the NWSS Inclusive Ed program are quoted in the last paragraph on page #20.

Municipal Elections

Municipal elections take place on October 15th.

The Canadian Labour Congress has endorsed candidates from all municipalities across BC. To view the endorsed candidates in your area, check out their website at <https://canadianlabour.ca/bc-labour-council-endorsed-candidates/>.

Second VP, Sarah Wethered, also organized an all candidates meeting on Thursday, September 29th. Candidates had three minutes to speak on why they are running for school trustee, and then answered a number of questions.

Thank you to the following candidates for joining this meeting:

- Marc Andres, Community First
- Dee Beattie, Community First
- Kathleen Carlsen, New West Progressives
- Danielle Connelly, New West Progressives
- Curveen Dhaliwal, Community First
- Teo Dobre, New West Progressives
- Maya Russell, Community First
- Elliott Slinn, Community First
- Cheryl Sluis, Community First



CELEBRATIONS



Happy Diwali

Diwali is a festival that celebrates the triumph GOOD over EVIL and LIGHT over DARKNESS. The festival is a symbol of hope, a renewed commitment to social justice, friendship and good will.

The Diwali festival has its roots in South Asia.

Diwali is celebrated every year by lighting "Divas" (Candles)

This year the Diwali festival is on Monday, October 24th.

To learn more about this festival please visit:

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/pages/article/diwali>

Don't forget to wish your students and colleagues a happy Diwali!

~ Article by Satnam Sangra



Guru Nanak

Sikhs across the world will be celebrating Guru Nanak's Gurburab (birthday) on November 8th this year.

Guru Nanak is the first Guru or teacher of the Sikhs. He was born in 1469. Five centuries ago, Guru Nanak found himself in a society where people of different faith groups had enmity toward each other. Women in his society were treated as second class citizens. People were separated into classes; the lower one's class the worse they were treated in society.

Guru Nanak challenged these beliefs. The basic premise of his teachings was that we are all one. His philosophy was grounded in the equitable treatment of all human beings, respect for diversity and the importance of the philosophy of inclusion where everyone feels valued, welcome and a sense of belonging regardless of differences.

Please consider wishing your students a Happy Gurburab on November 19th this year.

~ Article by Satnam Sangra

What I learned from Guru Nanak An NWSS student reflection

Being a Canadian Sikh means understanding Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings and putting them into practice, such as 'Vand Kay Shukna,' which means sharing with others and helping those in need. To me, it includes taking part in Gurdwara events and programs, such as doing sewa (selfless service). Furthermore, it involves assisting in the education and awareness of the injustices being committed not just against Sikhs, but against all humans, as Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught us to serve all people regardless of race or color.



CELEBRATIONS

October 21 Provincial Pro-D Day

Every year, the third Friday of October is designated a professional development day by all districts. This allows PSAs (Provincial Specialist Associations) to run their annual conferences. All PSAs operate under the umbrella of the BCTF and are run by BC teachers dedicated to advancing learning and growth in their teaching specialty. There's a PSA for every specialty!

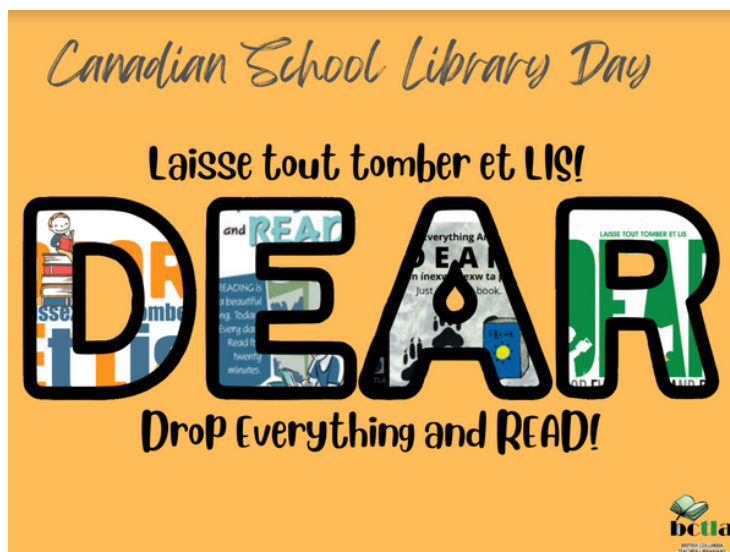
If you'd like to register for a PSA conference, links to each conference site can be found on the PSA Day 2022 website at <http://www.psaday.ca/>. If you are involved with a PSA and would like your PSA poster added to the NWTU Pro-d Webpage, please email it to lp40@bctf.ca.

Teachers can also purchase a membership to a PSA when registering for a conference. Both the membership and the conference registration can be reimbursed from personal professional development funds.

Teacher Recognition

Many PSAs recognize the hard work and achievements of their members through annual awards and grants. Often, these awards and grants are presented at the annual conference.

If you are being recognized this year, or know of a New Westminster Teacher who is being recognized, please let us know so we can highlight them in our next newsletter. Please email stories to lp40@bctf.ca.



Drop Everything And Read Day

D.E.A.R. Day is celebrated every year on the Monday after PSA Day.

From reading in pajamas to sharing a book with the entire school, there are so many ways to celebrate D.E.A.R.

If your school is marking this day with a special celebration, the NWTU wants to hear from you. Please email stories and photos to lp40@bctf.ca.

BCTLA Conference at NWSS

This year, Teacher-Librarians, Sarah Wethered, and Jenny Chang will host the BC Teacher-Librarians' Association Annual Conference on Oct. 21st. This conference will feature keynote speaker, David A. Robertson, who will talk about his writing and censorship. Writer and storyteller, Ivan Coyote, will provide the endnote. Coyote's stories grapple with the complex and intensely personal topics of gender identity, family, class, and queer liberation, but always with a generous heart, and a quick wit.

On October 22nd, Wethered and Chang will also host the prestigious 7th Annual Treasure Mountain Canada library conference. This conference brings together librarians from all over Canada to discuss library specific research and to plan future research projects.

David A. Robertson



Ivan Coyote



REMINDER

BCTF Annual General Meeting Delegates

All NWTU members are invited to put their names forward as an AGM delegate. The AGM runs this school year from March 18th to 21st, 2023. Elections for delegates will take place at our NWTU General Meeting on November 15th. If you are interested in putting your name forward, fill out this [AGM Delgate CV](#) and email it to NWTU Office Manager, Taryn Townshend, at nwtuadmin@telus.net.

BCTF Opportunities for Members

The BCTF posts opportunities for members on their website. These include callouts for committee members or delegates to meetings. You can view these opportunities by going to <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening> and clicking on **Postings and Opportunities**.

Right now, the BCTF is looking for 10 additional delegates that identify as BIPOC to attend **FLI (Federation Leadership Institute)** in November. If you're interested in attending, please fill out the application at [https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2022/09/29/additional-delegates-to-federation-leadership-institute-\(fli\)](https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2022/09/29/additional-delegates-to-federation-leadership-institute-(fli)).

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

We're looking for stories to highlight in our newsletter. Please email stories and pictures to Kristie at lp40@bctf.ca to have them included in an upcoming edition of the NWTU Newsletter.

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, 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, lx40vp2@bctf.ca
- NWTU Office: 604.526.8990.