



NWTU

UNION NEWS

December 2018

President's Message

Eric Young

It's hard to believe that we're in the month of December already. Though getting through the first round of report cards usually means that winter break is within sight. A chance to catch your breath and recharge your batteries.

As always there is a lot of things going on in the NWTU office and the BCTF that I want to remind teachers of, and this month I'll focus on three good news items.

At the most recent BCTF Representative Assembly in November it was announced that our pension plan is doing very well. In fact it's currently in surplus position, which means that starting January 1st, 2019 our contributions will be 1.75% less. This translates to a 1.75% pay increase.

A second piece of good news occurred in November when the latest BC government's Economic Stability Dividend was announced. This means that an additional 0.75% will be added to the already 1% (now 1.75%) pay increase scheduled for May 1st, 2019.

The last piece of good news is that we have now been informed by the District that all teachers, including Learning Support Teachers, who request a TTOC when absent shall have one dispatched. The bad news is that our District continues to face TTOC shortages on a daily basis. Never-the-less, non-enrolling teachers should be requesting a TTOC and preparing day plans.

Finally, if you are facing challenges with teaching assignment, or in your personal life, there are Union supports in place. Please speak to your school Staff Rep, call our office (604) 526-8990, or visit nwtu.ca or bctf.ca for more information.

Wishing you all the best in the coming weeks and over the break.

Important Dates

December 11 – NWTU Executive meeting – Boston Pizza

December 12 – NWTU Social Justice Staff Union Rep training – NWTU Office

December 15 – Pat Dyer's Celebration of Life - Operating Engineer's Hall - 4333 Ledger Ave, Burnaby

December 21 – Last day before Winter Break

January 7 – First day back from Winter Break



Teacher Health Benefits:

1) EFAP (Employee & Family Assistance Program)
through **Homewood Health**
1-800-663-1142 call 24 hours a day
<https://homewoodhealth.com/>

2) BCTF Health and Wellness Program

A member may call the BCTF directly (**604-871-1921** or toll-free **1-800-663-9163**, local 1921)
<http://bctf.ca/wellness/>

In Loving Memory of Patrick (Pat) Dyer

On November 13, Pat Dyer, NWSS Social Studies teacher, passed away suddenly. Pat leaves behind his daughter Emily (Jeremy), son Liam, and his wife Sue, who is also a teacher for the New Westminster School District.

Pat was a long time member of the NWTU executive, serving as staff rep, bargaining chair, and rep to the New Westminster and District Labour Council. He attended countless BCTF AGMs and had been to the BCFED convention as well. Prior to becoming a teacher, Pat had been a member of PPWC (Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada) when he was employed at the Harmac Pulp Mill in Nanaimo. Pat had also worked as an adjuster at ICBC. This diverse background assisted Pat in his skillful execution of his NWTU roles.

After graduating from the University of Victoria, Pat taught in Cowichan and Nanaimo districts. In 1989, Pat started his career in New Westminster. After four years of teaching on call, Pat secured a position at New Westminster Secondary School, where as a Social Studies teacher, he touched the lives of thousands of students and hundreds of teachers.

Pat was a friend, mentor, and colleague to many and his loss leaves a tremendous hole in the staff of NWSS and the executive of the NWTU. He and his infectious belly laughs will be tremendously missed.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held December 15 from 1-3 at the Operating Engineers' Hall at 4333 Ledger Ave, Burnaby.

Please wear a Hawaiian shirt if you have one as Pat was fond of them.

A scholarship in Pat's honour is being set up. If you wish to contribute, please send cheques made payable to School District #40 with a notation in the memo section that it is for the Pat Dyer Scholarship. Any donations made in cheque form will receive a tax receipt.



Meet Your Executive Member

Katie Dittrich – TTOC/New Teacher Rep

Meet Katie Dittrich, our TTOC/New Teacher Rep. This month she celebrates her fourth year working in the district. She began her career as a TTOC and then headed up to NWSS for her first contract. After she spent time as a ELL teacher at Queen Elizabeth and finally landed at Lord Kelvin where she currently teaches grade 2.

Katie enjoys working in New West because of all of the mentors she has organically found over the years. Katie says, "It is important to find a teaching buddy too. Someone who you can run things by and chat with at the end of a busy day in the classroom."

Katie is currently pursuing her Masters in Educational Technology and Learning Design at SFU. She loves getting her 7 year old students connected with technology. Drop her a line if you ever want to chat about incorporating tech ideas with your students.



Thank you Katie for laying a wreath on Remembrance Day on behalf of all New Westminster Teachers.

Social Justice

THE **SECOND ANNUAL CROSS BORDER SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE** IS TAKING PLACE ON MARCH 2, 2019 FROM 12:00-8:00 PM. THE THEME IS **"TEACHING FOR JOY AND JUSTICE."** FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO THE WEBSITE. THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE IS ALSO ACCEPTING SESSION PROPOSALS.

[HTTP://CROSSBORDERCONFERENCE.WEEBLY.COM/](http://CROSSBORDERCONFERENCE.WEEBLY.COM/)

What is your school's past practice for repaying up lost prep blocks?

The NWTU is seeking your feedback and information to help us work with the School District in developing a shared understanding of what constitutes a lost prep block that should be paid back.

Please take our 5 minutes survey:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=12G-IB0kccjgayozFZFJmZ2bq1fT_LVOVUmz47eBLEjo