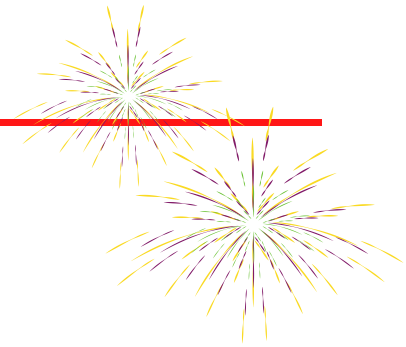




NWTU UNION NEWS

JANUARY 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Wethered

I hope all of you had a safe and restful Winter Break. I enjoyed my four days with my family on Vancouver Island. It's been many years since I was home for Christmas, and I had forgotten just how special this time could be. My little break recharged my batteries and now I'm ready for the challenges ahead.

I know that this newsletter is coming to you much earlier than usual, but Kristie and I felt that we had a lot of information to share at this moment. Kristie will be taking a bigger role in the day-to-day operations of the union starting this week, as she is being released two days a week until the end of the school year to provide extra support in the office. I will appreciate having her in the office with me on Thursdays and Fridays and thank the BCTF for the grant to be able to do so.

The start of 2022 has not begun how we expected. It looked like in December that the world was opening up a bit, and then with the discovery of Omicron, our world has changed once again. I am thankful for the BCTF continuing to advocate for the health and safety of members, and I feel that having four days to prepare enhanced health and safety measures is a good idea. This will also give members time to update their online platforms in case there is a need to transition to remote learning for an isolation period. I think spending this time updating online platforms is a prudent idea.

All schools will be holding a virtual staff meeting on Wednesday, and Kristie and I, along with Dave Bollen from CUPE 409, will be meeting with the Superintendent on Thursday to discuss what next week will look like for a full return to in person learning. Please check your district email for the Superintendent's upcoming message to all staff and parents, and also check your personal email later this week for an update from me.

Thank you for everything you do for the children of my adopted hometown. I hope that 2022 is a good year for you all.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 8 - NWTU Executive Meeting

Feb. 11 & 12 - Federation Leadership Institute

Feb. 15 - NWTU General Meeting

Feb. 21 - Family Day

Feb. 22 - Non-Instructional Day

Mar. 8 - NWTU Executive Meeting

Mar. 12 to 27 - Spring Break

Mar. 19 to 22 - BCTF AGM

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Immigration Rally

This December, a parent of a Lord Tweedsmuir Elementary School student dropped her child off as she did every morning. She left the school grounds and made it only about a block away before she was apprehended by Canadian Border Services. She is currently being detained pending deportation.

On December 18th, a rally was held at Lord Tweedsmuir in support of this family. NWTU president, Sarah Wethered, spoke at the rally, as did school trustees, New Westminster MP Peter Julian and a representative from city council.

In 2017, the New Westminster School District passed a **Sanctuary Schools Policy** aimed at ensuring all students can access an education without worrying that their personal information will be shared with federal immigration authorities. All students deserve to access schools with fear of discrimination based on ANY grounds, including immigration status.



Equity Audit

On January 11, 2022, the NWTU will be hosting an Equity Audit SURT.

This workshop is designed to guide participants through the steps of an equity audit, including collecting data on current member diversity and brainstorming strategic changes to policies and procedures aimed at increasing member engagement.

There are still a few spots available for this session. If you are interested, please email NWTU President, Sarah Wethered, at lp40@bctf.ca by Jan. 7. Participants will be emailed the Zoom link and details for booking your TTOC prior to the event.



Changes to CPP

Employee and employer CPP contribution rates for 2022 are set to rise to 5.7%. This means that all teacher's CPP contributions will again stop once they have earned \$64,900, or contributed \$3,499.80 to CPP.

The increase in contribution rate is a result of the ongoing implementation of the CPP enhancement, which began in 2019. The CPP is growing to replace one-third of the average earnings workers receive after 2019. Up until 2019, the CPP retirement pension replaced one-quarter of a worker's average earnings, up to a maximum earnings limit each year.

The enhancement will increase the CPP retirement pension, post-retirement benefit, disability pension, and survivor's pension. The increase in contributions as a result of the enhancement is being phased in gradually over seven years. To learn more about the CPP enhancement, click [here](#).

CELEBRATIONS

Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year is coming soon!

If you or your students celebrate Lunar New Year, please consider sending us something to be included in our February Newsletter. This could be:

- information on how Lunar New Year is celebrated
- a personal story about how your family celebrates this time of year
- pictures of displays or student work

Looking for Lunar New Year resources?

- This [short video](#) demonstrates how to wish someone a happy Lunar New Year. (It's a couple years old so it features the year of the Rat instead of Tiger).
- Discovery Education's [Lunar New Year channel](#) has resources for K-12 students.
- Check out some Lunar New Year books on [EPIC!](#) such as [Sam and the Lucky Money](#) or [Nian, The Chinese New Year Dragon](#).

*** Please note: Teachers will need to set up their own free EPIC accounts.

虎年大吉

**Wishing you luck
in the year of the Tiger!**



DID YOU KNOW?

Virtual Field Trips

As the months of pandemic measures have grown, many teachers have started looking to virtual activities to replace in-person ones. Virtual field trips can be a great way to spice things up in the classroom.

**We want to hear from
you!**

**Do you have a virtual field trip
suggestion?**

**Has your class participated in a
virtual field trip?**

**Send us the details and we will
feature them in next month's
NWTU News.**

This fall, the BCTF website featured an article on virtual field trips, including links to various opportunities. You can read it at <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2021/11/05/virtual-field-trips>.

Additional virtual field trip opportunities can be found on [Discovery Education's Virtual Field Trip Channel](#) or by accessing this [Virtual Experiences](#) document.



OPPORTUNITIES

BCTF Women's Wellness Event

The BCTF is holding a virtual Women's Wellness Event on Thursday, March 3 (evening only) and Friday, March 4th.

The event will feature:

- a President's welcome, comedian's presentation, and icebreaker activity on Thursday, March 3.
- small group discussions, workshop sessions, slam poetry, and musical presentations on Friday, March 4.

Participants will receive a leave of absence for Friday and may claim child care costs for the Thursday evening.

Each local may send one delegate to this event. If you identify as a woman and would like to attend this event, please email Sarah Wethered at lp40@bctf.ca by **3 pm** on **January 17, 2022**. If multiple expressions of interest are received, one name will be chosen at random to attend.

The BCTF has reserved additional spaces at this event. To learn more about the event or how to apply for one of the additional spaces, please visit <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2021/12/16/bctf-women-s-wellness-event>.



BCTF Delegates to the Canadian Teachers' Federation AGM

This year's Canadian Teachers' Federation AGM will be held from **July 6-8** in Ottawa.

Any BCTF member may apply to attend. Applications will be reviewed and voted on at the January Rep Assembly.

To apply or to learn more about this opportunity, please visit <https://www.bctf.ca/whats-happening/news-details/2021/11/24/posting-bctf-delegates-to-the-canadian-teachers-federation-agm>.

Application deadline is **January 19, 2022**.



REMINDER

NEW TEACHERS' CONFERENCE



This May, the BCTF will be hosting both an in-person and a virtual New Teachers' Conference.

The official registration link will be posted to the BCTF website and to the PD page of our NWTU website when it's available. It will also be shared out via email directly with NWTU members who have provided their personal email address to the union office.

Not sure if we have your email? Just scan the QR code to the right and submit it.

TT-USW2009@LEU#40

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 Kristie at, lx40vp@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.