



NWTU UNION NEWS

APRIL 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sarah Wethered

As I sit here writing this month's message, I'm mentally rehearsing the budget submission presentation that I have to do at tonight's (April 27) open board meeting. While I'm no stranger to speaking at board meetings this presentation feels different. I can feel the trust that all of you have placed in me to convey our needs and wants to the board. Thank you to all who completed our budget survey earlier this month. This survey was the basis for our submission and includes recommendations for the purchase of more student devices and textbooks, keeping our daytime custodians, the hiring of more teachers, including LSTs, counsellors, and classroom teachers, and creating a plan at NWSS for everyone to have a sense of privacy, whether in classrooms or offices. I will also be advocating for the district to think about what our mentorship program will look like after the funds we received from our last round of contract negotiations run out.

Since Spring Break, I've been contacted by many members concerned about COVID-19 vaccinations and when it will be our turn. The superintendent and I discuss the situation several times a week. CUPE 409 President, Marcel Marsolais and I sent almost identical letters to senior administration and the school board asking for vaccination clinics to be set up within our district so our members could be easily vaccinated when our time comes. On

Friday, April 23, along with other local presidents had a meeting with Dr. Ariella Zbar of Fraser Health and we discussed the vaccination rollout and the frustration that our members are feeling about waiting for our turn. Dr. Zbar wanted to reassure us that our time will come. The procedure is that they vaccinate one district and then move to the next most urgent district, based on community hotspots. These hotspots may change from week to week, or even day to day, so unfortunately, no timeline can be given. I know that it is frustrating, but please know that I am confident that the school district is doing everything they can to get us vaccinated.

Spring staffing begins the week of May 17, so please keep an eye out for the postings that will begin to come out. I will have our office manager email the postings to everyone on our email list every time I receive them. You can also check on the Atrivee system to see what positions are posted. There should be 4 rounds of postings before June 30 and then hiring will halt until the middle of August.

Lastly, a reminder that our NWTU elections take place next week. On May 4, there will be a special nominations meeting via Zoom. Candidates should email their completed CV to nwtuadmin@telus.net by noon on May 4. Candidates can also run from the floor at this meeting. Any uncontested positions will be acclaimed. If there are contested positions, the election will take place online through the Simply Voting platform on May 6. Please make certain that your email address on the BCTF portal is up to date as this is the database the BCTF and Simply Voting will use to email out your voting link.

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

May 4 - 12:00pm - Deadline for Nomination CVS to be submitted

May 4 - Nominations Meeting for Table-Officer Positions at 3:30pm via Zoom (link to be provided)

May 6 - Voting for non-acclaimed Table-Officer Positions

May 11 - NWTU Executive Meeting

May 18 - Annual General Meeting at 3:30pm via Zoom (link to be provided)

May 21 - Non-Instructional Day

May 24 - Victoria Day

Elections for Positions in the NWTU

It is that time of year again when we are preparing ourselves for the nominations and the elections of the various positions within the NWTU Executive Committee.

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.

TABLE OFFICER POSITIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| • PRESIDENT | • HEALTH & SAFETY CHAIRPERSON |
| • VICE PRESIDENT (1ST & 2ND) | • SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAIRPERSON |
| • BARGAINING CHAIRPERSON | • NEW TEACHER & TTC CHAIRPERSON |
| • TREASURER | • ABORIGINAL EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON |
| • RECORDING SECRETARY | • LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES (LR) - 2 POSITIONS |
| • PRO-D CHAIRPERSON | |

NON-TABLE OFFICER POSITIONS

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

DESCRIPTION OF ELECTED 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). You will also find a more detailed description of the Table Officer Positions in the March/April issue of the [NWTU Union News](http://bit.ly/MarchNWTUUnionNews) (<http://bit.ly/MarchNWTUUnionNews>).

ELECTION PROCESS & TIMELINE

Step 1: Call for Nominations

- Deadline for [Curriculum Vitae \(CVs\)](#), <https://1drv.ms/u/s!ArZ9lpv9WWc8gR3n5wsWE0Sjh8Dd?e=gMB4sv>, is noon on May 4.
- Submissions must be made to nwtuadmin@telus.net

Step 2: Nominations Meeting - Tuesday, May 4 via Zoom

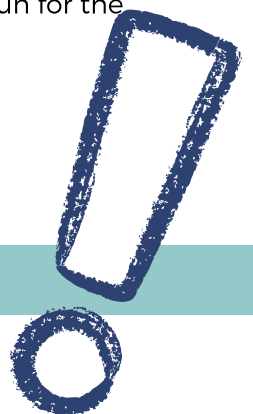
- Please see link sent to personal email on April 27.
- At this meeting members will also be able to nominate themselves from the "floor" to run for the election of any of the table-officer positions.
- Positions with multiple nominees will have the opportunity to speak to the floor.
- Positions that are uncontested will be acclaimed by the nominee.

Step 3: General Elections - Thursday, May 6 via Simply Voting

- Contested positions from the Nominations Meeting will be voted on.
- Links to voting will be shared by the BCTF on behalf of the NWTU and Simply Voting
- Please make sure that your contact information is current on MyBCTF: Member Portal <http://bit.ly/MyBCTFMemberPortal>

Step 4: Election Results

- Election results will be released by May 11.



BEYOND THE LEARNING COMMONS' DOORS

by Larissa Kaminsky and Kristie Oxley

Teacher-librarian, Larissa Kaminsky, at Lord Kelvin Elementary has been working with Ms. Devi's grade one students on core competency development through the use of the Six Cedar Trees program. Over the course of the year, students learned about the core competencies and developed the ability to accurately self-assess their skills. They created booklets to demonstrate their knowledge. They also participated in drumming sessions with Aboriginal Youth Worker, Roslyn Smith. The drums in the photo were created by staff at Kelvin who participated in an indigenous drum making event. Cedar boughs were added to the display to honour the importance of the Cedar tree to the Qayqayt as well as all Coast Salish Peoples.

Larissa has also been working on incorporating outdoor learning into her library learning commons' program. During the recent nice weather, she took a Ms. Musgrove's Kindergarten students outside and read to them Fletcher and the Springtime Blossoms while observing local cherry trees.



Photo taken by Kristie Oxley



Photo taken by Aniela Daum, Lord Kelvin's Secretary.

TTOC APPRECIATION WEEK

Who you gonna call?

TTOCS!

May 3-7, 2021

TTOC Appreciation week

We support and appreciate our BC TTOCs



Retirées 2021

Lorelei Reimer-Aiumu — École Qayqayt
Warren Bleany — NWSS
Sandra Hardy — École Lord Tweedsmuir
Shirley Laven — École Glenbrook Middle
Harmeet Mangat — NWSS
Barbara Paul — Lord Kelvin
Rosemarie Schiemann — NWSS
Deidre Wrightman — Richard McBride

As of April 26, 2021

Retirées 2020

Cheryl Baumann — École Lord Tweedsmuir
Kelly Cannon — Connaught Heights
Devon Codesmith — Richard McBride
Shirley Johnston — École Herbert Spencer
Helen McWhirter — Pearson ALC
Jennifer Madison — Pearson ALC
Linda Mannix — Queensborough Middle
Natalina Reich — Lord Kelvin
Nancy Shamley — Richard McBride
Kathy L. Shannon — NWSS
Paul Skolnik — Pearson ALC
Brian Speckman — École Qayqayt
Colleen Stebner — École Herbert Spencer
Teresa Teh — Pearson ALC

As of Jun 2020

REMINDER

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

by Toni Grewal - BCTF

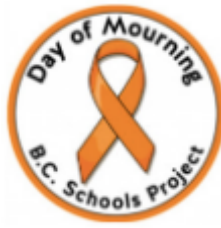
April 28, 2021 is the National Day of Mourning.

We pause to remember workers killed and those workers who still suffer from a work-related injury or illness.

The BCTF continues to support The Day of Mourning in Schools Project. This project focuses on worker health and safety rights and prevention for secondary students already working or soon to enter the workforce.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, printed materials will not be mailed out. You can go to the website to download materials. Here is the link:

<https://domschools.ca/>



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

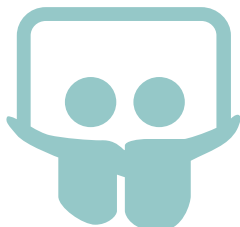
If you find yourself living at a new address, please take the time to update the following:

- **BCTF:** Update through [MyBCTF: Member Portal](http://bit.ly/MyBCTFMemberPortal)
<http://bit.ly/MyBCTFMemberPortal>
- **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.

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



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.

