



NWTU

UNION NEWS

May 2020

President's Message

Eric Young

Dear colleagues,

It has been nearly five weeks since the end of Spring Break and the start of school. Learning to adapt to remote learning has no doubt had its challenges, not only for you, but also for your students and their families. But with most life challenges I am reminded of an old saying, "That which does not kill us, makes us stronger." Therefore, I sincerely hope that you will be able to focus on the positive during these unprecedented times.

To that, it was a difficult decision, but I am officially announcing that I will not be seeking re-election as President of the New Westminster Teachers' Union. Being actively involved as a vice-president for two and a half years, and president for the past two, has been an extremely rewarding experience, but it's taken its toll and it's time for me to get back to my classroom. I am grateful for having had the chance to work with so many wonderful and capable union volunteers on our NWTU Executive Committee.

In particular, I'd like to recognize and thank a few individuals who I have worked closely with these past two years. Glenn Bullard, our current Health and Safety Chair, and our 1st VP last year, for his continued support and guidance. Darryl Schelp, our current Local Rep and Bargaining Chair, for his long time friendship and for his hard work on local bargaining. Kristie Oxley, our current PD Chair and 2nd VP, for her dedication and tireless work ethic in support of our members. Lastly, I'd like to recognize and thank Sarah Wethered, our current 1st VP. I came into the Presidency knowing her as an amazing educator and long-time union activist, and I will leave also knowing her as an extremely capable leader and a true friend. I will forever be there for her in support, as she has been there for me.

Important Dates

May 19 – All self-nominations for elections must be received by the NWTU Office

June 2 – All contested positions for NWTU table officers and non-executive committee positions voted on electronically

June 4 – Run-off elections to be held, if necessary

NWTU Office Move

Effective May 28, the NWTU office will be moving from 607 Columbia Street to #209-800 McBride Avenue

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Everything You Need to Know about NWTU Elections 2020

Because of the global pandemic, elections this year will be held a little differently. We will be conducting our elections through an online voting platform known as Simply Voting. This is the service that the BCTF used in their recent ratification vote.

As per the motion passed at our April 28, 2020 Executive Committee meeting, the following procedure will be used:

1. All candidates should submit their name and position(s) they are running for to the nwtuadmin@telus.net no later than 4:00 pm on May 19
2. Candidates may also include in this email, a 8.5" x 11" CV, with a picture, and/or a link to a candidate speech, which will be emailed to all NWTU members.
3. All candidates who run unopposed will be acclaimed on May 19.
4. All contested positions will be voted on electronically on June 2.
5. If a contested position is not won with 50%+1 of votes, then a run-off election will be held June 4.

IMPORTANT DATES:

MAY 19 – ALL CANDIDATES SHOULD HAVE EMAILED THEIR INTENT TO STAND FOR ELECTION TO NWTUADMIN@TELUS.NET BY 4:00 PM.

MAY 21 – ALL CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR A CONTESTED POSITION MUST HAVE THEIR EMAILED CURRICULUM VITAE FORM (OPTIONAL) IN TO NWTUADMIN@TELUS.NET

JUNE 2 – ONLINE VOTING TO TAKE PLACE

Table Officer Positions to be Elected

1. President
2. First Vice-President
3. Second Vice-President
4. Bargaining Chairperson
5. Treasurer
6. Recording Secretary
7. Professional Development Chairperson
8. Aboriginal Education Chairperson
9. Health and Safety Chairperson
10. Social Justice Chairperson
11. New Teachers and Teachers Teaching on Call Chairperson
12. First Local Representative to the B.C.T.F.
13. Second Local Representative to the B.C.T.F.

Non-Executive Positions to be Elected

- Political Action Contact
- Local Elections Contact
- New Westminster and District Labor Council Rep
- 5 Members-at-Large for the Bargaining Advisory Committee

Please complete the Curriculum Vitae form and return to nwtuadmin@telus.net by May 19.



Locally Bargained Language Recently Ratified by the NWTU General Membership (Feb 2020)

Here is a summary of the locally negotiated articles:

C.5 – Seniority/Layoff/Recall/Severance Pay

- Applies to all members, not just teachers
- Reflects local LOU and past practice

C.23 – Part-Time Employment

- Addition of job sharing language

D.25 – Staff Meetings

- Reminder that all staff meetings should be conducted in a respectful manner

D.34 - Purchase of Supplies, Resources, and Equipment

- *New language*
- Employer will advise all employees of school and district funds available and the process for accessing these funds

E.23 – Personnel Files

- Addition that the employer will notify the employee in writing about the removal of material from the employee's file

E.27 – Posting Vacant Positions

- Addition of definition of appointment, position, assignment, and vacancy
- Reflects current practice

E.28 – Filling Vacancies

- Reflects current practice

E.30 – Parental Complaints (Complaints about Employee Performance or Related Work)

- *New language*
- Reinforces the implementation of Administrative Policies 104 (Code of Conduct), 146 (Responsible Use of Electronic Social Media), and 152 (Complaint Process for a Resolution of Concerns)

G.30 – Deferred Salary (Self Funded) Leave Plan

- Clarifies the process of self-funded leave

Ratification Vote of Locally Negotiated Contract Language

Thank you to all the members who took time to vote on this new language. It was passed with 88.6 % of the vote.

This language will soon be in effect once the new contract is updated (melded) and signed.

Note: BCTF Members recently ratified the provincial bargaining package (i.e., Agreement in Committee) by 98%. For more information please go to the [BCTF Member Portal](#).

Report from the Executive Committee

Because of these unprecedented times, the executive committee passed a series of motions at their April 28, 2020 meeting:

1. That in the event there is a surplus balance in the year-end NWTU Operating Budget (i.e., June 30th, 2020), the NWTU Executive Committee agrees to transfer five hundred dollars (\$500) from any surplus balance to the NWTU TTOC Professional Development Fund. In addition, the NWTU Executive Committee approves that this become an annual procedure going forward.
2. That the NWTU Executive Committee ratify the NWTU 2020-2021 Operating Budget as presented, to be amended as necessary by the general membership at a future NWTU General Meeting.
3. That the NWTU Executive Committee postpone the NWTU 2020 Annual General Meeting until further notice.
4. That 2018/19 unused remedy funds transferred to the NWTU by School District 40, as per the Local Letter of Understanding – Remedy 2019-2020, shall be held in trust for individual affected members to use for professional development, until June 30, 2021.
5. That all Executive Committee Meetings held remotely (i.e., not in person but through telephone or electronically) be limited to only Executive Committee Members.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please speak to your staff rep.