



# NWTU

# UNION NEWS

January 2019

## President's Message

*Eric Young*

Welcome back!

If you're like me you're already started to forget that we've only been back a couple of weeks, and you've already started thinking about spring break.

Our Union has been busy these past two weeks. As always working to serve individual members needs and working on issue that effect us all. Please continue to speak to one of your NWTU Staff Representative if you have any questions or require the Union's assistance. They are a wealth of information, and if they don't have the answer, they know where to look. You are also encouraged to contact our NWTU office and check our website for further information and assistance.

With that said, I'd like to take a moment to thank our NWTU Staff Reps. Did you know that your Staff Reps not only volunteer at your school, they also attend our NWTU Executive Committee meeting each month? On a side note, if you haven't been able to attend a Staff Committee meeting at your school, or received our meeting minutes through your personal email, please ask your Staff Rep for a copy of our minutes or to be added to their email list.

No doubt you may be wondering about collective bargaining. Well, our provincial (BCTF) bargaining team will be starting to meet with The Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) soon. Their goal is to negotiate a new contract by the time our current one expires in June. This means that our local bargaining team will be hard at work over the coming months to set our bargaining objectives, write contract language, and begin bargain to make some improvements to our local contract provisions. Look for a new NWTU local bargaining survey, specific to our local contract items, in the near future.

## Important Dates

**January 15** – NWTU executive meeting  
– NWTU Office

**January 17** – LSA Meeting (formerly  
SALSA) – NWTU Office

**January 21** - Bargaining Advisory  
Committee Training – NWTU Office

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**February 19** – NWTU General Meeting,  
3:30, NWSS Library

- Union updates, refreshments, and door prizes.



**We will be also be electing our new Bargaining Chairperson as well as our 7 BCTF AGM delegates. If you are interested in running for either of these positions, please contact the union office.**

# KNOW YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS BENEFITS

With the start of a new year, it's a good time to review what health and wellness benefits we have access to.

Through our Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) offered through the School Board, teachers and their families have **free** access to life coaching, counselling, and online resources through Homewood Health. After a quick registration on their website ([www.homeweb.ca](http://www.homeweb.ca)), members have access to online resources on topics such as:

- Nutrition
- Lifestyle changes
- Smoking Cessation
- Childcare and parenting
- Elder and family care
- Money management
- Career planning
- Pre-retirement

Members can also contact Homewood Health by phone 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at **1-800-663-1142** for confidential counselling or referral to counselling close to home.

Teachers also have **free** access to health and wellness programs through the BCTF, including **Living with Balance** workshops and the **Starling Minds**, an online Cognitive Behavioural Therapy Program. There are also workshops that can be booked for an entire staff.

For more information on what the BCTF offers, please visit the BCTF website (<https://bctf.ca/SalaryAndBenefits.aspx?id=4788>)

## Congratulations and thank you!

Congratulations to our NWTU Office Manager, Yvonne Pepper, who is celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to our union. Yvonne was hired in January 1999 and has efficiently and effectively run our office ever since.

Thank you, Yvonne, for all you do for us.



# Meet Your Executive Member

## *Eric Hartmann – Health and Safety Chair*

*Meet Eric Hartmann, Exploratory Teacher at École Glenbrook Middle School and Health and Safety Chairperson for the NWTU. After graduating from UBC in 1996, Eric was fortunate enough to obtain a full time teaching Drama teaching position at NWSS. After teaching at the high school for 4 years, he moved on to EGMS and has been there since 2000, leaving only for a year to teach overseas in the UK.*

*Eric is a Fine Arts and Technology teacher at EGMS, and has also been an NWTU Staff Rep and teacher advocate for many years, a frequent BCTF AGM delegate, a member and chairperson for the EGMS Pro D committee, a Yearbook Coordinator, Team Leader, director, producer and coordinator for school events, shows, assemblies and celebrations. He finds joy in the relationships he builds both with students and colleagues, as well as contributing to building school community. He has recently celebrated 10 years with his spouse, loves and learns from his 8 year old*

*son Sam and is amazed at how smart his 1 year old Labradoodle Paige is. Eric believes in the Karma of "what goes around, comes around," and tries to contribute positively to this world as often as possible.*

*"I am grateful to New West for the opportunities I've had in the district and with my union. I enjoy serving and supporting others and endeavour to be a lifelong learner and embrace change, despite being a creature of habit. I feel proud of my work thus far as a teacher and believe that I will continue to try new things, new techniques and seek new opportunities for the rest of my time in this profession."*



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. REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

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