



# NWTU

# UNION NEWS

May 2019

## President's Message

*Eric Young*

For the past school year, I have had the honour and privilege of serving as the NWTU President. I feel that I have accomplished a lot in a short amount of time but there is still much more that I would like to do as Union President.

This year, I have worked toward the 3 goals that I had outline last year at election time - improving communication, organization and member engagement. I feel that the vice-presidents and myself have accomplished a lot in 9 months but there is still more to aspire toward.

I promise to continue to be accessible, accountable and engaged with all of you - the members of the NWTU.

Despite my having had a successful year as your President, some may have some questions about the recent placement of my wife, Nadia Young, as vice-principal at École Qayqayt Elementary School next year. For those of you have had the opportunity to work with Nadia or myself, you know the level of professionalism we both approach our work and the importance of integrity we both have. Know that both Nadia and I are professionals, and that we respect each other's professional boundaries. I commit to you that I will only act in the best interests of our Union. Should at any time a conflict arise that involves my wife in her role as an administrator, I will recuse myself, and assign both of our Vice-Presidents to act on my behalf. As Nadia has been long-time member of our NWTU Executive Committee I don't expect there to be problems, but one must be prepared for the unexpected. I am an open book, I believe in the importance of communication, and I welcome your feedback.

I hope that throughout the school year, I have modeled and demonstrated my beliefs and dedication to our profession and Union and I want to thank you for your trust in me by allowing me the honour and responsibility to continue being your Union President next year.

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## Important Dates

**May 7** – Nominations meeting – NWSS Library

**May 8** – Local Bargaining

**May 14** – NWTU executive meeting – NWTU office

**May 15** – Local Bargaining

**May 17** – Pro-D Day

**May 20** – Victoria Day

**May 21** – NWTU Annual General Meeting – NWSS Library

**May 29** – Local Bargaining

**Want to be up to date on local bargaining and other Union issues? Subscribe to our NWTU EMAIL LIST with your personal email!**

Scan the QR Code!



# Results from our May 7 Nomination Meeting

On May 7, the nominations meeting was held at NWSS and the following executive positions were acclaimed for the 2019-2020 school year:

- President – Eric Young
- First Vice-President – Sarah Wethered
- Bargaining Chair – Darryl Schelp
- Treasurer – Rome Lavrencic
- Recording Secondary – D’Alice Marsh
- Professional Development Chair (2) – Kristie Oxley
- Aboriginal Education Chairperson – MJ Hunt
- Bargaining Advisory Committee Members (5) – Neesha Blajberg and Kristie Oxley

**The following positions are contested, and a vote will be conducted at the May 21 AGM**

## **Second Vice-President**

- Glenn Bullard
- Kristie Oxley

## **Local Representative to the BCTF (2 positions)**

- Neesha Blajberg
- Bruce McCloy
- Darryl Schelp

## **The following positions also need to be elected:**

- Co- Professional Development Chair
- Health and Safety Chairperson
- Social Justice Chairperson
- New Teachers and Teachers Teaching on Call Chairperson

## **Non-Executive Positions to be Elected**

- Political Action and Local Election Contact, as well as our New Westminster and District Labor Council Rep
- Three (3) remaining Members-at-Large positions for the Bargaining Advisory Committee

## **Notes from the Local Bargaining Table**

**The first session of local bargaining was held at the NWTU Office on May 8.**

**The employer tabled one item, and the NWTU tabled thirteen.**

**The atmosphere of session was collegial.**

**The next bargaining session will be held May 15 at the School Board Office.**

## **May 21 NWTU Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

**Location: NWSS Library**

**Time: 3:30 PM**

**AGENDA TOPICS** – Elections, Staffing Update, Bargaining updates

**Please make every effort to attend!**

# Meet Your Executive Member

## *Neesha Blajberg –Social Justice Chair and Learning Services Advisory Chair*

Neesha started teaching in New Westminster in 2008, first as an EFI Kindergarten/Learning Assistance teacher at Herbert Spencer and John Robson, then as a Resource Teacher at New Westminster Secondary, where she worked for several years. Previous to that she taught high school English & Social Studies in Richmond. She is now a District Learning Support teacher, and her focus is on supporting teachers with their increasingly complex caseloads and classrooms.

Having always been a union activist, Neesha currently chairs the Social Justice committee as well as the Learning Services Advisory committee, and is also a member of the Bargaining Team. With her background in Special Education, she knows how important it is to advocate for the supports that both learning support and classroom teachers need, so she has been lobbying at both the district and provincial level for the resources and in-service training that teachers have long been asking for.

Lately she has been speaking out against the proposed prevalence model that the Ministry of Education is attempting to implement without adequate consultation with teachers. She has spoken with MLAs and recently co-presented at the BCTF Metro West Zone Meeting, providing concrete examples of the possible implications of moving to such a model.

It's been a busy year, but Neesha enjoys her work advocating for teachers. She feels particularly fortunate to be able to represent her New West colleagues as an NWTU delegate at BCTF events such as zone meetings and the AGM.

On the more personal side, Neesha is the proud mother of two daughters -- 13-year-old Tess, and 9-year-old Lena -- who she is raising to feel empowered and to have a strong voice. Conscious of the need to be a positive role model for them, she tries to take a mindful approach to life's challenges, live according to her values, and make a positive difference, "I know it's not always easy, but I believe a little empathy and acceptance can go a long way!"



### **Engaging Your MLA! Our BCTF Bargaining Team Needs Us!**

- New provincial bargaining update has been **posted on the member portal**.
- The BCTF has a new email campaign urging members to contact their MLAs to pressure the government put more money on the provincial bargaining table. This simple **email form** uses members' postal codes to automatically insert their MLA's contact information. **Scan the QR Code!** It takes less than a minute!

