



NWTU

UNION NEWS

September 2019

President's Message

Eric Young

Welcome back to another new school year. If you're like me, every new school year is filled with both excitement and a little trepidation for the unknown. Despite not being in my classroom again this year, not much has changed.

Since June, we have been hard at work helping members through the staffing process and other matters, as well as concluding local collective bargaining on July 11, 2019. Once we receive notice of approval from both the BCTF and BCPSEA, we will endeavor to inform members of the proposed bargained changes to our contract (Collective Agreement articles that may be bargained at the local level by the NWTU) in advance of a general membership ratification vote. This will likely occur once provincial bargaining concludes.

As you know, our BCTF Bargaining team has been hard at work trying to reach a good deal for teachers and for our students. For the first time in my memory, a government appointed mediator has been assigned to facilitate. Unfortunately, both BCPSEA and the BCTF's bargaining teams were not able to reach an agreement before the start of school, so we are again entering into a new school year with a little more uncertainty. Yet, I feel confident that we will eventually get good deal for our members!

Over the next few weeks, I plan on making school visits to share information on bargaining, and to listen to your comments, questions, and concerns.

As a reminder, you may contact me via email at lp40@bctf.ca, or call our office at 604-526-8990, or call my cell phone at 604-765-4322.

Search NWTU or (<http://bit.ly/2GqsosS>)



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Important Dates

September 17 – NWTU Executive Meeting

September 12 – NWTU Special General Meeting (Topic: Provincial Bargaining) - NWSS Library 3:30

September 19 – Climate Emergency School Board Motion Info Session – NWSS Library 6:30

September 23 – Pro-D Day

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

Click on the link
<http://bit.ly/2BDcKGi>



2019-2020 NWTU Contacts

Position	Name	Site
NWTU Executive Committee Members		
President	<i>Eric Young</i> lp40@bctf.ca	NWTU Office
Vice President	<i>Sarah Wethered</i> sarahwethered@gmail.com	NWSS
Vice President	<i>Kristie Oxley</i> oxleyk@live.com	District
Treasurer	<i>Rome Lavrencic</i> rlavrencic@shaw.ca	NWSS
Recording Secretary	<i>D'Alice Marsh</i> dalicem@gmail.com	FRMS
Bargaining Chair	<i>Darryl Sehlep</i> dschelp@telus.net	Lord Kelvin
Pro-D Chair	<i>Kristie Oxley</i> oxleyk@live.com	District
Aboriginal Education Chair	<i>Mary Joanne Hunt</i> mjhunt@gmail.com	NWSS
Health & Safety Chair	<i>Glenn Bullard</i> glenn.bullard@gmail.com	Virtual School
Social Justice Chair	<i>Dragana Sacco</i> dsacco@shaw.ca	NWSS
New Teacher and TTOC Rep	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Local Reps to the BCTF	<i>Bruce McCloy</i> bmccloy@gmail.com <i>Darryl Sehlep</i> dschelp@telus.net	NWSS Lord Kelvin
Alternative Local Rep	<i>Eric Young</i>	NWTU Office
School/Site Staff Representatives	<i>Each elected at each at their school/site</i>	

Other Elected Positions

New Westminster and District Labour Council Rep	<i>Dominic Pistor</i> dominic.pistor@gmail.com	NWSS
Political Action Contact	<i>Position Vacant</i>	NWSS
Local Elections Contact	<i>Position Vacant</i>	NWSS
2019-2020 Bargaining Advisory Committee Members	<i>Darryl Sehlep (Chair)</i>	Lord Kelvin
	<i>Neesha Blajberg</i> neesha@shaw.ca	District
	<i>Maureen Gilhespy</i> mgilhespy@telus.net	Lord Kelvin
	<i>Kristie Oxley</i>	District
	<i>D'Alice Marsh</i>	FRMS
	<i>Andre Kozak</i> andrekozak@shaw.ca	NWSS

Elections of NWTU Representatives (Reps)

NWTU elections (or acclamations) may already have happened at your school at the end of the last school year, or they could be happening in September.

It's not too late, if you're interested in learning more about getting involved in your Union please inquire at your school &/or contact one of our Executive Members for more information.

At your school/site the following positions to be elected include:

- Staff Union Rep(s),
- Pro-D committee members and contact,
- Aboriginal Education contact,
- Health & Safety Reps (2+) for site Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOSH) Committee
- Social Justice District contact,
- New Teacher and TTOC contact

BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan

Did you know how much plan members pay in SIP dues?

In 2019-2020 Plan members will pay a fee of 1.87% of their salary for the fiscal year (July 1-June 30). 0.51% of salary is allocated to the short-term plan while 1.36% of salary is allocated to the long-term plan.

Did you know that not all members need to pay into the BCTF's Salary Indemnity Plan?

When you're no longer eligible to receive long-term SIP benefits, stop paying into them!
(Web Search: **BCTF Salary Indemnity Plan Regulations**)

An eligible member who has:

- **attained age 64,**
- **has reached the later of Factor 88 (age plus contributory service) or age 60,**
- **has 34 years of contributory service or,**
- **who is in receipt of a retirement pension from the Pension Corporation (BC)**

... may apply to withdraw from the long-term section of the plan.

Application for withdrawal may be made during any school year in which one of the foregoing conditions has been met and upon the completion of the appropriate withdrawal form. Withdrawal will be effective, upon approval, in September for applications submitted in that month, and applications submitted later will be effective the month following approval of the application.



Members' Safety

Some danger signs that you might be crossing the boundaries of a teacher-student relationship (taken from the BCTF workshop: Professional Boundary Issues: Teacher/Student Relationships).



Note: this is not a definitive list, nor does each of these behaviours apply to all teachers in every context or situation.

- Frequent private conversations with the student
- Discussions about the student or teacher's private life
- Socializing with the student as a friend
- Comments or discussions on the student's physical appearance
- Personal notes to the student
- Verbal or written expressions of affection
- Exchanging gifts
- Off-duty visits with the student
- Visits to the student's home
- Hugs and touching
- Secrecy surrounding the relationship
- Excessive attention to the student relative to the rest of the class and/or other activities outside the boundaries of a traditional student-teacher relationship
- Electronic mail conversations
- Social networking and publishing of web documents
- Accessing the employer computer network for personal use

If you have any questions or concerns about professional boundaries, and would like to have a private conversation, please contact our NWTU Office at 607-526-8990, or 604-765-4322 (mobile). Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Image taken from <https://images.uline.com/is/image/content/dam/images/S/S23000/S-22886V.jpg?MediumRHD&iccEmbed=1&icc=AdobeRGB>