

NOTEBOOK

Issue #10 March 9, 2017



A MESSAGE FROM THE NVTA PRESIDENT

On behalf of the entire NVTA Executive I want to wish you a healthy, happy, and safe spring break. This year has seen such an unprecedented amount of change that I appreciate how exhausted you all must be. Take time for yourself to recharge as we face the final stretch of this school year. And be excited by the reality that next school year will finally see the support for our students that we have so long wanted. As I said at the Pro D Conference, I am so proud of all you do.

NVTA Pro D Conference "Diversity" *Thank you!*

What an outstanding conference. The entire day was filled with an amazing variety of professional development. Thank you to all the presenters who gave us so many outstanding workshops. Our keynote speaker, Chief Ian Campbell, was engaging, thought provoking and spoke to us all not just as educators but as members of Canadian society. Many thanks to the Carson Graham staff and the student volunteers. Our caterers', A Moveable Feast, Continental Coffee and Bap's Kitchen, did a great job of providing everyone nourishment. Above all, special thanks to PD Conference Committee Chair, Carolyn Pena and committee members K. Berry, M. Boljuncic, A. Bulsara, C. Clark, C. Darling, H. Gallaher, O. Howell, C. Kinnon, B. Sheffield and M. Stoker. Finally, this conference could not have happened without the enormous amount of work done behind the scenes by NVTA Office Manager, Beth Triggs. Thank you to everyone who made this day such a success.

NVTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

First Call for Candidates!

The NVTA Annual General Meeting and Social will be held at St. Martin's Anglican Church (195 East Windsor Road) on Wednesday, April 26 at 4:00 p.m.

Please attend and vote for your NVTA representatives for the 2017-2018 school year.

The following NVTA Executive Committee and Standing Committee Chair positions are available for the 2017-2018 school year. All are one-year terms, unless otherwise indicated.

Executive Committee

President, Local Representatives (two or three LRs elected. The President may choose to be an LR automatically), Alternate Local Representative, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members-at-Large (three two-year term positions available).

Committee Chairpersons

Bargaining, Nominating & Balloting, Professional Development, and Social Justice.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor of the AGM, however, in order to have a candidate statement included in the AGM booklet, a completed nomination form and candidate statement must be submitted by **4 p.m. on April 12, 2017**.

See your CSR, or contact the NVTA for a nomination form or more information.

AGREEMENT IN COMMITTEE

Voting began on Wednesday on the ratification of the Agreement in Committee of our restored language. Polls close at the NVTA office at 4:00 pm on Friday, March 10, 2017. Check the BCTF portal after 9:00 pm on Friday night for the results.

The NVTA office will close for Spring Break at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2017 and will reopen on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 8 a.m. Enjoy the break!

North Vancouver Teachers' Association
240 - 233 West 1st Street, North Vancouver, BC V7M 1B3
Phone: 604-988-3224 Fax: 604-980-8092 Website: nvta.ca

LIVING WITH BALANCE

We are excited to announce that the **Living with Balance** group program for teachers will once again be offered in North Vancouver.

This program has been initiated by the BCTF Teachers' Health and Wellness Program, and is jointly funded between the BCTF and School District 44 so there is no cost to teachers who participate. There are a select number of BC communities where this program is being offered this school year, and North Van is one of them.

This group will run for six Tuesdays from 4-6 pm at the NVTA office, from April 18 – May 23, inclusive.

This group is open to anyone who wants to consider their wellness, and how to balance the challenges associated with teaching and the rest of day-to-day life. The holistic approach of this program will equip teachers to make simple lifestyle changes that will positively affect their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. This six-week group program will provide opportunities for:

- education, self-evaluation, and examining the importance of maintaining lifestyle balance
- discussing the importance of nutrition, sleep, and exercise and how to fit these things into your life
- considering how to manage low mood, anxiety, stress, boundaries and conflict
- considering the relationship between how we think and how we feel
- learning strategies that increase awareness of factors that contribute to decreased wellness
- defining what work/life balance means, and developing a goal focused plan to improve this balance
- examining the challenges teachers face in maintaining wellness, and finding time for themselves

If you are interested, please register directly at <http://www.bctf.ca/forms/LWB-registration.aspx> or contact **Lori Keith** for more information – 604.828.8121 or lori@humanworks.ca.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION... May 9, 2017

The coming provincial election will be one of the most important elections in BC history. The final chapter of our Supreme Court victory needs to be the defeat of Christy Clark and the BC Liberals. Watching the Premier spin our court win into a positive for the government is dizzying. We are proud to have endorsed at every level, from NVTA Executive to Rep Assembly, to January's General Meeting, the candidacy of NDP candidate Bowinn Ma for the riding of North Vancouver Lonsdale. Her office at 13th and Lonsdale is a hub of activity. Volunteers are greatly appreciated. The address is 1309 Lonsdale Avenue and the telephone number is 604.770.4388.

Canada Revenue Agency Tax Credit for Educators

There is a new refundable tax credit for 2016 and beyond: the Eligible Educator School Supply Tax Credit. If you are an eligible educator you can now claim a 15% refundable tax credit on up to \$1,000 of supply purchases per year. Please go to the link below to find out all of the details of this tax credit.

http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/E/pub/tg/5000-g/5000-g-06-16e.html#lns_469

JOB SHARE MEETING!

Monday, April 10, 2017, 4:00 p.m.
NVTA Office

This meeting is for Continuing Contract teachers only. Call Beth at the NVTA office (604.988.3224) to register.

NVTA SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE CALL-OUT

The NVTA is looking for members for the Social Justice Committee. For a Committee Application form, please see your CSR or download it from nvta.ca. Fill it out and send it to the NVTA office by fax (604.980.8092) or email to btriggs.nvta@telus.net

LEAVES DEADLINES 2017

March 15 – Long-Service Part-Time Leave (Article G.40) p. 119

March 15 – Educational Improvement Leave – (Article G.29) p. 113 – 115

March 31 – General/Personal Leave of Absence, Self-funded Leave (Article G. 38) p. 118

March 31 – Teacher resignation/retirement planned for 2016/2017 (30 days notice for resignations, as much notice as possible for retirements to aid in staffing)

March 31 – Teachers on leave to June 30 must notify Board of their intentions for the following school year.

By March 31 – Self-funded Leave Plan (Article G.39)

May 1 – Intra-District exchange request (Article E. 23.2.b) p. 89

Before May 15 – Part-time/Increase to FTE requests (Article C. 24) p. 65

Before May 15 – Job-Share Requests (Article C. 24) p. 89 (For teachers in full time and part-time assignments, including those currently in Job Shares.

By May 31 – Committed Transfer Requests (Article E.23.2.d)