

NOTEBOOK

Issue #7 December 5, 2018



KNOW YOUR COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT

Article A.26 –

Employee Professional Autonomy Rights

Article A.26 reads as follows:

Employees, consistent with the requirements of the prescribed and authorized educational programs and generally accepted educational practice, shall have individual professional autonomy in determining the methods of instruction, methods of consultation, student evaluation and assessment techniques, and the planning, presentation, and evaluation of the educational program materials for the students to whom they are assigned and for whom they are responsible.

What This Means

North Vancouver has very strong Professional Autonomy language. Article A.26 recognizes that teachers will be guided by the curriculum and generally accepted educational practices. Within that, however, each teacher shall be the one to determine how to deliver the curriculum, how to evaluate and assess students in their class, and how to consult. In addition, teachers have professional autonomy in determining the planning, presentation, and evaluation of the resources that they use for the students that they teach.

SECOND CALL

FOR DELEGATES TO THE BCTF AGM

The NVTA's BCTF AGM delegation will be elected at the NVTA General Meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2019.

To put your name forward, please contact NVTA Office Manager, Beth Triggs, at beth@nvta.ca. Alternately, the BCTF AGM Delegates Nomination form is available under the "Forms" tab on nvta.ca.

GOOD NEWS:

Pension Changes are Coming

Contribution rates for your pension will decrease as a result of the 2017 valuation. Effective January 1, 2019, rates will be reduced for both member and employer contributions to BC's Teachers' Pension Plan. Currently, members contribute 12.92 per cent of salary. Effective January 1, 2019, members will contribute 11.17 per cent of salary. Employers currently contribute 13.23 per cent of salary. Effective January 1, 2019, they will contribute 11.30 per cent of salary.

This means that you will pay less money to the plan: for every \$1,000 of salary, members will pay \$111.70, a reduction of \$17.50, and employers will pay \$113.00, a reduction of \$19.30. That will result in more money in your pocket come January.

Why are the contribution rates being reduced?

The most prominent factor in allowing the board to reduce contribution rates was the plan's strong investment returns. The valuation showed the plan's basic account has actuarial assets of \$26.8 billion and actuarial liabilities of \$26.2 billion, meaning the plan is 102.5 per cent funded as of December 31, 2017, with a surplus of \$644 million. These figures consider not only the plan enhancements already announced in March but also the contribution rate reductions described above.

In addition to a reduction in contribution rates, last March the Pension Board also announced three other improvements resulting from this positive news.

- Increase in the rate at which your pension grows
- A change to the default (normal form) pension
- More money allotted to pay COLAs into the future (This is the Cost of Living Allowance that provides an adjustment to your pension once you have retired.)

More information on these improvements can be found online in the *2017 Report to Members* at tpp.pensionsbc.ca. This report was also mailed out to active members this past June.

North Vancouver Teachers' Association

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The Conference is coming!

***Illuminate* –
NVTA Professional
Development Conference
Friday, February 15, 2019**

The district-wide NVTA Professional Development Conference, *Illuminate*, will take place on Friday, February 15, 2019 at Carson Graham.

The conference workshop booklet should arrive in schools just prior to the break. It will also be available online at nvta.ca.

Registration for the Keynote Address and the workshops will open on Booking Central on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

Be warned! Many workshops fill up quickly! PLEASE register early to avoid disappointment!

The NVTA office will close for Christmas break at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 21, 2018 and will reopen on Monday, January 7, 2019. We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday!

NVTA MEETINGS & EVENTS CALENDAR 2018-2019

DECEMBER 2018

- 7 NVTA Christmas Party (Two Lions Pub)
- 19 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)

DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 6 CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY 2019

- 7 Schools reopen
- 16 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 30 NVTA General Meeting (St. Martin's Anglican Church)
- elect delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting

FEBRUARY 2019

- 15 District-wide Professional Development Conference
- 18 Family Day
- 20 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)

MARCH 2019

- 13 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 16-19 103rd BCTF Annual General Meeting (Location TBA)

MARCH 16 – MARCH 31 SPRING BREAK

APRIL 2019

- 1 Schools reopen
- 17 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- followed by NVTA All-Candidates Meeting
- 19-22 Easter Long Weekend
- 29 National Day of Mourning

MAY 2019

- 6 District-wide Professional Development Day
- 8 NVTA Annual General Meeting & Social (elect NVTA Executive & Chairs for 2019-20)
- 15 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 20 Victoria Day

JUNE 2019

- 10 Retirement Tea (Seymour Golf & Country Club)
- 19 NVTA Representative Assembly (Sutherland Library)
- 27 Last day of school
- 28 Administration Day

You are invited to the

North Vancouver Teachers' Association Christmas Party!

When: Friday, December 7, 3:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Two Lions Pub, 2601 Westview Drive

Please join the NVTA Executive for delicious hot and cold appetizers, door prizes and good times!

No Host bar with Happy Hour drink specials. Make a cash donation to the North Shore Harvest Project and earn an entry into the coveted NVTA Turkey Raffle!