

# NOTEBOOK

Issue #8 March 30, 2021



## A Message from the BCTF President

Dear NVTA members,

I was sickened to hear the news of the violent incident at the Lynn Valley Library on Saturday. As I listened to the news I knew many teachers and school communities would be touched by this tragedy. It's difficult to deal with situations that appear random, and these acts impact us all differently. I know that while many of you grapple with this violent incident yourselves, you will also be supporting your students to try to make sense of such a senseless act, to provide them with a sense of security.

Thank you for doing this work with such care, commitment and compassion during an already difficult time in all of our lives.

Thank you for all you do every day to support your students to stay both emotionally and physically safe.

*Teri Mooring*  
BCTF President

## A Message from the NVTA President

Since our last Notebook in early March and Spring just around the corner, it seemed that we were collectively heading for better news as we welcomed Spring. Unfortunately, recent events continue to impact our local community.

The shocking incident in Lynn Valley on Saturday impacts all members on a personal level. I know that I reeled as I slowly learned the details and the shocking news that one of our own members was injured by the attacker. I know that all of our hearts go out to all those impacted. As part of the North Vancouver School District community, we will be working with all our colleagues to provide the supports needed by students and their families as they also deal with this trauma. As public school teachers, we know strong public schools are key to healthy communities; in challenging times such as these, our collective strength and focus on student well-being provides the strong foundation that our community needs.

Our local events also take place during a time of broader social struggles and specifically the recent shootings in Atlanta which highlight a broader issue impacting our members and community with the rise of anti-Asian racism during the pandemic. We all have a role to play in addressing anti-Asian racism, acknowledging its history in Canada specifically and taking action to change society. We must all continue this work together.

Finally, on a positive note, Dr. Henry's Monday announcement has made masks mandatory in all schools for staff and students in Grade 4 and up, with recommended mask wearing for students in Kindergarten to Grade 3. Although it has taken a long time and an enormous amount of energy on behalf of teachers, parents and other community members, this change will provide everyone with an added layer of protection.

As we continue our work in these unprecedented times, please reach out to the NVTA if you need any additional supports.

*Carolyn Pena*  
NVTA President

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2021

### *Thank you!*

On February 26, the Association held it's bi-annual professional development conference, *Virtual Not Distant*.

Thank you to the NVTAs Professional Development Conference Committee, Jen Aragon, Vanessa Barattini, Johnneen Harris, Owen Howell, and Wendy Matsubuchi, for attending countless hours of meetings while we planned our first ever virtual, online day. Your support was invaluable and much appreciated.

Additionally, thank you to our own teachers who took time out of their days to plan and share their knowledge as workshop presenters. You all had to step out of your comfort zones, learn new skills, and attend training, in order to enhance teacher development.

Workshop hosts are an important part of each workshop and with the new format this year, you played an even more important role than in the past. Thank you for reaching out to your presenter(s) ahead of time, getting to know them, supporting them with technology, introducing them, and monitoring the workshop chat during the sessions.

While our district is rich with knowledgeable and experienced people, outside presenters bring a different and important perspective to our community.

Our keynote presenter, Myrna McCallum was very well received and has challenged us to change our thinking. Her breakout sessions provided even more opportunities to explore trauma informed practice and practicing cultural humility with regards to indigenous intergenerational trauma. We have had many positive comments and feedback.

Thank you to everyone for making this year's conference such a huge success!

*Tammy Daley*

NVTA Professional Development Chair

### Workshop Opportunity

#### ***Antiracist Strategies for Educators***

Members are invited to attend the upcoming **BCTF workshop *Antiracist Strategies for Educators* on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021 from 3:45-5:45pm.**

This workshop will equip teachers with a better understanding of antiracism, and how it can be incorporated into their teaching practice. Participants will consider key skills needed to discuss and implement antiracism and will have the opportunity to explore teaching strategies and resources! This workshop will be delivered via Zoom. To register, go to Booking Central and search for session E433S1L1.

### BCTF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE

**Thank you** to the following NVTA members who, along with our Local Representatives, Tammy Daley, Owen Howell, and Katrina Russell volunteered to serve as NVTA delegates to the BCTF AGM held virtually over Spring Break: A. Bennett Fox, K. Gill, J. Kwong, C. Pena, E. Robinson, M. Thomson, and A. Turcato. The virtual nature of such a large meeting added an additional burden on those teachers who attended, so we would like to extend an additional thanks.

The BCTF member fees have been set at 1.69% of the actual salary of the member for contract teachers and 1.59% for Teachers Teaching on Call. There was much healthy debate on the matter, but the ultimate decision was to maintain the status quo. The fee for the Salary Indemnity Fund (SIP) was set at 1.91% of actual salary. This is a reduction from the current school year.

The current Table officers were acclaimed to their same positions for next school year: President Teri Mooring, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Clint Johnston, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Carol Gordon.

## NVTA AGM MEETING REMINDER

**Wednesday, May 12, 2021  
at 4:00 pm**