

NOTEBOOK



Issue #13 June 25, 2021



North Vancouver
Teachers' Association

ADMINISTRATION DAY A REMINDER

Wednesday, June 30, 2021 is an Administration day that ends at noon. This ensures that the total amount of instructional minutes of all NVTA members is correct for the year. There should be no pressure applied by administration for you to stay past noon on June 30, 2021. If you do encounter such pressure, please contact us at the NVTA office, 604.988.3224.

NVTA OFFICE SUMMER CLOSURE INFORMATION

The NVTA office will close for summer break on Friday, July 2. The NVTA answering machine will be checked *occasionally* through the summer, and the NVTA President, Katrina Russell, will check her email *periodically*.

We reopen on Monday, August 30.
Have a spectacular summer!

A MESSAGE FROM THE NVTA PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Nothing that I can say could truly capture the experiences of teaching in the 2020-2021 school year. The pandemic touched every aspect of our community, and deeply impacted our classrooms and schools. From school cleaning issues, the quarter system, closed libraries, music rooms and gyms, uncertainty about protocols, disrupted routines, exposure notices and isolation orders to the mental health of staff, students and families, this year has been a challenge for everyone. Throughout this immensely difficult year, teachers have been on the frontlines, supporting students and ensuring their learning and wellbeing. In essence, our schools and our society have been able to continue to function in large part because of the personal sacrifices of teachers. I want to recognize all that you have done. Thank you, teachers, for your important work this year.

Most eligible people have now received their first vaccine, and many have received or will soon receive their second dose. This has allowed for many restrictions to be lifted, and will hopefully mean that the 2021-22 school year will be an easier one, and that each of you will be able to better enjoy these summer months. As the school year closes, I hope that each of you can take time to celebrate and reflect on how essential your work has been, and that you feel valued. I also hope you can all step away from this work over July and August for a well-deserved summer break.

Of course, if you need to reach the NVTA over the summer, I will just be an email away.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and restful summer,

Katrina Russell

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2021 NVTA TEACHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The North Vancouver Teachers' Association is pleased to recognize the following students who have been awarded the NVTA Teacher Education Scholarship this year: Elizabeth Rauh (Argyle), Jazmine Kennedy (Carson Graham), Emma Pashak (Handsworth), Nevada Romas (Mountainside), Maia Pritchard (Seycove), Arielle Marfaing (Sutherland) and Benjamin Torres (Windsor).

North Vancouver Teachers' Association
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“Education got us here, and education is what will get us out.”

Justice Murray Sinclair

As teachers continue to grapple with the ways that the education system has been and continues to be a mechanism of colonization, we encourage all members to find meaningful ways to both learn and take action this summer.

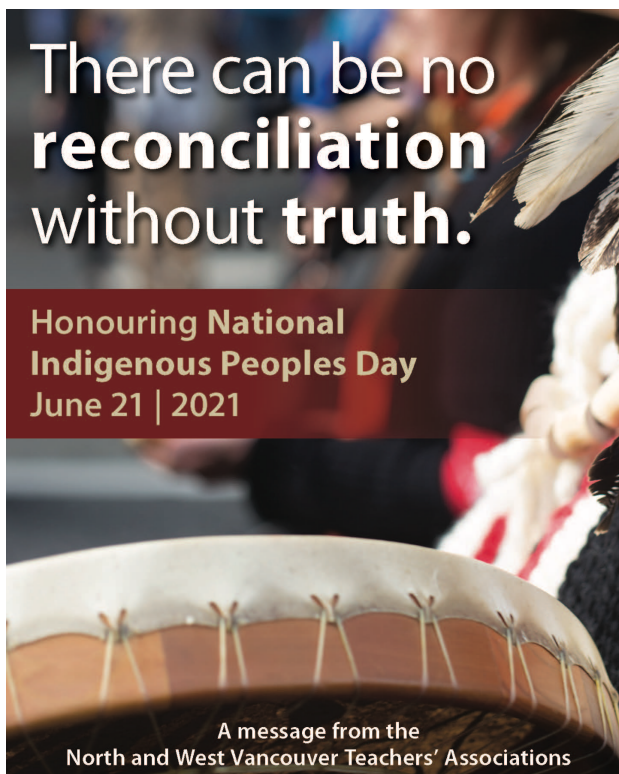
For teachers looking to learn, if you have not read the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission's* Calls to Action from 2015, please read them. At most ten of these Calls to Action have been accomplished in any way. There is much work to be done. You can find the calls here:

http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

An excellent place for further learning is through the *Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)* from the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. Taught from an Indigenous perspective, this free, self-paced course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions. *To learn more and to register go to:* <https://www.ualberta.ca/admissions-programs/online-courses/indigenous-canada/index.html>

Truth and Reconciliation Week 2021 will take place from September 27 - October 1, 2021, and the *National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation* has a week of virtual programming for students in grade 5-12. You can register now for this important action now, to prepare for the coming year by clicking here: <https://nctr.ca/education/truth-and-reconciliation-week/>

Teachers can find more resources for learning on the *Anti-Oppression Educators Collective's* (AOEC) webpage. The AOEC also has a petition calling for mandatory training on UNDRIP and the Calls to Action from the TRC. The NVTAs has signed the petition as an organization, and individual teachers are encouraged to sign it as well. You can find the petition at www.aeoc.ca.



Original art by Andy Everson

SPRING POSTING ROUNDS

Round Four: June 18 – June 25

Postings will continue through the summer, as needed.