

NOTEBOOK

Issue #4 December 2, 2021



GOALS AND PRIORITIES 2021 – 2022

During the September General Meeting, the teachers of North Vancouver passed the goals and priorities of the NVTa for this school year. Throughout the year, we will focus on these goals and what they mean to North Vancouver teachers.

Goal #1 – All NVTa members continue to build relationships with parents and community members to advocate for students and public education and increase awareness of our Collective Agreement language and the history of our union.

What this means – Teachers are the foundation for public education. But we cannot achieve the healthy and vibrant public education system we desire without fostering support with parents and the greater school community. The public consistently puts their trust in teachers to speak for the services their children need to be successful. Through engagement at the school level, the board level, and the greater community, teacher advocacy for students and their well being in every area will not only enhance the system but will bring in those enduring partnerships that unite us rather than divide us. At the core of this is a Collective Agreement that has always put students first and a union that blends our individual voices into a chorus of support for every child in our public education system.

A Message from the President –

These last months of 2021 have been challenging. We are in our second full year of teaching in a pandemic. Secondary teachers and students have had to adapt to yet another block schedule, and elementary teachers are working in an environment where most of their contacts are unvaccinated. As though our lives aren't stressful enough, recent climate events have pulled water from the Pacific Ocean and dumped it across the Pacific Northwest, wreaking havoc on communities across BC. These events are dramatically highlighting the interconnectedness of our world and the perils of the climate crisis.

While the situation is difficult, and we are seeing increases in mental health concerns across our society, teachers are a strong support to their students and communities. Thank you for everything that you do to support students, both in their learning and in their well-being.

As teachers, our job involves providing a lot of care for others, and sometimes this means that teachers do not always acknowledge their own struggles. If you are experiencing distressing feelings or thoughts, please know that there are supports available to you. All employees of the North Vancouver School District have access to the *Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)** through Homewood Health, there is some reimbursement for psychologist services through Pacific Blue Cross, and you can always speak to your family doctor. The NVTa is also available to take calls and help you navigate how to access services or apply for potential leaves.

Bargaining will start both locally and provincially in the coming year, and we hope to see some gains for teachers in the new contract. Currently, our bargaining committee is preparing for our local bargaining. We have scheduled meetings with the district in December to provide one another with the general areas in which we are seeking improvements and to explain some of our rationale. We will be exchanging formal proposals in January. Provincial bargaining is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2022, once local bargaining has concluded.

There are just over two weeks left until a well-deserved winter break and for most of you, report cards have been submitted. I hope that your last few weeks of school are enjoyable, and that you can now take a breath and enjoy the runup to the holidays.

*EFAP can be accessed by phone **1-800-663-1142** or online www.homewoodhealth.com

North Vancouver Teachers' Association
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Teachers' Pension Plan APPROACHING RETIREMENT

Are you planning for or within five years of retirement? This 75 minute webinar will help you learn more about your pension. The decisions you make about your pension as retirement approaches are important, and planning for retirement now can make your transition easier.

Upcoming dates –

Thursday, December 2 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Tuesday, December 7 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm

For the most up-to-date information on upcoming retirement webinars, please follow this link:

<https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/approaching-retirement?inheritRedirect=true>

Teachers' Pension Plan MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PENSION

Are you establishing your career or several years away from retirement? Learn how the decisions you make throughout your career can affect your pension when you retire.

Thursday, December 9 4:30 pm – 5:45 pm

For the most up-to-date information on upcoming *pension* webinars, please follow this link: <https://tpp.pensionsbc.ca/making-the-most-of-your-pension>

BC Retired Teachers' Association – Online Retirement Planning Workshop!

Making Sense of Your Pension, CPP, OAS and Group Benefits

See dates and times, below. Please visit <https://bcrrta.ca/workshop> to register.

**January 19, 7 pm; February 16, 4 pm; March 2, 7 pm; April 6, 7 pm;
April 20, 7 pm; May 11, 4 pm; May 19, 7 pm; May 25, 7 pm; June 1, 7 pm**

NVTA Meetings & Events Calendar 2021-2022

DECEMBER

15 NVTA Representative Assembly

December 18, 2021 – January 3, 2022 – CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY

4 Schools reopen

19 NVTA Representative Assembly

FEBRUARY

2 NVTA General Meeting (elect delegates to the BCTF Annual General Meeting)

4 Professional Development Day

16 NVTA Representative Assembly

21 Family Day Stat Holiday

MARCH

9 NVTA Representative Assembly (meeting with the BCTF AGM Delegates)

March 12, 2022 – March 27, 2022 – SPRING BREAK

NVTA Office hours are Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Phone: 604.988.3224 Fax: 604.980.8092 Website: www.nvta.ca

President: Katrina Russell; First Vice President: Kristen Gill; Second Vice President: Alexa Bennett Fox; Pro D Chairperson: Tammy Daley
NVTA Office Manager: Beth Triggs