



President's Message



Dear colleagues,

Most of us have a desire to know our history. There are numerous sites where one can do genealogy searches to piece together names, dates, and locations through the generations. Finding the stories that weave together the tapestry of where our families come from and what makes us who we are, however, presents a bigger challenge. I am fortunate to have an uncle who has not only spent countless hours piecing together the dates, names and locations in our family's history, but who also holds the status of family bard or the keeper of stories.

Sometimes we are lucky to be in possession of written documentation that further fills in the blanks. For example, I possess a number of letters between

those in my grandparents and great grandparents' generation. Some of the correspondence talks about the impact of the Spanish Influenza in 1918 and the grief when it took my great aunt Lottie in the prime of her life. When I first read those letters, never, did I imagine that I, myself, would also live through a global pandemic. But here we are, and now we will add our own firsthand experiences of living through an actual pandemic to our family histories.

My family, as most, is complicated and at times, we've uncovered the unexpected. But where there is an absence of story, imagination takes over. What I want to know usually can't be found in database searches. What were the circumstances that shaped decisions and what were the personal characteristics that influenced outcomes?

Many of the details in our history gets lost or watered down through the generations and we forget the finer details that add clarity. Knowing how easily history can be lost, makes us realize the importance of staying connected to our elders and listening and learning from their stories. The same is true in the teaching profession. There are many stories and our colleagues are our professional "family."

This coming year, the NDTA and the BCTF, will once again, engage in collective bargaining. Looking at the short term, we may not understand the importance of our collective history as educators in BC and the significance of how far we've come and from where we started. To many, our monthly union dues seem steep, making it easy for us to wonder what the union has really done for us. We take many of our gains (such as maternity leave, a duty-free lunch hour, and class size and composition) for granted. It was not that far back, however, that circumstances were vastly different for teachers. My grandmother, for example, married in secret and kept her marriage a secret for the better part of a year so that she could continue teaching. At the time, it was understood that women who mar-



President's Message (cont)

ried would resign from their teaching positions and pretty much all forms of employment. Even more recently, my mother had to resign from her teaching position when she was pregnant with me and then reapply and hope to be rehired when she was ready to return to the profession. Maternity leave, at the time, was non-existent. All of us who were teaching in 2002, remember when class size and composition language was illegally stripped by the provincial government at the time. These were clauses in our Collective Agreement that BC teachers had gained by forgoing the salary increases from which other educators across the rest of the country had benefited. To say the least, we were furious to lose hard fought for language and then find ourselves with the lowest teaching salaries and highest cost of living in Canada. It would not be until the 2014 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that we would see this language returned to our Collective Agreements, a bitter sweet victory knowing that an entire generation of learners had been cheated out of optimal learning conditions.

Just as we cannot be separated from the background of circumstances that shape our own life story, we, as educators, cannot ignore the collective history of teachers in BC. My own personal history and those of my parents and grandparents intertwine with this collective history. These stories and those of all those who came before us reminds us of how many individual stories there are to hear. Many of these stories demonstrate a group of dedicated and determined educators, who worked to change not only their circumstances but to improve the conditions in education for all teachers and students moving forward. I honour all our colleagues who came before us, who worked hard for what we today often take for granted, and who gave so much to their students. Their commitment and example have changed circumstances for all of us.

I also acknowledge how hard all of you work and what you do every day. Teaching is not work for the faint of heart: it is a calling that we pour our heart and soul into. If you see challenges that we might be able to be address through the local bargaining process, please contact us. Our local bargaining team has already started to write proposals based on your feedback through the bargaining survey last spring. We are also preparing our local's priorities so that we are ready to submit them to the provincial bargaining conference.

Finally, a big welcome back to everyone. I wish you all a fantastic school year.

~ Carla Wilson

NDTA Bursary and Scholarship Recipients

In June, the NDTA awarded two scholarship to students who will be pursuing a degree in education: Brynn McTague and Emma Chirico. We are confident that both these individuals will make fantastic teachers and look forward to having them join our profession.

The NDTA also gave out a number of bursaries to children or grandchildren of NDTA members who plan to be enrolled in a variety of post secondary programs. These bursaries went to: Ellie Backus; Ian Walgren; Layla DeSousa; and Kieran Dehnel.

We congratulate these students and all SD8 grads on their accomplishments and we wish them a bright future. We are always proud to see our students continue their studies after they graduate.





NDTA Executive

Your 2021/22 NDTA Executive was elected at the AGM on May 31 last spring. We have a great team and look forward to serving you. Your executive is:

- President: Carla Wilson
- Vice-President: Lori Jones
- Treasurer: Caleb Morton
- Secretary: Karen Walgren
- Education Committee Rep: Jeff Yasinchuk
- Pro-D Chair: Tamara Martin
- ABED Chair: Jesse Halton
- Bargaining Chair: Karen Walgren
- Social Justice Chair: Sophie Depauw
- Tech Committee Rep: Danny Leeming
- FELC Rep: Wanda Machado
- Local Representative: Lori Jones

- Health & Safety Chair: Ailis Lawrence
- Social Committee Chair: Curtis Bendig
- Political Action: Brian Stainer
- TTOC Chair: Murray Shunter
- Public Relations: vacant

Thank you to everyone who put their name forward and to all those who attended the AGM. We still have one position vacant (Public Relations) if anyone is interested.



Congratulations to our Retirees

We extend our most sincere congratulations to our retirees and wish them much joy and happiness as they embark on new adventures. We will miss you and hope to see you around town and perhaps back at our schools as a TTOC:

- Lisa Backus
- Nancy Ferguson
- Sheri Morrison
- Gary Schmidt
- Robyn Sheppard
- Michelle Pozin
- Ray Yule



Key Dates

Date Time	Event
Sept 7	School Start-up
Sept 17	Mentor's Meeting
Sept 20	Executive Meeting
Sept 21	Board Meeting
Sept 24	District Pro-D Day
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day/ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

NDTA Office: 102-518 Lake Street, Nelson, BC V1L 4C6

Phone: 250-354-9693

www.ndta.ca - Also, like our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter