

Takulirit

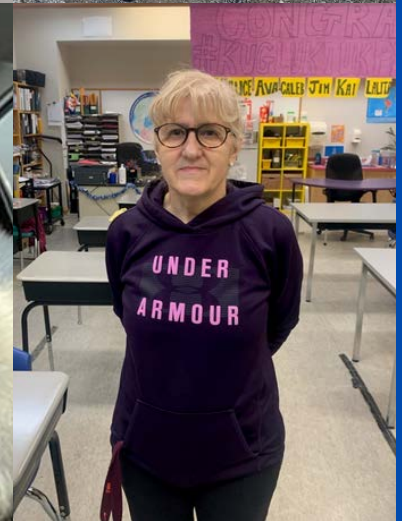
NEWSLETTER

RECOGNIZING RETIRING MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following NTA members who are retiring. Wishing you good health, happiness and success as you move forward!

- Richard Arcand – Arviat, John Arnalukjuak School (30 years)
- Chris Eccles - Rankin Inlet, MUI (30 years)
- Nellie Ell - Coral Harbour, Sakku School (40 years)
- Maria Csaba – Kugluktuk, KHS 27 years (17 in Nunavut)
- Attila Csaba – Kugluktuk, KHS 27 years (17 in Nunavut)
- Trudi Bruce - Rankin Inlet, LUS (32 years)
- Marjorie Havioyak – Kugluktuk, JHI (35 years)
- Eetoovee Tunnuq - Baker Lake, RAES (33 years)
- Helen DePeuter - Baker Lake, RAES 26.5 years (24.5 in Nunavut)
- Becky Tootoo - Baker Lake, JASS (38 years)

We have only recognized the teachers from schools that reached out, and contacted the NTA office. We apologize to any retiring members deserving recognition that we have missed.



President's Update



Greetings NTA,

Congratulations on a successful 2022-2023 school year. The end of this school year marks the end of my first term as NTA President, and I am very excited and honoured to be able to continue in this role for another 2 year term starting in July. My first term as NTA President has been a career highlight, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working to better the NTA. What started with a pandemic and a forced focus, has turned into the job I envisioned, working for you, the NTA members to improve our organization and advocate for you with the GN.

With the pandemic and restrictions out of the way, we have been able to meet with the GN more often to bring our concerns and suggestions to them. Over my first two years as NTA President, there has certainly been a few differences of opinion with the GN, but overall, we have been able to maintain a strong working relationship, collaborating to better the working environment for NTA teachers. We are still focusing on concerns around training opportunities for specialized positions, and are happy to hear that face to face Principal training will be taking place next year. We will continue to advocate for our Learning Coaches and SSTs as well.

Since our last issue, the NTA held our Annual Meeting of Central Council in Iqaluit. This was a successful weekend where several bylaw and policy changes were brought to the table. I am happy to announce that one item voted on was the creation of a new committee with a focus on diversity and equity within the NTA. Unanimously approved, this new committee, known as the DEI Committee, will be available to join in the fall and will hopefully guide the NTA in a direction to make positive changes to better represent our minority and racialized members.

We have also hired our new office staff position, Emma Pauloosie, who will serve as our Inuit Member Support Services. This is an exciting role and one that we hope will better serve our Inuit Members. Another success for the NTA during the 2022-23 school year was the successful negotiation to once again start hosting NTA led conferences. The next conference will be hosted in the Kitikmeot region for the first time in 7 years. In addition, we were able to negotiate NTA Cross Training for the fall where all NTA Communication and PD Liaisons will come to Iqaluit for multiple days of training. We are very excited to offer this opportunity for members across Nunavut, who can now come together, collaborate, and learn more about the NTA, as well as learn how to support the NTA in their roles as CL and PDL.

This spring has been a particularly busy time here at the NTA office, and the staff here have been working hard for our members. The NTA office staff have been attending Professional Development opportunities focused on improving the level of service provided to our NTA members. Since April, the NTA has been represented at the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) Board of Directors, Canadian Atlantic Provinces and Territory Teacher Organization (CAPTTO), a conference on Educational Law, a Professional Development Conference, and will attend an upcoming Collective Bargaining Conference, which will be a good PD Conference to attend, as we will start to prepare for negotiations next spring for our upcoming contract.

I want to thank the many NTA members that have reached out to the NTA office this year to discuss how we operate, and what directions they feel like we should be taking. In my role, I am guided by our members, and your feedback is always welcomed and encouraged. I want to thank the staff at the NTA office for making my first term enjoyable and meaningful, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside all of them during my second term. I also would like to thank Jeff Avery for his time and service in the NTA Office, as he will be leaving us to enjoy retirement. Good luck Jeff!

I hope that all NTA members enjoy the last weeks of the 2022-2023 school year, and hope you have fun with your students before the summer break. While on break have a great time out on the land, visiting family and taking a well-earned vacation to those travelling.

Cheers,
Justin Matchett.

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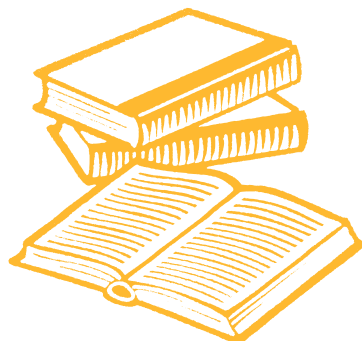


Membership Protection Stats (July 1st 2022- May 15th 2023)

Fact Finding Cases	17
Suspensions Pending Investigations	5
Harassment Investigations (1010)	13
Grievances Filed	3
Terminations with Cause	2

- **Fact Finding Cases:** Cases where a member was investigated for misconduct or insubordination but was not suspended during the investigation.
- **SPI:** Cases where a member was suspended with pay by the Employer, pending the outcome of an investigation.
- **1010:** Cases where one member is being investigated for a workplace harassment allegation made to the Employer by a colleague.
- **Grievance:** Cases where the NTA is alleging that the Employer has violated our Collective Agreement in their dealings with a member.
- **Terminations with Cause:** Cases where the result of an investigation against a member led to their termination of employment.

DID YOU KNOW...



Schools can apply for the Retirement Award to get funding from the NTA to recognize retiring teachers in their schools. Information on the Retirement Award can be found on page 143 of the bylaw policy book.

Executive Director Report

Since this is the final edition of Takulirit before many of you enjoy your well-earned summer break, I thought I would take the opportunity to answer a couple of the most common questions we receive from members over the summer months.

If I have resigned effective the last day of school for teachers, when do my benefits expire?

Even though you cease being a Government of Nunavut employee on your last day of work, your prescription drug, dental, and vision care benefits continue until you receive your final summer paystub in August. Receipts can still be submitted for reimbursement until that time. Eligibility for Long-Term Disability coverage ends as soon as you are no longer employed, regardless of whether you are still receiving income.

If I am moving to another Nunavut community to teach that has a late start date, what happens to my pay during the extended summer break?

This is a fairly common occurrence known as “calendar creep”, where teachers who are traveling to another community for work in the upcoming school year either experience an extra-long summer break, or a break that is less than the regular roughly two months.

Teachers have to receive regular income throughout the summer break, or it will negatively affect their pensionable years of service, in the long run. This is the main reason why lump-sum summer pays are no longer an option for members.

In most cases, when a teacher’s summer break is extended, their pay summer pay will be broken up into more than 5 equal pay periods. In cases where the summer break is decreased due to a move, the pay owed is condensed into fewer equal pay periods.

If you are changing schools this summer and the start date is more than 5 working days different from your previous school, I always recommend contacting your Compensation & Benefits officer in June to find out how your summer pay will be affected.



Executive Director, John Fanjoy

Can I apply on teaching positions in other Nunavut communities during the summer months?

Yes, you can, provided that you are currently not on probation. Teachers have the flexibility to apply on teaching positions across Nunavut right up until the first day of work at your current school. Once your current school year has started, you are only eligible to apply for promotional positions, as it would be considered a mid-year hire. We have members each year who end up changing communities in the middle of the summer.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to our team with any questions you may have throughout the break, and I hope everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing summer!

John.



UPCOMING EVENTS

National Indigenous Peoples Day



June 21st is National Indigenous Peoples Day. Summer solstice, or June 21 was selected as the Day to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

See the link below to access information on organizations and educational resources on National Indigenous Peoples Day, shared by the Government of Canada:

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013251/1534874002459>.

June is Pride Month



Pride month is an entire month dedicated to the uplifting of LGBTQ+ voices, celebration of LGBTQ+ culture and the support of LGBTQ+ rights.

The Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity have educational resources available for use for teachers, which can be accessed via the following link:

<https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/resources/>.



WHAT IS COMING UP IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS...

- **May 5 - National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG)**



- **Status of Woman Committee (SWC) - Five members were selected to attend the CTF National Women's symposium in May. With the support of PD Special Project Funds, the SWC is hoping to host a Nunavut Women's symposium in February 2024.**

- **Short Term Assistance Reimbursement Funding Programs Deadline - The deadline to apply for all programs is May 30th, 2023. The PD Fund fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th and applications must be approved with the fiscal year.**

- **June is Pride Month**

- **June 21 - National Indigenous Peoples Day**

- **July 9 - Nunavut Day**



- **Project Overseas - Claudine Bodson, Netsilik School, Taloyoak accepted a placement as group leader and will be leading a team of Canadian teachers to Togo working with educators in the Fédération des Syndicats de l'Éducation Nationale (FESEN). Safe travel Claudine and we look forward to hearing about your experience.**
- **Database Shut Down - The PD Database will shut down between July 1st and August 4th. Next year the database will have a new URL: <https://pdis.ntanu.ca>.**

- **NTA Cross Training in Iqaluit – September 9-11 for Communication Liaisons and PD Liaisons**

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



Members of the NTA Status of Women Committee attended the CTF/FCE Women's Symposium in Ottawa in May. The theme, "A window into our worlds," encouraged our members to connect, and to engage in discussions on what hinders women's advancement, and to gain the knowledge needed to make fundamental changes in the education sector and society.



Government of Nunavut. (2022). *Teach in Nunavut*. [Map]. Department of Education. <https://gov.nu.ca/teachinnunavut>.

Kugaaruk ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑲᑦ



Region: Kitikmeot
Population: 1, 033

Rankin Inlet ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑲᑦ



Region: Kivalliq
Population: 2, 975

Arctic Bay ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑲᑦ



Region: Qikiqtani
Population: 994

ANNUAL MEETING OF CENTRAL COUNCIL 2023

Key objectives of the Annual Meeting of Central Council include:

- Consider resolutions submitted by the Membership and amend by-laws and policies (https://ntanu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/NTA_By-Laws_and_Policies2022_june24.pdf)
- Receive financial statements and set the budget for the succeeding year
- Receive reports from special and standing committees (such as Public Relations, Safe Schools, and Education Leave Committees) as well as the regional presidents. The Executive Director, President, Vice-President, and Inuit Member-at-Large reports are also presented and discussed
- Determine matters of general policy

NTA Central Executive

- North Qikiqtani President - Dan Smith (dsmith@ntanu.ca)
- Central Qikiqtani President - Joey Rhodes (rhodes@ntanu.ca)
- South Qikiqtani President - Ed Flynn (eflynn@ntanu.ca)
- Kitikmeot President - Susan Hillier (shillier@ntanu.ca)
- North Kivalliq President - Calbert Hutchinson (chutchinson@ntanu.ca)
- South Kivalliq President - Kylie Curry (kcurry@ntanu.ca)
- Justin Matchett, President (jmatchett@ntanu.ca)
- Jennie Dawson, Vice-President (jdawson@ntanu.ca)
- Becky Tootoo, Inuit Member-at-Large (btotoo@ntanu.ca)
- Jonathon Lee, Secretary-Treasurer (jlee@gov.nu.ca)

BRENDAN AHERN
Igloolik, Qikiqtani Region



Q. Which school and community do you currently work in?

I work at Sivuniit Middle School, in Igloolik.

Q. What made you decide to be a teacher?

A friend of mine had been teaching here for two years already and hearing them talk about life up here interested me enough to sign up for a Bachelor of Education at St. Thomas University. One year later and here I am!

Q. What is one of your greatest memories/accomplishments/achievements as a teacher?

Honestly, just making it through my first year of teaching is an accomplishment that ranks extremely high for me. I'm so glad I decided to start my career here. I've collected memories and breathtaking experiences that can't be found anywhere outside of Igloolik.

Q. What is a strategy, tip or trick you use to support your mental health and wellness outside of school?

Talking with my co-workers. I'm the newbie in an outstanding and experienced staff and I don't know what I'd do without them.

SPRING ELECTION RESULTS



SPRING ELECTION - Results

Greetings from Election Headquarters! It is my pleasure to announce the results from the Spring Election. Thank you to all candidates for expressing interest!

Inuit Member at Large				
	Angutingunirk, Lutgarde	Eleeheetok, Catherine	Kamookak, Sheila	Naullaq, Manasie
TOTAL VOTES	125	131	62	520
Percentage	24.0	25.2	11.9	38.8

Congratulations to Manasie Naullaq, elected Territorial Inuit Member at Large!

Kitikmeot Vice President			
	Awah, Jerome	Ittunga, Ellen	Rowley, Kim
TOTAL VOTES	40	47	25
Percentage	35.7	42.0	22.3

Congratulations to Ellen Ittunga, elected Kitikmeot Vice President!

School-based liaisons:

- Kugluktuk High PDL - Abhimanyu Abhimanyu
- Qiqirtaq PDL - Anouk Tryon
- Qitiqliq CL - Tyler Moore
- Quqshuun CL - Bernice Tavalok
- Quqshuun PDL - Susie Hillier
- Tusarvik PDL - Mary Tegumiar



TEACHER SHOUT OUTS



Kaylie Chaulk is a first-year teacher at Kiilnik High School. On top of her busy Jr. High teaching schedule, she has started a Jr. High Volleyball program that has over 20 students practicing 2 times a week. She spends countless hours in the gym supporting, coaching, and mentoring the student athletes. She has organized the first ever Kiilnik High School 3 on 3 tournament and has invited the community to come and watch! Kaylie has also helped organized staff vs. student volleyball games. The staff, community and students in Cambridge Bay are so lucky to have such a dedicated teacher and coach in their lives!

Programs Supporting Inuktitut Language Development

Inuktitut Instruction

The Inuktitut Instruction program provides members with funding to hire an instructor for the purpose of learning an Inuktitut or for enhancing Inuktitut skills. It is for members who are learning Inuktitut for the first time and for those who already speak Inuktitut. Members can apply individually or in a group. Members have an opportunity to create a learning activity that fits their learning style. It can be one on one instruction, in a group, centered on learning language through a traditional skill, or learning new vocabulary for a curriculum unit.

This application can be completed and submitted through the PD Database (<http://nta.coresolutions.ca>).

Non-credit and Certificate Course

If you would like to join a course being offered in your community or in another Nunavut community, Non-credit and Certificate course funding is available to a max. of \$1,500.00 per member, per academic year. Travel within Nunavut may be covered from your home community if you are departing within 48 hours of the course start date and returning home within 48 hours of the course finish date.

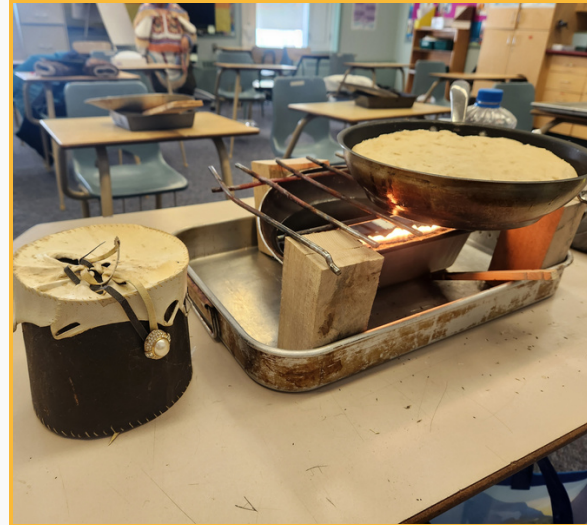
This application can be completed and submitted through the PD Database (<http://nta.coresolutions.ca>).



Online site to explore

<https://www.pirurvik.ca/tusaalanga>

Inuktitut Language Month



In celebration of Inuktitut Language Month and the theme of Qulliq, students at Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet had the opportunity to light a qulliq and make bannock with elder Mary Muckpa.



Aqsarniit Ilinniarvik in Iqaluit



Aqsarniit Ilinniarvik in Iqaluit put on a school production of Disney's High School Musical Jr. This production had 30 cast and crew, who rehearsed from October until March, and put on six shows between March 15th and March 18th.

A shout out to the teachers who helped to put this production together:

- Shawna Thomson
- Joselyn Morrison
- Jennie Dawson
- Meaghan Buckle
- Brittany Rosborough
- Jennifer Anawak
- Marc Robinson

Starling

Unwind Anxiety with CBT and Mindfulness is a 6-week interactive Mental Fitness Workshop on Anxiety hosted by Mental Fitness Coach, Tara Achkar. In this workshop you will lean into anxiety, learn and grow from it and build mental resilience.



Live Webinar

Mental Fitness Course: Unwinding Anxiety with CBT and Mindfulness

Date: Weekly on Thursdays | May 4th - June 8th, 2023

Time: 4:00 PM PT / 6:00 CT / 7:00 PM ET

Anxiety is one of the most misunderstood emotions, but it can be our greatest teacher if we know how to harness its power. Join our 6-week workshop to learn the signs, symptoms, and manifestations of anxiety in your life and how to break the cycles of worry and fear to heal your mind and body.

During the workshop, you will learn:

- The nature and purpose of stress, fear, and anxiety
- Its definition and role in your life
- The anatomy and science behind anxiety
- Mind-Body Anxiety Reduction Strategies to find your well-being again
- The power of treating anxiety using cognitive behavioral therapy and mindfulness



Presenter:

Tara Achkar, Mental Fitness Coach
Starling Minds

Register today.

Register Now

31%

Improvement in anxiety scores

47%

Improvement in depression scores

92%

Starling Approval ratings

98%

Starling has helped their mental health

2023-24 Committee Callout Coming Soon!

By-Law 11 outlines the Committees of Central Executive. A callout to submit an expression of interest will go in in August 2024.

Committee work is integral to the health of the Association, a great way to learn, work collaboratively on Association priorities, and set direction. Regarding their work on various committees, Members have shared "I love working with Inuit educators to do our part to support and empower each other and Inuit educators in Nunavut."

Best Practices & Fun Facts!

- A Central Executive Member sits on the committee (sometimes, but not always, Chair)
- Sometimes, such as is the case with the Legislative Committee, it is written into bylaw who is to be Chair (the VP in this one)
- Connect monthly (this is usually via Teams but sometimes just via email)

Inuit Educators' Committee

- Held a Face-to-Face in Yellowknife this fall!
- Ongoing support to colleagues
- Inuktitut Language Month newsletter
- CTF-FCE Indigenous Educators' Council, and Forum on Public Education

Curriculum Support Committee

- General purpose is to advise Central Executive on curriculum concerns (ex. review curriculum and approved resources) and seek clarity and transparency regarding Department of Education curriculum development, implementation, and evaluation plans; and provide feedback!

Legislative Committee

- This committee is comprised of Central Council members.
- The main role is to facilitate by-law and policy callout and submit resolutions in good standing for debate at the Annual Meeting of Central Council.

Public Relations

- Promote Education in Nunavut!
- The main campaign has been Thank You for Making a Difference!
- Facilitate the NTA Award for Teaching Excellence

Status of Women

- Advise Central Executive on gender-based issues.
- Held a Face-to-Face in Iqaluit this year! International Women's Day 2023 was a major campaign and monthly resources for colleagues.
- CTF-FCE Women's Symposium

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion guided by Inuuqatigiitsiarniq (DEII)

- Making suggestions to the NTA on how to better serve our members that identify as a minority.

MMIWG - MURDERED AND MISSING INDIGENOUS WOMEN

May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The MMIWG movement calls for awareness to increase accountability of social, political, economic and government systems and responses. The MMIWG movement opens dialogue, and allows women and girls to share their stories. Through these stories, we have a lens on what violence really looks like for Indigenous women and girls, and can work to support Indigenous women and girls to reclaim their power and place.



Below are some resources to help you embrace learning and end the violence:

The Red Amautiit Project - Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada

<https://pauktuutit.ca/the-red-amautiit-project/>

No More Stolen Sisters | Amnesty International Canada
<https://www.amnesty.ca/what-we-do/no-more-stolen-sisters/>

Professional Development Week Highlights

Connected North

One of the huge successes from this year's PD week is the accessibility created by Connected North, in conjunction with the NTA PD Fund, to 26 online courses, keynote speakers and workshops. The PD Fund paid for this week and will be looking at doing this again next year based on membership suggestions and possible committee creation to oversee the membership needs.



NTI Inuit Educators' Gathering

During PD week of this year, they held a gathering in Iqaluit of approximately 200 Inuit teachers from across Nunavut. The Gathering provided Inuit educators and aspiring educators a forum for information exchange on Inuktitut education, teaching materials and approaches, existing and new professional development opportunities, and assist in the building of a support network.

The NTA PD Fund provided financial support with members PD funding allotments being contributed to the gathering on behalf of members.



A NOTE FROM NTA OFFICE AS YOU HEAD INTO SUMMER...



Justin Matchett, President

"Thank you to all the hard working NTA members for making positive changes in the lives of Nunavut students this year! This summer I am looking forward to spending a lot of time with my wife and kids, and enjoying quality time with my parents and siblings. Summer is a great time to see the kids having fun with their grandparents and I am excited for that."



Shannon Hessian, Professional Development Coordinator

"It has been a pleasure to review the PD Activity reports and see the impact that your professional learning experiences are having on students. I look forward to creating and supporting new opportunities with members next year. May the summer break be all that you need it to be. ☺ I would also like to extend wishes and thanks to my colleague Jeff Avery as he retires (maybe)."



John Fanjoy, Executive Director

"Wishing all members a relaxing and safe summer break, you've earned it. I'm looking forward to spending time with my kids outside, and watching the Red Sox humble the Blue Jays. I hope you get to spend some quality time with family and friends, and the batteries are recharged for a great 23-24 school year!"



Jeff Avery, Professional Development Coordinator

"After a very busy school year I want to take time to wish you and yours a summer of learning, growing, fun, and relaxation. You may want to consider participating in some professional development during your break. It is another way to help recharge you when surrounded by people who also love to teach and may have new ideas you could implement in the fall. These conferences, workshops, and social media discussions can really help reignite the passion for teaching when you are feeling the most burnt out."



Patricia MacNeil Assistant Executive Director

"Thanks to everyone for the amazing leadership and engagement within the professional association this year. The ongoing professionalism and advocacy demonstrated by the Membership is inspiring (special Yay going out to Communication Liaisons and Central Council!)."



Sonja Lonsdale, Director, Member Services

"Thank you to all NTA members for all your hard work in Nunavut Schools! A special thank you to the school reps I have worked with during elections this year! Your commitment and professionalism are greatly appreciated! Have a great summer!"



Brian Barry, Financial Controller

"I would like to remind everyone that we now deposit PD Funds directly into your bank account. If you would like this service, please forward your banking information to me. Enjoy your summer!"

MUTNA, QUJANNAMIİK, QUANA, TO TEACHERS HELPING TEACHERS HELP STUDENTS!



The PD Council and staff would like to thank the professional development leaders in our schools and on PD committees. Your support and hard work made a Difference, and we thank you!



PD Liaisons

Bailey Greene, William Donkoh, Lacey Budgell, Andrea Robinson, Jennifer Gallant, Ikpreet Galsinh, Tammy Constantine, Sarah Taylor, Tara Clements, Bill Aziz, Brayden Gerbrandt, Kaylie Chaulk, Sharon Pomeroy, Susan Hillier, Ben Sajo, Mathew Sinclair, Kelly Pike, Madisson Moorhouse, Carly McFadden, Adrian Dzioba, Richard Dinnen, Danielle Huggins, Emily Burton, Erin Clarke, Alicia Crouse, Christina Blommsteijn, Scott MacGregor, Haley Hardy, Shawna Thomson, Julie Tulloch, Lisa Schellenberger, Kelly Page, Claus Vogel, Ed Flynn, Lena Nowdlak, Sarah MacLeod, Charlotte Miller, Amber Dawn Reid, and Chris Reid

Education Leave Committee

The Education Leave Committee members representing the GN were Brandi LaRoche and Mary Etuangat, and representing the NTA were Ed Flynn and Tasha Sterling

PD Council Members

- Scott MacDonald, Joamie Elementary School, Iqaluit - NTA (Sept./Oct.)
- Calbert Hutchinson, Rachel Arngnamaktiq, Baker Lake -NTA
- Jennie Dawson, Aqsarniit Illinarviik, Iqaluit - NTA
- Katharine Bartlett, Director of Educator Development, Department of Education – GN
- Bill Cooper, Executive Director, Kivalliq School Operations, Baker Lake – GN



The South Kivalliq regional executive is comprised of Ashely Tulugak, Inuit Member-at-Large (Rankin Inlet), Lacey Budgell, Vice-President (Arviat), and Kylie Curry, President (Rankin Inlet). As elected positions, a big part of their role is connecting with Members and bringing concerns to the Central Executive table. Ashley, Lacey, and Kylie are also very active on NTA standing committees including the Status of Women, Inuit Educators', and Finance Committees. Grounded and driven by Policy & By-Law as set by the Membership, Committee Work is crucial and is a great way to learn and share leadership while working collaboratively with colleagues to highlight and address association priorities. Members are encouraged to submit an expression of interest when the callout opens in August!



NTA is a member of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF-FCE). Jenny Regal, CTF-FCE Vice-President, pictured here with Justin, addressed Central Council. Participation in the Canadian Teachers' Federation brings great benefit to NTA Members: it provides important research and collective bargaining expertise, grants access to legal reads which support membership protection.

Peter Pitseolak School, Kinngait



The Peter Pitseolak School Senior Boy's Basketball Team took a 10 day trip to Nova Scotia from February 17th-27th. The trip involved playing basketball games across the province and visiting local high schools in the area. The trip consisted of a lot of activities from bowling, skating, swimming, arcade room, virtual reality zone and attending the AUS basketball games in Halifax. The students from Kinngait were able to experience a new culture and participate in activities that aren't available in Nunavut.

NTA PD FUNDS...

Professional Development Week Activities:

- 1066 PD Week Applications
- 498 members participated Individual Activities during PD week
- 568 members participated Group Activities





2023 Teaching Excellence Award Winner - Rob Strutz

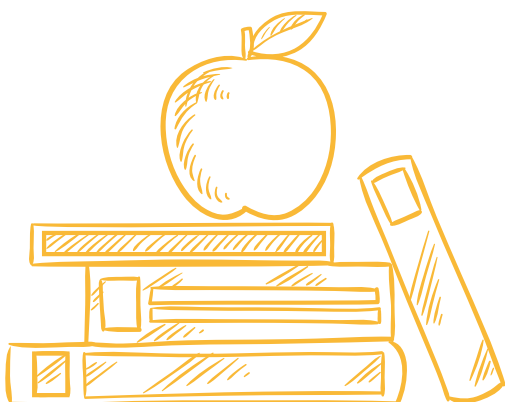
The NTA Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded each year to a teacher who has been selected by their colleagues in celebration of leadership that fosters the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of students. The 2023 Winner is Rob Strutz. Currently in his 24th year as a Nunavut educator, Rob is the Physical Education teacher at Aqsarniit Ilinniarnik in Iqaluit, and prior to that, worked at Nasivvik High School in Pond Inlet.

As shared by colleague and nominator Bev Netusil, Rob continuously demonstrates caring for the well-being of students and colleagues:

'I have known Rob for my entire 10-year teaching career. Rob has always been an educator that I have looked up to. I often go to him for advice and suggestions to help myself grow as an educator. Rob demonstrates invaluable qualities including leadership, professionalism, communicating and listening, patience and caring attitude towards students and colleagues, and a desire to improve his professional development through courses and online learning. When you walk into his classroom students are engaged and enjoying the programming being offered.'

Community members and parents shared that 'Rob is an example of a teacher that strives for excellence in his role as a teacher, a coach, and a member of the community. His compassion, kindness, and empathy to the students both in school and outside of school demonstrate complete professionalism'.

Congratulations, Rob! And, to all nominated colleagues!



Rob Strutz
Aqsarniit Ilinniarnik
Iqaluit



During the presentation of the 2023 Teaching Excellent Award Winner, Rob Strutz (2023 NTA Award for Teaching Excellence recipient) and Ashley Tulugak, (Inuit Member-at-Large, Kivalliq South) shared some inspiring stories about working together in Pond Inlet when Ashley completed her teaching internship. Both were impressed and inspired by the other!



2022 Teaching Excellence Award Winner - Lucy Mingeriak



Lucy Mingeriak
Inuksuk High School
Iqaluit

In the words of her colleagues:

“Lucy Mingeriak has been teaching in Nunavut for 17 years. Lucy has been vitally important at Inuksuk High School in promoting and preserving Inuktitut language and culture. Lucy is currently our Lead Teacher for our Inuktitut Second Language Program which is also an important part of our overall suicide prevention strategy. It is not an overstatement to say that the positive relationships that Lucy forms with students and the valuable programming she provides, saves lives.”

“Lucy is a long-time educator who has spent her career throughout the Qikiqtaaluk region....Students hold Lucy in high regard. Her calm, generous, and positive attitude is grounding for our students. When I asked, out of curiosity, some colleagues who work closely with Lucy my admiration for her was corroborated. She is described by her colleagues as a highly knowledgeable professional committed to the promotion of language and culture. She has high standards for herself which in turn raises the expectations in others of themselves. Her artistic ability is also recognized and admired by her peers for its design, composition, and execution. It is a pleasure to work with Lucy and this recognition by her peers is well deserved.”

KITIKMEOT CONFERENCE

The Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut will be hosting a regional teachers conference in Cambridge Bay during PD Week from February 12th to 16th 2024. The first since 2016.

Planning Team Members:

- Ellen Ittunga, Taloyoak, Co-Chair
- Ruth Roberts, Cambridge Bay, Co-Chair
- Lindi Andrews, Kugaaruk , Co-Chair
- Kevin Eetoolook, Taloyoak
- Sharon Pomeroy, Cambridge Bay
- Mathew Sinclair, Kugaaruk
- Alicia Taylor, Kugaaruk
- Susie Hillier, Gjoa Haven
- Brianna Rackow, Gjoa Haven

The PD coordinators (Jeff and Shannon) and the conference planning Team held a meeting, April 29th and 30th in Cambridge Bay to lay the groundwork for the conference. Another meeting will take place early in the fall of 2023. Please reach out to the planning TEAM members and share your ideas. A needs survey will be sent to Kitikmeot members this month.



LACEE BUDGELL

Arviat, Kivalliq Region



Q. Which school and community do you currently work in?
I currently work at Qitiqliq Middle School in Arviat.

Q. What made you decide to be a teacher?

I've never had one specific situation that made me say "I should be a teacher". I feel as though I have been on the path to teaching since middle school. I volunteered, coached, and worked with a variety of youth programs and sports teams throughout secondary school and university. The joy of watching as a child understands a new skill is special. Becoming a teacher felt like a natural progression after my work with children throughout high school and during my undergrad degree.

Q. What is one of your greatest memories/accomplishments/achievements as a teacher?

Sometimes it is harder to reflect on our own accomplishments. I have been at Qitiqliq Middle School for four years now and during my time here, I have worked to create a safe space for students and their mental health. Middle school is tough, and children can struggle to express themselves. My students know I am patient and will give them time to work through their feelings. I have given my students opportunities to express emotions through creative outlets especially project-based learning. Some of these experiences have been pen pals with veterans, cooking, baking, sewing, or building. I truly believe that students excel when they feel they have purpose. Sometimes they may even find their passions!

Q. What is a strategy, tip or trick you use to support your mental health and wellness outside of school?

To support mental health and wellness outside of school I believe it is important to take time to unplug. As teachers we are constantly using technology whether it be teaching, planning, researching, or emailing. Taking a technology break can be a great way to recharge ourselves. I like to get out on the land with friends, try a new recipe or take my dog for a walk around town.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to add in?

I am grateful that I landed in Nunavut to start my teaching career. Over the last four years, our community and the territory has faced many hurdles. Working alongside my colleagues has helped to teach me resiliency. My community is rich in culture and I am so happy I get to keep experiencing it!

NTA Code of Ethics

NTA Code of Ethics Sessions!

Sonja and Patricia are already connecting with schools to coordinate virtual sessions on the NTA Code of Ethics for mid-August! If you think a Code of Ethics (or a related topic) session is something your school might be interested in - reach out to pmacneil@ntantu.ca and slonsdale@ntanu.ca.

A Communication Liaison's TO DO List:

- Be a keen email checker!
- Love connecting with Sonja regarding all things Elections!
- Enjoy the 'this has been shared with the Membership, but it would be great if it could be printed and posted on the NTA staffroom board, thanks!' email from pmacneil@ntanu.ca
- Give a little NTA update at the end of the staff meeting (the end?!)
- Accept the heartfelt thanks of the NTA for serving in the absolutely pivotal role of CL



TEACHER SHOUT OUTS



Meghan Pollard and Sean McConnell from Qaqqalik School in Kimmirut have volunteered countless hours coaching and fundraising to take sports teams to Iqaluit.

Meghan Pollard is a second year Elementary teacher at Qaqqalik School. She took our girl's volleyball team to the NBNU 2023 Territorials in Iqaluit.

Sean McConnell is a 3rd year High School teacher at Qaqqalik School. He took our boy's basketball team to the NUBA 2022 Territorials in Iqaluit.

Our students had a great experience thanks to these two dedicated teachers.



Multi-Year Education Leave

Multi-Year Education Leave for NTEP

This is the first year for selection of members for the Multi Year Education Leave programming. Selected candidates are supported over the time they have left to complete their B.Ed., from one to five years. Candidates for this funding are beneficiaries accepted into the NTEP program at Arctic College in conjunction with Memorial University in Newfoundland. This programming is intended to assist NTA members towards completing their B.Ed. degrees within Nunavut and includes the following for approved members:

- Salary (100% of your Current Salary)
- Northern Allowance
- Removal costs if leaving home community to complete your approved program of study (to the maximum outlined)
- Tuition costs for you approved program of study.

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 recipients:

- Abbigail Ullikatar, Inuujaq School, Arctic Bay
- Paula Rumbolt, Rachel Arngnamaktiq School, Baker Lake
- Carol Nanordluk, Tusarvik School, Naujaat
- Georgina Itturiligaq, Tusarvik School, Naujaat

And congratulations to the One Year Education Leave recipients:

- Meeka Innuksuk, Arnaqjuaq School, Sanirajak, Language and Culture Diploma Program, Arctic College, Sanirajak.
- Alex Siksik, Simon Alaittuq Middle School, Rankin Inlet, Master of Education in Leadership and Administration, St.FX University, Antigonish, NS.
- Crystal Snow, Jonah Amitnaaq School, Baker Lake, Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology (MACP), Yorkville University, New Brunswick.
- Chelsea Landry, Simon Alaittuq Middle School, Rankin Inlet, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, St.FX University, Antigonish, NS.

NTA Inuit Educators Committee

Photo Contest

The NTA Inuit Educators Committee (IEC) held a photo contest. The IEC asked members to submit photos of cultural or language activities happening within their classrooms across the three regions.

The winner in each region receives a \$500 country food package from the Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, or Qikiqtani Meat and Fish Plant.

The winners of the IEC photo contest were:

Kivalliq Winner -
Martha Pingushat

Qikiqtani Winner -
Rimma Bektursunova

Kitikmeot Winner-
There were no submissions

Martha Pingushat was the photo contest winner for the Kivalliq region. Martha says,

“

Last month, I taught my grade 2 students about our Inuit culture- Qulliq after reading the book called “Grandma. How do you light the qulliq?” in the Inuktitut version. My students really enjoyed the reading, and I let them draw each part of it (Taqtut- stick, qulliq, oil, moss, or bird’s feathers and the lighter). So, I thought it was not too late to make a qulliq out of play dough because they do remember what they have learned from last month.”



Rimma Bektursunova, Qikiqtani winner photo titled, “Let’s Speak Biology in Inuktitut.”



TAKULIRIT



Send your answers to the trivia questions below to editor@ntanu.ca with subject *Trivia*.

Trivia answers are contained within this edition of the newsletter. Newsletter trivia contests are open to active NTA members.

There will be one gift card awarded to a member in each region, and the winner can choose between one of three gift card options, see below:

Win one of three \$50.00 gift cards!



1. Which NTA member will be filling the new NTA office position of Inuit Member at Large?
2. How many courses and conferences were covered by the NTA PD Fund in 2022-2023?
3. Which member received the 2023 Teaching Excellence Award?
4. Who should you reach out to if your school would like a presentation on the NTA Code of Ethics during the 2023-24 school year?

Deadline for submission: June 15th, 2023

TRIVIA WINNERS



The two winners of the February edition of Takulirit trivia are:

Kristina Gerk
Nasiwik High School,
Pond Inlet

Ian Dimopoulos
Maani Ulujuk Ilinniarvik,
Rankin Inlet

(We did not receive any trivia submissions from the Kitikmeot region).






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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR...

Congratulations on completing the 2022-23 school year! This school year, I have had an absolute pleasure connecting with members throughout the territory, and in each region while drafting Takulirit. I hope you all an amazing summer, filled with rest, activities you enjoy, and moments that recharge your batteries for the 2023-24 school year!

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