

N T A ' S

TAKULIRIT



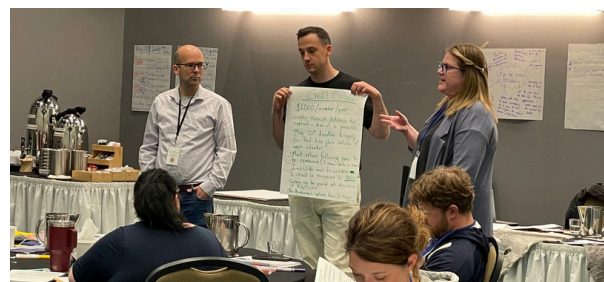
Welcome to the 2024-2025 School Year

The NTA would like to welcome all of our members to the 2024-2025 School Year. There is a lot going on this year and Takulirit will be a great source of information for members to stay up to date on all things NTA.

● NTA Cross Training for Communication and PD Liaisons

Cross training between the GN and the NTA was held in early September at the Aqsarniit Hotel in Iqaluit. We heard positive feedback and constructive criticism throughout the four days of training. The NTA truly appreciates all of the volunteer work that our CLs and PDLs do for their schools. We would not be able to do the work that we do without the efforts of our school-based Reps!

NTA members were actively engaged during their PD training sessions in early September. Here we see PD Reps Ben, Stephen and Leah sharing during NTA training.



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UPCOMING**EVENTS**

**November 1st - International
Collaboration for Education deadline
(formerly Project Overseas)**

**November 4th - Deadline for CANS
Executive Nominations**

**November 11th - Remembrance Day
Holiday**

**November 4th - 24th - CANS Executive
Campaign Period**

**November 25th and 26th - Voting for
CANS Executive**

November 30th - NTA PD Deadline

**VOTE NOW!!!!**

Voting is currently open for multiple regional positions within the NTA! Please ensure your voice is heard. Voting closes Wednesday October 30th at 5pm EST.

Contact Sonja Lonsdale if you are having issues.

slonsdale@ntanu.ca



President's Message

The 2024 -2025 school year is off to a busy start and I would like to thank all NTA Members, new and old, for their hard work and dedication to Nunavut schools and students. I would like to apologize for the delay in getting out our 13th issue of Takulirit, it was certainly not intended but we should now be in a position to continue putting out issues on schedule moving forward.

This is a big year for the NTA. Our contract will expire this year and we have a lot to fight for. NTA Members should expect a lot of communication coming to them over the course of this year, and I personally look forward to engaging with our members to talk about bargaining.

This is also an election year for Territorial positions in the NTA, and the roles of NTA President, Vice President, Inuit Member at Large and Secretary/Treasurer will all be up for election. It has been a career highlight to serve as NTA President and it is my hope that I will be able to continue in this role for a third and final term. If you have any questions about the NTA, and what I have done and been working towards, I would love to have those conversations. If you are interested in any of the positions and would like to learn more about those and what they involve, feel free to reach out as well.

Later this year we will be having another Regional Conference, this year for the Kivalliq Region. Due to the growing size of our membership that conference will take place here in Iqaluit. We are very much looking forward to hosting members here and are excited about a week of learning, collaboration and networking.



NTA President Justin Matchett

We are currently looking for nominations for administrators to serve on the executive of the Council of Administrators for Nunavut Schools (CANS). This is an exciting new initiative we are starting to better serve our school administrators and to look toward creating tailor made PD opportunities specific to our school admin. The CANS executive will hopefully bring the NTA back to the CAP table (Canadian Association of Principals) and attend some various PD opportunities that other union leadership councils put on to gather information and ideas that could be transferred to the NTA and used here.

As the Vice President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, I have seen a strong need for more representation for the North on a National Level. I am very pleased to let you know that the CTF has accepted our recommendation for NTA Member Elizabeth Ryan to serve on the CTF Advisory Committee on Indigenous Education for a 2-year term. This is a continued effort to provide Nunavut and Northern Canada with a larger voice when it comes to political direction nationally when it involves education.

I wish you all a successful school year, and as always please reach out at any time with questions or concerns.

Cheers,
Justin



NTA Executive Director John Fanjoy

Executive Director's Message

I hope everyone's school year has gotten off to a good start, I've been fortunate to hear of the many classroom programs and extra-curricular activities that are taking place across Nunavut schools already this fall.

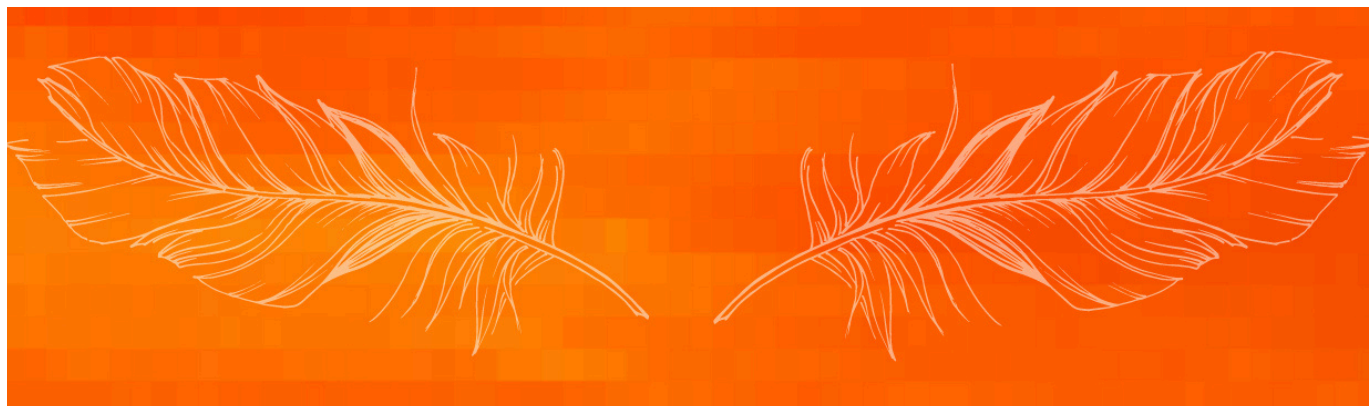
Now that we are in the last year of our current Collective Agreement with the Government of Nunavut, I will be using my updates in this year's editions of Takulirit to provide bargaining updates to our members. Currently, the NTA's Collective Bargaining Committee has been formed and has met twice to complete training, review agreements and bargaining trends from across Canada, and to develop a comprehensive economic welfare survey to be delivered to members.

The economic welfare survey mentioned above is crucial in making sure that the bargaining priorities of our members are reflected in our upcoming proposals to the Employer. The survey will be delivered to all members' registered email in early November and will be open for a month. It will be available in Inuktitut, French, and English.

The more responses we receive from members, the more accurate our demands to the Employer will be. If you have not registered your email on www.ntanu.ca/register yet, I suggest doing so by the end of October so that you can receive this survey.

If you have bargaining priorities you would like to share with myself, NTA President Justin Matchett or your Regional Presidents, please feel free to do so as well. I always enjoy hearing directly from members on bargaining priorities that affect them personally, and where they would like to see improvements in the next collective agreement. The Collective Bargaining Committee will be meeting again in early January to analyze survey results and member submissions, to construct our opening package to the GN. The NTA will be at the bargaining table before our current agreement expires on June 30th, 2025.

We know the "large table items"; compensation and benefits need to be much higher; teachers need to be more supported in their work, they need to feel safe in their schools, and more qualified Inuit educators need to be joining the teaching profession. Nunavut's continued record of having the lowest teacher retention rate in the country needs to improve. We need to work collaboratively with the Employer, while at the same time applying pressure through our collective strength and solidarity, in reaching these goals.



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Photo Courtesy of Shelley Sturge,
Kiilinik High School, Cambridge Bay

Orange Shirt Day

The NTA Proudly Supports Orange Shirt Day and recognizing the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. Schools all over Nunavut took part in Orange Shirt Day activities.



Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation

The NTA supports the Calls to Action that stemmed from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report. As teachers, especially here in Nunavut it is important to be aware of residential schooling and generational trauma that it has caused. We teach in an environment where school has been the root of major issues. We need to move forward, respecting the past and working toward a better future for the students that we teach, and ensuring that school is a safe and welcoming space for all.

To learn more about the TRC check out the following links:

<https://nctr.ca>

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525>

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation



Kugluktuk

The Day of National Truth and Reconciliation has become a very important day in Nunavut Schools. Above you can see the photos of activities that took place in Kugluktuk to commemorate this important day.

Photos Courtesy of Abhi Abhimanyu, Kugluktuk High School

NTA Central Executive

Central Executive is made of the Territorial Executive and all Regional Presidents

Territorial Executive

President:

Justin Matchett

Vice President:

Vacant

Inuit Member at Large:

Caroline Meeko

Secretary Treasurer:

Kylie Curry

Regional Presidents

Kitikmeot President:

Susie Hillier

North Kivalliq President:

Rob Humby

South Kivalliq President:

Bailey Greene

North Qikiqtani President:

Bailey Waldner

Central Qikiqtani President:

Elizabeth Ryan

South Qikiqtani President:

Caleva Kelly

NTA Central Council

Central Council is made of Central Executive and all remaining Regional Executives

Kitikmeot

Vice President:

Abhimanyu Abhimanyu

Inuit Member at Large::

Ellen Ittunga

Secretary Treasurer:

Ben Sajo

North Kivalliq

Vice President:

Vacant - VOTE NOW!!

Inuit Member at Large:

Vacant - VOTE NOW!!

South Kivalliq

Vice President:

Patricia Kablutsiak

Inuit Member at Large:

Vacant - no candidate

North Qikiqtani

Vice President:

Vacant - VOTE NOW!!

Inuit Member at Large:

Natasha Simon

Central Qikiqtani

Vice President:

Shauna Beaton

Inuit Member at Large:

Rita Kisa

South Qikiqtani

Vice President:

Vacant - VOTE NOW!!

Inuit Member at Large:

Vacant - no candidate



Professional Development

Thinking Ahead – PD Week 2025

PD Week 2025 is scheduled to take place for all schools in Nunavut February 10th to 14th, 2025. This year, members in the Kivalliq will have a Regional PD conference in Iqaluit that they can attend should they choose. Details about intent to attend the conference have already been shared with Kivalliq members and we're excited that so many of our colleagues there have indicated that they will be joining us at the conference! More information about conference sessions and registration will be shared soon.

For members in the Kitikmeot; North, South, and Central Qikiqtani regions; and those members in the Kivalliq unable to attend the conference, PD Week 2025 will proceed as a 'normal' year with members eligible to participate in self-directed professional development of their choice either individually or with a group of colleagues. Applications for both group and individual PD Week activities continue to be submitted for review and approval on the NTA PD Database (<http://pdis.ntanu.ca>). All NTA members have a PD Database account with personalized login credentials. If you are unsure of your credentials please speak with your school PD Liaisons or contact Shannon (shessian@ntanu.ca) or Craig (cmacgregor@ntanu.ca) – the PD Coordinators – at the NTA office (867-979-0750).

Applications for PD Week activities must be received by the PD Coordinators no later than November 30th, 2024. However, school Professional Development Committees will set a 'local deadline' earlier than this to give them time to review applications. Please check with your PD Liaison to determine what your local deadline for submitting is.

The wonderful thing about PD Week is that members have the opportunity to engage in five days professional learning that they choose as means of meeting their personal professional development goals and supporting the students in their classrooms. While there is a seemingly limitless list of possible PD Week activities, popular choices continue to be:

- Online courses and webinars
 - o ASCD offers online workshops and has DVD's for workshops in many areas; <http://www.ascd.org>. Last year many teachers availed of courses on this site.
 - o Box Cars and One Eyed Jacks also has tools for hands on math and literacy. You can use them to create your own workshop or bring up a presenter. The website is <http://www.boxcarsandoneeyedjacks.com>.

Professional Development

Thinking Ahead – PD Week 2025, continued

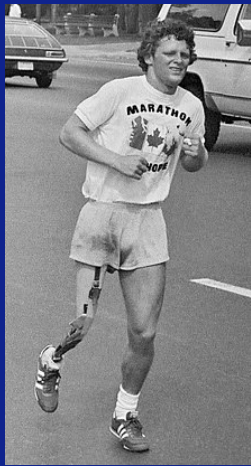
- o Connect2Learning provides resources which can either be purchased and mailed, free online resources, on line workshops and outlines for teachers to create a workshop for their colleagues <https://connect2learning.com> Sandra Herbst and Anne Davis work with this group.
- o Classroom Management and effective teaching Harry Wong has lots of online modules plus videos, books, etc. Several schools use them. <http://www.effectiveteaching.com>
- o *CTRI- Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute <https://ctrinstitute.com> They offer sessions, have webinars, some are scheduled but you can request one for a group, resources for purchase and free.
- Professional reading and research
- Inuit language acquisition
 - o Learning Inuktitut online <http://www.tusaalanga.ca/splash> and resources and courses <http://www.pirurvik.ca>
- Inuit cultural skills
- Locally organized group workshops and activities

In addition to these self-directed types of activities, we are excited to announce that we have once again partnered with Connected North to offer members across the territory the opportunity to participate in an online virtual conference during the five days of PD Week utilizing the Connected North network and video terminals that exist in all schools. The full schedule of sessions is still being finalized by our partners at Connected North, however, sessions will be reflective of the professional development needs identified by members through our online survey last spring as well as needs and goals identified by school PD and Communication Liaisons who participated in training this September in Iqaluit. We once again also hope to partner with our friends at Pirurvik and the Quajigiartiit Health Research Centre to offer a variety of PD Week workshops in select communities throughout the territory. Please stay tuned for more details about exciting opportunities coming to your email inbox!

As you begin your planning process for PD Week 2025, please don't hesitate to reach out to your school PD Liaison should you require support or further clarification about the process. Of course, the PD Coordinators at the NTA office, Shannon and Craig, are always happy and eager to provide support and are just an email or a phone call away!

Shannon Hessian: shessian@ntanu.ca
(867-979-0750 x 3)

Craig MacGregor: cmacgregor@ntanu.ca
(867-979-0750 x 4)



Terry Fox Run in Nunavut Schools

The Terry Fox Run is a big event in many of our Nunavut Schools, and this year is no exception. Here is a glimpse of what took place in Nauyasat this year.

A Successful Terry Fox Walk / Run / Carnival.

On the morning of September 11, 2024, Tusarvik Elementary School hosted a Terry Fox Carnival featuring several games that children of all ages could participate in. The Terry Fox Carnival was the fundraising option both Tusarvik and Tuugalik High School organized to raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation. From cake walks to archery and accuracy games, both school and the wider community came together



and enjoyed a morning of fun and enjoyment. A BIG thankyou to the Tuugalik High School students for running the various activities throughout the morning. \$1857.00 was raised throughout the morning for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to all who participated.

The Walk / Run that was planned for the afternoon was rescheduled for September 19 due to weather. Many students, staff and community members participated in this annual events as well. Thank you to all who participated in the annual Terry Fox Foundation fundraiser.

David Weaver - Tusarvik Elementary School, Nauyasat (photos are various contributors)

Tundra Talk with Kylie Curry

Which school and community do you currently work in?

I'm currently the vice principal at Simon Alaittuq School in Rankin Inlet.

What made you decide to be a teacher?

I really struggled with what to do after I graduated with my B.A. One of my professor's off-handedly mentioned at my graduation that she thought I would make a great teacher and could put that history degree to work helping students. A few years later I had my B.Ed in hand!



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

Professionally it's probably being the successful candidate for SAS's vice principal. Personally though, I think the biggest achievement I can think of is seeing my student's grow. Before I was vice principal I taught high school, and I'm now seeing all those kids grow up and do wonderful things; whether it's pursuing post-secondary education or starting their own families. Having them run up to me in the airport or Northern and tell me everything that's happened in their lives is always a gem.

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

For me personally, I spend way too much playing video games or consuming media, but it's important to find something that sparks joy for you outside of your career; it's okay to disconnect outside of work hours. It's important to remember that you can enjoy your weekends and evenings, there's a life to be had outside the job!

Any other information you would like to add in?

I think everyone should experience life in a few different communities in Nunavut if they can. Even if they're just travelling to them. Get out there and get involved; there's a vast beautiful territory with wonderful and exceptional people out there!





Tundra Talk with Nadia Sammurtok

Which school and community do you currently work in?

I am currently teaching Grade 6 at Aqsarniit Middle School in Iqaluit, Nunavut.

What made you decide to be a teacher?

As a young Inuk growing up in Nunavut, I spent many years working closely with youth in my community and territory focusing on topics geared towards youth empowerment, youth leadership, and on suicide prevention and awareness. Before becoming

an educator, I worked as a youth counselor and spent much of my time travelling to various places throughout northern Canada and as far as Barrow, Alaska to participate in and facilitate various activities and workshops made for Inuit youth. It was during this time that I noticed a common theme that appeared to be present amongst youth that I suspected was affecting certain areas of their lives. It was education, or a lack thereof. It was clear to see that many Inuit youth were experiencing a disconnect from their educational experiences, which to me was completely understandable, being a daughter of two residential school survivors. I decided later to continue my work with youth, but in a different aspect, which was through education instead.

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

During my first year as an educator in 2015, I remember feeling very tired and burnt out. I had decided that teaching wasn't for me and was contemplating resigning that very same year. When one of my students who was a struggling reader and writer managed to write an entire story completely on her own with little to no guidance from me, I realized how much I had helped her grow academically, just in that one year alone. Today, when I run into her and other past students I've taught who have either graduated, or are about to graduate from high school, and they tell me about the memories they still have from our years together in class, it makes me feel proud to know that I was able to make at least that much of a positive impact on their lives.



In 2021, I decided to go back to school to earn my Master's degree. In December of 2022, I graduated with a Master of Education in Educational Leaderships Studies with the Memorial University. At the same time that I was at the end of my Master's Program, I was also enrolled in the Pirurvik Centre's Aurniarvik Inuktitut Language program for second language speakers. In April 2023, I graduated from this program, earning my certificate in Inuktitut Proficiency as a Second Language. In 2023, I was a recipient for one of three Guiding the Journey awards with Indspire and received an Indigenous Educator Award for promoting and contributing to Inuit language and culture in education. This was a very proud moment for me as it wasn't too far back when I was a young single mother with very little education, struggling to make ends meet. Today, I can tell my children that hard work really does pay off and that it is possible to work towards our goals, regardless of the challenges we may be facing.

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

I am very much a homebody. When I'm not at work, I love to be at home with my children baking, cleaning, and doing crafts, especially beading. At the same time that I am a homebody, I am very outdoorsy (if that makes sense). I love to be out on the land with my family. During my summer breaks, I travel to my hometown (Rankin Inlet) where I spend the majority of my summer out on the land, at my cabin, and out boating with my family. It's during these times that I feel most at peace.



NTA Flight Codes



FNT23



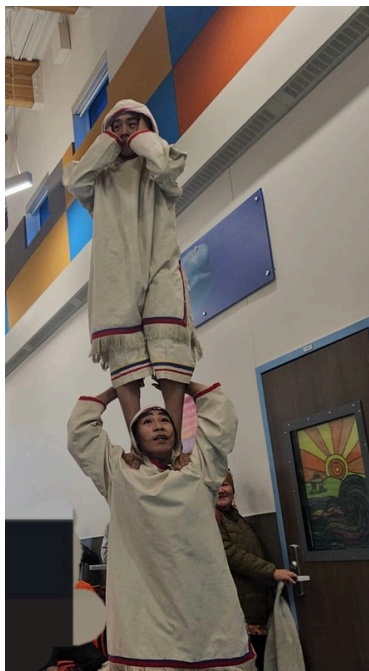
Teach15

Iglulik High School

Location: Igloolik, Nunavut

Population: 2,050 (approx.)

NTA Members: 16



Iglulik High School has been bustling with activities that celebrate culture and learning, with a special focus on Truth and Reconciliation. Recently, students participated in a series of enriching events including storytelling sessions, bannock making, and maktaaaq preparing led by our elders. These activities were complemented by performances from local musician Terry Uyarak and talented students from the Artcirq. Additionally, the school celebrated success in the music coding competition, with Dianne Kunnuk securing first place, showcasing the diverse talents nurtured within our school.



TAKULIRIT CONTESTS!!!



Issue 13 Trivia!!

1. How many NTA members are listed for Iglulik High School?
2. **What is one online course/webinar that continues to be popular during PD Week?**
3. What communities are our Teacher Spotlight Teachers from?
4. **How many calls to action are there from the TRC? (may need to use a link in the newsletter)**

A winner from each region will be selected in a draw from those submitting the correct answers!

PHOTO CONTEST!!

To celebrate you and your staff, submit a photo of staff working together and collaborating. All submissions will be put in for a draw for \$500 to go toward a staff gathering/function!!



Submit all entries to

jmatchett@ntanu.ca

Contest Deadlines:
November 25th

NTA Office

Mailing Address:

Nunavut Teachers' Association
2-2738 Tasilik Street
Iqaluit, NU X0A2H0

Location:

2738 Tasilik Street

Phone Number:

867-979-0750

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Patricia MacNeil

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cmacgregor@ntanu.ca

NTA Inuit Member Services
Co-ordinator

**Position Currently Vacant -
Posted Open Until Filled**



The NTA will be continuing the NTA Pin Campaign this year with presentations at the Kivalliq Conference and hopefully through the Qikiqtani Region as well. Please help ensure information that is sent to schools in the near future is accurate to ensure people get all of the pins they have earned. 5-30 years of NTA membership, committee work, elected positions (school based, regional or territorial)