

Takulirit

NEWSLETTER



Territorial Election Information:

Voting day for the Territorial Election is TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023, in all schools. We have a race for the President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer positions. See the poster provided which outlines the names of each member who has signified their willingness to be presented as candidates for the election.

Communication Liaisons in all schools will serve as the Returning Officer (RO) for the election and run the vote on Feb 21.

"Look for your polling station on Feb 21!" - Sonja Lonsdale, *Director, Member Services*

Up-coming – Spring Elections – nomination period runs April 1-15, 2023, for the election of the vacant Territorial Inuit Member at Large, vacant South Kivalliq Inuit Member at Large, and school Communication Liaisons and Professional Development Liaisons. Voting day is Tuesday, May 2, 2023. More information to come!

**Territorial Election
Day:**

**February 21st, 2023,
in all schools**



Candidate List for the NTA Election of Executive Officers

The nomination period is now closed. The following candidates have been accepted by the Election Committee and candidates have signified their willingness to be presented as candidates for the election:

NTA President:

*Dawson, Jennie
Matchett, Justin*

NTA Vice President:

*Beaton, Shauna
Thomson, Shawna*

NTA Inuit Member at Large:

no candidate

NTA Secretary-Treasurer:

*Abe Kunjachan, Virginia
Curry, Kylie*

The following candidates may contact your school through the school Communication Liaison to arrange a call/session to meet your staff. CL's, please post this Candidate List and any candidate information forwarded to you on your NTA Bulletin Board.

*Please mark **February 21, 2023** in your calendar -
VOTING DAY!*



Communities throughout Nunavut are starting to see longer hours of daylight with the return of the sun!

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Hello NTA Members,

I hope that everybody had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season and that 2023 has been off to a great start.

Things have been busy at the NTA office and there has been a lot on the go that I would like to share with you. Since the last issue of Takulirit, I have been able to meet with the GN on numerous issues.

At the beginning of January, after over a year of work, the deal I started with the Department of Education was finalized, and we secured funding for an Inuit Member Support Coordinator to start working at the NTA office in September. The job ad for this just went out on Friday February 11th, and will close on Friday March 3rd. This position is one that was needed and asked for in my first campaign, and I am glad that I was able to work with the Department to get this done for our membership.

Also in January, I was able to sit down with the Premier and Minister of Education to discuss a variety of items. We spoke about the pilot program for full day kindergarten starting next year, which both the GN and the NTA are excited about. We spoke about curriculum and assessment, and it was nice to see agreement on the points we made around necessary changes that have to take place. We relayed our members concerns about housing and heard the Premier's plans to work on the housing crisis in Nunavut. It was an enjoyable meeting, and it was good to see that at the higher levels of government there is a lot of agreement about the issues that we are facing as teachers in Nunavut.

Earlier this month we had discussions with the ADM and addressed some concerns that we have, guided by what I have been hearing from our members. We called the Department out on the lack of training they have been providing to our administrators, learning coaches and SSTs. The Department admitted fault, and recognizes how the lack of training provided has been affecting the operation of our schools, as well as our retention rates. For our next scheduled meeting in March, the Department is bringing forward ideas and suggestions about training, and we are focusing on supporting training initiatives for our members who are struggling in their positions through no fault of their own, but rather the lack of guidance and training from their employer.

President's Update

This issue of Takulirit is coming out during Black History Month, and it is important for all of us to acknowledge and promote Black History Month in classrooms throughout Nunavut. Even though it is called Black History Month, it is a history that belongs to all of us, and that may mean recognizing and identifying the privilege some of us have had during our lives, and the struggles that we have not had to face. We all belong to a shared history, and it is important to know the specific history of the people around us, to highlight the adversity that has been overcome, and to recognize the struggle that is still happening. The NTA acknowledges Black History Month, not just during the designated month of February, but all year round. The NTA continues to be an ally while working on making changes to better represent our Black NTA members.

On February 21st our membership will be holding elections for NTA President, Vice President and Secretary Treasurer. I encourage all members to make their voices heard, and vote. This is the first election in a long time that I can remember voting for all positions, with no positions being acclaimed. This is a good thing for our membership and shows an increase in people wanting to be involved in our Association. I hope that on February 21st, you feel that I have done enough to earn your vote to continue in the role as NTA President. This has been an amazing experience, and a job that I am thoroughly enjoying, and one I hope to continue to be in for another term. I encourage all members to reach out with any questions about the election before voting day.

With February already half way done, we are approaching the Spring season in Nunavut and all that it involves. Schools are most likely already planning their land trips and ice fishing days. I encourage each of you to get out and enjoy the sun, and all that your community has to offer as we enter this homestretch to our school year. This has always been my favourite time of year in Nunavut, and I hope that people enjoy it and realize what a special place we have chosen to work and live.

All the best and as always, reach out at any time.

Cheers,

Justin Matchett
NTA President



Addressing Member Inquiries...

Executive Director, John Fanjoy

As we enter the hiring season in Nunavut schools, I thought it would be best to share some answers to questions I receive most frequently from members who are considering term extensions or looking to change schools and work in another community or region.

In February and March, many teachers on term contracts are going to be asked if they are interested in term extensions. After replying, they will receive either a term extension offer from the RSO, or a term-end letter if the contract is not going to be extended due to either an indeterminate employee returning from leave, or a decision made to post the position for competition. If you are not offered a term extension, you are still eligible to reapply for the position if it is posted.

Once a term teacher signs an extension for the upcoming school year, they may only apply for subsequent teacher competitions if they get the permission of their RSO's Executive Director. In my experience, that permission is rarely given so if a term teacher decides to accept a term extension, they should make sure they are comfortable with being in the same role next year before signing. Promotional positions (Principal and Vice Principal) are excepted from this rule, and you can apply at any time with no permission required.

The most common mistake I see some members make each spring is resigning on the 60-day deadline, in the hopes of working in another Nunavut community next year. I want to be clear: Resignation deadlines only apply to members who are either leaving the profession or are planning on leaving Nunavut. You do not need to resign if you are applying to other teaching positions in Nunavut, even if they occur in May, June, or the summer months. Members who are not on probation can apply for teaching positions in other schools right up to the beginning of the next school year, and do not need to resign their current position until after accepting the new posting. Relocation costs will still be covered by the Employer.

If you are thinking about signing a term extension, applying to other schools, or leaving Nunavut, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have before making that final decision, we can provide you with answers and advice that will lower stress and make the process smoother.

Enjoy the Sun!

John



On January 23rd Maani Ulujuk Ilinniarvik in Rankin Inlet ended afternoon classes a little early... for a really great cause! It was time to hold a pep rally to send off our many talented students who were competing in the Arctic Winter Games this year. Classes made signs, and hooted and hollered as the athletes were introduced. We also listened to some amazing and inspirational speeches. Family members were invited to come and cheer on their student too. The gym was packed with supporters! Pictured are all the talented Rankin Inlet athletes along with (pictured from left to right) NTA members Principal Olosuga Tomoloju, councillor Lucy Makkigak, and PE teacher/coach Steve Faulkner. Thank you to the wonderful members who enhance our students' experiences each and every day and push them to succeed. Go Team Nunavut!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February is Black History Month



February is Black History Month. The 2023 BHM theme is, "Ours to tell." This theme represents both an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their histories, successes and triumphs.

See the link below to access information on organizations and educational resources on the history of Black communities in Canada, shared by the Government of Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>.



Award for Teaching Excellence

The NTA Award for Teaching Excellence is awarded yearly at the Annual Meeting of Central Council. Members are nominated and celebrated by colleagues. This award strives:

- To recognize outstanding Nunavut Teachers
- To honour creative, innovative, and effective teaching
- To distinguish exemplar service
- To focus public attention on the teaching profession
- To involve Nunavummiut in celebrating teaching excellence

Consider nominating a colleague.

<https://ntanu.ca/events/nta-award-for-teaching-excellence-deadline-february-15th-2023/>.

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

- February is Black History Month
- February 13th - 17th - Individual and Group School Based Professional Development
- February 15th- NTA Teaching Excellence Award Nomination Deadline 
- February 21st - Territorial Election Day
- March 8th- International Women's Day 
- March 28th - Thank you for Making a Difference Campaign Nomination Deadline
- March 31st - International Trans Day of Visibility
- April is Inuktitut Language Month
- April 1st - 15th - Spring Elections Nomination Period
- May 2nd - Election Day for election of the vacant Territorial Inuit Member at Large, vacant South Kivalliq Inuit Member at Large, and school Communication Liaisons and Professional Development Liaisons 

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



CTF/FCE

Project Overseas

Congratulations to;

Claudine Bodson from
Netsilik School in
Taloyoak who will be
leading a Team of
Educators in Togo this
summer.



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

Did you know...

- Each school in Nunavut is unique and diverse, and teachers are an integral part of the communities they live in.

Taloyoak

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Region: Kitikmeot
Population: 934

Arviat

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Region: Kivalliq
Population: 2,864

Igloodik

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Region: Qikiqtani
Population: 2,049



Black History Month Resources

FILMS

National Film Board's Black Communities in Canada: A Rich History
This collection covers a variety of topics related to Black communities and Black Canadians. Here are some favourites:

Ice Breakers
This film shares the story of a promising teen hockey star in a sport where Black players are underrepresented.

Remember Africville
A spotlight on a small, Black settlement in Halifax that was demolished in the name of urban renewal.

The Colour of Beauty
This short documentary examines racism in fashion.

Jackie Shane: Heritage Minute
Jackie Shane was a pioneering Black trans soul singer in the 1960s. This Heritage Minute celebrates her unapologetic and authentic presence.

CURATED COLLECTIONS
Black History in Canada
This collection curated by the Canadian Encyclopedia features articles, podcasts, and timelines. Be sure to check-out the collection of articles on Black female freedom fighters.

PODCASTS
Portraits of Black Canadians
This series of vignettes spotlights prominent Black Canadians from the past and present.

FIND THESE RESOURCES

Visit linktr.ee/BHMresources2023.

DANIELLE HUGGINS
Sanirajak, Qikiqtani Region



Q Which school and community do you currently work in?
I work at Arnaqjuaq School in Sanirajak.

Q. What made you decide to be a teacher?
Whenever I get asked this question, it is challenging to reflect on. The truth is that there was no decision. Outside of wanting to be a ladybug when I was four, I always said I would be a teacher. Going through my education and having excellent teachers solidified that the education field is where I should be working.

Q. What is one of your greatest memories/accomplishments/achievements as a teacher?
Choosing single moments from my career so far is a challenge. A success for our community is the number of older high school students who dedicated themselves to finishing their diplomas in the last few semesters. Being in the high school section of our school for 5 years, I have seen many students take a more convoluted path than the straight 3 years. Working with the students to find their drive and motivation to get their program finished is highly rewarding professionally and motivating to other young adults struggling to finish. Another stand-out moment was a few years ago when my partner Manasie and I team-taught social studies 10 together due to high enrollment numbers. Delivering a genuinely bilingual program for the students was incredibly inspiring. Not only did we have quantitative data showing increased academic performance for the students, but we also observed increased motivation and willingness to learn, and overall satisfaction in education in the students. It was an excellent taste of a future for Arnaqjuaq School and even Nunavut.

Q. What is a strategy, tip or trick you use to support your mental health and wellness outside of school?
It is important to voice when you feel overworked, stressed, or need extra support. I am grateful to my administration and colleagues this year for encouraging me to exercise this practice more. Often, it is easy to feel guilty as educators when we perceive ourselves as doing less for the students and the community. Sharing these feelings with your fellow teachers helps to share the load. Also, deciding what aspects of teaching are the most rewarding and critical to yourself for job satisfaction is essential. I will admit that my classroom is often messier than I would like, but I've decided that I can be a clean teacher or a hands-on teacher, and I feel more job satisfaction being hands-on and creative with my students. Prioritizing those pieces allows you to celebrate successes without constantly criticizing yourself for tasks that are not finished yet. As much as we want to provide our students with every opportunity, we can't be martyrs for them.

Q. Is there any other information you would like to add in?
Living and building a life in Nunavut is a blessing that many friends and family from my southern life do not understand. Thank you to everyone who welcomed me into their arctic world and created space for me to give myself to a beautiful community.

NEWS FROM ULAAJUK SCHOOL

Janika Clattenburg
NTA Communication Liaison
Grade 6 teacher at Ulaajuk School



All the members of Ulaajuk School in Pond Inlet are excited to welcome back the sun after a long couple of months without it. Our school staff have been working hard to support each other as we adjust to working without a principal. Alicia Crouse and April Kyak are currently sharing the administration role, biweekly, in our school on an acting basis. They have been ensuring our school runs smoothly, with teachers and students feeling supported.

They deserve to be recognized for the additional work that they continue to do. They have organized a staff dinner to foster a sense of community amongst our staff, helped organize a return of the sun assembly for the students, and worked hard to find reliable substitutes so that students do not miss educational opportunities. In addition, they have hosted regular staff meetings, and communication has been increased significantly. We, as a staff, are very grateful for their hard work, and many members have reached out to offer them support.

Another member who deserves recognition is Eleanor Pitseolak. After the Christmas holidays, Eleanor has taken on the breakfast program responsibilities for our school. She noticed that we needed more funding for the breakfast program, and was able to apply for a grant that was just under \$34,000. The grant was awarded to our school; because of that, our students have been getting a more nutritious breakfast with the new allotted funding. She also ensures that breakfast is ordered weekly, and when it arrives, it is organized and put away. Taking on the breakfast responsibilities is a lot of extra work for a classroom teacher, but she has done an excellent job and is happy to help.

Overall, Ulaajuk School is very thankful for the work that these three individuals have put in. They are going above and beyond for all the staff and students at our school, and we all appreciate it. I hope this encourages members who are also in a position without administration to work together and support each other. Finally, I wish every member a great rest of the school year.

RETIREMENT AWARD FUNDING...

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





Takulirit

NEWSLETTER

The following members are running for the election of NTA President, NTA Vice President, and NTA Secretary Treasurer. In this edition of Takulirit, you will find each candidate's campaign information!

Jennie Dawson



NTA President

Shauna Beaton



NTA Vice-President

Kylie Curry



NTA Secretary-Treasurer



Justin Matchett



Shawna Thomson



Virginia Abe Kunjachan





Candidate for the position of NTA President:

Jennie Dawson

Hi everyone!

My name is Jennie Dawson and I want to be your next NTA President.

I'm hoping at this point you have all seen my video, poster and bio that has been sent out. I am working diligently to contact each school personally, if you haven't heard from me yet, hopefully you will soon. As a full time teacher supporting multiple extra- curricular activities for students, a very active NTA member, and mother of three, time is often a luxury that like many of you, we don't always have but rest assured I am doing my best to connect with you all and will be here for you 110% and will be entirely dedicated to you if elected.

A brief background: I have been in Nunavut for 19 years, starting my career in Clyde River which I still often refer to as Home. Since 2006 I have been in Iqaluit, at Aqsarniit Ilinniarvik, advocating for students, and the last 5 years as the Student Success Coordinator. I love my job and the ability to advocate for our students but now it's time that I take my skills and passion for education and advocate for you- our teachers! We can't put students first if we put teachers last!

Over my years working within the NTA I have had the privilege of being your NTA Vice- President for the past 2 years, a Central Executive Member since 2018. I have had the amazing opportunity to Chair the Status of Womens Committee for the last 5 years with amazing opportunities to go to conferences and symposiums and listening to issues that many women face over the territory, country, and world. I have had the unique pleasure of being apart of the Professional Development Council, Legislative Committee, Bargaining Committee, Finance Committee and Public Relations Committee. I have thoroughly enjoyed being apart of all the different aspects of the NTA which have helped me to see the Association as a whole; how it runs and how we can be there for you- our members.

I hope that on February 21st you vote Jennie Dawson for President; you all have a vital voice that deserves to be heard!

Qujannamiik!



Candidate for the position of NTA President:



Justin Matchett

Who I am:

My name is Justin Matchett, your current NTA President. I have been a teacher in Nunavut for the last 13 years. I spent 6 years in the Kitikmeot, 5 years in the Kivalliq and since becoming President have been in the Qikiqtani for the last 2 years.

I am a father of 2, Declan (5) and Lachlan (2) with my wife Taylor (also a teacher) that I met in Kugluktuk Nunavut.

I have 12 years of NTA experience, and I am very comfortable in a leadership position. I have held many leadership positions during my life. In Nunavut, I have been an Administrator, Regional VP, and currently your NTA President for the last 1.5 years. I have taught K-12 through various subjects during my time here and have a good understanding of how schools operate at all levels, and how they differ and have very different needs.

My experience as NTA President has not been the normal experience. Dealing with Covid-19, my first year was unexpected and needed a lot of focus. This year I feel like I am finally doing the job that I envisioned, and am feeling comfortable in the role. The learning curve is behind me and I am enjoying moving the NTA forward and working for you, our NTA members.

Why vote for Justin Matchett?

A vote for me is a vote for somebody that keeps their word and follows through on what they promise.

I promised to improve communication from our Office to NTA Members.

- In my 1.5 years
- I created Takulirit
- We have a new email system
- We have a new website.

I promised to advocate for our Inuit Members.

- I voted to change a bylaw to allow more Inuit Representation in our elected positions.
- I approached the Dept. of Ed. and made a deal with them that secured funding to post a position in our office designated for an Inuit employee to support our Inuit members.

I promised to advocate for our teachers and improve their working conditions.

- Have highlighted lack of resources and curriculum as a retention problem with media
- Oversaw the completion of our safety reporting form which will help us collect data to see where schools need the most help
- Criticized the GN on their Covid policies and had them change the way they released information to our members
- Signed a CA with the largest teacher salary increase in the country at time of signing along with increased leave benefits
- Have been visiting schools (14 to date) to speak with teachers and hear concerns first hand as promised, with more visits planned after the election

What does the next term look like if you Re-Elect Justin Matchett?

- A President that will continue to improve communication to members
- A focus on retention and recruitment
Currently working on a media campaign to promote our teachers and profession
 - Highlighting the positives of working in Nunavut
 - Flipping the script on what people see when they look up Education in Nunavut
- A president that recognizes our changing membership
 - Creating a safe space for members that identify as a minority to voice concerns and seek support
 - A space they can help push change in our code of conduct and policies

On February 21st Vote for:

- A strong voice for ALL members of the NTA
- Consistent and Experienced Leadership
- A President that has a plan moving forward
- A President that fulfills the promises they make



On February 21st vote JUSTIN MATCHETT for NTA PRESIDENT



Candidates for the position of NTA Vice President:

Shauna Beaton



Hi colleagues,

For those of you who don't already know me, I'm Shauna Beaton and I would like to be your next NTA Vice President. I am currently in my 14th year of teaching in Nunavut, having first moved to Arctic Bay in 2009. I have spent the past 11 years in Iqaluit teaching at Inuksuk High School and raising my two boys. Having a husband who is also a teacher (Aqsarniit Middle School) as well as having school aged children, advocating for both children and educators is what I am all about!

I strongly believe in being an active community member. Whether that be through sports, daycare boards or our professional community. During my time in Nunavut, I have been fortunate to have opportunities to coach hockey at various levels from U-7 all the way up to AWG. I have also been active on a multitude of boards from Daycare and Afterschool programs to Hockey Nunavut and Basketball. I also have many years of dedicated service to the NTA in a variety of roles, including PD Liaison, Nunavut Wide and Qikiqtani Conferences, Status of Women committee and Central Qikiqtani Regional Vice President.

I believe that I have the experience, perspective and drive to be an effective Vice President for you. On February 21st, I hope that you place your trust in me.

Shawna Thomson



Why Me?

I have been a dedicated educator in Nunavut for the last twelve years, serving on several NTA Committees, including the Education Leave Committee. I have also had the opportunity to work with Central Council while working as the Central Qikiqtani Vice President last year.

My experience as a Language Arts Consultant working for the RSO has also given me an added benefit of working at the departmental level. I have experience working and collaborating with colleagues across the regions. I have spent eight years living in small Kitikmeot communities, so I understand the concerns facing our members outside of Iqaluit.

Duties as Vice President

The Vice President is responsible for chairing the NTA Public Relations Committee, Teaching Awards Committee and Legislative Committee. My goals for these committees are as follows.

Public Relations Committee

- I would like to find more opportunities to celebrate what is happening in our schools – because there are so many good things happening!
- There is opportunity for our union to become more of a presence in our schools, promoting education as a career choice to our upcoming graduates.

Teaching Awards Committee

- Our teachers need more recognition for the hard work that they do.
- I would like to introduce more awards for a variety of teaching skills that would honour teachers across all three regions throughout the year.

Legislative Committee

- As a published author, I have excellent written communication skills that can help our bylaws be accessible to all members.
- I would strive to offer more assistance to members who want to submit new bylaws but are unsure or uncomfortable with drafting their ideas.

I hope on election day, I can count on your vote! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out at sthomson@gov.nu.ca.

Cheers!

Shawna Thomson



Candidates for the position of NTA Secretary-Treasurer:

Kylie Curry



My name is Kylie Curry and I want to be your next Secretary-Treasurer! I hope I can count on your support on February 21, 2023.

I have been living in Nunavut since 2016, working in the wonderful communities of Arviat and Rankin Inlet as a classroom teacher. I am currently the Vice Principal of Simon Alaittuq School, here in Rankin.

During these past 7 years, I have made it a priority to represent teachers here in Nunavut. I have always been active within the Nunavut Teachers Association right from the start of my career, having been a school communication liaison, and a regional member-at-large. I am currently the South Kivalliq Regional President, a position I have held for the past three years. In addition, I have served on a number of committees such as curriculum support, education leave, and have spent the past two years a member of the finance committee. The secretary-treasurer position is an important piece of the NTA executive body, responsible for providing its members with accurate financial information. This person must be responsive, hard-working, honest, and helpful to members. Also, it is vitally important that the secretary-treasurer is well-versed on the specific ins-and-outs of the NTA's finances. My experience serving as both a regional president and finance committee member provides me this knowledge.

If elected I will work diligently to ensure that our members have a clear picture of the NTA's finances, and that they have the best information possible to keep those finances stable.

If you have any questions, or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at kcurry@ntanu.ca
Qujannamiik, Quana, Matna, and Thank you.

Virginia Abe Kunjachan



About me...

In 2016, I started my Nunavut journey from Coral Harbour. After two years, I moved to Nauyasat as a Student Support Teacher. I have visited Iqaluit, Clyde River, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, and Baker Lake. During this time, I associated with teachers in all these communities. I am certified in the area of finances.

Working with the NTA...

I was unanimously elected to serve as a PD liaison Tuugalik High School in 2020 and continued up to June 2022. Despite, challenges during COVID-19, I efficiently assisted my colleagues efficiently to achieve their professional development goals through NTA funding. Again, this academic year I was elected as the Communication Liaison for our school. As a result, my colleagues highly appreciate the effort and performance in both roles. I am confident that I have performed the responsibilities associated with both positions.

Reason for running for this position...

As an NTA member for the past 7 years, I encountered various concerns expressed by my colleagues. I am well-known for my experience in financial management, maintaining records, and documentation. I am positive that I can serve my fellow NTA members with diligence, honesty, transparency, and integrity. I would be grateful, if I am given the opportunity to serve in the capacity of Secretary-Treasurer and prove my capability in the position. I humbly request you that to exercise your right to elect me as the NTA Secretary-Treasurer.



Frequently Asked Questions...



Q: I am resigning, but I am not sure if I must submit my resignation 60 or 90 days before the last day of school.

A: Resignations need to be submitted at least 60 days before the last day of school.

However, if a Member is entitled to severance benefits, the resignation must be submitted 90 days before the last day of school.

Q: If I am sick with COVID-19, what type of leave can I use?

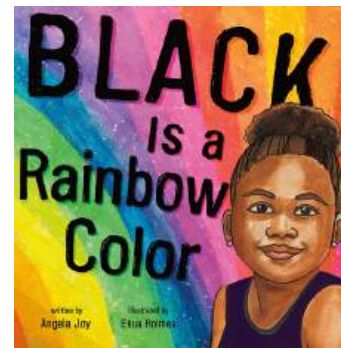
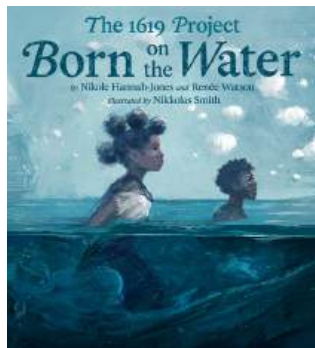
A: You can use up to five days of special leave OR without having sick or other leave credits deducted from your leaves bank.

BOOKS BY BLACK AUTHORS:



CHILDREN'S READING LIST

- *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water* by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson
- *We Shall Overcome* by Bryan Collier
- *Amazing Black Atlantic Canadians: Inspiring Stories of Courage and Achievement* by Lindsay Ruck
- *Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre* by Carole Boston Weatherford
- *All Because You Matter* by Tami Charles
- *Black is a Rainbow Color* by Angela Joy

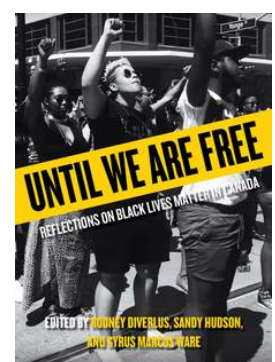
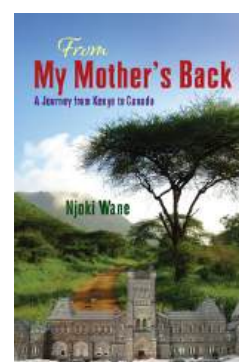
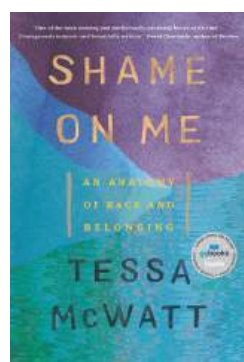


TEEN'S READING LIST

- *Bitter* by Akwaeke Emezi
- *Ace of Spades* by Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé
- *Hurricane Summer* by Asha Bromfield

ADULTS READING LIST

- *Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging* by Tessa McWatt
- *Butter Honey Pig Bread* by Francesca Ekwuyasi
- *From My Mother's Back: A Journey from Kenya to Canada* by Njoki Wane
- *Until We Are Free: Reflections on Black Lives Matter in Canada* edited by Rodney Diverlus, Sandy Hudson, and Syrus Marcus Ware



Alookie Elementary School in Pangnirtung

Take a peek at some fabulous things a few teachers at Alookie Elementary School in Pangnirtung have created. Fasten your seatbelt and enjoy the ride! Oh, not yet. First a wee bit of information on our unique and special school. Alookie offers classes from kindergarten to grade 5.

And our school walls are ringing with the sound of kids speaking Inuktitut.

Fantastic! They are learning many different things everyday in Inuktitut. Only in grade 5 do they start having most of their subjects in English.



Margaret Panipak's is sitting by the wonderful work of her grade 4 students during Parent-Teacher Interview Day in early December 2022.



Welcome to grade 5 with Sara Fitzpatrick!
Her students were experimenting with colour and textures when creating these masks from recyclable materials.



Say hello to Tommy Nowdlak. He's our shop teacher.

Here is an incredible part of Christmas 2022 in Rosie Metuq's grade 2 classroom.

Happy New Year One & All From Joy McAlpine ESL Teacher K-4 Alookie School

NUNAVUT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Employment Opportunity

Inuit Member Support Coordinator

The Nunavut Teachers' Association (NTA) is a professional organization of approximately 850 teachers who work within Nunavut's publicly funded K-12 school system. NTA is seeking an educational leader to join its team in the pivotal role of Inuit Member Support Coordinator. This position is a full-time 2-year term position effective September 01, 2023. Reporting to the Executive Director, the Inuit Member Support Coordinator is a key member of the NTA staff team.

The ideal candidate will be an experienced educator who is:

- A strong advocate for teacher well-being, professional growth and high-quality, culturally relevant, publicly funded public education.
- Fluent in written and oral Inuktitut.
- Able to work collaboratively with others in a team environment.
- Able to coordinate and deliver quality programs and services to NTA members.
- Proficient in the use of computer software, including but not limited to Microsoft 365 products.
- Familiar with teacher organizations and education-related labour issues throughout Canada.
- Familiar with Nunavut Department of Education resources and curriculums.
- Experienced in conducting group training and information sessions.
- Committed to respond to the direction of NTA's Central Executive Committee and Central Council, while working with partner organizations and government representatives.
- Experienced with communication strategies and media relations.
- A resourceful, creative and strategic thinker, able to make sound decisions under extreme pressures including financial restraints.
- Highly organized.

Responsibilities will include:

- Communicating NTA initiatives and supports to Inuit Members in Inuktitut.
- Collaborate to develop and deliver training programs to NTA Communication Liaisons, PD Liaisons and Regional Executive members.
- Assisting NTA members in Inuktitut with membership protection supports, including but not limited to: Representation at Fact Finding Meetings and other GN disciplinary procedures; Support applications for Inuit Language Allowances; Promote professional development opportunities for Inuit members; Provide support in the job competition and post-hiring process for teaching positions.
- Serve as an ex-officio member and advisor to the NTA's Inuit Educators' Committee.
- Establishing regular contact and support for new Inuit teachers in schools throughout their 2-year probationary period and provide supports upon request.
- Coordinate and facilitate recruitment campaigns designed for Nunavut high schools to promote the teaching profession to graduates.
- Assisting in new initiatives that may in future be offered to Inuit NTA members.
- Extensive travel throughout the territory and nationally to represent our members at sessions directly related to the scope of one's assignment.

A detailed Job Description can be accessed upon request to jfanjoy@ntanu.ca. Fluency in Inuktitut is a requirement.

The successful applicant will be enrolled in the N.E.B.S. benefits and pension plans.

Subsidized staff housing for this position is available upon request.

Your interest in this position is appreciated and all qualified individuals are encouraged to apply. Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Nunavut Inuit who are current NTA members will be given priority consideration.

Please submit your application in confidence, including cover letter, resume and two professional references, not later than 5:00 p.m. EST, Friday, March 3rd 2022, to:

John Fanjoy
Executive Director,
Nunavut Teachers' Association P.O. Box 2458
Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0
jfanjoy@ntanu.ca



This position offers a competitive salary and benefits package including:

- Placement on Level 6 of the NTA salary grid.
- Annual \$5 000.00 Inuit Language Allowance.
- Annual \$1 768.00 Program Development Allowance.
- Northern Living Allowance for Iqaluit of \$15 016.00.

**Thank you for
Making a
Difference
Campaign!**

Students can celebrate teachers by nominating them and describing how teachers have made a positive difference in their life! Students can enter as often as they want and nominate as many teachers as they like! (Complete a separate entry form for each teacher nominated). The entry form can be completed in the language of choice. The **deadline** for submissions is **March 28th, 2023**.

Students can write a poem, create a visual, and/or write a short paragraph about the teacher they are nominating.

Please email entries to
pmacneil@ntanu.ca and
jdawson@ntanu.ca.



Starling

Unplug and Unwind with Mindfulness is a 4-week Mindfulness workshop to help members learn mindfulness techniques for better mental clarity, presence of mind, and calmness through the power of the breath, meditation and more. See the poster below, and access information on this workshop via the following link:

<https://info.starlingminds.com/mindfulness-workshop-nta>

Live Webinar

Unplug and Unwind with Mindfulness

Date: Weekly on Tuesdays | Feb 21st - Mar 14th, 2023 | 7 PM ET

Join our 4-week workshop to learn mindfulness techniques for better mental clarity, presence of mind, and calmness through the power of breath, meditation and more.

How it works

Step 1: Attend 45-minute live training sessions

Step 2: Build mindfulness with Starling Mental Fitness

Step 3: Share your story with peers

You will learn how to:

- Expand your window of tolerance to stay calm under stress
- Understand the impacts of your thoughts and change your internal dialogue
- Become more compassionate and kind towards yourself and others
- Live a more easeful and peaceful life with mindfulness

How do I sign up?

Register Now

Note: Remember to register for **Starling Mental Fitness** program with access code **NTAMEMBER**

Starling Minds is my Meditation and Mindfulness. I try to start each day with an exercise or a training session. The website is a "charging station" for my battery. Thank you! It's love at first sight!

Starling Member

31%

Improvement in anxiety scores

47%

Improvement in depression scores

92%

Starling Approval ratings

98%

Starling has helped their mental health

COMMITTEE UPDATES



In January, the Inuit Educators' Committee had their face-to-face meeting. This meeting allowed a space for this dedicated group of strong Inuit Educators to share, collaborate and promote effective programs for the advancement of Inuit education in Nunavut. Thank you for all the hard work you do!



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT CAMPAIGN...

The Public Relations Committee has started a "Community Spotlight," campaign, and is asking members to share information about their local communities. Consider answering the following questions about your community, and sending your responses to Jennie Dawson at JDawson@gov.nu.ca.

- Which school/community are you from?
- How many teachers are at your school?
- How many students are at your school?
- How does your school incorporate Inuit Qaujimjatuqangit?
- What is special about your community?
- Are there any unique animals in your community?
- Are there any special events happening or that have happened recently in your community?
- Is your school/community doing something exciting? Share any positive news stories.
- Share any photographs of members participating in, or doing great things in your school/community!

TAKULIRIT • FEBRUARY 2023

JONAH MCCALOUR

Rankin Inlet, Kivalliq Region



Q Which school and community do you currently work in?

I currently work as a guidance counsellor at Maani Ulujuk Ilinniarvik in Rankin Inlet.

Q. What made you decide to be a teacher?

I come from a long line of educators, so after my preferred career plans didn't pan out and the 2008 recession wreaked havoc on the job market, I decided to give teaching a shot on a whim. I've been working in education ever since. I guess it's in my blood.

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

Every now and then I get contacted by former students I taught many years ago. They're spread out all over the world... some of them are doctors, professors, lawyers, bus drivers, cashiers... all sorts. Usually, they recall something minute I did that really impacted them... maybe a word of advice, a joke, part of a lesson I taught, or something I did to help them in a time of need. Anyway, they're special interactions and I cherish them. I especially love hearing from former students who are happy and successful despite the adversity they faced when they were younger. Many of them have experienced horrors that are nearly incomprehensible, and indeed some of the students I have taught in Nunavut have survived unspeakable hardships. It's extremely humbling. I worry about my former students in Syria and Yemen in particular. I think of them often.

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

I don't pedestalize myself at work, and I will often work late during the week, but I also establish appropriate boundaries with my students, colleagues and friends and engage in personal activities that help me rejuvenate so I can do my job effectively.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH RESOURCES

The CTF/FCE have shared a compilation of English and French resources to help you celebrate Black History Month (BHM) this February. Email editor@ntanu.ca for the PDF copy of these resources, and additional resources.

English Resources

Anti-Black Racism Resources – Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
<https://www.etfo.ca/socialjusticeunion/anti-black-racism/black-history-month-february>

Anti-Black Racism Resources – Catholic Teacher magazine, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
https://issuu.com/oecta/docs/ct_june2020

- *Catholic Teacher* is OECTA's magazine. The June 2020 edition highlights resources to address anti-Black racism.

Anti Racism Resources – The Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF)
<https://www.stf.sk.ca/professional-resources/stewart-resources-centre/resources/related-links/anti-racism>

- An extensive list of resources and lesson plans compiled by the STF.

365 Black Canadian Curriculum – ETFO
<https://www.etfo.ca/SupportingMembers/Resources/Pages/365.aspx>

- These resources, which support Black Canadian history in Ontario schools, include primary, junior, and intermediate lesson plans.

Black Communities in Canada: A Rich History – National Film Board of Canada (NFB)
https://www.nfb.ca/playlist/nfb_celebrates_black_history_month/

Black History Month Resources & Lesson Plans – The Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS)
http://www.mbteach.org/pdfs/pd/MTS_BHM_ResourcesLessonPlans_22.pdf

Blackness, beauty, and her documentary Subjects of Desire – A Podcast from ETFO
[Jennifer Holness on Blackness, beauty, and her documentary Subjects of Desire](#)

British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF): Show Racism the Red Card
<https://www.bctf.ca/classroom-resources/details/show-racism-the-red-card>

- Adapted from the UK initiative / charity of the same name, *Show Racism the Red Card* is an excellent K - 12 resource with ready-to-go lesson plans for combating racism in society.

Canadian Black History Resources – Quebec Provincial Association of Teachers (QPAT)
<https://qpat-apeq.qc.ca/black-history-month-canada/>

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Learning Week

Professional Development Coordinators Shannon Hessian and Jeff Avery

“

Wishing everyone well with their professional learning week. May it continue to deepen your knowledge, skills and passions as Nunavut Educators, and inform the work that you do with students and colleagues.

For those travelling to the NTI Gathering, we are wishing for good weather and lots of networking opportunities.

The deadline for PD substantiation deadline is March 25th.

”



All members are required to submit the following within 30 days of the approved PD activity taking place in order to substantiate their PD Funding allocation:

- a) An activity report (on the PD Database)
- b) A substantiation report (on the PD Database); and
- c) Receipts (via email or upload on the PD Database).



Teachers at Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit have organized several activities for Black History Month. Activities include daily announcements, trivia activities, film viewings, and hosting special guest speakers at assemblies. Here, principal Tim Hoyt welcomes former Governor General of Canada Michaëlle Jean, who spoke at the opening BHM ceremony for IHS.



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. What is the date of the 2023 Territorial Election?
2. February is Black History Month (BHM). What is the 2023 theme for BHM in Canada?
3. What is the name of Starling Minds 4 week Mindfulness program starting on February 21st?
4. All members are required to substantiate their PD within how many days of the approved PD activity taking place?

TRIVIA WINNERS



All submissions from the December edition of Takulirit were from the same region. As a result, all submissions were put together and 3 winners were chosen.

The three winners of the December edition of Takulirit trivia are:

Kristina Gerk

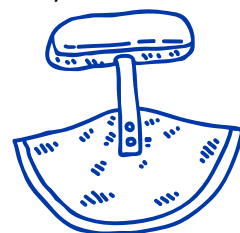
Nasiwik High School,
Pond Inlet

Rhonda McKenzie

Qarmartalik School,
Resolute Bay

Samantha Abbott

Inuksuk High School,
Iqaluit






NUNAVUT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION CONTACT INFORMATION

NTA Office location is:

 2738 A Tasilik Street

 Mailing Address:
Nunavut Teachers'
Association
PO Box 2458,
Iqaluit, NU
X0A 0H0



In January, NTA office staff met with Premier P.J. Akeeagok and Minister of Education Pamela Gross at the NTA office in Iqaluit.

STAFF CONTACT

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PD Coordinator: Jeff Avery
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The Canadian
Centre for Gender
+ Sexual Diversity



Le Centre Canadien
de la Diversité des Genre
+ de la Sexualité

MARCH...

March 31st is International Trans Day of Visibility.
Check out the resources provided by the Canadian
Centre for Gender + Sexual Diversity: <https://ccgsd-ccdgs.org/resources/>.