



EDITION 21 - OCTOBER 2026

NUNAVUT TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



THE TWENTY-FIRST EDITION OF TAKULIRIT





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FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - JUSTIN



JUSTIN MATCHETT

PRESIDENT
CONTACT JUSTIN:

867-979-0750 EXT. 8 (OFFICE)

867-222-9520 (CELL)

JMATCHETT@NTANU.CA

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"Depends on the day! When I am in Iqaluit I am either working on initiatives to continue moving the NTA forward, or making contact with members. If I am on duty travel I am either in schools, or meeting with unions from across Canada to discuss common problems that we are all seeing in education, so we can look for solutions together through collaborative conversations and adapt solutions to best suit the needs of our organization. The rest of my time would be meeting with Department of Education people when I get the chance and the occasional media interview if there is an education related topic that is making the news cycles."

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"Big movie fan. I'm that weird guy that doesn't mind going to the theatre alone if I don't have anybody to with. I just love going to the theatre. Lately though my movie experiences have been whatever my kids have wanted to watch!"

FUN FACT!

Justin is a foodie and it was hard for him to pick just one favourite food. BUT he said "If I had to I would have to say nothing beats a good piece of fried chicken."

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

When I lived in Kugluktuk and Baker Lake I loved going out on the land. Fishing has always reminded me of spending time with my grandfather, and even though he has been gone for awhile, that time on the land, wading in the waters of Nunavut with nothing but the sound of the water running to keep me company made me feel like I was a kid back in the water with him. When I was in Baker Lake I was completely alone and fly fishing and enjoying the stillness. I looked back at the shore after some time passed and there were dozens of Caribou grazing all around me. Where else would that happen?

CHECK OUT JUSTIN'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO MEMBERS ON PAGE #16





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - JOHN



**JOHN
FANJOY**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONTACT JOHN:

867-979-0750 EXT. 7 (OFFICE)

867-222-4488 (CELL)

JFANJOY@NTANU.CA

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

“Responding to members reaching out for support.
Ensuring that direction given by our elected leaders are followed through.
Supporting my colleagues in their daily work.”

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

“Spending time with my family.”

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

“I’ve been fortunate to be able to raise my family in a beautiful environment, where Inuit have welcomed us to their homeland.”

FUN FACT!

John is a sucker for salty treats!

CHECK OUT JOHN’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE TO MEMBERS ON PAGE # 15





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - PATRICIA



PATRICIA MACNEIL

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONTACT PATRICIA:

867-979-0750 EXT. 5 (OFFICE)

867-222-5276 (CELL)

PMACNEIL@NTANU.CA

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"Usually, my day will start with some email fun (and all the coffee!). There might be a scrum with the member services crew. There might be follow up with a GN office on behalf of a member. There might be committee meetings and helping to facilitate committee work by sharing policy, initiatives, and helping with engagement. There might be a CTF or CAPTTO meeting. There will be calls with Principals, VPs, or elected members on a spectrum of concerns. We'll chat about situations and next steps, and really just be a professional sounding board. There will definitely be references to the collective agreement."

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

"Hiking. All the outside fun!"

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"Yoga. Hiking. Travel. Reading."

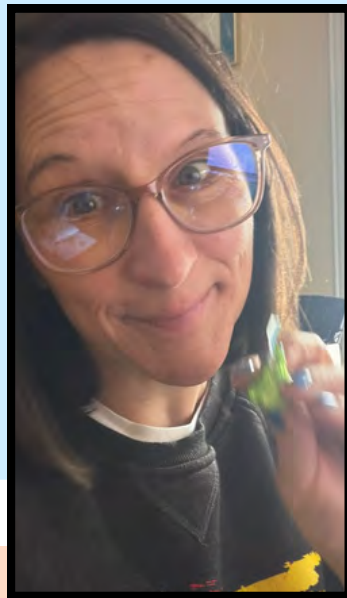
FUN FACT!

Patricia loves chick peas!





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - SONJA



SONJA LONSDALE

DIRECTOR MEMBER SERVICES

CONTACT SONJA:

867-979-0750 EXT. 1 (OFFICE)

867-222-5127 (CELL)

SLONSDALE@NTANU.CA

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"Spending time with family and friends, playing pickleball, riding my e-bike, and watching curling!"

FUN FACT!

Sonja loves potato chips!

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

"By far, the people. Nunavummiut are incredibly welcoming, and there is such a strong sense of pride in their communities and the territory. We are fortunate that they are so gracious in sharing that with us."

One of my favourite traditions in North is gathering for birthdays and holiday celebrations. When we do, we always play dice games. If you've never experienced it, there is truly no better sound than a room full of people laughing hysterically and simply enjoying each other's company. I'm talking full-on belly laughs!"

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"I serve as the primary point of contact for NTA members, with the exception of principals, vice principals, elected members, and Inuit members. A significant part of my role involves providing day-to-day support to members through email and phone conversations."

The issues I assist with are varied and can include concerns related to pay, workplace and member-to-member conflict, and navigating Government of Nunavut departments and processes. I also help members access information and connect with the appropriate resources regarding teacher certification, benefits, human resources, and other employment-related matters.

My role is often about helping members understand their options, identify the appropriate next steps, and navigate processes that can sometimes be complex or difficult to understand."





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - CRIAG



CRAIG MACGREGOR

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR

CONTACT CRAIG:

867-979-0750 EXT. 4 (OFFICE)

867-222-1476 (CELL)

CMACGREGOR@NTANU.CA

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"One of the things I enjoy most about my role is that, much like teaching, no two days are quite the same. I spend a lot of my time connecting with and supporting members across the territory, answering questions and helping them navigate PD opportunities and funding. I also work closely with colleagues and partners to plan programs, events, and initiatives that support meaningful professional development. There's always a mix of planning, problem-solving, and collaboration, which keeps things interesting and rewarding."

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"I love to travel, explore new places, and experience different cultures. I've been fortunate enough to visit nearly 50 countries so far, and there are still so many places I'd love to see. I especially enjoy discovering the food, history, and character of a new destination—and I'm one of those people who enjoys planning the trip almost as much as taking it!"

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

"My favourite part of living in Nunavut is, without question, the people. Over the past 20 years, I've been incredibly fortunate to be welcomed by so many people and to build a life and a home here. I'm also grateful for the opportunities to experience the incredible beauty of the land and nature of the territory. Even after 20 years, I'm still reminded of just how special it is to call Nunavut home."

FUN FACT!

Craig's kryptonite is CEREAL!





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - SHANNON



SHANNON HESSIAN

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR**

CONTACT SHANNON:

867-979-0750 EXT. 3 (OFFICE)

867-222-2735 (CELL)

SHESSIAN@NTANU.CA

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"Days are filled with collaboration with Marsha and Craig, connections with members across the territory on their learning needs, reflection and communication with the PD Council on current PD practices and possibilities. Lots of time on the computer is balanced by the positive environment and collegiality amongst the NTA Staff Team. A highlight is definitely days when we are meeting with members, Council members, liaisons and others who drop into the office. Come visit!"

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"I enjoy time with my boys on the skidoo and dog team exploring the land, hunting, fishing, camping or a picnic."

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

"The change of seasons and the learning opportunities that it can bring into the "lived" curriculum in schools, the celebrations of the harvest and the sun."

FUN FACT!

Shannon loves avocado and frozen tuktu together!





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - MARSHA



MARSHA RHODES

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR**

CONTACT MARSHA:

867-979-0750 EXT. 2 (OFFICE)

867-222-4370 (CELL)

MRHODES@NTANU.CA

FUN FACT!

Marsha loves lobster!

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"I love hanging with my family at home, puppy snuggles included. I also really enjoy cooking, (not baking), canning, sewing, beaching and travelling."

What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

"I moved here in 2003, and at age 47, I have lived over half my life here. Nunavut is home. It is hard to pick a favorite, but outside of friends and family, our landscape and skies are top notch!"

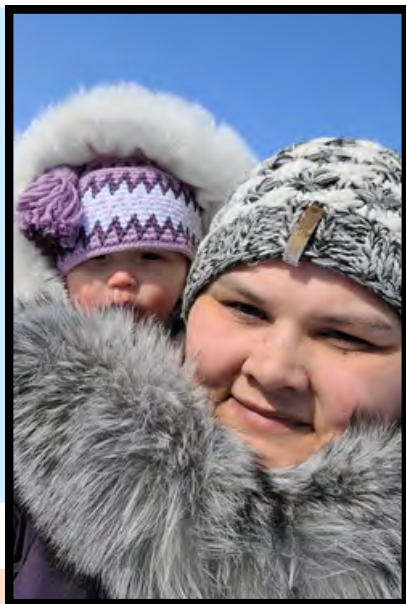
What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"Honestly, there's no typical day, and that's what I love about it! As a PD Coordinator with the NTA, I support teachers across Central Qikiqtani and North Kivalliq, helping them access professional development. My mornings usually start with emails from teachers asking about funding, what's eligible under PD policy, or how to get a course or conference approved. I review applications and follow up when something's missing. The rest depends on the time of year. I might be planning a conference with the team, pull together reports for the Professional Development Council, updating the PD Menu, or working with Connected North on our new database. I also work with Shannon and Craig to prepare cross-training for our wonderful PD Liaisons and put together presentations for Department training sessions. There's plenty of problem-solving too: travel falls through, a community's needs don't fit neatly into a policy, or a new teacher isn't sure where to start. So it's a mix of admin, planning, and lots of great conversations with teachers, all to make PD accessible across communities in this beautiful territory."





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - NATASHA



NATASHA SIMONEE

INUIT MEMBER SUPPORT COORDINATOR

CONTACT NATASHA:

867-222-2296 (CELL)

NSIMONEE@NTANU.CA

FUN FACT!

Natasha loves nikku!

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"My role is to assist, guide, and advocate for Inuit members with membership protection matters, while helping them navigate the process and find answers to their questions. Each day I respond to e-mails, attend meetings and ask John questions"

What is something you enjoy doing outside of work?

"I love spending time outdoors, especially camping and enjoying nature with my family and friends. During the summer, I especially enjoy relaxing at my cabin, narwhal hunting, whale watching, and fishing. In the Spring I love seal hunting (ᑭᑦᑎᑦᑎᑦ). I really enjoy the 24hr. day light. When I can, I enjoy sewing and attempting to bake."



What is your favourite part of living in Nunavut?

"ooooo, this is a hard one to answer, there are so many great things about living in Nunavut... some of my favourite things about living in Nunavut would be all the sun we get in Spring and Summer, being around family and friends, even if we aren't in the same community we are close enough that we get to see each other often and of course Christmas time. The community traditions with the C-Hall being open for games and dances all night, FUN!"





FACES OF THE NTA OFFICE - BRIAN



BRIAN BARRY

**FINANCIAL CONTROLLER AND
NTA PD FUNDS
ADMINISTRATOR**

CONTACT BRIAN:

867-979-0750 EXT. 6 (OFFICE)

867-222-1090 (CELL)

BBARRY@NTANU.CA

What does a typical day at the office look like for you?

"8:30-4:30 PM"

**What is something you enjoy
doing outside of work?**

"Collecting hockey cards"

**What is your favourite
part of living in Nunavut?**

"Learning Inuktitut"

FUN FACT!

Brian loves nachos!

MORE ABOUT BRIAN:

Brian Barry is the PDC PD Fund Administrator. He handles the financial reimbursements once a funding opportunity has been approved by the PD Coordinators. Brian works very hard to get members their money as quickly as possible!





MEET THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT
JUSTIN
MATCHETT
IQALUIT



VICE
PRESIDENT
ELIZABETH
RYAN
IQALUIT



**SECRETARY-
TREASURER**
KYLIE
CURRY
RANKIN INLET



INUIT MEMBER
AT LARGE
EMMA
PAULOOSIE
GJOA HAVEN



NORTH KIVALLIQ
PRESIDENT
JACQUES
THERIAULT
CHESTERFIELD INLET



SOUTH KIVALLIQ
PRESIDENT
BAILEY
GREENE
ARVIAT



NORTH QIKIQTANI
PRESIDENT
LENA
ENOOAGAK
POND INLET



CENTRAL QIKIQTANI
PRESIDENT
LISA
SCELLENBERGER
IQALUIT



SOUTH QIKIQTANI
PRESIDENT
JOHN
STEWART
KINGAIT



KITIKMEOT
PRESIDENT
SUSIE
HILLIER
GJOA HAVEN





MEET THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

KITIKMEOT:

PRESIDENT:

Susie Hillier (Gjoa Haven)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Abhimanyu Abhimanyu (Kugluktuk)

INUIT MEMBER AT LARGE: VACANT

SECRETARY/TREASURER: VACANT

NORTH QIKIQTANI:

PRESIDENT:

Lena Enooagak (Pond Inlet)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Heather Enooagak (Pond Inlet)

INUIT MEMBER AT LARGE:

Jacintha Apak (Pond Inlet)

CENTRAL QIKIQTANI:

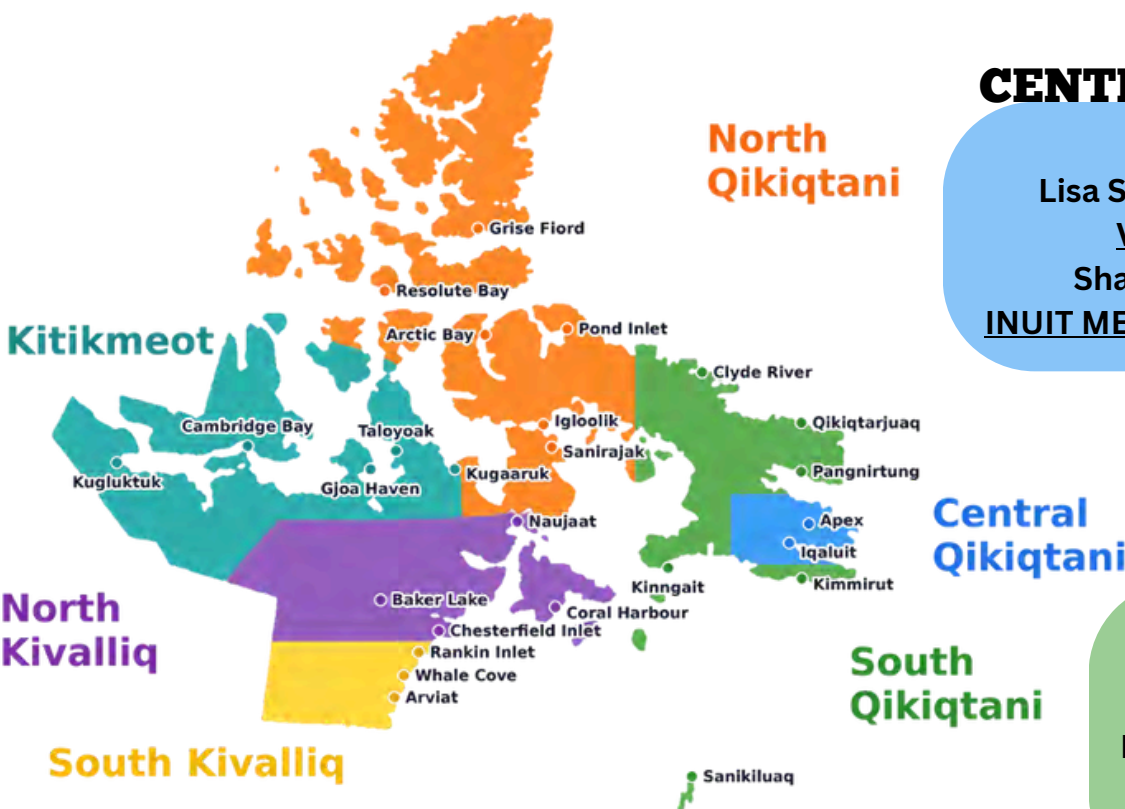
PRESIDENT:

Lisa Schellenberger (Iqaluit)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Shauna Beaton (Iqaluit)

INUIT MEMBER AT LARGE: VACANT



SOUTH QIKIQTANI:

PRESIDENT:

John Stewart (Kinngait)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Brody MacAskill (Kimmirut)

INUIT MEMBER AT LARGE:

Charlotte Crow (Sanikiluaq)

NORTH KIVALLIQ:

PRESIDENT:

Jacques Theriault (Chesterfield Inlet)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Jane Oliver (Baker Lake)

INUIT MEMBER AT LARGE:

Jeannie Tapatai (Baker Lake)

SOUTH KIVALLIQ:

PRESIDENT:

Bailey Greene (Arviat)

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Rob Humby (Rankin Inlet)

INUIT MEMBER AT LARGE:

Nancy Uluadluak-Gibbons (Arviat)





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE FROM NTA PRESIDENT – JUSTIN MATCHETT

Hello NTA members.

I hope that you are doing well and that school is off to a great start. We are in October already, hard to believe. With the way this year has started, I have a feeling my last year is going to fly by!

We just finished our school rep training and I want to express a heartfelt thank you to all of the school reps that volunteered their time, made a week worth of sub plans, and came to Iqaluit to help make the NTA stronger.

I expressed this at the training but the work that we do at the NTA wouldn't be possible without the help of all our school reps keeping things going on the ground in our schools. From elections and PD applications to sharing NTA information with colleagues, the work that you do is significant and extremely important to us. Thank you all for your dedication.

It was really nice to see so many new faces this year at training. It is wonderful to see that there is a growing interest in the NTA and the work that we do.

I know that many of our schools are still understaffed and have faced challenges to begin the year. The resilience and perseverance of the staff in those situations is commendable. It seems that, year after year, we continue to face challenges that people outside our profession could never fully understand. They view our concerns as trivial or menial and yet we continue to persevere.

Our profession continues to be devalued and, while we understand the need for unqualified teachers, it is starting to become normalized. I don't think the majority of the public across Canada are completely aware of how many of their children are being taught by unqualified teachers.

There has been so much focus on the negative aspects of teaching over the last few years, that I think it is time to flip the narrative.

Teaching currently has a massive PR issue. It has become an unattractive career option, and with the way that the profession is viewed and treated by employers across the country, it is no wonder retention is at an all time low and people are choosing other professions.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINNUED

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT – JUSTIN MATCHETT CONTINUED...



With all the negative out there the positives are being overshadowed, and there are so many positives, especially when it comes to teaching in Nunavut. The opportunities and experiences that are available here are unlike any other jurisdiction in the country, and we need to highlight them.

This year I challenge all of you to highlight all the positives that are happening in your school. Let's make good news stories about the schools in Nunavut a regular thing.

Reach out to us to highlight what is happening. Let us help you spread the word about a special event going on in your school. Having an elders feast? Christmas concert? Culture day? Get that information out there!

I think we all feel the pressure that is put upon us, and we forget to celebrate the amazing things that are happening because we've let the negative weigh us down.

I am not saying the hardship isn't there. It is. Nobody can deny that.

What I am saying is that I know that each and every one of you overcome those hardships day after day and create safe and wonderful spaces for your students. You provide them with opportunities and experiences that need to be celebrated. These stories can no longer be drowned out and buried by the negative.

Let's bring the positive to the forefront.

That is my hope for all of you. That you'll find time to recognize and enjoy the positives when they happen and that those experiences you'll remember and you share. There is incredible work happening in our schools every day, and I want more people to know about it. You deserve to have that work recognized.

Have a great school year, reach out and connect at any time!

Cheers,

Justin





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – JOHN FAJOY

As we settle into another school year, I thought it would be important to share with you three best practices to use in the first couple of months back at school.

I want to encourage each of you to take a few minutes to review your early-year paystubs carefully. The start of the year is when most teachers will be moving up a level on the salary grid and receiving negotiated pay increases. It is also when errors are most likely to appear, whether due to the change in your salary grid placement, deductions, or benefits enrolment. Catching a mistake early is far easier than trying to correct months of discrepancies later. If something doesn't look right, please reach out to staff here at the NTA office, we're here to help sort it out.

This is also a good time to revisit your Collective Agreement. It is important for you to know what entitlements and employment protections you have available to you when making plans for the year, from leave provisions and professional development opportunities to working conditions and allowances. Knowing your rights is the best way to make sure they're respected, and it helps all of us hold the line on what we've negotiated together. A current copy is available on the NTA website, and our staff are always happy to answer questions about how any article of the Collective Agreement applies to your situation.

Finally, and this one is more of a personal suggestion for teachers new to Nunavut, get out there and enjoy the land! Teaching in Nunavut can be demanding, but we're fortunate to live and work in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. As the snow and ice arrive,

I hope you'll get out on the land with family, friends, and colleagues. If you've been thinking about investing in a snowmobile or ATV, I highly recommend it. It's a wonderful way to explore, connect with your community, and recharge. Being on the land with experienced community members will also help expand your understanding of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and leads to deeper connections with your students. Be safe, but take advantage to the wonderful opportunities to explore the land. Wishing you all a healthy and rewarding year ahead!

In solidarity,
John





FINDING IMPORTANT NTA DOCUMENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (PD DOCUMENTS)



GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS:



- Collective Agreement (in English, French and Inuktitut)
- Bylaw and Policy Book
- Code of Ethics
- GN HR Manual
- NTA Substitute Guide (in English, French and Inuktitut)
- Legal Assistance Request Form
- Spring School & Regional Elections Nomination Forms
- NTA Teaching Excellence Awards Nomination Form

TEACHING EXCELLENCE NOMINATION



ALL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON NTANU.CA UNDER:
HOW WE WORK → GOVERNANCE
WHAT WE DO → PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



UPCOMING DATES

NOV
ALL
MONTH

INDIGENOUS DISABILITY AWARENESS

Raises awareness about challenges faced by Indigenous peoples with disabilities and promotes inclusion.

NOV
ALL
MONTH

MOVEMBER

Movember is an annual global event held every November where people grow moustaches to raise awareness and funds for critical men's health issues

7
NOV

INTERNATIONAL INUIT DAY

Honors the culture, resilience, and contributions of Inuit peoples across the Arctic.

8
NOV

INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

Honors the military service and sacrifices of Indigenous peoples in Canada.

11
NOV

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Honors and remembers the courage and sacrifices of Canadian military personnel who served in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping missions.

30
NOV

PD WEEK APPLICATIONS DUE

PD Week applications due on Connected North.
Talk to your school's PD Liaison for your school's respective deadline.





NTA COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Below are lists of the NTA Special and Standing Committee contacts 2026-2027!

Inuit Educators' Committee

- Emma Pauloosie (epauloosie@ntanu.ca)
- Natasha Sminonee (nsimonee@ntanu.ca)

Curriculum Support Committee

- Bailey Greene (bgreene@ntanu.ca)
- Sonja Lonsdale (slonsdale@ntanu.ca)

Discipline Committee

- John Fanjoy (jfanjoy@ntanu.ca)

Finance Committee

- Kylie Curry (kcurry@ntanu.ca)
- John Fanjoy (jfanjoy@ntanu.ca)

Legislative Committee

- Elizabeth Ryan (eryan@ntanu.ca)
- Patricia MacNeil (pmacneil@ntanu.ca)

Professional Relations Committee

- John Fanjoy (jfanjoy@ntanu.ca)

Public Relations Committee

- Elizabeth Ryan (eryan@ntanu.ca)
- Patricia MacNeil (pmacneil@ntanu.ca)

Status of Women Committee

- Emily Nielsen
- Patricia MacNeil (pmacneil@ntanu.ca)

DEI Committee (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion: Innuqatigiisiarniq)

- Moyra Wallace
- Natasha Simonee (nsimonee@ntanu.ca)

Education Leave Committee

- Shannon Hessian (shessian@ntanu.ca)
- Craig MacGregor (cmacgregor@ntanu.ca)
- Marsha Rhodes (mrhodes@ntanu.ca)

Safe Schools/Anti-Violence Committee

- Justin Matchett (jmatchett@ntanu.ca)

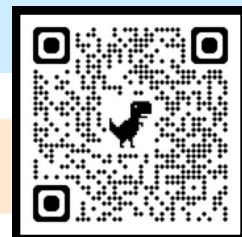
Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council

- Tessa Thurber

Agentes de liaison de la Federation Canadienne des Enseignants

- Carine Siewe

For more information on NTA committees, what they do and how to get involved in the future, scan this QR code!





NTA COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT - DEII COMMITTEE

FROM THE DEII COMMITTEE:

WHAT IS THE DEII COMMITTEE?

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Inuuqatigiitsiarniq Committee (DEII)

WHAT IS THE MAIN GOAL OF THE DEII COMMITTEE?

“The DEII Committee is an advisory committee that provides recommendations, guidance, and advice to Central Executive on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the NTA and Nunavut schools. Our mandate includes addressing bias and discrimination, developing inclusive policies, and supporting member engagement and education.”

SOMETHING THE DEII COMMITTEE IS PROUD OF:

“As a newer committee, we are proud of the momentum we’ve built and the connections we’ve made with members and community organizations across the territory. We’re excited about the foundation we’re building and the long-term potential of our work to come.”

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEII COMMITTEE!

“Attending meetings, sharing your perspectives and experiences, and engaging with your local community to bring their experiences and needs back to the committee.”

SOMETHING THE DEII COMMITTEE WANTS MEMBERS TO KNOW ABOUT THEIR COMMITTEE:

“I wish more members knew just how broad our mandate is, and that we exist as a committee specifically focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, and Inuuqatigiitsiarniq. I've spoken with many members who are surprised to learn about the work we're doing and that our mandate includes addressing issues that affect both our students and us as educators.”





TAKULIRIT CONTESTS & ENGAGEMENT!

CONTESTS:

TAKULIRIT TRIVIA CONTEST



CLICK HERE TO ENTER!

STAFF SHOUTOUT CONTEST

GIVE A SHOUTOUT TO SOMEONE AT YOUR SCHOOL.
YOU WILL BOTH BE ENTERED TO WIN A PRIZE!



CLICK HERE TO ENTER!

ENGAGEMENT:

TAKULIRIT POLL EDITION 21

ENGAGE IN OUR POLL OF THE EDITION. RESULTS OF THE POLL WILL
BE POSTED IN TAKULIRIT EDITION 22



SUBMIT A STORY TO TAKULIRIT EDITION 22!

SUBMISSIONS CAN ALSO BE SENT TO EDITOR@NTANU.CA



CONTESTS CAN ALSO BE SENT OVER E-MAIL. SEND AN EMAIL TO EDITOR@NTANU.CA AND YOU WILL BE SENT A COPY OF THE CONTESTS OR POLL.





Mo Teachers, Mo Impact: Join the MOrthern Lips!



Hello NTA members!



This November, the NTA has issued a challenge to teacher organizations across Canada to participate in the Movember fundraising campaign. We're calling it Mo Teachers, Mo Impact!

Movember is an organization that originally focused on raising funds for prostate and testicular cancer research. Over the years, it has expanded its work to include men's mental health and suicide prevention.

It is no secret to any of us that suicide in Nunavut is a serious problem. As an organization, we are always advocating for more mental health supports for our students and teachers, and we thought issuing this challenge would be a great way to bring conversations about mental health to the forefront.

We are asking all of our members to sign up for Movember and join our NTA team, The MOrthern Lips! As a small organization, we want to show the rest of the country what we can accomplish when we work together for a great cause.

To make the competition fair for organizations of all sizes, the winner will be determined by the amount of money raised per member. This means that even though we're one of the smaller teacher organizations in Canada, we have every opportunity to come out on top!

While Movember focuses on men's mental health, we know that conversations about mental health can help reduce stigma for everyone, regardless of gender, and encourage people to feel more comfortable reaching out and asking for help.

And remember, you don't have to grow a moustache to participate! You can organize a school fundraiser, take part in physical activities, share your Movember page with friends and family, or simply make a donation. Every contribution helps.

We hope that many of you will join us for the Mo Teachers, Mo Impact challenge and help The MOrthern Lips raise funds and awareness for mental health, suicide prevention, and cancer research.

Scan the QR code on the poster (on the next page) to sign up, join our team, and help us show the rest of Canada what Nunavut teachers can do!





Mo Teachers, Mo Impact: Join the MOrthern Lips!

MOVEMBER

GROW A MOUSTACHE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

STRONG TEACHERS. HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES.

WE'RE TAKING ON

The MOrthern Lips

MO TEACHERS MO IMPACT
A MOVEMBER CHALLENGE FOR CANADA'S TEACHER ORGANIZATIONS

JOIN OUR TEAM!

1 Sign up for Movember (or log in to your account).

2 Join our team: **The MOrthern Lips**

3 Start growing, moving or fundraising!

GROW A MOUSTACHE
Show your support and start the conversation.

MOVE FOR CHANGE
Walk, run or get active for men's health.

RAISE FUNDS
Help support men's mental health, suicide prevention, and prostate and testicular cancer research.

SHARE OUR PAGE
Post on your socials and encourage others to donate to the MOrthern Lips team!

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
SUPPORTING MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH, SUICIDE PREVENTION, AND PROSTATE AND TESTICULAR CANCER RESEARCH.

LET'S SHOW CANADA WHAT NUNAVUT TEACHERS CAN DO!



Raising Awareness for Men's Health

MOVEMBER





MEMBER BENEFITS

UNION SAVINGS

As an NTA member you have access to a discount website called Union Savings. The sign up is very easy and there are a number of websites you can obtain discounts from just by signing up as an NTA member.

Check it out!



CANVA FOR TEACHERS

Canva for Education is a free design platform for eligible teachers that makes it easy to create engaging classroom resources, presentations, worksheets, posters, and visual learning materials. It offers a wide range of customizable templates and tools to help bring your teaching ideas to life!



FLIGHT DISCOUNTS

As NTA members there are flight discounts you can use.



CALM AIR:
Teach15



CANADIAN NORTH:
NTA99

STAPLES TEACHER MEMBERSHIP:

Members receive a variety of discounts including discounts on: Bell Mobile plans, classroom decor, stickers and storage, printing, and more.





A NOTE FROM THE PD COORDINATORS

NEW PD Policy:

General Policy 2.2 - PD Activities Outside of Canada:

Professional development initiatives that are not Canadian based, including conferences, symposiums, institutes, credit and non-credit courses, and other activities are not eligible for PD funding unless they are directly tied to a Department of Education and/or Nunavut Teachers' Association initiative.

Change to PD Policy:

STA Policy 5 - Conferences, Symposiums & Institutes

Applications for conferences, symposiums or institutes must be received no later than 60 days before the start date of the event.

New PD database:

We've updated and moved the NTA PD Database! The new and improved database can be found on the Connected North platform under "My Learning → PD Funding and Programs".



PD Menu:

Professional development options curated for Nunavut educators. Browse by topic, filter by format, and click to access resources directly.





PD DATES FROM THE PD COORDINATORS



November

1

TEACHING TOGETHER APPLICATIONS DUE!

If you're interested in applying for Teach Together, applications are due November 1st. See Lisa's story on Teach Together later in this edition to learn about her experience.



November

30

PD WEEK APPLICATIONS DUE

- PD Week Applications submitted on the PD Database (applications not necessary for North and Central Qikiqtani members attending the conference)
- Your School PD Liaison will let you know the local deadline for having applications submitted for School PD Committee review and acknowledgement.
- Leaders of group activities are asked to submit their group leader application early to facilitate a smooth application process for all group members.



February

5

EDUCATION LEAVE APPLICATIONS DUE

If you're interested in applying for Education Leave, applications are due on February 5th, 2027 by 11:59 EST (Iqaluit time)





NEW TO NUNAVUT - GEMMA, KINNGAIT



Meeting Gemma MacPherson

Gemma MacPherson came to teach in Nunavut from Antigonish, Nova Scotia and is now a Grade 7 teacher at Peter Pitseolak High School in Kinngait.



What is currently on your Nunavut bucket list?

"Going for a drive to the park on a clear night and catching a glimpse of the northern lights in full effect is at the top of my bucket list!"

What made you decide to teach in Nunavut?

"A good friend of mine, Jade, who has been teaching in Nunavut for several years has always shared such cool stories and adventures about her experiences living and teaching there. Hearing about her experiences inspired me to take the leap, move away from home, and try something new!"

What has been your favourite part of your Nunavut experience so far?

"I've only been in Nunavut for five weeks, and I've already had so many incredible experiences! Some of the highlights so far have been carving Inukshuks from soapstone with my students, hiking on Mallik Island, and purchasing my first atigi from a very talented local seamstress named Oooloosie, who also happens to be a colleague of mine! But I have to say, my absolute favorite part of Nunavut has been all of the wonderful people I've met. The people truly make the place, and I feel so grateful to be surrounded by some of the very best!"

So far Gemma describes her experience in Nunavut as:

Scenic Welcoming Eventful





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - SUSAN, GJOA HAVEN



Meeting Susan Hillier

Susan Hillier is a teacher of 36 years who is currently the Principal of Quqshuun Ilihakvik school (grades K-6) in Gjoa Haven. Outside of work Susan enjoys visiting with family and friends, spending time with her grandchildren and online shopping.

What is something unique you do at your school?

“I work hard to build capacity at our school to strengthen the skills of all staff as we are all life long learners.”



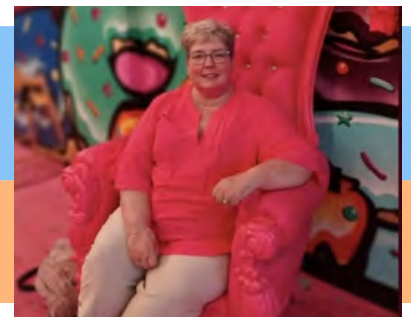
Do you hold and positions in the NTA? Why did you get involved?



“I have been involved with the union before it was the NTA and was the NWTTA. I have held various positions Communication Liaison, PD liaison, Regional Member at large, Regional vice president and currently is the Regional President. I got involved to inform myself what entitlements we have and I like to share this with others.”

What is one lesson you've learned from your students that has changed the way you teach or lead?

“Kindness goes a long way in building relationships.”





INUIT EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT - RHONDA (GJOA HAVEN)

Meeting Rhonda Nimiqtaqtuq

Rhonda Nimiqtaqtuq is a grade 8 teacher at Qiqirtaq High School in Gjoa Haven. Besides her classroom duties Rhonda also helps out with programs for her students such as Makigiaqtaq, YAP and Skills Nunavut.



What inspired you to become an educator?

"I became a teacher because I was taught to help others when needed. So becoming a teacher made me think I can help community members, beginning with youth and helping their parents and interacting with elders through school and community events."

What is something you do in your classroom that you want to share with other educators?

"I recently started teaching Junior high as I was teaching high school students for a few years. My students previous teacher would bring country food to share with the class so I caught on and I started bringing country food, not only myself. Some of the students bring country food to share with the class. so once or twice a month we bring country food to the class to share as a class."

What is your hope for education in Nunavut?

"A hope I have for education in Nunavut is for our students to know and understand asking for help is a good thing and not to be afraid of asking questions. To inform the communities education is a never ending process of learning as we begin to learn from home and it continues with education academically."

What does being an Inuit educator mean to you?

"Being and Inuit educator means to have a career of your choice. When you want something find people who will be there to help and support you to achieve your dreams and goals. Don't stop yourself from trying to be something that fits with you and your life. Since I became a teacher I am still learning skills which I use when I learn them and I continue to practice the skills I learned. There is more than one way to teach and be taught. Teachers and community members come together to pass on knowledge and skills we need in our daily lives."





A DAY IN THE LIFE AT KULLIK (CAMBRIDGE BAY)

KULLIK AT A GLANCE

Kullik Ilihavik is located in the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay and serves students in Grades Kindergarten to six. Guided by the school slogan, "Lighting the way to the future," the school fosters a strong sense of community, belonging, and school spirit amongst its students and staff.



KULLIK BY THE NUMBERS

Community Population: ~2000
 Number of Students: 208
 Number of NTA Staff: 15
 Number of Classrooms: 12
 Year the school was built: 1995

OUR PEOPLE, OUR PRIORITY

FOR THE STUDENTS

We have a positive office brag tag system where teachers catch their kids doing positive things in school or things that align with IQ principles. The teachers celebrate the great behaviours by sending students down to the office where admin sing to the child, give them a certificate and celebrate them at assemblies. Our SST, Samantha, also has set up a learning centre called the Green Zone, for students' sensory breaks, tier 2 and 3 intervention, and a drop-in for students who need a quiet space to work or get some extra support.

Our school uses a Teams chat to share resources with one another. When there is a need, staff members are always willing to share with one another. Our school does a staff appreciation sharing at every staff meeting as well.

FOR THE STAFF

"I love working at our school because of the relationships we are able to build with our students and families. In a small community, you really get to know your students beyond the classroom and it makes the work feel incredibly meaningful."
 - Tori

"I like my admin (very direct and supportive), I like our staff (we have a culture of helping one another out and supporting wherever possible), I like the energy in our school regarding students first always, and I like that our kids show up excited and have actually relationships with the staff!" - Sam





EMBRACING INUIT CULTURE IN OUR SCHOOLS

Rhonda Nimiqtatqutq, a grade 8 teacher in Gjoa Haven, also our Inuit Educator spotlight in this edition submitted a story about her class and scraping Polar Bear hides with elders. Rhonda says her class was taught by Elders Martha Atchochok and Mary Porter how to scrape polar bear hides. They also enjoyed country food as a class.



INUKTUT WORD OF THE EDITION

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PILIRIQATIGIINGNIQ

Meaning: working together, collaboration, team work!

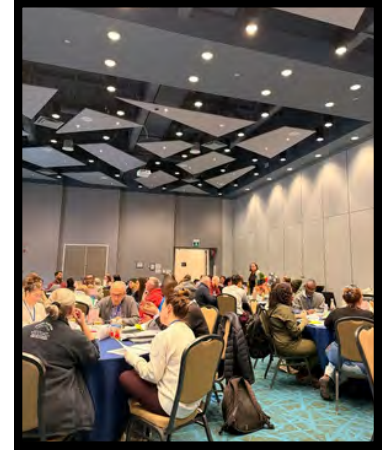
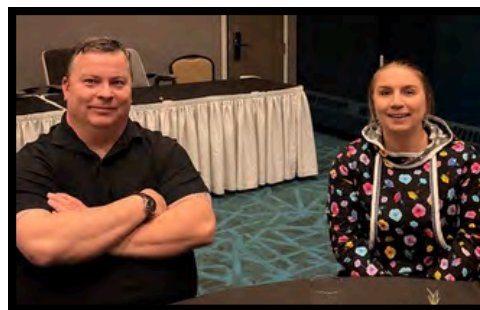
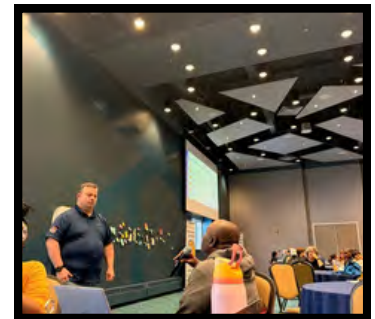
This Inuktitut word of the edition is inspired by our roles as educators that centre around working together, collaboration and teamwork.





PDL AND CL IN-PERSON CROSS TRAINING

Professional Development Liaisons and Communication Liaisons from schools across the Territory gathered in Iqaluit for Cross-Training and Connected North/GN Training from October 19-22, 2026.





LISA'S TEACHING TOGETHER EXPERIENCE

My Teaching Together Experience in The Gambia

By: Lisa Schellenberger

This past summer, I had the honour of participating in the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF-FCE) Teaching Together Program. I had the privilege of travelling to The Gambia and working alongside educators from Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Ontario, and different parts of The Gambia.

Our team first met virtually earlier in the year and then had the opportunity to meet in person in Ottawa before our departure. We spent time getting to know one another and completed our orientation and pre-travel training. By the time we left for The Gambia, we were already feeling like a team!

From the moment we arrived in the Gambia, we were welcomed with incredible warmth by members of the Gambia Teachers' Union. My team of four spent one-week in the capital city of Banjul before travelling inland to Kaur for another week. Both experiences were incredibly engaging and rewarding, and we had the opportunity to learn alongside educators from both Canada and The Gambia.

During our time there, each Canadian educator was partnered with a Gambian teacher to co-plan and co-facilitate professional learning sessions for Gambian teachers in their first five years of teaching. My topic was Communication, and I really enjoyed working with my Gambian partner to develop and deliver our sessions. It was a great opportunity to share ideas and experiences, but also to learn from one another.

While the professional learning was an important part of the experience, the relationships we built were what made it so special. I learned so much from my colleagues and gained experiences and memories that I will cherish for years to come.

If you are interested in applying to the CTF/FCE Teaching Together program, I would highly recommend putting your name forward and applying for this incredible opportunity! Teaching Together is so much more than a professional learning opportunity, it is an opportunity to connect, learn, share, and build lasting relationships with educators around the world. I encourage you to take the opportunity and apply. You will come home with new connections, new perspectives, and memories that will last a lifetime.

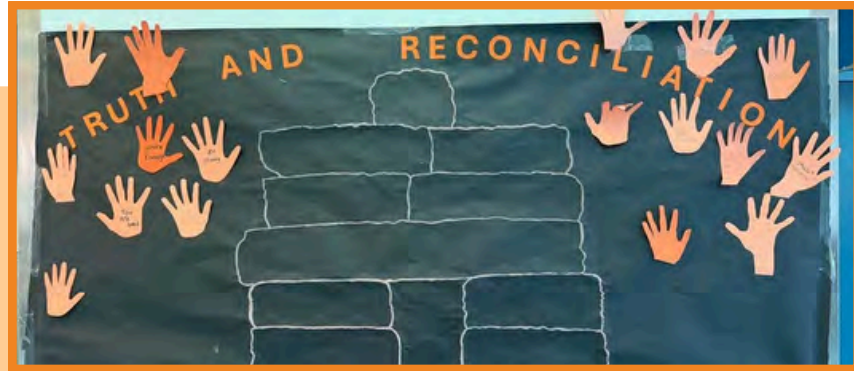




ORANGE SHIRT DAY AT IGLULIK HIGH SCHOOL (IGLOOLIK)

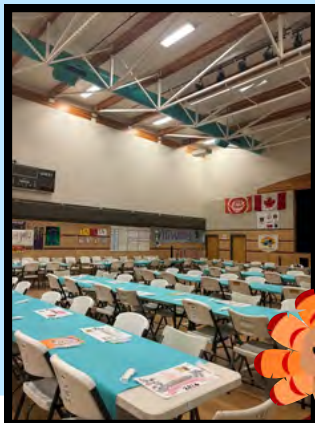
Iglulik High School Commemorates National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Iglulik High School in Igloolik hosted a bunch for students and their families to commemorates Truth and Reconciliation day. They were very pleased to see such a strong community participation and engagement throughout the event.



THANKSGIVING AT JIMMY HIKOK ILIHAKVIK (KUGLUKTUK)

JHI's Thanksgiving Feast was a beautiful celebration of community, gratitude and togetherness! They were very happy to welcome elders, community members, and RCMP members to enjoy a delicious meal together. The day was filled with smiles, great music, delicious food and meaningful connections!





IIKELC: UVANGAUJUNGA: I'M MYSELF!

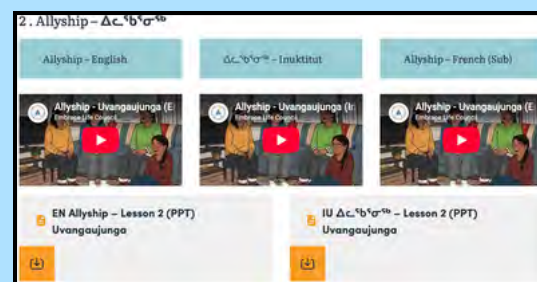
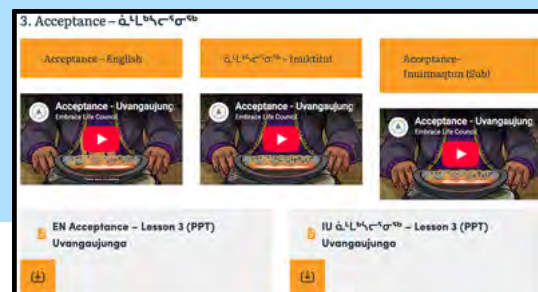
From IIKECL:

"October is LGBT History Month in Canada, and we want to commemorate it by re-launching our Pride campaign called Uvangaungunga: I'm Myself!

As part of the campaign, we have developed 3 videos and accompanying lesson plans. The lesson plans are designed to encourage open dialogue about allyship and the history of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

Here is the link to our website

<https://inuusiq.com/resource/uvangaungunga/>



NTA COMMUNICATIONS & FACEBOOK

Make sure you register to receive NTA Communications e-mails!



Nunavut Teachers' Association

Private group · 493 members

Join group

facebook

Scan this QR code or search "Nunavut Teachers' Association" on facebook for updates and information on the NTA!





TAKULIRIT EDITION 20 CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS!

TAKULIRIT EDITION 20 TRIVIA WINNER:

Darlene Gibbons

TAKULIRIT EDITION 20 YEARBOOK CONTEST WINNER:

Rhonda McKenzie

PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR@NTANU.CA FOR YOUR PRIZE

MEET THE EDITOR - SAMANTHA LAKE



Hello!

My name is Samantha Lake, this is my 6th year living in beautiful Arviat! I am the SST at John Arnalukjuak High School in Arviat and I am excited to be in my second term as the Takulirit editor!

Last year I loved getting to connect with different members across the Territory and look forward to connecting with more this year. My favourite part about this role is getting to share the wonderful work and contributions of educators in Nunavut. I am always looking for stories and photos to share in Takulirit so if you feel like you have something you are proud of or would like to share, please e-mail me at editor@ntanu.ca or fill out the form linked on the Contest and Engagement page!

Thank you for all you do across the Territory and I look forward to hopefully connecting soon!



E-mail me at: editor@ntanu.ca

