



# NWTTA Newsletter

## The Cliff King Award

The Cliff King Award, named in honour of the late Cliff King, a Northwest Territories teacher for almost 30 years, was initiated to recognize the outstanding contribution of members of the NWTTA to the Association. This award was established to recognize the outstanding contribution of members of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association to the Association. It is a prestigious award, considered to be the highest honour the Association bestows on a member. A maximum of one award may be presented each year and awards are open to any active member or life or honorary member of the Association within two years after retirement from teaching.

Cliff was very involved in the NWTTA and made a lasting contribution to the Association. He held, on a number of occasions, Regional Executive positions, including that of Regional President, served on several Regional Committees, including the Regional Professional Development Committee, and assisted many teachers, especially new teachers, with concerns they had.

Cliff also served the Association at the Territorial level. He was elected several times to positions on Central Executive, including Regional Presidents' Representative and Secretary-Treasurer. Cliff also served on several Standing Committees, one of which was the Collective Bargaining Committee. It was while attending negotiations as a member of the Collective Bargaining Committee in February 2003 that Cliff suddenly passed away.

Winner of the 2003/04 Cliff King Award: Pat Burnstad  
Winner of the 2004/05 Cliff King Award: Michelle Brown

All the information on the Cliff King Award was faxed to your school on January 10, 2006. It is also available on page 68 of the NWTTA By-Laws and Policy Handbook or on the website at [http://www.nwttan.ca/awards\\_bursaries.html](http://www.nwttan.ca/awards_bursaries.html).

*Continued from page 1....*

Teachers are notorious for underplaying their contributions to society. I think it is because we honestly have one of those jobs where you are never truly finished. There is always more to do, more to learn and more to prepare.

Please take the time to acknowledge the work you do, encourage your staff's participation in Thank You For Making a Difference. Look around your region, if there is an educator you feel deserves recognition, nominate them for the Cliff King award.

Professionally yours,

Amanda Mallon  
President

## From the President's Desk

### Taking time to appreciate the work you do!

Happy New Year to you all. I hope wherever you spent your break, you had a restful and re-energizing holiday.

We are off to a busy start here in Central Office as we get ready for a number of upcoming events. Some of our current projects include:

- upcoming elections;
- the YK teachers' conference;
- the February legislative session;
- consultations with ECE on the Inclusive School Directive, the Aboriginal and Culture Based Directive, Alberta Achievement Tests, the Strategic plan; and
- last but definitely not least, two very important public relations initiatives - the Cliff King Award and the Thank You for Making a Difference Campaign.

I would like to bring to your attention a couple of campaigns that honour the work you do as an educator. The Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence is a national award to honour teachers across the country. This year's deadline has been extended to February 10, 2006. Since the separation of Nunavut in 1999, we have had two winners from the NWT:

- 2001 - Sue Franklin, teacher, École St. Joseph School, Yellowknife; and
- 2002 - Gayla Meredith, teacher, Range Lake North School, Yellowknife.

The Association sent information on this prestigious award to administrators and posted it on the First Class Client Staffroom and NWTTA folder in early January. More details are available at [www.pma-ppm.ca](http://www.pma-ppm.ca).

The ninth annual THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE campaign was launched on January 16 and will run until February 14th, Valentine's Day. This is a wonderful opportunity for students across the NWT to acknowledge the great work YOU do every day. We are trying a different format this year where we ask students to bring their entries directly to the community or neighbourhood school. The name of one student and teacher will be drawn from these entries and sent to Central Office to be entered in the larger Grand Prize draw. See page 5 for further details.

We have also informed members of the NWTTA Cliff King Award, which is another opportunity to acknowledge a dedicated NWTTA educator. For more information see page 8.

*Continued on page 8.....*

Amanda Mallon and Colleen Eckert making choices at the CTF Inclusion Conference, Ottawa, ON.



From the President's Desk	1
Executive Director	2
Notice of Motion	3
YK Educators' Conference	4
Reminder-Education Leave	4
Thank You for Making a Difference	5
Teacher Resources	6
The Cliff King Award	8
President's Agenda	8
AND MUCH MUCH MORE!	

## President's Agenda December - January

### December

- 1 Meeting with General Manager NewsNorth, Mike Scott re: Thank You for Making a Difference Campaign
- 2 School visit and presentation, Mezi Community School, Wha Ti, Tlicho
- 6 School visit and presentation, École Allain St. Cyr, CSFD, YK
- 7 YK #1 General Meeting, Mildred Hall School
- 8 YK #1 Meeting DEA Office re: PD
- 9 Meeting with Robert Jacques and Catharine Mains, Dehcho Executive, NWTTA Office
- 10 Central Executive Meeting, YK
- 13 Meeting with Intensive French Steering Committee, YK #1
- 16/17 Meet and greet at YZF

### January

- 3 School visit and presentation, JH Sissons, YK #1
- 5 School visit and presentation, EMES, Rae, Tlicho
- 6 Meeting with ECE re: Alberta Achievement Tests
- 11 Attendance at ECE's Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive Meeting
- 12 Attendance at ECE's Inclusive Schooling Directive Meeting
- 16 School visit and presentation, Deh Gah Community School, Fort Providence, Dehcho
- 17 School visit and presentation, Kakisa Lake Community School, Kakisa
- 17 School visit and presentation, Louis Norwegian Community School, Jean Marie River
- 18 School visit and presentation, Echo Dene School, Fort Liard
- 19 School visit and presentation, Charles Yohin School, Nahanni Butte

## NWTTA INFORMATION

🕒 Office Hours:  
Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 am - 5:30 pm  
Fri. 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

☎ Phone: (867) 873 - 8501  
📠 Fax: (867) 873 - 2366  
✉ E-mail: [nwttan@nwttan.ca](mailto:nwttan@nwttan.ca)  
🌐 Website: [www.nwttan.ca](http://www.nwttan.ca)

**NWTTA**  
**Box 2340**  
**5018-48th Street**  
**Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7**

**Urgent calls, after hours, please call:**

Amanda Mallon (President)  
(867) 920 - 2016

Dave Roebuck (Executive Director)  
(867) 873 - 2717  
(867) 669 - 8958

## Executive Director

Here we are already...mid January 2006!! I hope everyone had a very happy Christmas and New Years. Sometimes I feel we could use an extra week of holidays to recuperate from the holidays!

The next few months will be very busy at the Association as we prepare for YK#1 negotiations, Central Executive elections and the Annual Meeting of Central Councillors. There never seems to be enough hours in the day to get everything done, but somehow we manage.



### ON THE BEAT

YK#1:

The YK#1 Negotiating Team was elected by the membership of the district on Monday, December 12, 2005. The members going to the bargaining table are Al McDonald, Vice-Principal at Sir John Franklin High School, Sandy Schmalz, Program Support Teacher at Range Lake North School and Roger Windle, grade 5 teacher at N.J. McPherson School. This is a strong team.

Al McDonald has negotiated at the highest levels being a former CTF President and has also negotiated many

times at the District level. Roger Windle has negotiated at the District level and has been involved in the YK#1 local for many years. Sandy Schmalz will be coming to the table for the first time and knowing Sandy she will bring keen insights and fresh ideas to the group.

The team will be meeting throughout January working on the package of proposals which must be presented to the employer along with our letter requesting the commencement of negotiations prior to March 1, 2006.

### CENTRAL EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

Members of all three bargaining units are reminded that the following positions are up for election this spring:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Member-at-Large

A nomination package has been sent to all LRO's with all the necessary information. The deadline for nominations is February 15, 2006.

### AMCC

The Annual Meeting of Central Councillors is being held in Yellowknife on March 31-April 1, 2006. This is the representative and the decision making body of the NWTTA.

What takes place at the AMCC? The duties of the AMCC are to instruct the Executive to take action on decisions reached at the annual meeting and amend the Constitution and By-Laws (see the Notice of Motion on page 3), receive reports, approve a budget, determine policy and decide on resolutions proposed by the regions and membership.

Central Executive, Regional Presidents' and Committees' reports and resolutions are due on March 1, 2006.

### CONTRACT CORNER

QUESTION:

I have had an extremely painful toothache for days. The dentist is not scheduled to be here for another two months. All the nurses can do is give me pain-killers. I want to drive to Hay River to see the dentist but my employer refuses to give me time off work and cover the medical travel costs. I'm ready to take a hockey puck to my teeth to get rid of that tooth! What can I do Contract Corner?

Painful in Providence.

ANSWER:

Dear Painful in Providence,

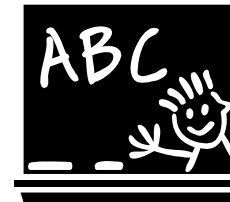
Forget the puck, a piece of string and a door knob is neater and faster!

All kidding aside, in all situations if it is at all possible, members of the GNWT unit must schedule appointments outside of instructional hours. Hay River is approximately 1 1/2-2 hours (depending on driving conditions) from Fort Providence. Scheduling the dentist appointment for 4:30 pm and leaving an hour or so early under casual leave (see Human Resource Manual Section 801 3(a)) should do the trick.

As for the travel time, if a member is in excruciating pain, they should report to the community medical practitioner. If, in the medical practitioner's judgment, immediate medical action must be taken to ensure the health and well being of the patient, a medical certificate should be issued, and authorized and then the provisions of Article 14.07 should prevail.

### REMINDER

The Central Executive Nominations deadline is fast approaching!! Be sure to have nominations to Central Office by **FEBRUARY 15, 2006.**



Read and relax !!



### Highlights from the 2005 CTF National Teacher Poll

#### Workload

Compared to 4 years ago, teachers indicated they're working longer hours and their workload is significantly greater. They report growing class sizes and at the same time larger numbers of special needs students are being integrated into their classrooms.

\* The 2005 Survey indicates that 83% of Canadian teachers reported that they had a higher workload than 4 years ago.

\* Teachers reported in 2005 that they work an average of 55.6 hours a week including classroom instruction, course preparation, grading and reporting, individual help to students, meetings, parent interviews and supervision of students.

\* 51% of teachers say their class sizes have grown over the last two years, with only one in ten teachers reporting smaller class sizes.

\* 74% of teachers surveyed report an increase in the number of integrated, exceptional needs students in their class in the past two years.

### Embarrassing Traffic Stop

A police car pulled me over near the high school where I teach. As the officer asked for my license and registration, my students began to drive past. Some honked their horns, others hooted, and still others stopped to admonish me for speeding.



Finally the officer asked me if I was a teacher at the school, and I told him I was.

"I think you've paid your debt to society," he said with a smile, and left without giving me a ticket.

### You know you're living in 2005 when...

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail the person who works in the next classroom.
5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
6. You go home after a long day at school and you still answer the phone in a businesslike manner.
7. You make phone calls from home and you accidentally dial "9" to get an outside line.
8. Your boss doesn't have the ability to do your job.
10. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.
11. Every commercial on television has a website at the bottom of the screen.
12. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it (except in the Dehcho and Sahtu)
13. You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee.
14. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)
15. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
16. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
17. You actually checked back to see if there wasn't a #9 on this list.

NOW YOU'RE LAUGHING at yourself. GROWING OLDER IS MANDATORY. GROWING UP IS OPTIONAL. LAUGHING AT YOURSELF IS THERAPEUTIC.



# Teacher Resources

## Wanted: 1000 Canadian Youth Presenters

By Bill Belsey

On February 20th, 2000 I launched the Web site [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) in response the horrific school shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado and a copycat shooting eight days later in rural Alberta. I decided that the Web site would have three goals; first, to help people learn that they are NOT alone in dealing with bullying in their lives, to help them realize that being bullied is NOT their fault and that they CAN do something positive about it.

[www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) allows people to connect in a safe, moderated online community where they can share their stories, poetry, drawings, music, animations and videos. A team of volunteer reviewers moderates replies and the original submissions. Visitors to the Web site can also use the worlds' largest online database of helpful resources on [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) to find information about bullying.

Shortly after [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org)'s launch, I realized that something new was being experienced and reported by young people. In response, I created [www.cyberbullying.ca](http://www.cyberbullying.ca), the world's first Web site specifically dedicated to the emerging issue of cyberbullying. [www.cyberbullying.ca](http://www.cyberbullying.ca) has often been cited as the first to use this word and define this emerging behaviour.

Bullying.org Canada was later created as a national non-profit educational organization created to support this work and provide leadership to address these issues across Canada.

In 2002, I felt that we needed something to highlight this issue with a national focus on prevention of bullying in our schools and communities through education and awareness; thus, "National Bullying Awareness Week" was born.

Bullying.org Canada has since developed a partnership with Family Channel, a Canadian television programmer that is received in nearly five million homes throughout Canada. Together we partnered to create a very effective national anti-bullying "Take the Pledge" campaign. In 2004, well over 100,000 Canadian youth had registered as having "Taken the Pledge". We created and distributed thousands of Pledge posters to schools across Canada. We also created a number of very effective video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) that can be seen on Family Channel as well as on the [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) Website. In May of 2005, the Canadian Public Relations Society recognized this campaign with an "Award of Excellence". This November, a DVD with the video PSAs and an accompanying Teachers' Guide was mailed to over 10,000 schools across Canada.

November 13th to the 18th, 2006 will mark the fourth year of National Bullying Awareness Week. This week will highlight the important, yet over overlooked leadership role that youth can play in addressing the issue of bullying their schools and communities across Canada. With this theme in mind, Bullying.org Canada is looking for over 1000 Canadian youth leaders, ages 13 to 18, who would like to make presentations about bullying to younger youth in their communities during the 2006 National Bullying Awareness Week. Registered member schools will be provided with a free, very engaging, multimedia presentation that contains research-based information, stories, poems, drawings, music, animations and videos created by young people from across Canada and around the world. The presentation will run approximately 50 minutes in length and is appropriate for ages 8-12.

Schools can register to join the National Peer Power Network from January 3rd until June 3rd, 2006 on the [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org) Web site.\* Bullying.org Canada is the creator and manager of [www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org), the world's most-visited Web site on the topic of bullying, and [www.cyberbullying.ca](http://www.cyberbullying.ca), the world's first Web site about the emerging behaviour of cyberbullying.

# NOTICE OF MOTION

## Proposed By-Law Amendments for AMCC 2006

In compliance with By-Law 12(2), the membership is hereby made aware of the following proposed By-Law amendments for AMCC 2006.

### 1. By-Law 9 - Committees of Central Executive

Amend 9(1)(a) to include Standing Committees

- (x) NWTTA-School Administrators' Council
- (xi) Small Communities Committee

### 2. By-Law 9 - Committees of Central Executive

Amend 9(2) to include:

- (j) NWTTA-School Administrators' Council

The NWTTA-School Administrators' Council is the voice of principals and assistant principals in the NWT. The committee shall advocate for administrators on issues that affect the delivery of the educational program across the NWT. The advocacy would include research on topics of concerns to NWT administrators such as professional development and inservice opportunities as well as providing a venue for NWT administrators to have a political voice on proposed new initiatives and implementation of change.

- (k) Small Communities Committee

The Small Communities Committee shall be the effective voice for small communities in the NWT. The Committee shall research and report on issues of concern as well as best practices across the NWT. The Committee will share information with members as well as lobby for improvements for members and students in these communities.



## YK EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE

<http://webmail.ycs.nt.ca/~conference/>

February 16-17, 2006

Website opens January 9, 2006

Early bird registration – January 9 to 20, 2006

(Draw for one free registration fee)

Late registration fee applies after January 30, 2006

(fee structure and registration instructions available on the website)

Conference questions can be directed to:

**Colleen Eckert**

**NWTTA PD Coordinator**

**Phone (867) 873-5759 Fax (867) 873-2590**

**Email [centpi@nwtt.nt.ca](mailto:centpi@nwtt.nt.ca) Email [ceckert@learnnet.nt.ca](mailto:ceckert@learnnet.nt.ca)**

**Conference Chairperson: Barb de Bastiani**

**Generous assistance has been provided by: NWTTA, Yellowknife Catholic Schools, Yellowknife District #1, Commission Scolaire and the Central Professional Development Committee**

# Education Leave

## Application Deadline

Midnight, March 15, 2006

(for GNWT bargaining unit members)

NWTTA members from the GNWT bargaining unit, with 4 or more years of continuous service (as an NWTTA educator) are eligible to apply for an education leave with allowances or without allowances.

Contact your PI Liaison or Colleen for application forms and guidelines. If you have any questions about our Education Leave initiative, please contact Colleen Eckert, PD Coordinator at the contacts listed below.

All applications and references must be faxed/mailed to the PD Coordinator by midnight, March 15, 2006

**Colleen Eckert, NWTTA PD Coordinator**

**Box 2340**

**Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7**

**Phone (867) 873-5759 Fax (867) 873-2590 E-mail [centpi@nwtt.nt.ca](mailto:centpi@nwtt.nt.ca)**

# THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## NOMINATION FORMS:

They can be accessed in the following three places:

- The NWTTA website [www.nwtt.nt.ca](http://www.nwtt.nt.ca)
- A hard copy sent to your school's Local Receiving Officer, this can be sent out in monthly school news letters or sent home with students.

The following NewsNorth papers:

- NWT News/North Jan. 16th, 23rd and 30th, Feb. 6th and 14th
- Inuvik Drum Jan. 19th and 26th, Feb 1st and 8th
- Deh Cho Drum Jan. 19th and 26th, Feb. 1st and 8th
- Friday - Yellowknifer Jan. 20th and 27th, Feb. 2nd and 9th

Parent Advisory Groups may wish to support this initiative by sending home a letter of support/nomination form with the students.

Nominations may come via fax, email, Canada Post and/or be dropped off at local schools. Make arrangements with your school office to receive these. Make sure to let secretaries know sorting of Nomination Forms will take place at the school level where the nominations will be received. The school-based LRO will prepare the nominations and organize the school based draw in preparation for the NWTTA Grand Finale. Thank you to our LROs!

## LOCAL FINALE:

There should be a draw at your school (by Feb. 17/06) to determine the entry from your school that will be FAXED to Central Office and placed in the Grand Prize Draw. Each Region and school will decide the extent of its participation. This can be a formal event organized locally. Locals may wish to provide prizes and/or more than one draw at these local events. If not organized as a formal event, the draw will be made, preferably, by a non-NWTTA member (or if a non-member is not available, ask School Administration) in the presence of the LRO

ONE entry PER SCHOOL will be faxed to Central Office for the Grand Finale Draw by Feb 21, 2006.