

# President's Agenda January - April

## January

- 18 Arbitration Meeting YCS
- 18 Presentation at YK #1 Special Board Meeting
- 20 Attend s Lunch with JH Sissons staff
- 20 Attend and speak at JH Sissons Public Information Meeting
- 24 Central Professional Improvement Meeting
- 25 Meeting with Pauline Gordon, ADM, ECE
- 27 Presentation at Inclusive Education Forum, Legislative Assembly
- 28 NAOSH meeting at WCB
- 28 Meeting with Chuck Tolley regarding PD study
- 31 Meeting re: sick leave YCS
- 31 YCS regular general meeting
- 31 Letter delivered to YK #1 board regarding meetings with NWTTA members

## February

- 1 Meeting with YK #1 board members
- 1 Judging NAOSH safety posters, WCB
- 2 Assisted with Canadian Space Agency presentation to Weledah Gr 5/6 students
- 2 Special meeting NWTTA YK #1
- 3 Meeting with FMBS regarding revised Code of Ethics for GNWT employees
- 4 Aboriginal Educators and Leadership Council (AELC) Meeting, Board room
- 4 ECE Strategic plan focus group, board room
- 7 Attend Artisan display at Explorer Hotel
- 8 Meeting with Chuck Tolley, Pauline Gordon and Janet Grinstead regarding PD
- 8 Work with Chuck Tolley, Don Morrison redrafting Article 17
- 10 Meeting with YK #1 board mem-

- bers
- 10 Presentation of NWT Budget at Legislative Assembly
- 10 Reception at NWT Legislative Assembly
- 14 Meeting with Chuck Tolley, Don Morrison regarding Article 17 (PD)
- 14 Welcome at ECE's Dene Kede In-service for NWT teachers
- 16 Meeting at YK #1 re: French Revitalization Project
- 17 Meeting with Suzanne Williamson, Sahtu regional president.
- 17 Meeting with Ronda Nickelton, ECE Assessment Coordinator
- 18 Meeting with NAOSH, WCB
- 20 UNESCO Arts in Education meeting in Regina
- 23 Back to Yellowknife
- 24 TYFMAD Grande Finale in Fort Smith

## March

- 2 YK #1 Teacher/Board Advisory Meeting
- 2 Meeting with Paulatuk staff, NWTTA boardroom
- 3 Presentation to TYFMAD winning teacher and student at Range Lake North School, YK
- 4 Meeting with ECE Pam Petten, Ronda Nickelton regarding Arts in Education, NWT Strategy
- 7 Teleconference call Deh Cho
- 7 Meeting with Avery Cooper Accountant re: CPI fund.
- 7 TYFMAD photo shoot at First Air, YK airport
- 8 International Women's Day, Wise Women Luncheon, Great Hall Legislative Assembly.
- 10 Teleconference re: Education Leaves, CPDC business
- 11 Presentation to TYFMAD winning teacher and student at Chief Jimmy Bruneau, Edzo
- 14 Meeting with Chair and Vice Chair YK #1 DEA
- 16 Staff luncheon, preparation for AMCC
- 17 Meeting with Joanne McGrath, ECE Online Learning, Student Success Initiative and Recruitment Coordinator
- 18 Meeting with Newsnorth Advertising

- 23 Meeting with Past President David Murphy
- 29 Memorial for YK Fire Fighters

## April

- 1 Central Executive Meeting
- 1 Annual Meeting of Central Councillors ( AMCC)
- 2 AMCC meeting and banquet
- 4- 5 GNWT PD workshop
- 9 Solidarity Dinner with UNW, PSAC
- 12-13 NWT Governance Conference, YK
- 14-15 BDEC Long Service Awards
- 17-19 CTF Board of Directors Meeting, Ottawa

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Historica Middle School Teachers' Institute, July 3 to 9, 2005, McGill University, Montreal, QC, "The Narrative in History: Using Stories in the past in Middle School Education". (Bilingual professional development program)

Historica Secondary School Teachers' Institute, July 4 to 10, 2005, University of Winnipeg, MB, "First Peoples and Immigrants: the Making of Canada - Exploring the teaching of Canadian history". (Bilingual professional development program). Check the following link for more info on the above:  
[http://www.histori.ca/teachers/si\\_home.jsp](http://www.histori.ca/teachers/si_home.jsp), [clemieux@histori.ca](mailto:clemieux@histori.ca).

## NWTTA INFORMATION

☎ Office Hours:  
Monday - Friday  
08:00 am - 05:30 pm

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

Amanda Mallon (President)  
(867) 920 - 2016

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



# NWTTA Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 4  
April 2005

## From the President's Desk

### Time to celebrate our successes...

Another winter is over and spring is just around the corner. Ice roads are closing, seagulls are in Fort Smith, it's spring carnival time in Tuktoyaktuk and the bald eagles have been sighted in Yellowknife.

At the NWTTA Central Office we have had a very busy few months. The day to day business of dealing with member concerns and questions takes a fair amount of time. Add to that, we have been getting ready for:

- A Central Executive Meeting;
- The Annual Meeting of Central Councillors (AMCC);
- A two day Professional Development workshop;
- Two sets of negotiations, GNWT and YCS
- Canadian Teachers' Federation Board Meeting
- Education Leave applications



Amanda Mallon and Larry Booi, CTF Vice-President at AMCC.

Throw in the roster of meetings that we attend on your behalf, add to that we are currently down one staff member and most of you busy educators will understand the fact that we are celebrating getting it done, and if I do say so, getting it done well.

One of the main things that we celebrate here at Central Office is the excellent work being done across the NWT by you, our members. At AMCC, we can acknowledge the talents, creativity and diversity of our 800 NWTTA teachers who represent every corner of Canada including all three northern territories. Our AMCC chair, Larry Booi, commented on the wide variety of situations in the NWT. He was also extremely impressed with our consensus style discussions, the courtesy and respect demonstrated by delegates and decision making.

It is significant that I am writing this article on the eve of National Volunteerism week (April 17 - 23). The NWTTA relies on every one of our NWTTA members and your contributions to our association, your schools, communities and your students. Central Office depends on our regional presidents to represent the association in the regions. During the round table session at AMCC your regional presidents shared a number of effective strategies for communicating around the regions ranging from: monthly teleconferences; Thanks for Making a Difference (TFMAD) community Posters; holding TFMAD celebrations; Cost of Living Surveys; Small Community School reports; and joint PD initiatives. It's almost time for regional elections, please do take this time to acknowledge your regional president and the work he/she did this year.

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AND MUCH MUCH MORE!

**Contributions, pictures, comments and suggestions are welcome and can be forwarded to:**

NWTTA Newsletter  
Box 2340  
5018-48<sup>th</sup> Street  
Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2P7

How to Reach Us:

- ☎ Phone: (867) 873 - 8501
- ☎ Fax: (867) 873 - 2366
- ☎ E-mail: [nwtta@nwtta.nt.ca](mailto:nwtta@nwtta.nt.ca)
- ☎ Website: [www.nwtta.nt.ca](http://www.nwtta.nt.ca)

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**Common Definitions**

For the purposes of clarification, professional improvement and professional development are considered one and the same.

Inservice Education refers to Board or Government initiatives including curriculum implementation which is organized and funded by the board or government and is outside the allocated Professional Development times and/ or



SAHTU - Left to Right: Tom Aitken, Suzanne Williamson, Steve Rose & Seamus Quigg.

**Definition of Professional Development**

Professional Development is the continuous growth of personal and professional knowledge and expertise that enhances teaching in support of student learning. It engages individuals and groups in a broad



BEAUFORT-DELTA - Left to Right: Dave Reid, Sarah Jerome, Nancy Binette and Effie McLeod

range of activities. Professional Development should be based on teacher, school, and regional needs and should have a group as well as

an individual focus. This understanding of professional growth views teachers as decision makers and problem solvers who identify their own learning needs, accept responsibility for professional decisions and actions, and are committed to self reflection, personal pro-



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE - Left to Right: Martin Deschesnes & Lorraine Taillefer.

**Characteristics of Effective Professional Development (Revised)**

1. Linked to enhanced and purposeful student learning
2. Based on teacher identified needs (teacher centred)
3. Enhances teacher knowledge, improves teacher practice and promotes an active professional learning community.
4. Involves careful planning for timely implementations connecting to system/



DEHCHO - Left to Right: Brian Jaffray, Barry Church, Val Gendron, & Dianne Nelson

5. Relevant and contextual (connects to culture).
6. Continuous and on-going by nature (sustained over time)
7. Includes a variety of individual and collective/collaborative practical activities.
8. Based on and promotes research into

teaching and learning.  
9. Makes the best use of resources avail-



DOGRIB - Left to Right: Mona Matthews, Kyle Kelly, Patti Turner, & Lisa Robinson.



FORT. SMITH / SOUTH SLAVE. - Left to Right: Lawrie Hobart, Gerard Carroll, Pat Helmer, Curtis Brown, & Sheena Dexter

**Our Researcher**

able facilities (time, etc)



**Chuck Tolley**

- ◇ Long time northerner, Nunavut and NWT.
- ◇ Educational historian (he knows ALL the stories).
- ◇ Mentor to numerous beginning northerners, including me.
- ◇ Thank you for your work!!

**Proposed Meeting Dates for 2005-2006**

Central Executive Meeting Dates

September 18, 2005	Yellowknife
December 10, 2005	Yellowknife
February 10, 2006	Teleconference
March 31, 2006	Yellowknife (Pre-AMCC)

Annual Meeting of Central Councillors

March 31-April 1, 2006	Yellowknife
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Regional Presidents Orientation

September 16 - 17, 2005	Yellowknife
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Local Receiving Officers Orientation

Dogrib	September 8, 2005	Yellowknife
YCS	September 20, 2005	Yellowknife
Dehcho	September 24, 2005	Fort Simpson
YK #1	September 28, 2005	Yellowknife
Beaufort-Delta	October 1, 2005	Inuvik
Ft. Smith/South Sl.	October 15, 2005	Fort Smith
Sahtu	October 22, 2005	Norman Wells

**The Cliff King Award**

The Northwest Territories Teachers' Association wishes to congratulate Fort Smith educator, Michelle Brown, on receiving the 2005 Cliff King Award. Michelle's experience and commitment to the Association, including involvement on the Regional Executive as Secretary, Vice-President and President, service on numerous NWTTA committees, a delegate to numerous annual meetings, involvement on Central Executive and 15 years service as a NWTTA educator does indeed support her outstanding contributions to our Association. The Cliff King Award is a prestigious award, considered to be the highest honour the Association bestows on a member.

The Cliff King Award was awarded at the Annual Meeting of Central Councillors in Yellowknife on April 2, 2005. Cliff was very involved in the Association in his 30 years as a teacher in Inuvik and made a lasting contribution to his students, school, community and the NWT. It was while attending negotiations as a member of the GNWT Collective Bargaining Committee in February 2003 that Cliff suddenly passed away. The Association honours his memory and dedication to NWT teachers with this award.



Left to right: Michelle Brown, Recipient of the Cliff King Award and Amanda Mallon, President, NWTTA.

**SUMMER SCHOOL APPLICATION DEADLINE  
MAY 15**

You are required to submit a NWTTA Short Term Assistance application in order to receive reimbursement. In this application you must include:

1. The exact credit course to be taken, and dates;
2. The institution you wish to attend, (must be accredited college or university);
3. An estimate of the cost for tuition, and travel.

Please submit your application to the NWTTA PI Office by MAY 15.

Forms are available on Page 131 of the NWTTA Green Book and on the NWTTA website @ <http://www.nwtta.nt.ca/profdev-gnwt.html>

## Executive Director

Well, another AMCC is in the books!! My parents always told me time seems to fly by as you get older and I'm older now than they were when they offered that gem of advice. Nicole Ash, our office secretary par excellence, and I couldn't believe how well everything came together at this year's event.

Everyone was very pleased with the selection of the Chateau Nova for this AMCC. The hotel is modern and clean with great service and excellent food. Kudos to Jack Banic, Conference Manager, and his staff for a job well done.



This was new president Amanda Malon's first AMCC and if she was nervous, she sure didn't show it. The agenda was followed to the minute and many thanks have to go to CTF Vice-President Larry Booi who agreed to chair our meeting. If you recognize the name, yes, Larry Booi is the former President of the Alberta Teachers' Association. He lead their Association through the confrontation and strike a couple of years back. At our meeting Larry kept everyone focused, on track and speaking to the issues and did it all with style and a sense of humour.

The AMCC business dealt with reports from Central Executive members and the Executive Director, reports from

Regional Presidents and Chairs of Standing and Special Committees, the Association audit and proposed budget for 2005-2006 and resolutions submitted by members.

The Association is in great shape. We have hardworking, committed members in positions of leadership throughout the NWT, ably supported by the tireless efforts of our LRO's and ever vigilant membership. Without member participation and volunteerism, the Association would have a very difficult time functioning.

Education Minister Charles Dent and Assistant Deputy Minister Mark Cleveland attended on Saturday for a question and answer period. The questions ranged from housing to assessment to special needs funding. The questions were pointed and we received honest answers to them all. Some answers we didn't like - "The GNWT will never get back into housing" and some we did... "I will be at the Cabinet table looking for substantial increases for special needs students, what we have now is not enough." Mr. Dent was universally praised by delegates for his forthright answers to difficult questions. CTF's Larry Booi was impressed that two high ranking government officials came to our meeting for an unscripted question and answer period. That's the north, we told him!

Financially, the NWTTA is top drawer. The 2003-2004 audit revealed a surplus of \$154,882. Central Executive combined this with \$46,000 from retained earnings and moved this into the Membership Protection Fund which now stands at \$700,000. The projected budget for this year is estimating a surplus of \$22,400. A number of factors can impact this figure. If expenses (ie. arbitration and legal costs) outstrip revenue, the surplus could be smaller and vice-versa if revenue is higher than expected. The proposed budget for 2005-2006 is predicting a modest surplus of \$8800. Once again, this could change for the previously mentioned reasons.

The AMCC was capped with a reception

and dinner for all delegates. The special guest was Cliff King Award winner Michelle Brown. A great meal and a great night was had by all. Michelle Brown was greatly honoured to receive this prestigious award for service to the Association and its membership in front of her colleagues, but especially with husband, Curtis Brown, South Slave Divisional Education Council Superintendent and Michael, their 11 month old son in attendance. Michael had a unique way of celebrating his mom's big night, just ask Dogrib Regional President Rita Mueller.

President Mallon also acknowledged and rewarded the hard work of her executive members and regional presidents, executive director and office secretary with kind words and a very nice hand crafted gift for each person. Former President David Murphy and wife Julie, were in attendance and David was recognized for his four years of steadfast leadership.

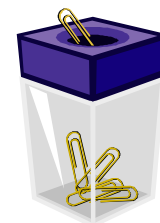
In conclusion, this was an excellent meeting. It was conducted in a professional manner with some great debate on the resolutions. I feel everyone left the AMCC with a firm knowledge of the Association's direction and President Mallon's vision for the future of the membership in the NWT.

### DISTANCE DEMONS (GR. 3-8)

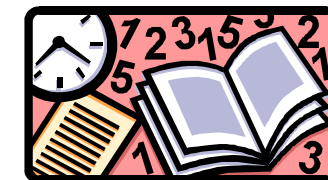
Promotes youth fitness (pre-high school) through distance running. Offers tips on training, nutrition, and gear, helpful links, info about running opportunities, and a "Fun Stuff" page.

It's a good resource for physical education and health teachers, and for kids and parents.

<http://distancedemons.homestead.com/>



### And on a laughable note...



#### Try this...

Here is a math trick so unbelievable that it will stump you. Personally I would like to know who came up with this and why that person is not running the country.

1. Grab a calculator. (you won't be able to do this one in your head)
2. Key in the first three digits of your phone number (NOT the area code)
3. Multiply by 80
4. Add 1
5. Multiply by 250
6. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number
7. Add the last 4 digits of your phone number again.
8. Subtract 250
9. Divide number by 2

Do you recognize the answer?

And you thought we wouldn't publish this picture, which shows the enjoyment of a member attending the PD Workshop!!



*Sure, just pay me what a babysitter gets. Three dollars per hour times 5.5 hours times 32 kids times 192 days is \$101376 bucks.*

#### Reasons Not To Mess With A Child

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

\* \* \*

A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

\* \* \*

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, "There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer." or "There's Michael, he's a doctor." A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher... She's dead."

\* \* \*

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun wrote a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."