

President's Agenda August - October

August

- 16 Start work at Central Office
- 17 Meeting with Muriel Tolley regarding 2004/05 Mentorship Program
- 17 Started work on new website,
- 24 Presentation on Code of Ethics/ Professionalism to Dogrib teacher conference, Chief Jimmy Bruneau, Edzo
- 24 Presentation on Code of Ethics/ Professionalism to YCS New Teachers' Orientation
- 25 Attend SSDEC "Meet and Greet" at teacher conference, Princess Alexandria, Hay River
- 27 Attend YK #1 New Teachers' Orientation
- 30 Presentation on Code of Ethics/ Professionalism to CJB & EMES staff, Rae
- 31 Meeting with Sylvia Haener, Director, Labour Relations, GNWT
- 31 Meeting with Yellowknife Recycling Company, YK
- 31 Teleconference with Barrie Chivers to review ongoing concerns.

September

- 1-2 Presentation on Code of Ethics/ Professionalism to Sahtu Teachers' Conference, Norman Wells
- 1 Discussion with Seamus Quigg regarding Professional Development
- 2 Attend YK #1 Welcome Back BBQ
- 3 Dogrib Region Local Receiving Orientation, Central Office
- 7 CPI discussion with ECE
- 7 Attend WCB Focus group on proposed changes
- 7 Presentation on Code of Ethics/ Professionalism to RLN School, YK #1
- 10-11 Regional Presidents' Orientation
- 12 Central Executive Meeting
- 14 YCS LRO Orientation
- 16 Meeting with Charles Dent, Minister of Education

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- 17-19 Deh Cho LRO Orientation, Fort Simpson
- 21 Presentation on Code of Ethics/ Professionalism to MHS School, YK #1
- 22 Meeting with CJCD re: PR Strategy, YK
- 23-26 BDEC LRO Orientation, school visits, Inuvik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic
- 29-3 SSDEC LRO Orientation, school visits - Fort Smith, Fort Resolution, Hay River, Fort Providence, Kakisa.

NWTTA INFORMATION

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

Urgent calls, after hours, please call:

Amanda Mallon (President)
(867) 873 - 4751
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Dave Roebuck (Executive Director)
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Green Street is a Standard of Excellence for Environmental Learning and Sustainability. Our programs are provided by the following Canadian environmental education organizations:

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	Clean Drinking Water Foundation
The Green Environmental Group	World Wildlife Fund
Pembina Institute	Trout Unlimited
Evergreen Canada	Seeds Canada
Ducks Unlimited	Club 2/3
Clean Nova Scotia	

Green Street Mission:

To offer high quality Environmental Education programs that actively engage Canadian elementary and secondary school students in:

- * Learning about the environment;
- * Promoting environmental stewardship; and
- * Taking further action.

"I'm a teacher. Why go to Green Street?" Value, quality, support and accountability. That's why.

We interviewed teachers across Canada and learned that most of them are inundated with materials from environmental organizations. With limited time and resources and a host of other pressures, it is next to impossible for them to determine which organization is credible and which materials are effective, easy to use and aligned with the curriculum. We also learned that teachers need to be able to ask questions as they arise.

This is where Green Street can help. The J. W. McConnell Family Foundation selected and challenged environmental education organizations from across Canada to serve teachers and students in the most effective way possible. Among the many improvements that have been made are:

- * the retooling of programs to align them with provincial curricula;
- * the repackaging of materials to make them ready-to-use in the classroom; and
- * the assurance that there will always be someone to call upon when a teacher has questions.

Visit our website www.green-street.ca

Green Street approved program are CURRICULUM ALIGNED, CREDIBLE, ACTION ORIENTED and require MINIMAL TEACHER PREPARATION.

For more information, contact Allison Freeman, afreeman@green-street.ca or toll-free 1-877-250-8201.

Green Street...helping preserve our planet...one classroom at a time.



NWTTA Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1
September 2004

From the President's Desk

Welcome all new and returning NWTTA members to the 2004/05 school year. I'm sure that by now, you have completed long range plans, contacted all parents, have functional grade level of all students recorded on cum files, unpacked your barge order, picked enough berries for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter holidays. So sit back, put your feet up and catch up on the latest news from your professional organization. This newsletter is designed to:

- a) inform NWT teachers about what is happening in education across the country, within our territory, regions, schools and classrooms.
- b) increase communication among members of our profession.
- c) be distributed to all NWTTA members, MLAs, ECE at the GNWT, all DECS/DEAs and Arctic College institutions.
- d) report activities of the President, Executive Director and Central Executive.
- e) report on new or ongoing initiatives of the NWTTA as well as other teacher organizations across Canada.

I have now completed my first four weeks in the Central Office. As you will note from the list of activities, it has been a busy and exciting time. I really need to thank David Murphy for all his work in ensuring a smooth transition. Dave Roebuck, Executive Director, is an invaluable resource, we have quickly found an effective working relationship, and I think our members are getting used to seeing us as their new NWTTA team.

Looking forward to meeting you in this new school year.

Professionally yours,
Amanda Mallon
President



Website Update

We are upgrading our existing website! www.nwttan.ca. The website will be user friendly, accessible to teachers with fast modern connections as well as those still on dial up. We are keeping the concept simple but will include thumbnail photos that can be viewed by clicking on them. The main sections will be under the following headings:

- ◆ About the NWTTA
- ◆ Working in the NWT
- ◆ Professional Development
- ◆ News
- ◆ Links
- ◆ Contact Us

All necessary forms, including leave, various PD forms, awards and bursaries, collective agreements, as well as teaching resources will be included. We hope to have our public relations information online by the time it comes for the "Thanks for Making a Difference" and "Job Shadow" campaigns. We will be looking for input from you.

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

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Executive Director

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all our returning teachers and teachers new to the NWT. Another summer has passed and the academic year has begun. This is an exciting time of year for our members and their students. Hope does spring eternal and the year is full of promise.

By the time you read this newsletter most members will have a month of class behind them. Your Association staff have been very busy too. Amanda Mallon, our new President, has been very hard at work on the steep learning curve associated with her position. I can report Amanda is a very quick read and is becoming more comfortable in the position with every passing day.



As alluded to in the President's column, Central Office has been chugging along at a pretty brisk pace. We have had a number of staff meetings in Yellowknife and Rae Edzo, went to Regional Conferences in Hay River and Norman Wells, put on Local Receiving Officer Orientations for the Dogrib, YCS and Dehcho regions, held a Goals and Strategies Workshop, staged the Regional Presidents' Orientation and held the first Central Executive meeting.

It is all very worthwhile work in support of the most valuable work you do as educators of our young people. To you are entrusted all our hopes and dreams

for the future. To all of you, have a great year!

Negotiations in the NWT

Over the next few newsletters, I will be looking at the entire process of negotiations in the Northwest Territories...right from the selection of the negotiating teams to the signing of the new contracts. It is a long process requiring a lot of hard work and dedication. Here is the first article in the series.

The contracts for the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) bargaining unit and the Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) unit end this academic year and new ones will be negotiated. Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK#1) has another year left on their contract.

When speaking to members at staff or general meetings about the upcoming negotiations, I have noticed many blank looks. At the just completed Regional Presidents' Orientation, the reason for the blank looks was brought home forcefully. Seven out of the eight Regional Presidents were new. This group rightly pointed out the great turnover in the NWTTA is mirrored in the schools of the NWT each year. From them I received the very good suggestion to do this article on the Collective Agreement bargaining process and some of the dynamics involved in negotiations in the NWT.

There are three bargaining units in the NWTTA. The GNWT unit is by far the largest with 499 members. YK#1 has 194 members and YCS has 100 members. Each unit uses much the same process to achieve a negotiated settlement with their employers. The GNWT employer is the government of the territory. YK#1 and YCS members work for school boards with elected trustees. All three units select their negotiating teams early in the year. The GNWT unit selects theirs at the Regional Presidents'

Orientation. The Vice-President of the NWTTA is the chairperson. Three other members are elected. This year the GNWT team consists of David Reid, Lenny Hill, Rita Mueller and Gerard Carroll.

YK#1 sends a notice to each school asking that two people from their school be named to the "Committee of the Whole". This group meets regularly to discuss issues, create a survey and, in January, select their three negotiation team members. YK#1 has always tried to have their three negotiators be representative of their district's divisions, ie. one member each from the high school, the middle school and the elementary school sector.

YCS has a general meeting and interested parties are voted into their steering committee. There are seven people on the committee and they vote on who of those seven will make up the four members of the negotiating team.

Thus the selection process is a little different in each case but the object is the same - to have the best people on your negotiating team. For each of the negotiating teams the Executive Director is the lead negotiator.

From here on in the process is very similar. Each negotiating committee will have strategy sessions, create and send out a survey to members for their input on what issues are most important, collate the data and put together a package of proposals to be brought to the negotiating table. This process is usually completed by mid January. The GNWT contract stipulates negotiations must begin after February 1 of the year the Agreement terminates. Either side must give the other 30 days notice of its intention to enter into collective bargaining. When this notice has been given by either party, negotiations must commence within 60 days. YK#1 parties have until March 1 to give notice of intention to bargain and the parties must meet within a month. At YCS, notification must be received prior to February 15 and negotiations must begin on or before March 31.

Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) Update

David Murphy, outgoing President, Dave Roebuck, Executive Director and I represented the NWTTA at the Annual General Meeting Ottawa, Ontario from July 7 - 12. Highlights included the following items:

- ⇒ Inclusion Conference "Reaching Potential - Making Inclusion Work". CTF has produced a background paper entitled, "We're All Born 'In': Perspectives on Inclusive Education" that is available through the NWTTA office.
- ⇒ Governance review of the organization, structure and mandate of the CTF.
- ⇒ Fred Douglas, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, was elected as CTF's fourth Vice-President.
- ⇒ World Teacher Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, October 5, 2004. The NWTTA has distributed posters which feature the slogan, "Quality Teachers for Quality Education".
- ⇒ CTF Special Recognition Awards were given to: Phyllis Benedict, for her work with Project Overseas and Dr. Charles Hyman, former Executive Secretary of ATA.
- ⇒ 2005 CTF AGM in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



L to R: David Murphy, NWTTA, Amanda Mallon, NWTTA & Ian Oostindie, YTA at CTF Meetings, Ottawa July 2004.

Regional Presidents' Orientation

The 2004-2005 Regional Presidents' Orientation was held in Yellowknife on September 10-11, 2004.



(Back Row: Marnie Villeneuve, Lorelea Wark, Lenny Hill, Gordon Church, Bruce Doig, Gerard Carroll, Suzanne Williamson and Rita Mueller; Front Row: Robert Jacques, Dave Roebuck, Amanda Mallon, David Reid and Fraser Oliver)

On Friday, all Regional Presidents and Central Executive members took part in a goal setting exercise facilitated by Noreen O'Haire, Professional Development Officer of CTF.

The following goals were identified as priorities for the NWTTA:

1. Create and foster a greater interest and involvement by NWTTA members.
2. Improve communication within and without the organization.
3. Create and implement a Public Relations Strategy
4. Promote the NWTTA as a professional organization through development and implementation of policies on professional development and professional conduct.
5. Conduct needs assessment to improve services to members.

The NWTTA will be updating members on strategies for implementing these goals as well as ongoing progress. Watch our future newsletters and upcoming website.

Back to School Media Message

The Back to School media campaign ran in both the Friday September 3, Yellowknifer and Monday September 6, Newsnorth as well as the Native Journal.

Our message is:

NWT Educators, Students, Parents, Families and Communities

Working together for a successful school year

Research shows that supported students:

- *Look forward to attending school
- *Do better in school and get higher grades
- *Graduate from high school at higher rates.
- *Are more likely to go on to higher education.
- *Have more positive attitudes and are better behaved.