

# Branch Resolutions to the NBTA AGM

## Purpose

Branch Resolutions are one of the ways through which members provide input regarding NBTA policies, by-laws, priorities and actions. They are published in the *NBTA News*, discussed at all branch AGM's across the province, and submitted to the NBTA AGM, the Association's highest decision-making body. **There are many other routes through which input is gathered and actions taken by the NBTA year-round. Before beginning the Resolution process, Branches may also consider other ways of effecting change such as working through their representatives on the NBTA Board of Directors.**

## Procedure

### Step 1: Start Early for Proper Consideration and Discussion

There should be adequate time provided at branch rep councils for the discussion of potential resolutions. The earlier a resolution is considered, the more opportunity there is for branches to seek clarifications/additional information from the NBTA and input from teachers. A potential resolution could refer to something that has already been done, make reference to inaccurate information, or request an action that is beyond the powers of the NBTA. If these difficulties are identified early, the branch may have time to adjust the wording of resolutions they deem worthy. Branches do not have to actively generate resolutions, but they should at all meetings consider the possibility.

### Step 2: Yes or No...It's Up to Rep Councils!

Branches have the essential role of deciding if a potential resolution should be endorsed and submitted. **There are no individual resolutions to the NBTA AGM, only branch resolutions.** Teachers can submit potential resolutions to their branch, but the rep council decides if it becomes a *branch* resolution. Branch ownership applies to the wording of resolutions as well. A rep council may decide to vote in favour of a potential resolution verbatim, adjust the wording, or defeat it. If a branch likes the idea behind a defeated resolution, they may even wish to create a new one with wording more to its liking. An electronic vote on a last minute resolution is not against the rules, but does not allow for the proper consideration outlined above.

### Step 3: A Word on Wording

**WORDING IS VERY IMPORTANT!** Branch Resolutions must be submitted on the proper **Submission Form for Branch Resolutions to the NBTA AGM** (attached here and available electronically at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) RESOURCES>FORMS). The form assists with wording, indicating that a specific action by the NBTA/F must be included, along with why this should be a priority for the NBTA. Being concise is vital and word counts are now in place. It is advised that you consult the NBTA Staff ([blake.robichaud@nbta.ca](mailto:blake.robichaud@nbta.ca)) for advice on the wording of resolutions.

### Step 4: Watch the Deadline – April 1st

All Branch Resolutions must be received in Fredericton, normally by fax or e-mail, by April 1 of each year.

## **No Late Resolutions can be Accepted**

If an important issue (emergent) arises **after** the deadline for submissions has passed, a **Local/Branch AGM (not Rep Council)** may pass a resolution to be brought forward at the NBTA AGM itself. A two-thirds majority of NBTA AGM delegates must vote in favour to bring any of these resolutions forward for discussion.

## **Returned or Combined Resolutions**

The NBTA AGM Resolutions Committee meets soon after the submission deadline. It is tasked with the following responsibility:

*...combine all resolutions of a similar nature, make the necessary corrections without changing the intent of the resolutions, and advise the branches concerned of the form in which their resolution(s) will be presented to the Annual General Meeting or the reason for their return.*

In the case of a returned resolution, the originating branch still has the opportunity to resubmit the resolution directly to the NBTA AGM but, as with late resolutions, a two-thirds majority of delegates must vote in favour of having it brought to the floor for discussion.

## **NBTF Concerns**

There is no NBTF AGM so some NBTA resolutions are directed towards that organization. However, while resolutions of this nature carry the weight and support of the NBTA, they are in no way binding upon the NBTF. This is a separate teacher organization comprised of both the Anglophone (NBTA) and Francophone (AEFNB) professional associations.

**\*If a resolution relates to an item that might be sought in bargaining, it could remain in limbo for several years until the next Asking Package is considered by the NBTF Committee on Term and Conditions of Employment.**