



February 2010
Election Supplement

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Who will be the Next NBTA Vice-President/ President-Elect?

Voting for all Members April 19-23, 2010



Heather Ingalls



Heather Smith

Bathurst-area teacher/principal, Heather Smith, and high school teacher, Heather Ingalls of Grand Manan, are the two candidates for the position of NBTA Vice-President/President-Elect. Smith is the current NBTA Vice-President. Both candidates have extensive teaching experiences and have served in various capacities with the Association at the local and provincial levels. Statements from the candidates are contained in this issue and on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca). Early spring will see the two candidates visiting as many schools as possible, expressing their views and seeking input from teachers. Teachers should take advantage of opportunities to discuss issues with the candidates or to listen to them speak if they are addressing school rep meetings in their area. It is vital that no voting takes place before April 19.

A well-informed decision is essential because the winner of the election will help lead the NBTA for the next five years. She would serve as Vice-President for the 2010-11 school year which involves roles on both the NBTA and NBTF Executive Committees, before succeeding Noreen Bonnell as NBTA President in August 2011. That two-year term would be as official spokesperson and representative of the NBTA, and as Co-President of the NBTF. Past-Presidents of the NBTA serve two year terms on the Executive, lending their experiences and advice to their successors.

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Heather Ingalls - Statement



Heather Ingalls

**Dedication,
Commitment,
Experience**



I am honoured and excited once again to have been nominated to run for office in the NBTA. Membership in our Association continues to be a source of pride for me, and the prospect of serving my colleagues as their Vice President/President-Elect represents a challenge to which I would enthusiastically rise.

The challenge of addressing teacher workload and classroom composition, both issues creating intense pressure on the profession, must be a mandate for this position. As I sat to consider what my priorities would be should I be elected, I realized how little has changed in a year to alleviate the pressures created by teacher workload and class composition issues. The stresses in our career are mounting and our employer seems silent. Without the force of negotiations to bring our issues to the forefront, education concerns are easily pushed to the back burner, given little media attention and even less public consideration.

The challenge of balancing education's dual nature: teaching as intrinsic reward, and conversely as ever-increasing demand is one affecting all of the membership. Teaching has countless inherent rewards and we celebrate every day in our classrooms, gymnasiums and stages. However, intrinsic too are the costs to teachers as individuals. Because we are dedicated to our profession and to the students we serve, we accept ever more increasing increments of

responsibility, many beyond our areas of expertise. Seasoned teachers are burning out; beginning teachers are gazing with trepidation down a poorly lit tunnel with no apparent end.

The challenge of advocating for perceptual change: externally by the employer and public, internally by the membership itself. I see the role of the Vice President/President-Elect of the NBTA as an opportunity to advocate for change in the manner we are viewed by our employer, by the public and even by ourselves. At the NBTA leadership conference last summer, one of the goals set out by the membership was to increase focus on public relations. We must unite to advocate with our employer to meet our needs as professionals and to stem the tide of challenges that are outdistancing us in our system. Not least of all, we must foster involvement in our association keeping our members well-informed and 'caught up' in all that contributing to the association will offer to them in return.

The challenge of celebrating the "small victories" while generating the "big solutions" to issues of which we have unique understanding is another area of focus for office of Vice-President/President-Elect. As a candidate, I appreciate the opportunity to share my perceptions and solutions to the challenges we face in this most exciting time in our profession's history. Thank you for your consideration and time.

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Heather Smith - Statement

Hello Fellow Educators!

It has been a privilege to serve as your **Vice-President** for the year 2009-10. For some of you my name will 'ring a bell' while for others this may be my first introduction. Let me present my beliefs and my goals. I have the **PASSION, EXPERIENCE** and **COMMITMENT** to serve as President of YOUR New Brunswick Teachers' Association.

PASSION My passion for the needs of individual students I teach mirrors my passion for the needs of individual teachers. I believe NB teachers are committed to their students and it is my desire to represent teachers' best interests as the next NBTA President. I am running for the position of Vice-President/President Elect in order that I may continue to pursue my passion for moving the agenda of teachers forward.

EXPERIENCE NBTA - I have NBTA experience at the Branch, Board and Executive levels. These experiences have provided me the opportunity to be involved in decisions that benefit teachers. *NBTF* - I have represented NBTA for four years on the Executive Committee of The New Brunswick Teachers' Federation. This experience has increased my understanding of the collective bargaining process and our collective agreement.

COMMITMENT As a result of teaching for 26 years in various schools, at several grade levels and in different parts of New Brunswick, I have developed a sound philosophy for positive change that represents the beliefs and needs of teachers. I commit to moving this agenda of teachers forward.

I believe that the workload of teachers must be reduced if teachers are to meet the needs of the students in their classrooms. Individually, teachers cannot hope

to bring about the change needed to make our workload reasonable. Class composition, lack of preparation and planning time and too many after school meetings are among the areas that need to be addressed. It is only through the collective voice of NBTA that we can hope to effect change.

I believe that changes in the present process of the development, analysis and reporting of results of province-wide external assessments are essential. NB provincial assessments need to be developed in NB by NB teachers. There needs to be alignment of best teaching and assessment practices. Schools need to receive detailed individual student results and these results need to be tracked over time. There needs to be considerations for SEP students, especially for those who have not been taught the outcomes being assessed. Only then should data from provincial assessments be added to in-school data in order to drive school improvement planning with the aim of improving student achievement.

I believe that the education system, specifically teachers, cannot be solely responsible for the seamless delivery of services to children. Schools need to be environments that are conducive to teaching and learning. The MacKay Report has been left to collect dust; little change in direct services to students has been realized. Students must receive the services they require; stakeholders must not close a case until the student's needs have been met.

A vote for Heather Smith is a vote FOR teachers.

Heather Smith
NBTA Vice President



Heather Smith

**I'd love to hear from you.
Contact me at:
heather.smith@nbed.nb.ca
OR on my blog at:
www.heathersmithforvp.ca**

**Passion
Experience
Commitment...
moving the
agenda of
teachers
forward**

Election of Officers - Key Points from NBTA By-Law #6

- (a) Nominations for Association Office must be in writing and may be made in the following manner:
- (1) By a Nominating Committee of five persons
 - (2) By any Branch on official forms available from Central Office
- Nominations under (2) and the acceptance thereof in writing by the persons nominated must reach the Executive Director of the Association not later than February 1st in any year.

- (b) Voting Procedures
- Ballots are forwarded to the President of each Branch on or before the 15th day of April each year.
 - **Voting takes place during the last full week of April. (April 19-23, 2010)**
 - **Ballots must be received properly sealed in the ballot envelope at Central Office (Fredericton) not later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday of the following week. (April 30, 2010)**

- The Nominating Committee shall meet within a week of the date fixed for the receipt of ballots (May 5, 2010) and, with the assistance of Central Office staff, tally the results.
- The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.
- **Candidates shall be notified of the results on counting day (May 5th) and the membership informed shortly afterwards.**

- (c) Term of Office
- The President shall be elected for a two-year term and not be eligible for re-election.
 - During the first year of the President's two-year term, there shall be an election for the office of Vice-President and the successful candidate will be declared President-elect, and will assume the office of President at the end of the current President's two-year term.
 - During the second year of the President's two-year term, there shall be an election for the office of Vice-President.

Your Ballots ARE Confidential!

1. After voting, place the ballot in the special envelope and seal.

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

2010

BALLOT

Vote for ONE candidate for the office of Vice-President/President-Elect of NBTA.

VICE-PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES:

INGALLS, HEATHER (___)

SMITH, HEATHER (___)

2. On counting day in Fredericton, the names on the ballot envelopes are checked against the appropriate nominal rolls.

3. The perforated flaps are then torn off. 4. The envelopes containing the ballots are placed in a ballot box.

(Name should be printed)
(If this flap is detached, the ballot is invalidated.)

NAME _____
SCHOOL _____
BRANCH _____

To:

New Brunswick Teachers' Association
P.O. BOX 752
FREDERICTON, N.B.
E3B 5R6

(Ballot)

PLACE STAMP HERE

5. With the portions of the envelopes showing the members' names now completely separate from the parts containing the ballots, votes can be tallied...

Confidentially!