



March 2012
Election Supplement

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

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

**Inside:
Candidates'
Statements**



This spring will see candidates visiting as many schools and Branch/rep Council meetings as possible, expressing their views and seeking input from teachers. Teachers should take advantage of opportunities to discuss issues with the candidates and/or listen to them speak as they visit in your area. We encourage teachers to access the NBTA website, which features links to detailed information about all candidates, including links to their websites.

Links to all candidate information at www.nbta.ca



Peter Fullerton



Adam McKim

**Voting for all members
electronically at
www.nbta.ca**

**Monday, April 23 at 6:00 am -
Friday, April 27 at 4:00 pm**

On Back:

**Voting Eligibility,
Procedures and
Confidentiality**



Peter Fullerton — Statement



Peter Fullerton

How can I convey my feelings about education, where we need to go and why I believe I should be the person to become the next NBTA VP/President elect in 650 words or less? The best I can do is summarize who I am and share my thoughts and beliefs with you.

I entered school in 1963, and I am still here. That equates to many years of experience to draw from. During my time in school I have been heavily involved, both as a student and as a teacher, coached over fifty sport seasons, active within my local NBTA Branch and now sit on both the NBTA and NBTF Executive committees. I view the job of President as being a coach of professional educators. I believe the strength of the NBTA/NBTF comes from the teachers whom these two organizations represent. As President, I will attempt to focus that strength and move us in the right direction.

This election is not only for the position of Vice President, but also

carries with it the added responsibility of being President of the NBTA and Co-President of the NBTF for the years 2013-2015. Therefore, this is not a decision to be taken lightly. Realizing that negotiations will be demanding, I believe experience will be of utmost importance.

Priorities must exist. Whether it is workload, quality of life, our next contract, new teacher support, fair treatment of supply teachers, or the cuts in education, my priorities all deal with teacher welfare. In consultation with the leadership within the NBTA and the Board of Directors, it is my hope to accomplish these priorities within my term as President.

I see **WORKLOAD** and **QUALITY OF LIFE** as being intertwined. The term, **WORKLOAD**, means many different things to all teachers depending on their level of instruction. It can be the number of meetings, the report cards, the planning and marking that needs to be done daily and if these tasks become unmanageable then one's **QUALITY OF LIFE** is affected. Teachers require time for themselves and their families to have **QUALITY OF LIFE**. Listening to teachers speak of exhaustion after a day of teaching only to be followed by an evening of marking and planning for the next day has become commonplace. Our son is a beginning teacher in his second year, and he echoes this concern. Sadly, it is not surprising that many new teachers leave the profession during their first five years, when it should be a time when young teachers are embracing their careers.

These conditions need to be addressed in our next **CONTRACT**. I believe the next contract will be settled during the next President's term and this contract will be difficult to negotiate. Experience will count. This will be the first contract for **SUPPLY TEACHERS**. Fairness and protection are paramount.

We hear much rhetoric regarding **BUDGET CUTS**. We need to maintain the number of teachers and all instructional resources to provide a quality education. As a shop teacher, this is near and dear to my heart. How can any teacher provide a quality education without the required resources?

I am honoured to be asked to allow my name to stand for the position of NBTA Vice President / President Elect. I believe that I have the **EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT** to enable me to fulfil this position, and I ask for your support.

I invite you to visit my web page and ask questions of others who have been on the NBTA/ NBTF board or the NBIAA Executive to provide more information about me.

Our school once had a motto - "Together We Can". Being from Albert County that was quickly and unofficially changed to - "Let's Git 'er Done". I submit that as we move forward as an association - "Together We Can ... Git 'er Done". I ask for your support in the upcoming election.

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THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS NOT NECESSARILY THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF NBTA

Adam McKim — Statement



Adam McKim

Campaigning is a very strange experience. As I said to you last April, we candidates are essentially job applicants - temporary self promoters with the goal of one day celebrating you from as many microphones, newspapers, and keyboards as we can find. NBTA presidents may not be your lead negotiators or even your key decision makers from around democratic tables, but they are most certainly your ambassadors. They are head cheerleaders armed with your massive body of incredible and innovative work on behalf of children. They are your listeners-in-chief.

One page is not enough space for me to detail my priorities or the **experience** I have gleaned from serving on twelve NBTA committees. It has been six years since I was elected to the Board, and three since that Board selected me for the Executive. I have also had a busy learning year since you last lent me your votes. In order to better understand the wild

world of an elementary educator, I volunteered for my daughter's PSSC and, near Christmas, I swapped two days with grades one and four teachers respectively (without the EA and toy dragon I brought in for my favourite children's book, The Paper Bag Princess, I'll admit my survival was in question!). I attended "Developing Successful Schools" with the president in August, read NBTA-recommended leadership books, and continued to attend rep meetings in my branch. I visited over one hundred schools last winter and hope to visit the rest in the coming weeks.

Over the past year my **passion** for representing overburdened teachers has only grown. A job that is as challenging as it is crucial should not be cluttered as it has been with ever increasing demands on your time and loyalties. Work-Life Balance has been my top priority for teachers since I centralized and supervised detentions for Saint John High in my first months ten years ago. My oldest daughter started kindergarten this year and is now receiving the same world-class education as children across New Brunswick. I have seen much to indicate, however, that our system is being valiantly held together by your passion, your sweat, and your raw determination. Together we must make governments and districts understand that happy, healthy teachers in a soundly celebrated profession are the key to an ever-improving and sustainable system for children. Finnish leaders get this. So, too, will ours. Changes need to be made.

Though I've learned a great deal about diplomacy over the course of my career, my drive for **action** remains steadfast. When over one hundred unsheltered Ugandan orphans were dropped into my classroom two years ago, we turned the problem into a project and built them a school. In an effort to make this and other projects sustainable, we founded a school-based, Skype-enabled sponsorship program which the team was able to formally register as a Canadian charity. I like to solve problems. Districts are disregarding our need for student accountability, a reasonable number of meetings, and K-8 report card days. We should launch a wellness task force and meet with districts directly. We should fairly assess wellness practices and have NBTA generate a report card on "**BALANCE**" that will hopefully influence the outliers. A modest proposal.

You have an important decision to make in April and I invite you to learn more from the candidate websites; you may find that you have a clear choice between us, which my "mythbusters" section will help to highlight. I believe that an investment in education is an investment in the economy of New Brunswick, not a cost! Serving teachers and being further educated by you is my greatest privilege; it will fuel my entire career. This is the work I love. This is the work I feel I do best. With your support and guidance I will continue to advocate on your behalf as president of the NBTA.

www.timeforteachers.ca

 @AdamMcKim

 Time For Teachers

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Contact me anytime!

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Voting will Take Place Electronically

April 23-27, 2012

at www.nbta.ca

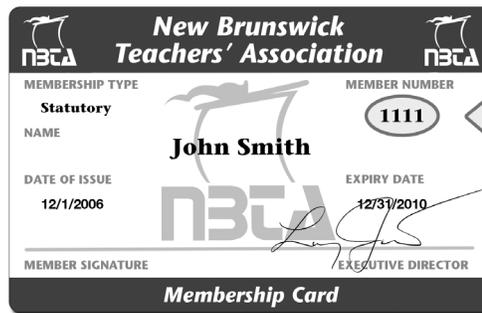
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 650 Montgomery Street
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB
 E3B 5R6

Place Label Here



You will need your NBTA Member Number to vote. Please have it ready

Your member number is located on the blue member card shown here:



Who can Vote?

- NBTA Statutory (Contract) Members, including all those on maternity leave and any other teacher on leave who has paid at least 1 day of dues in the current school year.
 - NBTA Casual Members (Substitute teachers who are not on Local Permits) who have (paid dues) worked at least one day during the current school year.
- *Note:** Individuals must have appeared on a dues printout by April 15th.

Who Cannot Vote?

- **Teachers who have not updated their electronic NBTA membership this school year cannot vote.** To register select "Register - click here" from the "Membership" box at www.nbta.ca or contact carlene.merrick@nbta.ca.
- NBTA Statutory (Contract) Members on leave, other than those on maternity leave, who have PAID NO DUES to the Association during this school year.
- All Substitute Teachers on Local Permits.

How to Vote?

- Go to the website at www.nbta.ca
- Click the Election 2012 icon as shown above
- Click to: Learn more information about the candidates OR proceed to the voting process.
- If you proceed to vote, enter you NBTA member # and your birthdate.
- Confirm your identity.
- Choose a candidate.
- Confirm your vote.
- A screen will tell you that your vote has been submitted.

*The process, although explained in detail, should take less than two minutes to complete.

**Once a teacher has voted, their member # will be blocked out and they will be unable to vote again. However, a teacher can quit the voting process at any point prior to the "CAST YOUR VOTE" Step and start again at any point during voting week.

Confidentiality of the Vote

All administration of the voting occurs off-site through an external service provider.

NO individual has access to the individual votes.

During voting week, the NBTA Executive Director will receive updates on the percentage of the membership that has voted, BUT no access to the amount of votes for each candidate.

Release of Voting Results

After 4pm on Friday, April 27, NBTA Executive Director Larry Jamieson will be informed by the off-site administrator of the vote totals. Mr. Jamieson will then call all candidates and inform them of the results. As soon as all candidates have been informed, an e-mail of the results will be sent to NBTA Branch Presidents and Directors for distribution to the membership through School Reps. An announcement will also be placed on the NBTA website at www.nbta.ca.

Election results by branch will be published in the June issue of the *NBTA News*.

