



March 2017  
Election Supplement

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

## *Who will be the next NBTA Vice-President?*

**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 and administrators should welcome candidates and take advantage of opportunities to discuss issues with them. We encourage teachers to access the NBTA website, which features contact information for all candidates and links to learn more about them.

**Candidate Information can be found at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)**



**Rick Cuming**



**Wendy Peters**

**Voting for all members  
electronically at  
[www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)**

**Monday, April 24 at 6:00 am -  
Friday, April 28 at 4:00 pm**

**On Back:**

**Voting Eligibility,  
Procedures and  
Confidentiality**



# Rick Cuming – Statement

## A STRONG VOICE for Teachers



**Rick Cuming**

A few years ago when I was first asked to run for NBTA Vice-President, I was honoured, but being new to the NBTA Executive I felt I wasn't quite ready. I have since served as a member of the Executive committee for 4 years, and when I was elected by the NBTA Board of Directors as Acting Past-President it made me realize **I am now ready to take on the challenge of being your Vice-President of NBTA.**

During my 6 years on the Board, and in conversations with teachers and principals around the province, I have seen an increase in the daily challenges teachers face. These challenges are familiar to all of us and include:

**Inclusion** – In February 2016, the NBTA Board of Directors called for a review of the inclusion policy. It was a recognition that the policy is woefully underfunded and inconsistently applied around the province, and is failing to serve those that need the most support. As of this writing, this urgently-needed review

**has not been completed**, despite the fact that NBTA has prepared a detailed document identifying the parts of the policy needing revision. **I will push for a full review to be completed as soon as possible to address this serious problem!**

**Workload** – EECD is increasingly obsessed with collecting and recording data. However, the collection of this data has not led to increased funding or constructive support. Add to this our significant classroom composition issues, split classes, and nearly endless paperwork which serves to undercut the time we spend with our families. Issues such as limited preparation time, classroom composition and the number of split classes **affect teacher wellness which compromises Work-Life balance.**

**Violence** – At every meeting of the Board of Directors we heard increasing reports of the acts of violence that teachers are subjected to. In fact over 650 violent incidents in the classroom have been reported in the short time that NBTF has been collecting the data. **Many teachers are routinely subjected to unacceptable levels of violence on a daily basis. We deserve a safe workplace!**

**Stability** – The government wants to make Education their main issue in the next election. I agree! However, incessant changes to the system result in a lack of stability. Any changes made need to be based on evidence collected here in NB, not political platform commitments. The reduction of teachers over the

last 6 years has removed hundreds of front-line professionals who are badly needed to strengthen and improve the stability of the system. The Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) model should not deplete the school-based supports children receive. **A Ten-Year Plan needs to be made more concrete with predictable and increasing Ten-Year funding!**

**Classroom Funding** – This government claims to have invested more than any other in education. But, how much of this investment makes it to schools and classrooms? These investments should be targeted at making sure both French Immersion and English Prime classrooms are adequately resourced and all classrooms are staffed to ensure equity in their composition. **I will push to ensure that investments in Education are directed to the classroom and schools, NOT to BULGING district offices.**

**Respect** – Teachers often find themselves under attack on social media and our profession sometimes unfairly portrayed by the news media. **I will continue to be a STRONG VOICE to defend the profession!**

I take immense pride in being a teacher. It is not just what I do, it is what I am. **I have the experience, the leadership, and STRONG VOICE we need in our next NBTA Vice-President. I am asking you to support me to be YOUR VOICE.**

**Check out my website: [www.RickCuming.ca](http://www.RickCuming.ca)**

**Like and share my FB Page: [www.facebook.com/RickCumingVP/](http://www.facebook.com/RickCumingVP/)**

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

# Wendy Peters — Statement



**Wendy Peters**

I would like to start by saying that I am honoured to have been nominated as a candidate for Vice-President. When I got my first contract I was told by a Branch Rep that I should get to know about my professional association. I took this advice to heart and became a Branch Rep and a PD Rep at my next school. I went on to become PD Chair, Vice-President and President for my Branch. I took on the role of Alternate Director and am currently Director for Branch 1725. With each of these steps I had the opportunity to learn more about the NBTA as an organization and more about the challenges faced by teachers across our province.

I began my career, like most of you, as a substitute teacher. Over the next six years, I substituted, day to day and short term, for teachers from Kindergarten to Grade 12. I received

many partial contracts, first D's, then B's and then received the elusive full-time B-contract. While spending the majority of my career at the Upper Elementary level, those first six years gave me a real appreciation for the challenges that teachers face at every level. I also maintain a great deal of respect for the substitute teachers that step in and do the work when their colleagues have to be out of their classrooms. Our system cannot function without qualified teachers to stand in the gap.

Our job and the demands placed on us are constantly changing. We want to meet the needs of every student but there are roadblocks in our way. We value inclusion, but it brings challenges. The current model of EST-Literacy and Numeracy is not fulfilling our needs or our students'. As teachers, we are in the learning profession and want feedback and suggestions on improving our practice. However, we are still, each, one person with a set number of hours in the day. The mentor moves on to their next school leaving themselves, the classroom teacher and the students frustrated. We need EST-Literacy and Numeracy in the schools, on a consistent basis; teachers that can work with small groups of students, long-term, to bring them to a level where they feel success. The 10-year plan states that literacy and numeracy are priorities. We must hold the government to this by insisting on the human resources

necessary to meet the needs of our students.

Mental Health support continues to be an issue in our schools and our province. According to a 2014 survey by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, 95% of teachers listed student mental health as their top concern. In a province where 1 in 5 children live in poverty, many families cannot afford private psych. ed. assessments. Without diagnoses many students can't get the supports they need. Reports of the effectiveness of the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) model, from the regions that have piloted it, have been mixed. It is important that the implementation be consistent with the practices in the area where ISD has been considered effective. While the highest need students may be served by this model, there are still many others in need of support. Cutting current supports in school to create ISD teams is not going to reduce the number of problems teachers and students face on a daily basis. Our working conditions are students' learning conditions.

While I cannot promise to know every issue facing teachers in every part of the province, I do promise to listen and to bring your concerns forward at every opportunity. The more we communicate and cooperate the more we can accomplish.

**Visit my website at [www.wendypetersforNBTA.com](http://www.wendypetersforNBTA.com)**

**Find me on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WendyNickersonPeters](https://www.facebook.com/WendyNickersonPeters)**

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# Voting will Take Place Electronically

## April 24-28, 2017

### at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)

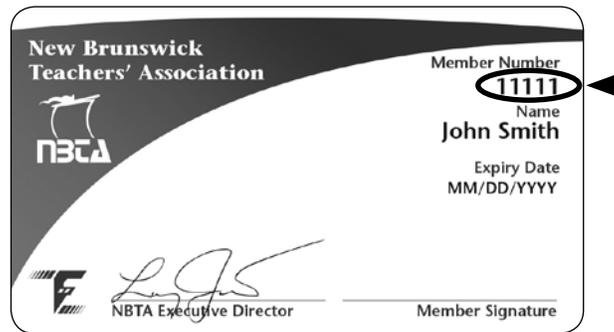
New Brunswick Teachers' Association  
 650 Montgomery Street  
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB  
 E3B 5R6

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 (certified supply teachers) who have (worked) paid dues at least one day during the current school year.
- \*Note:** Individuals must have appeared on a dues printout by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Who Cannot Vote?

- **Teachers who have not updated their electronic NBTA membership this school year cannot vote.** To register select "Registration" at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) or contact [carlene.merrick@nbta.ca](mailto: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](http://www.nbta.ca)
- Click the Election 2017 icon.
- Click to: Learn More Information about the Candidates OR Proceed to the Voting Process.
- If you proceed to vote, enter your 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 28, NBTA Executive Director Larry Jamieson will be informed by the off-site administrator of the vote totals. Mr. Jamieson will then inform the candidates of the results. As soon as the 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](http://www.nbta.ca). Election results by branch will be published in the June issue of the *NBTA News*.

