



March 2019
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



Connie Keating
Branch 0216



Barry Snider
Branch 0217



Stephanie Tomilson
Branch 0619

**Electronic voting at
www.nbta.ca
Monday, April 22 at 6:00 am -
Friday, April 26 at 4:00 pm**

**On Back:
Voting Eligibility,
Procedures and
Confidentiality**



Connie Keating — Statement

www.VoteConnieKeatingVP.weebly.com



Connie Keating

Dear Teacher Colleagues:

I must admit that my first direct involvement with the NBTA came about in a rather unique manner, one that might even constitute an act of bribery! My vice principal at the time, while conducting a performance review for my very first Schedule D contract, refused to sign it unless I promised to get involved with the NBTA in some capacity. Thinking that seemed like a small commitment to make to ensure my future as a permanent teacher, I agreed!

What I did not anticipate, however, was the **passion** I would develop for my professional association and for working on behalf of fellow teachers. I began by immersing myself in committee work at the local and provincial level for a number of years. In the fall of 2012, after serving one year as Branch 0216's Director, I was humbled to be nominated to run as a candidate for NBTA VP. I declined, knowing that I could not commit my

utmost attention to the position due to family commitments; it wasn't the right time.

Although I felt I had significant knowledge of the inner workings of our association and our NB Education System, I felt there was more to learn. I have continued my NBTA involvement in the seven years since 2012, and my terms on provincial and national teacher committees are about to conclude.

I am confident I have the **EXPERIENCE** necessary to fulfill the role of NBTA VP and, in the future, to be the **Strong Voice** as NBTA President speaking for NB teachers on issues that matter in classrooms. The time is right!

Teaching is using time wisely. All teachers can identify with the importance of teachable moments. It is often through them that authentic learning occurs, where ideally **action** takes place on the part of the student and when they are moved forward. My campaign slogan, **Seize the Moment-um**, similarly refers to the key moment in which we, as New Brunswick teachers, find ourselves.

Several opportunities lie before us and we must seize the energy and move forward in our perennial quest for system improvements. In the past year a significant Structure and Services review of our organization, NBTA, was completed and 53 recommendations lie before your Board of Directors to consider.

Media attention has started to shift to now view the perspective of teachers as a valid one, thanks to the strong voice of our president, George Daley, who articulated clearly and convincingly the positive and negative realities that exist within the classrooms of our NB Schools. It has been made clear that NB teachers will neither continue to allow ourselves nor the system within which we work to be berated!

However, the icing on top of the 'proverbial' education cake lies in the NB Auditor General's analysis of our education system. Her research supported claims, made by a multitude of former NBTA Presidents, that NB students have not been hitting NB EECD performance targets because the system has incurred too many systemic changes which caused instability and we as teachers were left to "scramble to get on board."

For the first time in years, teachers' concerns have been validated and our views have been supported. **My strong, experienced voice will Seize the Moment-um** to maintain the focus on the real issues we face daily. The timing is perfect to have our non-majority government address current teacher shortage, class composition challenges (student violence/mental health issues...), and to vehemently push for adequate funding and resources related to policy 322/Inclusion to ensure equity in all classrooms!

Vote Connie Keating for NBTA VP

Contact Me:

Email: constance.keating@nbed.nb.ca
Cell: 506-756-4137
Twitter: @literacyvet93

Barry Snider — Statement

www.BarrySnider.com



Barry Snider

I am honoured to let my name stand to be Vice-President of the NBTA. Over the course of my 23 years of teaching, including the last 11 as a teacher-principal, I have spent 19 years working on behalf of teachers in my branch and around New Brunswick. After several years on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee I elected to serve as the Acting Past President for 2016-18. These positions have given me the chance to hear from teachers around the province about their concerns. Here is what they have said:

Working conditions need to improve!

The system is constantly changing and teachers are expected to adapt to and implement change and this

has caused chaos in the system - a fact now documented for all to see by the recent Auditor-General's report on Education. This is compounded by violence in our workplace, and inadequate resources to us to do the job. The current teacher shortage has made finding a replacement impossible at times. How can we be expected to improve performance without addressing the conditions we work in?

I am committed to working with teachers and our employer to address this issue so that teachers can focus on helping students learn.

Mental health support for teachers is needed!

Most people do not truly understand what it is to be a teacher in 2019. Every teacher is expected to be a psychologist, social worker, nutritionist, nurse, substitute-parent, and subject specialist. We were not trained for this, but we do it because we care deeply about our student's well-being. The constant change and pressure to implement new programs further limits our time, and combined with the stresses of home and family, and the public pressure to perform 24/7, who cares for the caregivers? We have all known someone who has burned out or retired before they wanted to, so they could spend more time looking after themselves.

We need to put in place additional support for teachers, and to ultimately reduce the pressure on everyone. As a wise man once said, "The time is always right to do what is right."

We need to make more money!

Teaching is a noble vocation and a profession of love, but we need more money. The increases we have negotiated in the past 10 years have not covered the rising cost of inflation, meaning we are working harder for less money than we did 10 years ago. Addressing this MUST be a top priority in the next round of negotiations.

I am committed to working with our partners in the Federation on this because we cannot allow this trend to continue.

Teachers are the experts in the system - listen to us!

Teachers know the system better than anyone, particularly in our schools and what works best for our students. As a professional association of teachers, NBTA will continue to push for the inclusion of teacher's voices at all levels of our system. Hearing the concerns, ideas, struggles and successes of teachers is critical for NBTA to do its job effectively. I encourage you to get involved, to use your voice, and let us know what you want of your association. We ALL benefit when we collaborate.

I have 19 years of NBTA experience, knowledge of the critical issues, and I am ready and eager to work with all of our members to improve services to teachers, and ensure the voice of teachers is heard wherever and whenever Education is discussed.

Contact Me:

Email: barry.snider@nbed.nb.ca
Mobile Phone: 506-866-7413
School Phone: 506-882-3002

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

Stephanie Tomilson — Statement



Stephanie Tomilson

One of most rewarding parts of this election is getting to talk to teachers and seeing the incredible initiatives taking place across the province. I am learning so much. This has been the best professional learning and growth activity I have ever had. Wow, there is so much good to celebrate. Thank you for sharing your schools with me.

Having taught at various areas in the province, this run feels a bit like an extended Old Home Week. Life is busy, so we all don't get to see one another as often as we used to. But with the blended Subject Council just around the corner, we will all get to reconnect soon!

Improvements with inclusion

Inclusion has never been our issue. We as teachers include by nature—we embrace everyone. It's our job to **demand more supports in the classroom** to reach all students. ALL. OF. THEM. When something isn't working, we need be decisive about changing our policy. What we need now is an all facts on the table

discussion with government about what is working and what improvements need to be made immediately. We all need to pull together to set each and every New Brunswick student on their individual path to success.

Working conditions and classroom composition

Our creativity and flexibility can be stretched to the maximum under current parameters. This is limiting us as teachers to show what we really can do. We must continue to advocate for **improvements to teacher working conditions and classroom composition**. This will promote teacher wellness and will promote a healthy work/life balance.

Resources and supports for teachers

We innately know that time invested will be rewarded with contributing citizens in the end. We are a team. Teachers understand what it means to be fair and equitable. At the same time, we can easily identify when this isn't happening.

As teachers, we need **the supports available to deliver the kind of education that is deserving of our students**. We take our job seriously and have the skills necessary to set our students up for success. The frustrations come with the lack of resources and supports.

With the proper staff and supports in place we leave no one behind. This includes everyone from the struggling student to the medically fragile to the high-flyers. Our

teachers and students need resources not just to get by, but to thrive.

Mental health and wellness support

We are all well aware of the challenges we face with mental health in our buildings. ISD has been making strides in our province, and it's important to resolve the challenges with this new initiative to **make sure that ISD is effective province wide**. The roles of guidance counsellors and school psychologists, which hold great value in our buildings, are a great support to teachers. We need to **ensure that these positions are filled and are available to all schools on a more consistent basis**.

As educators, we cannot accept reactive interventions anymore— we need government to be able to anticipate and head these problems off at the pass. On this front we are making progress. We are putting more interventions in place. We need to **ensure mental health care is available and accessible for everyone who needs it**. The workload is over our heads right now and we need help. We must keep making the demands for assistance.

The NBTA is built on a structure of support. There is great collegiality in being a part of a strong Association such as NBTA and I'm proud to be a member for over 20 years. There are so many good things happening in education across the province. We need the public to see more of it. Please reach out to me with your questions and concerns- I'd love to hear from you. I hope to meet you at your school!

Contact Me:

✉ Stephanie.tomilson@nbed.nb.ca

☎ (506) 721-1728

🌐 [Stephanie Underhill Tomilson](#)

🐦 @stephtomilson

📘 NBTA Stephanie

📷 @stomilson

A Busy Spring & Summer for NBTA Members

Branch Resolution Deadline	March 1
NBTA Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest Free Loans	March 29
Certification Changes Deadline	March 31
NBTA Provincial Awards Submission Deadline	April 1
NBTA/NBTF Board Meetings	April 3 - 5
NBTA VP Voting	April 22 - 26
NBTA Local AGMs	Various Dates in May
NBTA Combined Council Day	May 3
NBTA Provincial AGM	May 24 - 25
Provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon	May 25
Last Day for Students	June 21
Developing Successful Schools	July 2 - 5
CONTACT	August 6 - 9

DSS 2019

**Developing Successful Schools
Conference**

July 2-5, 2019

**Mount Allison University,
Sackville, NB**

"This was an extremely practical session that will support our work with teachers and leads. Networking opportunities were very productive and I learned a lot from around Atlantic Canada."

— DSS 2016 Attendee

Celebrating over 40 years of Atlantic Teacher Organizations

CONTACT 2019

**Conference on New Techniques
and Classroom Teaching**

**August 6-9, 2019
Saint John, NB**

This 3 ½ day conference explores educational trends as well as 'simply great teaching techniques' that stand the test of time. It includes sessions facilitated by classroom teachers from all four Atlantic Provinces.

Interest-Free Loans for 2019-2020 School Year

Up to \$1,500.00 in any one school year shall be made available to statutory NBTA members who are on leave and improving their professional qualifications through educational programs. Application forms are available on the NBTA website (www.nbta.ca) under Resources > Forms.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Melinda Cook by email at melinda.cook@nbta.ca or by phone (506) 452-1839.

**The application deadline for
2019-2020 is:
March 29, 2019**

Combined Council Day

May 3, 2019 — Moncton Coliseum

Combined Council 2019 responds to the diversity of students and complexity of classrooms. With a focus on such things as mental health, autism, citizenship, resiliency and school culture, the conference serves to enhance our collective knowledge, empathy and ability to develop a learning environment responsive to the needs of both students and teachers.

Speakers



Ron Suskind

Ron Suskind is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, best-selling author, teacher essayist, and speaker. He is the author of six bestselling books, the most recent of which examines his own family's two-decade struggle to help one Owen, Suskind's son, emerge from the shadows of autism through a unique, and wildly creative, form of therapy. The documentary film about Owen's story, *Life Animated*, was just released.



Jeremy Bennett

Having been diagnosed at a young age with a severe form of Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, anxiety, and clinical depression, Jeremy knows first-hand the effects of mental illness. Because of his contribution in the field of mental health he was awarded Personality of the Year by The World Organization of Natural Medicine in 2013.



Jane Bluestein

Jane Bluestein, Ph.D., is a keynote speaker and seminar leader who has worked with educators worldwide. An award-winning author, Dr. Bluestein's latest book is *The Perfection Deception: Why Trying to Be Perfect is Sabotaging Your Relationships, Making You Sick, and Holding Your Happiness Hostage*. Formerly a classroom teacher, crisis intervention counselor, and teacher training program coordinator, she is committed to changing schools one heart at a time.



Big Daddy Tazz

After 30 years of denying he had the mental illnesses that were controlling his life, Tazz realized that being manic-depressive, attention deficit, and having mild dyslexia could either destroy or enhance his life... it was his choice. Tazz speaks candidly about his struggles and ultimately his triumphs, over not only being diagnosed with mental illness, but facing the terrifying stigma that surrounds it.



Alan Sears

Dr. Alan Sears is a Professor of Social Studies Education in the Faculty of Education at the University of New Brunswick (UNB). He has been a social studies teacher for more than 40 years working at all levels from primary to graduate school. In the Faculty of Education at UNB, Alan teaches undergraduate courses in teaching methods, social studies education, and international education and graduate courses in research methods and educational policy.



Eddy Robinson

Mr. Robinson has worked and advocated for many Indigenous communities locally, provincially and nationally for the past 25 years. He will address the much needed alliance of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people throughout North America in order to begin the process of creating social change before even stepping on the path of Reconciliation.



Michael Ungar (off-site)

Dr. Michael Ungar is among the best known writers and researchers on the topic of resilience in the world. His work has changed the way resilience is understood, shifting the focus from individual traits to the interactions between people and their families, schools, workplaces, and communities. Dr. Ungar's immense influence comes from his ability to adapt ideas from his research and clinical practice into best-selling works.

... and others!

**Online registration will
open April 3rd at 4pm at
www.nbta.ca.**

Voting will Take Place Electronically April 22-26, 2019 at www.nbta.ca

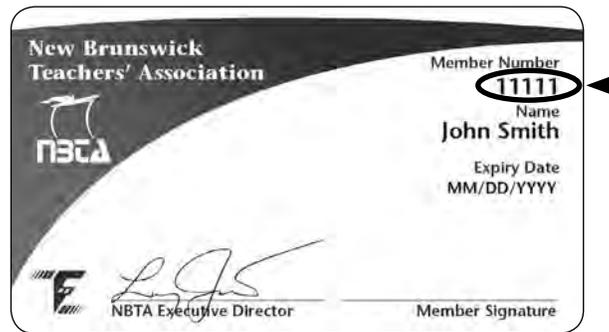
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
650 Montgomery Street
P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB
E3B 5R6

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 (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 15th.

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 or contact carlene.parker@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 2019 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 26, 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.

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

