

Uncharted 2020: *when there is no compass* ***NBTA Virtual Early Career Teachers Conference***

Presenter Biographies:

Rick Cuming has a BEd and a BSc (Physics) from UNB and a MEd from Memorial. He started teaching in Dalhousie (DRHS) in 1997 and in 1998 moved to Grand Falls (JCS) where has taught ever since. Rick has done two short term acting VP roles, and was a Science Lead for 2 years in district 14. He was elected Vice President/President-Elect of the NBTA in April 2018 and assumed the role of President in August of 2019.



Larry Jamieson is the Executive Director for the New Brunswick Teachers' Association. Larry has held a position within the NBTA for most of his teaching career. He has served as a School Rep, Branch President, Member of the Board of Directors and for many years he served on the Executive Committees of both the NBTA and the NBTF. Larry joined the NBTA in 2001 as the Director of Communications moving on in 2002 to become the Director of Teacher Welfare Services. In 2007 Larry became Deputy Executive Director and was selected by the Board of Directors as NBTA Executive Director in 2009.

Ardith Shirley is the Deputy Executive Director for the New Brunswick Teachers' Association. Her responsibilities with the NBTA include all aspects of professional development where she regularly facilitates workshops and keynotes at the school, district, provincial and national level. Ardith also provides advice and assistance to teachers on such matters as teacher certification, social justice, communication, code of ethics and leadership. Ardith became a certified FIERCE Conversation facilitator in 2009, completed the Executive Coaching Program at Royal Roads University in 2018 and is currently a PhD Candidate at the University of New Brunswick. Ardith is keenly interested in helping individuals and organizations achieve their preferred future.



Dale Weldon is a UNB Business Administration graduate and he joined the insurance industry after graduation. He has been working for Johnson Insurance for 29 years as a Senior Consultant and assists the NBTF Group Insurance Trustees in managing the teacher's group benefit plans.

Michael Ketchum has been in Education for 35 years with the last 10 years as a NBTA Staff, serving as Branch liaison and working with teachers on Pensions, Code of Ethics, and other Member Service related areas. Prior to that, Michael was an NBTA Teacher Counsellor, High School Vice Principal, Guidance Counsellor and a High School science and math teacher.



Chantal Lafargue is the new Staff Officer – Communications. She joined the NBTA team in January 2020 after sixteen years of teaching. Prior to her career in education, Chantal studied communications and worked in this field for approximately five years as a reporter, public relations coordinator and media monitor.

