



NBTA NEWS

NEW BRUNSWICK TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Who will be the next NBTA Vice President?

This spring will see candidates reaching out electronically to as many schools and Branch/Rep Council meetings as possible, expressing their views and seeking input from teachers. This will be a virtual campaign as candidates will not be visiting schools. We encourage teachers to take advantage of opportunities to discuss issues with each of the candidates. More information can be found on 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



Jason Green
Branch 1431



Peter Lagacy
Branch 1428



Dan Patterson
Branch 0820

Electronic voting at www.nbta.ca

April 26 at 6:00 am - April 30 at 4:00 pm



Jason Green — Statement

Experienced Voice



Jason Green

I believe I am uniquely placed to represent the teachers of New Brunswick. During my 22 years I have taught at **every grade level from Kindergarten to High School**. As a classroom teacher, resource teacher, and administrator, my breadth of experience in the system exceedingly qualifies me to represent all teachers. My political experience as a village councilor, combined with my years on the NBTA/F executive committees proves I can negotiate and navigate the political nature of representing large organizations.

#ServingTeachers

From my first teaching days, I have served teachers through professional organizations. For 17 years I have served as a school rep, branch vice president, alternate director and director. I have served on the finance, communications, ESS, and both the NBTA

and NBTF executive committees. I do this because I love our profession and I love working to maintain and improve our benefits and working conditions. The NBTA is a service organization dedicated to its members and every time I attend local or provincial meetings, I feel honoured to serve the teachers of New Brunswick.

As a director I have pushed for better ways to serve our members, while also remembering our core objectives. My motion to emphasize these objectives, now evident throughout our organization, reminds us of our purpose. I am also invested in looking toward the future of the NBTA. By improving our website, brand, and media footprint in ways that make it easier for us to serve teachers and supporting positive recommendations from the Structure and Services committee we will push the NBTA into the next decade.

Key Issues

Negotiations - This leadership team will take us into our next round of bargaining. **Working Conditions and Wages** will be the key areas we need to address. Teacher pay has not increased in step with inflation. We have done a great job of holding your dues steady for 10 years, but your paycheck no longer stretches like it once did. These past months have also shown a real need for **transparency and communication** from government!

Inclusion - Its workload and underfunding continue to stretch teachers beyond capacity. The confusion between policies leads to teacher's suffering **violence** at the hands of students. While on the ESS committee I was involved in the early stages for a call to review policy 322 and I will continue to push for needed changes!

Mental Health - This year, more than ever, has shown that we must deal with Maslow's hierarchy before Bloom's taxonomy. We cannot teach to our fullest potential if our most basic mental health needs are not being met. This year has been the most trying and exhausting in my career. No doubt for you as well. Along with the Board of Directors I have rolled up my sleeves and gone to work pushing for as much support and relief as we can get from government. We have been successful on many fronts but met resistance elsewhere. I will continue to fight for added **mental health and counselling support** for teachers.

We have great power as educators, and with that comes great responsibility. I have felt this responsibility to serve teachers throughout my entire career and I promise I will do my best to continue that service in the future as well. I hope, with your support, that it will be as your vice president.

Website address: www.jasongreen4nbta.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JasonGreen4NBTA

Email: jason.green@nbed.nb.ca

Peter Lagacy — Statement

It's About "Time"



Peter Lagacy

I remember the first day in my own classroom and the feelings of anticipation, excitement, and pride as I prepared to start a career in teaching. I find it rewarding to realize that 22 years later, it is with the same emotions that I begin this quest to become your NBTA Vice President.

I became involved with the NBTA after a conversation with my Branch Director, where I was questioning the value of our dues. Her words were simple, "I think you need to get involved." She saw something in me I couldn't see in myself until recently... **a strong advocate for teachers.**

I have been involved with the NBTA since 2006 and have held various positions within the organization with the most notable being elected twice to the position of **Acting Past President**

by the Board of Directors. It has been an honour to be on the **NBTA Executive** since 2016 and the **NBTF Executive** since 2017. The votes of confidence shown by the Board of Directors and fellow colleagues have shown me that I am ready for the challenge.

TIME TO TAKE SOMETHING OFF THE PLATE

Working conditions and classroom composition are two of our most prevalent challenges. Teachers cannot continue to be expected to manage all the societal issues within the classroom without the **proper resources and supports**. The lack of school psychologists remains a challenge, and we need to encourage increases in guidance, resource, and dedicated support from other professions. In order for the Integrated Service Delivery model to be effective provincially, it must be equitable for all which could be more readily achieved if ISD were encompassed under the educational umbrella. Teachers and administrators are often the ones left holding the ball when services are not provided.

Inclusion remains a pressing issue in NB education. In 2016, the board of directors called for a review of the inclusion policy which has yet to be completed. I believe, it is time to have an **inclusion policy that works effectively** for everyone.

TIME FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Teachers need to be **respected** and **valued** for the **frontline work** that they do. COVID has taught us many things, mainly that teachers are the most adaptable and flexible professionals. The reality of today's classrooms should not come at the sacrifice of our **work-life balance**. My fear is that teachers are, now more than ever, just a click away... teachers 24/7. We must ensure that this is not our reality post-COVID.

TIME FOR FAIR COMPENSATION

We need to close the **gap** between the **cost of living** and our **current salary** increases; however, we know this may be a challenge given the current political and economical situation. Perhaps there is an additional way to get other means of **compensation**, such as, more flexibility for required absences, i.e.: family days/mental health days.

Lastly, I'd like to say that I am **proud** to be a teacher in NB and a member of the NBTA. Teachers need to **encourage** one another and to use their **voice**.

It's **TIME** for **TEACHERS**... I am ready to hear from you!


CONTACT ME:

 www.peterlagacy.ca

 Pete for NBTA VP

 peter.lagacy@nbed.nb.ca

 peterlagacy

 506-575-5204

 @peterlagacy

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

Dan Patterson — Statement

You Teach, I'll work for you.



Dan Patterson

Being a passionate New Brunswick teacher has driven me to run for NBTA Vice President. For close to two decades, I have had the privilege to teach elementary, middle, and high school; this has given me an understanding of the joys and complexities that come from within each level. I have worked as a mentor at both the school and district levels and have experience as an administrator. During this time, I have witnessed many shifts in educational philosophy from our employer, which have resulted in learning gaps and difficulty in pedagogic delivery. My name is Dan Patterson, and these are some of the reasons I have decided to run for NBTA Vice President.

More than ever, teachers need someone who is not afraid to speak up for change, someone who is willing to oppose policy and decisions that do not make sense and push for the ones that align with OUR shared vision for education. Someone ready to demand

improved classroom environments and salaries that justify the expectations placed on teachers. Lastly, someone who will advocate for the changes our school system so desperately needs. I am that someone.

Class Composition

The current model for class composition is unfeasible. This failure is having a severe impact on student learning in our province. Small gains in some regions have happened through increased FTE. Increasing staffing numbers or, at a minimum, not seeing them reduced when the population changes are critical to this idea. Furthermore, when appropriately funded, inclusion can and, in most situations, does work. We know that class sizes need to be reduced to provide a better service for our students. Differentiation in teaching is essential, but this can only occur when the numbers and our learners' abilities make sense.

Working Conditions

The expectations placed on teachers are beyond one's capacity. Gone are the days when a teacher's primary role was to deliver curriculum and assess their students. Now we are tasked with unreasonable amounts of paperwork, balancing student needs, knowing our students' abilities without fault, and maintaining learning at a steady pace. Violence in classrooms is increasing, and this is entirely unacceptable! How can all these daily expectations that are required of us possibly improve our teaching and learning environments?

We need to make it our priority to be in front of our students and educating them. Moreover, we need supports for administrators and teachers to care for students with mental health, behavioral, and academic struggles through immediate interventions that do not cause burdens on a building's daily functions.

Professional Learning

Now more than ever, WE understand the need for quality professional learning. Teachers feel no choice other than sacrificing personal time to be competent in the ever-changing jobs we do. We need time built into our working hours to make necessary changes, notably when left to figure them out. We know how hard it is to try and fit professional learning into the regular day. Our employer must provide job-embedded professional development during the school year. Updating professional knowledge is a necessary tool for our job. Teachers should expect timely delivery of professional learning from our employer directly related to their directives during the school year.

Teachers need a voice that will stand up to these pressures. We need someone who will advocate for positive change and will make a difference in our daily lives. I have the confidence, the desire, and just enough stubbornness to seek answers and solutions for the necessary changes to move our profession forward, while keeping mental health and well-being in mind. I am asking you to trust me to work for you.

Contact Dan:

506.650.4817

DanPattersonNBTA@gmail.com

 **@PattersonNBTA**  **PattersonNBTA**

 **Dan Patterson for NBTA VP**

Virtual Council Day 2021: Altogether Different

Your 30 NBTA Elementary, Middle and High School Council volunteers have been at work since September on Council business. Along with every other facet of education, changes are underway to continue to offer you professional learning and member recognition opportunities. We are pleased to provide several updates. Stay tuned next month as we promote our Council Day 2021 Keynote Speakers.



Council Day 2021

The NBTA is very excited that **Friday, May 7, 2021**, will be our first-ever virtual Council Day in an '**Altogether Different**' format!

On that day, teachers will have the opportunity to join their colleagues from around the province online and select from several virtual learning opportunities that your Council volunteers who sit on the program committee have secured.

The NBTA Executive Committee voted to suspend our alternate proposal process for this year since the event's virtual nature should allow for every member to participate, therefore making the policy null and void.

This begs the question, **what if a member doesn't find something of interest in our virtual Council Day program?** It has been agreed that any member is welcome to take part in any virtual professional learning opportunity they see fit as long as it is an **individually** motivated endeavour (you decide for you) and that you are prepared to **share the link/information** about the learning in our 'NBTA Council Day' reflection survey so that your professional association can proudly share the varied professional interests of our members.

Reminder: Grants will not be made for activities scheduled on same day(s) as NBTA Councils.

Council Teacher Recognition Awards 2021

Your Councils believe that **all** teachers do a wonderful job. That said, there are always teacher colleagues that our profession wishes to honour or acknowledge for all kinds of wonderful reasons. These extraordinary teachers can be nominated for one of our annual Council Teacher Recognition Awards.

Do you have colleagues who have shown a substantial contribution to any or all of the following: school environment, school spirit, student learning opportunities, teacher morale, individual student development and/or professional activities?

Nominate them today!

Nominating a colleague is easy – go to www.nbta.ca . Fill out the one page nomination form and submit before the April 1, 2021 deadline.

Did you nominate a colleague in 2020? If yes, those award winners will also be recognized this year.

**Deadline:
April 1, 2021**

Virtual Council Day 2021: Altogether Different!

Council Annual General Meeting

Each Council is obligated to hold an Annual General Meeting every year. This meeting happens in conjunction with Council Day and will be held on May 7, 2021 (virtual session) as part of your Council Day program.

TIP: Your Council AGM is different from your Branch AGM. Your Branch AGM agenda covers business items pertaining to the running of your Branch and decisions required by the Branch in preparation for the NBTA AGM. Conversely, your Council AGM agenda looks after the business pertaining to Councils. Read on for more details...

Every teacher is invited and encouraged to participate in the virtual Council Annual General Meeting. Each Council plans their own AGM, but you can expect to learn more about:

- What your Council does for you – deepen your understanding of Council work.
- Find out more about being a Council volunteer (and see the call for volunteers in this section).
- Hear about your teacher colleagues receiving Council Teacher Recognition Awards.
- Learn more about how your Council dues are being used.
- Win door prizes!

Interested in Being a Council Volunteer?

The NBTA Councils represent the thousands of elementary, middle and high school teachers across the province. While the Councils are responsible for coordinating your provincial PL day each year in May, this is only one of the many tasks they take on, including: putting on institutes throughout the year; managing money that is then given back to teachers in such ways as educational improvement grants; and participating in various NBTA provincial committees such as the Enhanced Learning and Working Environment Committee.

What is expected of me if I am a Council volunteer?

- Attend a minimum of two Council meetings per year and other meetings called by the Council President.
- Represent the membership of the province.
- Must be a part of a Council standing committee (i.e., Council Day program; Council Awards committee, etc.).
- Participate in Council Day planning.

Each Council strives to maintain an Executive Committee of approximately 12-13 members that represent our membership geographically and demographically. Each of our Councils have declared vacancies and will be looking to add to their leadership at their annual meetings (May 7, 2021).

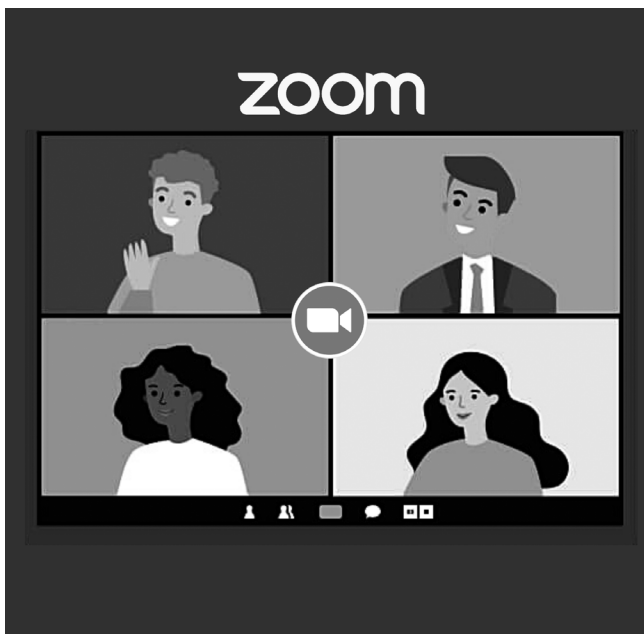
Think you might be interested in joining your Council and helping to serve the interests of teachers from all across the province?

Email:

Elementary Council
karen.miller@nbed.nb.ca

Middle Level Council
ryan.macdougall@nbed.nb.ca or
sarah.brooks@nbed.nb.ca

High School Council
alice.walker@nbed.nb.ca



Professional Learning Opportunities

DSS 2021 Developing Successful Schools Conference

Details to follow

"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."

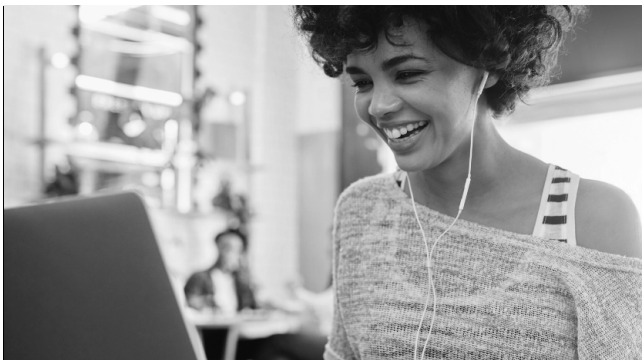
— DSS Attendee

Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching

CONTACT -2021-

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.

**Postponed to:
August 2-5, 2022
Hosted by NSTU**



We're Going Virtual! May 2-4, 2021 Rivers of Change: Trans Canada Trends in Education Conference

CAPSLE is the leading provider of education law professional development in the country. The 2021 CAPSLE Conference will feature experts and practitioners in education, law, justice, social work, cultural competence, and mental health, and will address such timely topics as the impact and implications of the pandemic on Canadian education systems. The conference will virtually bring together educators, lawyers, school board staff, unions, trustees, and academics to learn about the most recent and relevant developments and best practices in the field of education law.

www.capsle.ca



Educational Improvement Grants

NBTA Councils support and promote professional learning opportunities for members.

Funding for professional learning opportunities (including virtual) is still available through the NBTA/EECD Educational Improvement Grants.

An Educational Improvement grant is funding that exists to support teacher professional growth. The activity may be of a general professional nature or related in a significant manner to the teaching assignment of the applicant. For the application form and full grant guidelines, please go to www.nbta.ca.

Voting will Take Place Electronically

April 26-30, 2021

at www.nbta.ca

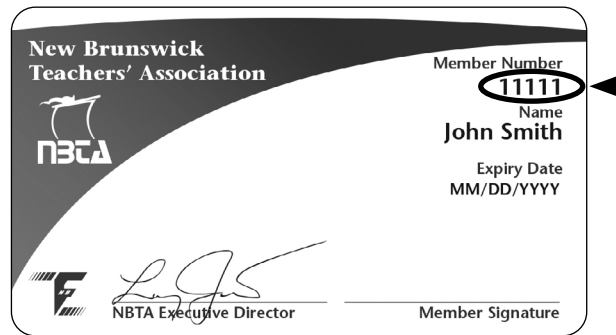
New Brunswick Teachers' Association
 650 Montgomery Street
 P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB
 E3B 5R6

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 16th.

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

**Once a teacher has voted, their member number 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.

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.

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.

How to Vote?

- Go to the website at www.nbta.ca
- Click the Election 2021 icon.
- Click **Learn More Information about the Candidates or Proceed to the Voting Process**.
- If you proceed to vote, enter your NBTA member number and your birthdate.
- Confirm your identity.
- Choose a candidate.
- Confirm your vote.
- A screen will tell you that your vote has been submitted.

Release of Voting Results

After 4pm on Friday, April 30, 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*.

