

Connected

empowering teachers • inspiring students • elevating communities

March 2024
Election Supplement

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

This spring will see four candidates reaching out to as many schools and Branch/Rep Council meetings as possible, expressing their views and seeking input from teachers. This will be a hybrid campaign meaning the candidates are prepared to meet with groups of teachers both electronically and in person. We encourage teachers to take advantage of these opportunities to discuss professional issues with each candidate.

Candidate information can be found at www.nbta.ca



Harmien Dionne
Branch 1450



Heidi Ryder
Branch 1610

Electronic voting at www.nbta.ca

April 22 at 6:00 am - April 26 at 4:00 pm



Harmien Dionne — Statement



Harmien Dionne
Branch 1450

As a candidate for NBTA Vice-President/President-Elect, I am honored to have the opportunity to share my vision for our education system, one that prioritizes the protection of public education, fosters a distraction-free learning environment, promotes teacher wellness, and cultivates a positive relationship with the government.

First and foremost, I am deeply committed to protecting and strengthening our public education system. Public education is the cornerstone of our society, providing equal opportunities for all students to learn and grow, regardless of their background or circumstances. As a society, we must invest in and safeguard this invaluable resource to ensure that every child has access to a high-quality education that prepares them for success in an ever-changing world.

We must prioritize the allocation of resources to strengthen and expand

teaching roles specifically tailored to addressing complex academic concerns among students. By investing in specialized educators who possess the expertise and dedication to support learners facing various challenges, we can ensure that every student receives the individualized attention and assistance they need to thrive academically. Increased funding for these crucial positions will not only enhance educational outcomes but also promote inclusivity and equity within our schools, empowering all students to reach their full potential regardless of their unique learning needs.

One of the key challenges facing our education system today is the prevalence of distractions in classrooms. From technological gadgets, violence in the classroom, to external disruptions, these distractions can hinder students' ability to focus and engage in meaningful learning experiences. As our NBTA Vice-President/President-Elect, I will work tirelessly to address these distractions and create learning environments that are conducive to student success. This may involve implementing policies to limit disruptions during instructional time, providing professional development opportunities for teachers on classroom management techniques, and fostering partnerships with parents and community members to support a culture of learning both inside and outside the classroom.

I firmly believe that it is imperative for the government to take proactive measures in addressing and preventing workplace violence. Every individual deserves to feel safe and secure in their place of work, and it is the responsibility of the authorities to implement effective policies and regulations to ensure the protection

of employees. By actively monitoring and enforcing stringent measures against workplace violence, we can create a safer and more conducive environment for all workers, ultimately fostering a culture of respect and security in every school.

Furthermore, I recognize the importance of prioritizing teacher wellness. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of our society, and it is imperative that we support their well-being and professional growth. This includes addressing issues such as teacher burnout, stress, and work-life balance. As a NBTA Vice-President/President-Elect, I will advocate for policies and initiatives that promote teacher wellness, such as increased access to mental health resources, reduced administrative burdens, and enhanced opportunities for professional development and collaboration.

In addition to protecting public education and promoting teacher wellness, I am committed to fostering a positive relationship with the government. Collaboration between educators, policy makers, and government officials is essential to driving positive change and ensuring that our education system meets the needs of all students. I will work to build bridges between all stakeholders, advocating for policies that are informed by research and best practices, and promoting open and transparent communication.

In conclusion, I am dedicated to advancing the values of public education, creating distraction-free learning environments, supporting teacher wellness, and fostering positive relationships with the government. Together, we can build a brighter future for our students and our society.

[HTTP://HARMIENDIONNE.MY.CANVA.SITE](http://harmiendionne.my.canva.site)

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Heidi Ryder — Statement

It's About Respect



Heidi Ryder
Branch 1610

Last year, as I visited schools, I encouraged you to tell your stories to raise awareness of the issues we face every day and to propose solutions so that we can move forward together. Our individual and collective teacher voice is the true power of our Association. I made a commitment to amplify our common messages. As a 23+ years classroom teacher, administrator and teacher leader in this province I have taken every opportunity to do so, not only this past year as your Vice President, but since the beginning of my career. I am prepared for the work ahead, having served teachers of this province for over two decades—in my local branch, on numerous NBTA, NBTF and EECD committees, on the NBTA Board of Directors and NBTA/NBTF Executive.

Teachers know their work is **valuable**, but they also need to feel their work is **valued**. As I listen to teach-

ers, a common theme is the fundamental idea that **it's about respect**.

- **Respect** evident in **safe and healthy work environments** that demonstrate concern for our well-being with—at minimum—adequate space to teach and learn, where violence is not normalized, social media attacks on teachers are not accepted, and teachers are encouraged to prioritize their well-being. Old adages are often proven true, and none more-so than the idea that we need to take care of our teachers, so that they can take care of the students.
- **Respect** reflected by a **competitive wage and benefits package** that attracts new teachers and also retains those in the system. With more career options than ever before for our highly educated and skilled workforce, we need to attract them to our schools and classrooms. Salary and benefits are one factor in remaining competitive.
- **Respect** for the **professionalism** of teachers. We need **certified teachers** leading our classrooms and schools, including recognition for trades certifications commensurate with their education and experience. Teachers are pedagogical and subject-matter experts and our goal must be to have certified teachers as the standard across the system, with more accessible options for achieving certification.
- **Respect** meaning **all** teachers are **supported**, from beginning teachers to those nearing the end of their careers. We need robust beginning teacher programs to

ensure a foundation for success, continued support for our uniquely NB teacher counselling program and accessible, accurate pension/retirement advice for teachers. Each stage of our career has different, but equally important needs. We need a **properly resourced system, both in financial and human terms**. The system's needs have continually grown, as have demands on teachers.

- **Respect** for the expertise inherent in teacher voices—**reflected and valued in educational decisions** at all levels. In 2014 I remember being told that teachers should not be “getting in the middle” of the pension fight. With our economic wellbeing on the line, we did not step aside. The same holds true today—we advocate daily for **quality, public education** in this province and will continue to ensure that we are not just in the middle, but at the forefront, of educational decision-making.

These systemic issues have a direct and significant impact on the **recruitment and retention** problem that is causing alarm in every jurisdiction across the country (and beyond). **We are at a tipping point**; we no longer have the luxury of discussing the issue in theory: the crisis is here, in very practical terms, at our classroom doors. Along with ensuring our profession is **respected** and teachers' work is **valued** we need viable steps towards solutions. It will take a concerted, collective effort (and **budget commitments**) by education partners. With your votes in April, I will be honoured to represent teachers and publicly funded education.

 506-625-3408

 WWW.HEIDIRYDER.CA

 [HEIDI_RYDER](https://twitter.com/HEIDI_RYDER)

 [RYDERFORNBTA_VPPRESELECT](https://www.instagram.com/RYDERFORNBTA_VPPRESELECT)

 [HEIDI RYDER FOR NBTA VP/PRESIDENT ELECT](https://www.facebook.com/HEIDI.RYDER.FOR.NBTA.VP/PRESIDENT.ELECT)



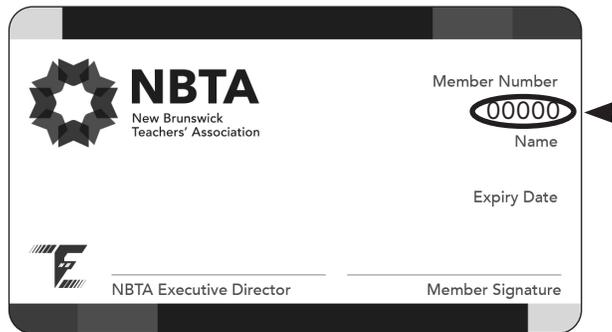
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Voting will Take Place Electronically April 22-26, 2024 at www.nbta.ca

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

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

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



Place Label 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.
- All Substitute Teachers on Local Permits.
***Note:** Individuals must have appeared on a dues printout before the election.

Who Cannot Vote?

- **Teachers who have not updated their electronic NBTA membership this school year cannot vote.** To register select "Register" at www.nbta.ca. If you require assistance, 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.

How to Vote?

- Go to the website at www.nbta.ca
- Click the NBTA Election icon.
- Check out the candidates' information or **proceed to the voting process by clicking "Vote Now"**.
- 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.

***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.**

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 Ardith Shirley will be informed by the off-site administrator of the vote totals. Ms. Shirley 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 members. An announcement will also be placed on the NBTA website at www.nbta.ca.

Election results by branch will be published in an upcoming issue of the *ConnectED*.

