

NWTTA NEWS *Election Edition*



2022-2024 Central Executive Election

JANUARY 2022

Voting Day is

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

This special edition of NWTTA News serves to introduce you to the candidates who have stepped forward for consideration to become your 2022-2024 Central Executive. All Central Executive positions but the President are volunteer. Thank you to these candidates and all Central Executive, Regional Executive and LROs whose volunteer time makes the NWTTA a strong Association over a large Territory in 49 schools and 8 DEA/DEC offices.

There is an election for the position of Vice-President. President, Secretary-Treasurer and Member-at-Large positions have been acclaimed.

LROs will serve as Returning Officer at your school/work site on Voting Day.

If you are not available to vote on your Voting Day, you can vote through **Proxy**.

A maximum of one (1) proxy vote can be cast by a member, in addition to their own vote.

To authorize a member to act as their proxy, a member must:

Hand-write/print/type a note stating that they (their name) authorize the person voting as their proxy (proxy's name) to act as their proxy for the NWTTA 2022-2024 Central Executive election vote on February 15, 2022. The proxy note must be signed by the person authorizing the proxy.

Example:

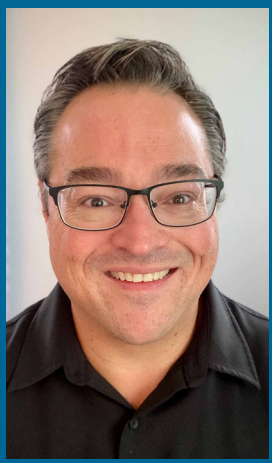
I, John Doe, authorize Jane Doe to act as my proxy for the NWTTA 2022-2024 Central Executive election vote on February 15, 2022.

John Doe's signature

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Todd STURGEON

Program Manager - Information Technology
South Slave Divisional Education Council
Fort Smith

Candidate for **Vice-President**

Hello, my name is Todd Sturgeon and I am running for the position of Vice-President. Originally from Cornwall, Ontario, I graduated from St. Francis Xavier University (B.A. in English) and the University of Maine (B.Ed.) and have a post-graduate diploma in Applied Information Technology. I moved to the NWT from Halifax, Nova Scotia to work for the South Slave Divisional Education Council as IT Manager. Before moving to Fort Smith in 2005, I was a teacher in Nova Scotia (grades 7-12 English, Math and Drama). I have further experience in business management and information technology. My past positions include Chief Information Officer, Chief Operating Officer, teacher, and project manager.

I've been helping schools in the NWT for over 17 years now and my primary role has always been to support teachers and school staff. This year I am currently on a one-year education leave to complete my Master's degree. It's a technology management program centered on strategic planning, policy development, management, and operations.

No one will ever be better advocates for teachers than teachers ourselves. I'm not running in this election with a long personal list of things I would like to see changed or improved. We all know there is lots of ongoing work to do to support teachers. I just think the NWTTA needs to remain united and strong to best support its members. The NWTTA is people--all of us--working to try to make things better for one another. For me, right now, this means really listening to members as our Association strives to make improvements in areas

related to workload, wellness, equity, open and healthy working environments, among others.

I am at a place in my career and personal life where I can offer to take on the additional duties and responsibilities that come with the Vice-President position. I would be honoured to continue to work for members to advance our shared goals, improve working conditions and protect our entire membership.

As an active member with 10 years of service on NWTTA regional executive and Central Executive, I am experienced, knowledgeable and am keen to support members as best I can. My background is in teaching and learning with 30 years of management and organizational leadership experience. As Regional Presidents' Representative and Secretary-Treasurer on Central Executive (my current role), and as a member of two Collective Bargaining teams, I have worked closely with many NWTTA members and regions and understand the diverse issues facing members in our small NWT communities, regional centres, and Yellowknife schools. I would be very honoured to continue to be of service on your Central Executive.

Why vote for me? I'm honest, committed, experienced, hard-working and reliable. I care about NWTTA members and helping is my favourite. Please vote for me so that I can support you.

Respectfully yours,

Todd Sturgeon

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Gwen YOUNG

Science Department Head and Senior Biology Teacher
École Sir John Franklin High School
Yellowknife

Candidate for **Vice-President**

As we enter into 2022, Education continues to be in the forefront of the World Pandemic. Each day, COVID virus concerns enter our lives interrupting and changing what we can and cannot control. As educators, we have made sacrifices. We have been asked to adjust our ways of teaching to create online learning in the hopes of continuing education for our students. Throughout these past two pandemic years, I have been a classroom teacher. I continue to deal with the ever changing and challenging expectations that are put on me to ensure my students are learning. I feel the pressures of safety protocols, technology issues, and gaps in my students learning. I worry for the mental health and safety of my students, colleagues and myself, as we all try to survive. So as a classroom teacher, I feel that I can be a voice for teachers/Admin/EAs and will work with the Central Executive to ensure support in all areas so that members will move forward from this pandemic.

I continue to be a strong advocate for women educators to become leaders in Education and the NWTTA. Currently, over 70% of the NWTTA membership are women. It is in the ever-changing uncertainty of the world pandemic that women need to take on more leadership roles. As a member of the CTF Status of Women Committee and Chair of the NWTTA Status of Women Committee, I have worked to create the first NWTTA Women's Symposium in Fall 2022. As a female educator, I will continue to fight for women in the workplace, leadership opportunities, fair and equitable pay and dedicated support for women's issues.

I am honored to call myself a northerner. I grew up in the community of Hay River where my parents were northern educators for 34 years. After graduation, I attended Saint Francis Xavier University. Completing my undergraduate program, I decided to follow in my parents footsteps and returned to the north where I have lived and taught in Yellowknife for thirty years. As a northerner, I believe it is important that educators from all regions of the NWT are represented and heard. Each region has situations and sets of challenges that are different but just as important. I will take every opportunity interacting with the GNWT, DEAs and CTF, to advocate and present these unique, Northern regional challenges and work to support members.

Education is a demanding career that asks more each day of its professionals yet expects these people to be less supported through funding and resources. As Vice-President of the NWTTA, I will be dedicated, supportive, driven, and focused to ensure that members are treated fairly and equitably each day. I believe in the education in the North and the professionals that offer everything to ensure our students succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to run for the position of Vice-President on the NWTTA Central Executive. I look forward to working with the new Executive to ensure that NWTTA members are being supported as we move forward from the Pandemic.

Gwen M. Young

UNION LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF)

- Committee Member of the CTF Status of Women Advisory Committee 2019-2021
- NWTTA Delegate at the CTF Status of Women Symposium - Toronto 2020, Vancouver 2019

NWTTA

- YK1 Regional President 2006-2007, 2020-2022
- NWTTA President Candidate Elections 2020
- Central Executive Member – Member-at-Large Position 2018-2020
- Member of YK1 2020-2022 Negotiations Team
- Vice-President/Director on the Board of Northern Employee Benefits Services (YK1 Pension Board) 2019-2023
- Chair and Committee Member of the NWTTA Status of Women Committee 2018-2022
- Committee Member of the NWTTA Legislation Committee 2019-2020
- Committee Member of the NWTTA Wellness Committee 2017-2020
- Committee Member of the NWTTA Curriculum Committee 2012, 2018-2020

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Wendy TULK

Curriculum Coordinator
Tlcho Community Services Agency
Behchoko

Acclaimed as **Secretary-Treasurer**

My name is Wendy Tulk and I currently work in the Tlcho region. I have taught across Canada, and I came to the NWT "for one year." That was in 2008, and like so many I am here for life.

I worked at Chief Jimmy Bruneau School for 14 years, and am now working throughout the Tlcho region as curriculum coordinator. I have been involved with the NWTTA for 10 years as LRO, Secretary-Treasurer, and President of the Tlcho Regional Executive, and have served as the Regional Presidents' Representative and the Member-at-Large on the Central Executive for the last three years. I am very excited to take on a new role as Secretary-Treasurer of the Central Executive.

Northern life is one of amazing rewards partnered with sometimes intense challenges, and as teachers we experience both daily. I have lived in a small community for most of my time here, but I work in a larger school, and I feel I understand the

challenges that teachers face every day, from leave time and classroom issues to housing concerns. I believe the NWTTA is an extremely important support and connection for teachers in the territory, and I have been privileged to work with many wonderful people both as a teacher and a member of the NWTTA.

I hope to be able to support and help teachers in any way I can as they work to provide high-level education in sometimes less-than-ideal environments. Teachers now have to be more adaptable and flexible than ever before and are facing issues most had never imagined. My goal is to help improve these concerns for teachers by being a strong voice on our Central Executive. I am honored and excited to represent and serve the teachers of the Northwest Territories for the next two years!

Thank you,
Wendy Tulk

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Colin PYBUS

Vice-Principal
East Three Secondary School
Inuvik

Acclaimed as **Member-at-Large**

Vahn Gwinzii, Uvlaami, Bonjour and Hello everyone,

My name is Colin Pybus and I'm very excited to be acclaimed to the position of Member-at-Large for the upcoming term on the NWTTA's Central Executive. Originally from Walkerton, Ontario, this is my ninth year living and teaching in the NWT. A trained physical education instructor, my move into the Vice-Principal position this year has been a big change for me. I enjoy taking on new challenges, and see the Central Executive position as my next one, and a great way to continue supporting members from across the Territory.

Experience:

- Beaufort-Delta Regional President – 2020-current
- Beaufort-Delta Regional Executive Member – 2016-current
- East Three Secondary School LRO - 2015
- NWTTA Central Professional Development Committee Member – 2020-current
- NWTTA Wellness Committee Member – 2018-current
- NWT Educators' Conference Planning Committee Member: 2018, 2022
- NWTTA Curriculum Committee Member – 2016-2020
- Recipient of an Educational Leave – 2019-2020
- Aboriginal Sport Circle NWTTA Teacher Award Winner – 2021
- B.C. Gillie Bursary Winner - 2020
- 2021 Collective Bargaining Team Member

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Matthew MILLER

President
Northwest Territories Teachers' Association
Yellowknife

Acclaimed as **President**

I am honoured to continue serving the NWTTA membership as President for a second term. It has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences. Before being elected, I spent years ensuring I learned all I could about how the Association works at the regional and territorial levels. My previous NWTTA positions and committee work not only provided the knowledge required to lead our Association, it also offered the opportunity to create relationships with members across the Northwest Territories.

No one knew what to expect when the pandemic began. COVID-19 changed the way the NWTTA operates and reinforced the need for experience. I have been immersed in the challenges COVID-19 creates for our profession, continuously working to navigate forward. The prior relationships I formed are now beneficial as we all work in collaboration across the regions, with employers, and other teacher organizations across the country with the goal of returning safely to in-person learning.

As President, I have made it a priority to be available to members when it is convenient to them. Hearing directly from members has allowed me to be hands-on to ensure their concerns are addressed appropriately.

I have worked to make the NWTTA more transparent and inclusive. I have made motions to post all Central Executive minutes and make the Association's finances available to members. I have also created the NWTTA Diversity and Human Rights Committee, forming partnerships with other groups in the NWT to support members

During my second term, I will remain proactive, engaged, transparent, and committed. I plan to strengthen the connection between Central Office and the nine regions to keep members informed, promote leadership opportunities, and build capacity for the future of the Association.

Respectfully,
Matthew Miller