

NWTTA NEWS *Election Edition*



2018-2020 Central Executive Election

FEBRUARY 2018

Voting Day is Wednesday, March 7*

*Voting Day is Wednesday, February 28
for the following schools who are on Spring Break March 7:

- Deline - ?ehtseo Ayha School
- Fort Good Hope - Chief T'Selehye School
- Tulita - Chief Albert Wright School

This special edition of NWTTA News serves to introduce you to the candidates who have stepped forward for consideration to become your 2018-2020 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.

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

Congratulations to Fraser Oliver who has been acclaimed as President for a second and final term.

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 2018-2020 Central Executive election vote on March 7, 2018 (or February 28, 2018 if appropriate). 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 2018-2020 Central Executive election vote on March 7, 2018.

John Doe's signature

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Matthew MILLER

Vice Principal / On-the-Land Coordinator
East Three Secondary School
Inuvik

Candidate for **Vice President**

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867-872-0353



Recipient of the 2013 "Excellence in Education Award" for the South Slave Divisional Education Board

Marnie VILLENEUVE

Grade 8 Teacher
Paul W. Kaeser High School
Fort Smith

Candidate for **Vice President**

Personal Bio:

Originally from Glace Bay, NS I moved to Inuvik, NT in 2007 without a job knowing I had the ambition and work ethic to get one. I started working as a substitute teacher by day and casual custodian at night, working double shifts at Samuel Hearne Secondary School and Sir Alexander Mackenzie School. By March of 2008 my hard work paid off, and I was offered a term contract. After working as a term teacher for three years, I moved to an indeterminate contract teaching grade 7. At the start of the 2017-2018 school year, I began my current role as the Vice Principal/On the Land Coordinator at East Three Secondary, and I still pick up garbage I see in the halls. While staying motivated in my career, I have also applied myself to improving the working conditions of NWTTA members through various roles and committees.

NWTTA Positions

Territorial Vice President	2016-2018
Beaufort-Delta Regional President	2014-2018
Local Receiving Officer	2012-2014

NWTTA Territorial Committees

Legislation Committee	2016-2018
Central Professional Development Committee	2016-2018
Teacher Welfare Committee	2016-2018
Indigenous Educators and Leadership Council	2016-2018
Professional Relations Committee	2016-2018
Discipline Committee	2016-2018
GNWT Negotiating Committee	2016-2018
Nomination Committee	2015-2018
Curriculum Committee	2014-2016

"Why vote for me":

Two years ago I successfully ran for the Vice President's position because I was confident I had the experience to provide support for all members across the territory and the motivation to continuously improve. Through direct communication with members and volunteering for key NWTTA committees, I feel I have been effective in my role, but there is always room to grow. My priorities as NWTTA Vice President continue to be improving the communication between regions and increasing the members' understanding of our rights. I feel progress has been made, but it has been through collaboration and teamwork, not one specific individual which is what our association should encourage. The sharing of information through in-person meetings, teleconferences, and posting of minutes has made our organization stronger as even the smallest communities can have a voice, something I am proud to have been a part of during my term. I remain committed to being vocal about our challenges just as much as I will continue to share our accomplishments proudly. By offering me your support in retaining the role as NWTTA Vice President, you are voting for the person who is proactive, engaged, and committed to never settling for status quo. I welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

Respectfully,
Matthew Miller

Why Vote for Marnie Villeneuve?

I am a believer in Northern education by dedicated, passionate teachers who deserve a fair and equitable contract.

**Northern Raised and Educated
HERE FOR ALL Teachers in ALL Communities**

NWTTA History:

Active member of the NWTTA Central Executive for twelve years in many capacities:

- 8 years Member-at-Large
- 4 years Secretary/Treasurer
- Chairperson:
 - Aboriginal Educators Committee
 - Status of Women Committee
- Member of the 2009 and 2014 Territorial Teachers' Conference Steering Committee
- Worked alongside GNWT Resources to work on Maternity Leave and other pressing issues.
- 2016-17 Education Leave Recipient - attended University of Victoria to obtain a Masters in Education
- Active member of Fort Smith Regional NWTTA for 14 years in many capacities: Secretary, Social Committee, Public Relations Committee, PI Committee, PD Committee
- 2005-2009 President of the Fort Smith Regional NWTTA

Currently:

- Member of the Supporting Northern Professionals Working Group
- Member of NWT Handbook Advisory Committee

Why Re - Elect Marnie to Central Executive?

As a lifelong northerner, raised and educated in Fort Smith, NT, I am very passionate about teacher issues. I have lived in the Beaufort Delta where I started my teaching career and returned home to the Fort Smith Region where I continue my career. I have fought for better working conditions in small schools and larger centres alike. I believe in bringing fairness and awareness to concerns and conditions that are still plaguing teachers of our Association today. I sit on many committees and feel that teacher recruitment, induction and retention is extremely important. We work in the most amazing place in the country, full of unique experiences and incredible opportunities.

***Our students deserve the best -
and so do we, their teachers!***

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Dr. Deborah REID

Program Support Teacher/Instructional Coach
Chief Sunrise Education Centre
K'atloodeche First Nation (Hay River Reserve)

Candidate for **Secretary-Treasurer**

Hi! I am Deborah Reid (Ed.D., M.Ed., B.Ed., B.MusEd.) and I am running for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. I am a dedicated northern educator with over 25 years of teaching in the north.

Our NWTTA Central Executive needs people who have ample experience working in northern schools and have extensive education in the field of teaching, learning, and leadership.

The NWTTA is the voice of northern educators and I want to ensure that the members are strongly supported, well-understood, and have quality opportunities for professional growth. I have supported teachers through the NWTTA as an LRO, in teacher mentorship, as an instructor at ELP, as a representative on the School Administrator Council, and as Project Overseas adult educator.

The NWTTA has provided me with many opportunities over the years and I want to support other educators as I have been supported throughout my career. I have worked in every teaching and support position within the NWT K-12 school system. I have worked in big schools (East Three Schools, Inuvik, BDEC; Mildred Hall School and Ecole William McDonald School, YK1) and small schools (Taloyoak, NU pre-division; Chief Sunrise Education Centre, Hay River, SSDEC). I have been a teacher and PST (12 years) and a principal (9 years). I experienced education through work as a regional coordinator (4 years travelling to fly-in schools across the Tlicho Community Services Agency) and on numerous territorial educational committees.

I have had the first-hand experience needed to truly understand what it means to be an educator in the north. I know and understand the demands of teaching and the joy that can come from making a difference in students' lives. I am a candidate that is living the life of teacher, in the school and practicing the craft of teaching. I get it and I know that teachers need to have that understanding by those in the NWTTA Central Executive. Understanding and listening is the key to quality support.

Not only do I have current experience in schools, I have the education it takes to make quality decisions within the NWTTA. My advanced studies and training in educational leadership have prepared me to be a leader that has a real vision for where the future of education needs to go and how educators can be supported to make positive change.

I want our educators to be the best that they can be and I know that they need the support of the NWTTA to do this. As a member of NWTTA Central Executive, I can ensure that the actions of your association help you to keep your passion for teaching alive. Throughout my career, I have always been thankful to have the NWTTA be there for me.

Please vote for me so that I can support you.

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Todd STURGEON

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

Candidate for **Secretary-Treasurer**

Hello, my name is Todd Sturgeon and I am running for the position of Secretary-Treasurer. I was born a long time ago in Cornwall, Ontario. I graduated from St. Francis Xavier University (B.A.) and the University of Maine (B.Ed.) and have a post-graduate diploma in Applied Information Technology.

I am 1 part teacher, 1 part NWTTA believer, 2 parts geek and 3 parts husband and father. (Is that too many parts?) I've been in education in the NWT for over 13 years and my primary role has been to support teachers, schools and students. Before moving to Fort Smith in 2005 to work for the South Slave Divisional Education Council as IT Manager, I was a teacher in Nova Scotia (grades 7-12 English, Math and Drama). I have a further 12 years' private sector experience in business management and information technology. Past positions include Chief Information Officer, Chief Operating Officer, teacher, project manager, and applications developer.

I approach all aspects of my professional life with an attitude of service and continuous improvement, and I would like to continue to serve all NWT teachers as a member of Central Executive.

Why Vote for Me?

No one will ever be better advocates for teachers than teachers ourselves. The NWTTA needs to continue to listen to members and remain strong. Issues related to workload, wellness, classroom supports, housing, and social media attacks on

teachers still need our attention, and member protection must continue to be a priority. I would be honoured to help advance the goals of the Association and protect the interests of all NWTTA members so they can focus on what matters most—high levels of learning for all students.

As an NWTTA member for over 10 years, and with 5 years' experience on Regional Executive and Central Executive, I am knowledgeable and am eager to support members as best I can. My background also includes 12 years' management experience in retail, franchising, travel and technology companies, so legal and financial areas are familiar territory for me. I can read a balance sheet and understand the importance of financial responsibility and accountability to members.

As Regional Presidents' Representative on Central Executive, I have worked closely with many regions and understand many of the diverse issues facing smaller NWT communities, regional centres, and Yellowknife schools. I would be very honoured to continue to be of service on your Central Executive.

Thank you for being a teacher! I look forward to your support in becoming Secretary-Treasurer of the NWTTA.

Respectfully yours,

Todd Sturgeon

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Colin PYBUS

Physical Education Teacher
East Three Secondary School
Inuvik

Candidate for **Member-at-Large**

Personal Bio:

My name is Colin Pybus. Originally from Walkerton, Ontario, I grew up in this small South-Western Ontario community enjoying sports, camping and being active. I majored in Kinesiology from Brock University and spent eight years in the Niagara Region of Ontario completing my honours undergraduate (2006), Education (2007) and Masters Graduate degrees (2010).

Life in Ontario for a young teacher was a struggle and after two years of frustrating substitute and term teaching experiences; I started to look North for career opportunities. In January 2013, I moved to the community of Tuktoyaktuk. From a basement apartment in Ontario, to an ocean-view living room; I was well on my way to the most impactful years of my life. I enjoyed my time in Tuk and appreciate the opportunity that Mangilaluk School, the staff and the community gave me to truly start a career in teaching. From there I made my way down the Mackenzie River to Inuvik, and have been the physical education teacher at East Three Secondary (ETSS) for five years now.

During my first year in Inuvik, I reached out to the Association for assistance with a removal issue. Feeling very ignorant toward our collective agreement, I took it upon myself to read, learn and better understand our guiding document. That step started me on a path of being active within the NWTTA and well-being as teachers. A path that has lead me to seek a position on the Central Executive.

"Why vote for me":

During my six years in the Beaufort-Delta region I have been involved in many exciting and rewarding opportunities. My teaching experience involves teaching all grade levels physical education; attempting my best to bring a focus on engagement, learning and the importance of live-long activity to my classroom. I'm active in the sporting community here in Inuvik; supporting five regional tournaments and the Beaufort-Delta Northern and Dene Games Summit. Outside of the Beaufort-Delta region, I routinely am traveling with students to Yellowknife, Hay River and outside the Territory for sporting tournaments and youth leadership events. Outside of the school, I am an active member in NWT sport, a regional coordinator for the Arctic Winter Games and recreation advisor to the town of Inuvik.

My NWTTA experiences include two years as the LRO at East Three Secondary School, two years on the Beaufort-Delta Regional Executive (Vice President, 2017-18, Member-at-Large 2016-17). I also currently sit on the Curriculum, Teacher Wellness and Territorial NWTTA Educator's Conference committees.

I thank you in advance for your support and consideration of me for the position of Member-at-Large on the Central Executive.

All the best,

Colin Pybus

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Gwen YOUNG

Senior Biology and Sciences Teacher
École Sir John Franklin High School
Yellowknife

Candidate for **Member-at-Large**

I am a northerner who grew up in the community of Hay River and graduated from Diamond Jenness Secondary High School. Following my dream of pursuing sport, I attended Saint Francis Xavier University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education. After university, I travelled to Yellowknife to teach for one year at Ecole Sir John Franklin High School. Today, twenty-five years later, I teach Senior Biology and Sciences in the SJF Science Department. I continue to pursue education and completed a Masters of Education from the University of Victoria in 2003. I have had many opportunities to teach in different situations in and outside the high school classroom. Since 2012, I have been teaching Biology 30 at Aurora College – Yellowknife in the Continuing Education Program.

I would like to thank the YK1 Regional Executive for nominating me as a candidate for the position of Member-at-Large on the NWTTA Central Executive.

I have always had a keen interest in the principles, actions and events of the NWTTA. In continuing to be an engaged member throughout my career, I have held the positions of

- YK1 Regional Representative at the Presidents Forum in Yellowknife 2017
- Committee Member of the NWTTA Curriculum Committee 2012
- President of the YK1 Region 2006 - 2007
- Committee Member on YK1 Regional PD Committee 2004 – 2006, 1995 -1998

I currently sit as the Member-at-Large on the YK1 Regional Executive (2017-2018) and as a Committee Member on the Wellness and Status of Women Committees for NWTTA.

I bring to these roles, a strong understanding of the responsibilities of leadership through development of organizational skills, speaking abilities and leadership qualities. At Ecole Sir John Franklin High School, I have had many opportunities to lead as a Department Head, a curriculum developer, a performance evaluator, a conference presenter and subject specialist. Twenty-five years teaching students in the classroom and working with professional educators has given

me a clear understanding of the school environment and the expectations put on our teachers. I will bring these experiences to the board room and membership meetings to help our membership work through challenges and meet the needs of our teachers and students.

I have held a number of positions within the community of Yellowknife such as with the Sport North Federation (4 years), PD conference committees, conference speaking engagements, coaching/sport organizations and community groups. I have been an active member since 2006 with the Elks Lodge #314 and currently hold the executive position of Lecturing Knight. I am also an active member of the Saint Patrick's Parish. In these positions, I have required skills in decision making, evaluation of performance, budgeting, presentations, critical analysis, organization and policy making. I am a strong advocate of community involvement and take any opportunity to volunteer with a group or organization striving to make a difference.

In my personal life, sport has always connected me to the people and the North. The NWT as always been my home and I have been honored to represent it at the National and International levels.

As a northerner, I understand the environment our students and teachers face in the territory. I strive to be a strong role model who reflects the positive possibilities for northerners wanting to succeed and make a difference for themselves and their community.

As a member of the Central Executive, I am confident that I will be responsible and can make the hard choices when called upon. I thrive in a team environment and model the efficient and flexible style needed to deal with diverse situations. I feel that the time is right for me to make a bigger commitment to the NWTTA and its members. I am passionate about teacher rights and feel I can make a positive contribution.

Thank you for allowing my name to stand for the position of Member-at-Large on the NWTTA Central Executive and I look forward to working with the Executive to bring about change for our membership.

Gwen M. Young
Candidate for Member-at-Large
Central Executive of the NWTTA

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Fraser OLIVER

President
Northwest Territories Teachers' Association
Yellowknife

Acclaimed as **President**

"As president of the NWTTA I place priority on listening to our membership and responding with openness, honesty and concern. I am committed to engage, involve and include you in decisions that will impact the NWTTA's future and its members."

I will continue to give our members excellence in leadership by putting members' needs first, promoting improvement in working conditions and teacher wellness. I will give our members consistency as we move forward into the future. Consistency is needed as the NWTTA moves into year three and four of our Collective Agreements and the MOU on "Strengthening Teacher Instructional Practices" (STIP).

I am once again very honoured to serve the membership for the next two years. I will continue to encourage members to be engaged through meetings, communications from Central Office, and getting feedback from members through surveys. Thank you for your support.

I invite you to contact me if you wish to discuss in greater detail, the multiplicity of issues confronting the NWTTA and confronting us as a profession.

fraser.oliver@nwtta.nt.ca or by cell (867) 447-3636

Thank you,

Fraser Oliver

I am committed to...

1. Having an open and transparent leadership philosophy where "members come first".
2. Improving the quality of our members' wellness by reducing workload.
3. Securing affordable and acceptable housing for all our members in all communities.
4. Negotiating strong collective agreements to protect the rights of our members that gives members fair and reasonable compensation.
5. Advocating for supports for teachers who have classroom compositions with high needs.

During my past two years as President the NWTTA has achieved:

1. Improvements in member wellness with school professional planning days provided for teachers to complete report cards.
2. Reduction of Instructional hours down to a minimum of 945.
3. Improved communication with members: a more engaging Newsletter and a updated website for our members.
4. A positive working environment with Dept. of Education and all Superintendents.
5. A more open and transparent NWTTA Central Office.