

NWTTA NEWS *Election Edition*



2020-2022 Central Executive Election

JANUARY 2020

Voting Day is

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

This special edition of NWTTA News serves to introduce you to the candidates who have stepped forward for consideration to become your 2020-2022 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 President, Vice-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 2020-2022 Central Executive election vote on February 18, 2020. 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 2020-2022 Central Executive election vote on February 18, 2020.

John Doe's signature

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Matthew MILLER

Vice Principal
East Three Secondary School
Inuvik

Candidate for **President**

Born in Glace Bay, NS I moved to Inuvik, NT in 2007 without a job knowing I had the ambition and work ethic to get one. The Northwest Territories is now my home, and I have become a part of the community. Besides volunteering with the NWTTA, I offer my time to sports and clubs in my school, coach minor hockey, and I am active with Inuvik's Search and Rescue. I set high expectations for myself and always look for ways to be proactive. Having the mindset always to improve, I completed my Master of Education in Administration and Leadership from St. FX in 2017. Like many members, I battle to balance my work/life requirements. Staying focused and setting goals has allowed me to remain organized. I am happily married to Megan (Thomas) Miller, and together, we have two daughters, Mia (8) and Molly (5).

NWTTA members deserve a president with the necessary experience for the position as well as a well-rounded person who can relate to the challenges we face in our profession and communities. By holding leadership positions on both NWTTA Regional and Central Executives, working on key NWTTA committees, and through direct communication with members, I have what it takes. By giving your support in my bid to becoming the NWTTA President, you are voting for the person who is engaged, transparent, and committed. I am not the typical person who runs for the President's position. I do not currently reside in Yellowknife, and I am not in my final years of my career. Only one person has successfully become President from outside of Yellowknife in 20 years; I plan to be the second. Many seek the role of President shortly before retirement; I have many years ahead and will support our association well past my term in office. I will be held accountable to the system I help form, which directly affects my two daughters and my wife, who is also a teacher.

My experience as an educator allows me to relate to all members as I have taught in remote communities of less than 1000 people and regional centres. Since moving to the Northwest Territories, I have worked as a support assistant, substitute teacher, a term teacher, an indeterminate teacher, and currently an administrator. I ask as a voter, you look at the person's credentials and not the location when you place your vote. I believe if you do, you will agree my leadership roles, experience, and work ethic makes me the ideal candidate to be the next President of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association. I welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

Respectfully,

Matthew Miller

NWTTA Positions

- Territorial Vice-President 2016-2018 and 2019-2020
- Regional Presidents' Representative 2018-2019
- Beaufort-Delta Regional President 2014-2020
- Local Receiving Officer 2012-2014

NWTTA Territorial Committees

- Legislation Committee 2016-2020
- Central PD Committee 2016-2020
- Teacher Welfare Committee 2016-2020
- Indigenous Educators and Leadership Council 2016-2020
- Discipline Committee 2016-2020
- Professional Relations Committee 2016-2018
- GNWT Negotiating Committee 2015-2016 and 2019-2020
- Nomination Committee 2015-2018
- Curriculum Committee 2014-2016
- School Administrators Council 2019-2020

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Gwen YOUNG

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

Candidate for **President**

Elections in 2020 for the NWTTA will give members the opportunity to create change in challenging times. 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. Salary increases, STIP inclusion, housing, increased EA positions, supported leaves, and leadership opportunities are some of the current issues important to educators across the North. NWTTA members need to step forward to use their vote to make change happen and ensure these issues are taken care of.

I am running for the position of President of the NWTTA because I want to be a part of change. 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.

As President of the NWTTA, I will:

- ensure through my leadership that members will experience change and evolution as the NWTTA moves into this new decade. The NWTTA needs to use this Negotiation season to challenge, change and create support for the current needs of members and the students in our care. I have the experience and the skill set to lead the NWTTA members forward.
- create and organize a strategic plan and direction for the Association that will advance the new agreements in support of the members. I will create a detailed financial portfolio that includes extending the current strike action plan for the Association and a evaluation plan to monitor the funds.
- advocate for the members and for education with all departments of GNWT and Canadian Teachers' Federation. I will be the voice of all educators and promote our profession at all times on the Northern stage and elsewhere. As a northerner who has lived, been educated and worked in education her entire life in the NWT, I feel I am an excellent advocate for this position.

Canadian Teachers' Federation

- CTF Delegate at the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women – New York, New York March 2020 – Representing Education International and CTF in the United Nations to promote Education
- 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

- Central Executive Member – Member-at-Large Position 2018-2020
- Member of YK1 2020 Negotiations Team
- YK1/NWTTA Director on Board of NEBS (Northern Employee Benefits Services) YK1 Pension Board 2019-2023
- Chair and Committee Member of the NWTTA Status of Women Committee 2018-2020
- Committee Member of the NWTTA Legislative Committee 2019-2020
- Committee Member of the NWTTA Wellness Committee 2017-2020
- Member-at-Large YK1 Regional Executive 2017-2020
- YK1 Regional Representative at the Presidents Forum in Yellowknife 2017
- Committee Member of the NWTTA PD and Curriculum Committee 2012, 2018-2020
- President of the YK1 Region 2006 - 2007
- Committee Member on YK1 Regional PD Committee 2004 – 2006, 1995 -1998

Experiences

- Masters of Education - University of Victoria 2003
- Senior Biology and Sciences Teacher - Science Department at Ecole Sir John Franklin High School in Yellowknife – 28 years
- Director on Board of NEBS (Northern Employee Benefits Services)
- YK1 Pension Board 2019-2023
- Instructor in Continuing Education – Aurora College in Yellowknife – 8 years
- Executive Member - Elks 314 Yellowknife 2018-2020
- Department Head – Ecole Sir John Franklin High School 2013-2015
- Board Member – Sport North – 4 years
- High Performance Coach and TSO Board Member – Sport North – 15 years

Education is a very challenging environment but the NWTTA has the best resource – Teachers working for Teachers.

Thank you for allowing my name to stand for the position of President on the NWTTA Central Executive. I look forward to working with the new Executive to advance the goals of the Association into a new decade.

Gwen M. Young

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Loralea WARK

Social Studies Teacher, Canadian Battlefields Trip Coordinator
École St. Patric High School
Yellowknife

Acclaimed as **Vice-President**

Belief Statement:

Passionate, engaged, and dedicated teachers who are supported by their communities, colleagues, administration, Association and ECE, make for happy, engaged, inquisitive students who then strengthen our communities in return. Student wellness is a critical component in this, and student wellness goes hand-in-hand with teacher wellness.

I am currently in my 19th year of teaching at École St. Patrick High School in Yellowknife. During that time, I have been actively involved in various committees and events that serve both students and staff.

NWTTA Involvement:

- NWTTA Status of Women Committee
2018 - Present
- NWTTA Discipline Committee
2016 - 2018
- YCS Region President
2005 - 2010, 2016 - 2018
- YCS Region Vice President
2002 - 2005, 2013 - 2015
- YCS Region Member-at-Large
2011 - 2013
- YCS Negotiations Committee Member
2004/2005, 2011/2012
- YCS Negotiations Committee Chair
2006/2007, 2015 - 2017
- YCS Delegate to AMCC
2005 - 2010, 2013-2018

School and Community Involvement

- NWT Representative for the Library of Parliament's Teacher Advisory Council
2020-2023
- Remembrance Day Committee Chair, Yellowknife Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion
2016-Present
- Canadian Battlefields school trip Coordinator
2006 - Present
- Education Coordinator, The Vimy Foundation
2011 - 2015
- Social Studies Department Head
2005 - 2014, 2016 - 2018
- Grad and Dry Grad advisor
2004 - Present
- Lead Teacher, school divisions system
2002 - 2008

As a classroom teacher, I know the challenges that we face in our classrooms today, from class size and composition to increasing workloads and decreasing classroom supports. I know how busy we are in our classrooms, and how much work educators do for students outside of the classroom. I know how challenging it is to try to balance work life and home life, and still have room for a social life. I have had the opportunity to sit around many tables during my time in the North, from curriculum development to regional NWTTA president meetings to the Annual Meeting of Central Councillors, and I know every community in the North faces challenges. I also know that we are stronger together, and that when we work together we can make positive changes. I promise to listen to the concerns of all members across the NWT, and to work with the rest of the Central Executive towards a healthy, equitable workplace for all of us.

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Kim HAGARTY

Principal
?ehtseo Ayha School
Deline

Acclaimed as **Secretary-Treasurer**

I am excited to be part of the 2020-2022 Central Executive. It is a privilege to serve the NWTTA membership.

From the beginning of my career in education I have been involved with both the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation and the Nunavut Teachers' Association. While in Nunavut I was a school rep several times, was on the NTA bargaining committee and the Kitikmeot regional conference committee.

I am originally from Thunder Bay and I am a graduate of Lakehead University with several degrees. I have also taken numerous master level courses in educational leadership. Teaching is my second career, I was a secretary/bookkeeper for several organizations – a career that will serve me well as secretary/treasurer! I taught in Northwestern Ontario for several years and 11 years in Nunavut.

Currently, I am in my second year as principal at ?ehtseo Ayha School in beautiful Délinę. I have worked throughout Nunavut in several communities as a teacher, principal, consultant and literacy coach so I understand the challenges of teaching in the North. I am passionate about education and I believe that students come first. I work continually to be a role-model as a professional and as a person. Also, as principal it is imperative that I have a working knowledge of our collective agreement.

I firmly believe in and support the NWTTA in all aspects. As a member of the Central Executive, I will work hard for the association and its members. I look forward to serving the members in the next two years.

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Wendy TULK

Teacher
Chief Jimmy Bruneau School
Behchoko

Acclaimed as **Member-at-Large**

My name is Wendy Tulk. I was born in Newfoundland, and have lived in many parts of Canada, but I have made the NWT my home for the last 12 years. I graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a B.Sc. and a B.Ed. I started my teaching career in northern Manitoba, then taught in Newfoundland, but soon missed the north, and so I came to the NWT “for one year.” That was in 2008, and I have no plans to leave!

I have worked in the Tlicho region at Chief Jimmy Bruneau School for 12 years, and have taught grade 8, and senior high technology, CTS, science and math in that time. I have been involved with the NWTTA for 8 years as LRO, Secretary/ Treasurer of the Tlicho Regional Executive, President of the Tlicho Regional Executive for the last 4 years, and have served as the Regional President’s Representative on the Central Executive for the past year. I am also a member of the NWTTA Status of Women Committee, the Tlicho Regional Professional Development Committee, and the Indigenous Educators and Leadership Council.

Northern life is one of amazing rewards partnered with sometimes intense challenges, and as teachers we experience both on a daily basis. I have lived in a small community for most of my time here, and I understand the challenges that teachers face every day, from 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. Many of us are dealing with classroom challenges, housing issues, overwhelming workloads, and struggles finding a healthy work-life balance. 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 the teachers of the Northwest Territories for the next two years!

Thank you,
Wendy Tulk