



Nunavut Teachers' Association

I'm sitting at my desk and it's a beautiful sunny afternoon. I'm sure like many other teachers on a day such as today I wish I were working on something outside this afternoon. Also like many of you I'm wondering where the year has gone. This school year is almost complete. The first school closing in Nunavut will be in less than two weeks.

It has been a busy spring in the office. We have just completed our Annual Meeting of Central Council (AMCC). There were a large number of resolutions passed. Our Bylaws and Policies are in need of being updated. The Legislation Committee met after AMCC to begin the process of going through the Bylaw book. This process will continue next year.

The NTA had a sizable surplus again this year. This is due in part to the fact that each year we must budget a substantial amount of money for membership protection. The NTA has been successful at resolving issues before they would require arbitration thus not using the membership protection fund. The cost of Arbitrations and legal fees to defend members can be significant.

The Finance Committee has met a number of times this year. One of the concepts that have been discussed is paying down the mortgage on the NTA office complex. The debt we carry is very manageable right now however we are at risk over the long term given the fluctuations of mortgage rates. There will be no action taken in regards to the mortgage until the mortgage is due for renewal in about three years. It should also be noted that Central Council is the body that will make the decisions regarding the mortgage.

Regional Elections are complete. I would like to thank all those members for allowing their names to stand for offices. We are still working on identifying members to fill the positions of School Rep and PI Liaisons in some schools. If your school does not have these positions filled please consider putting your name forward.

In late April, Emile and I attended a Board Of Directors meeting of the Canadian Teachers Federation in Ottawa. Along with other board members we participated in the seventh annual "Hill Day". On Hill Day board members lobby Parliamentarians on issues that affect public education across Canada. The focus, again this year, was importance of eliminating child poverty. Poverty is a limiting factor in the ability of children to reach their full potential. Teachers across Canada deal with it on a daily basis.

For those of you whose schools will be closing shortly, have a great summer. You have earned your well-deserved break. I hope to see you back next year. For those of you who will be here after June 16th you will be hearing from me again.

Regards,

Robin Langill
President