



**Saint John Branch  
New Brunswick Society of  
Retired Teachers**

<http://www.nbsrtsj.nbta.ca>

# **SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER 2020**

## **NBSRT President's Communique March 16/2020**

**Panic is never useful: preparation is. Your NBSRT Executive had a conference call this weekend to discuss the COVID-19 virus and its effect on us.**

**After a thorough discussion, given today's climate, our Annual General Meeting will be suspended until the fall, hopefully early October. If you have already registered you can chose to leave your registration active and it will be valid for the AGM when it is staged, or you can request a refund of your fee by contacting the chair of the Saint John Organizing Committee, Barry Harbinson at [bharbins@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:bharbins@nb.sympatico.ca) Your Executive has also decided, with the safety of our members in mind, that all provincial committee meetings and branch activities be suspended until we have a better sense of how the pandemic unfolds. Your Executive will continue to have regular conference calls to monitor the situation. We are in uncharted waters; our overriding concern is that we all stay healthy and safe.**

**Sincerely,**

**June MacNairn**

**NBSRT President**

# **NBSRT 2020 Provincial Election Procedures**

**(Revised Due to The COVID-19 Virus)**

As a result of the NBSRT's policy to suspend meetings and activities until the threat posed by the COVID-19 virus has lessened, the format for the 2020 Provincial Election has changed.

Plans to introduce online voting to a small test group have been upgraded to include online voting for the entire NBSRT membership. This will eliminate the need to have polling stations and associated social activities, thereby reducing the potential for the further spread of the virus.

Of the approximately 2,750 NBSRT members, 1,945 have an email address as part of their membership profile. It is these email addresses that will be used by the Returning Officer to send the voting link to members. In the event the email addresses of some members are no longer valid, every effort will be made to re-establish contact with those members so they can take advantage of the opportunity to vote.

## **ONLINE VOTING**

1. Members will receive an email invitation to vote. (They may also receive pre-election info)
2. Clicking on a link in the email invitation begins the voting process.
3. Entering a **VOTER KEY**, provided in the email message, is required.
4. Voters will spend 2 minutes, or less, and may download a **receipt**.
5. **The process is completely anonymous.**

Voters are encouraged to vote in the first few days so that, if they have difficulty, there is time to solve the problem by contacting the Election Returning Officer

[Elections.nbsrt@marta-group.com](mailto:Elections.nbsrt@marta-group.com)

More specific online voting information will be provided before the **April 1-10** voting window.

## WRITE IN BALLOTS

Members who do not use email may use a “write in” ballot provided by the Returning Officer.

To receive a ballot, **send a stamped, self-addressed envelope** to:

*Dale MacRae,  
NBSRT Returning Officer,  
04-840 King George Highway,  
Miramichi, NB  
E1V 1P8.*

- The ballot may be requested, completed and returned prior to April 1, 2020
- Completed ballots must be received by the Returning Officer by April 14, 2020  
(April 10- Good Friday / April 13 – Easter Monday)

For those seeking a mail in ballot, a mock up ballot is provided on the following page.

**This can not be used as your actual ballot.**

Background biographical information for each of the six candidates is included in this newsletter to help you make an informed choice. Election material will also be posted on the NBSRT website and the NBSRT Facebook group.

**NBSRT ELECTION - 2020**  
**SAMPLE BALLOT**

2 Candidates For

**PRESIDENT**

Vote For One

•• FITZPATRICK, Bob •• ••••• Central •••••	<input type="radio"/>
••• SPIRES, Wayne ••• ••••• Charlotte •••••	<input type="radio"/>

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

2 Candidates For

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Vote For One

•• BONNELL, Noreen •• ••••• Central •••••	<input type="radio"/>
•• HARBINSON, Barry •• ••••• Saint John •••••	<input type="radio"/>

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

2 Candidates For

**RECORDING SECRETARY**

Vote For One

••• HOWALD, Rona ••• ••••• Kings •••••	<input type="radio"/>
••• MAXWELL, Linda ••• ••••• Moncton •••••	<input type="radio"/>

## Candidates For NBSRT President



**FITZPATRICK, Bob**  
(Central Branch)

### **CURRENT NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Member (Central Branch)

#### Provincial Level

- Membership Committee (Chair)

### **OTHER NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Member (Central Branch)

#### Provincial Level

- Membership Committee Member
- Membership Committee Chair (2018 – Present)

### **PAST POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:**

- Committee Member (Governance, Audit, Review/Renewal, Government Relations, Public Relations, Pension, and Executive Committees)
- Board member (NBTA, NBTF, CTF, NBTA Credit Union, Vestcor/Pension)
- President (NBTA/NBTF, NBTA Credit Union)
- Executive Director (NBTA – 16 Years)

### **PERSONAL STRENGTHS TO THE POSITION:**

- Successful experience in evaluating, nurturing and growing organizations
- Extensive training in leadership, organizational dynamics and media relations
- Successful experience in government relations and lobbying
- Successful leader of strategic planning processes
- Proven ability to lead meetings and conduct the business of both large & small organizations
- Proven skills in written and spoken communication to large and small audiences
- Total commitment to any task I am selected to perform.



**SPIRES, Wayne**  
(Charlotte Branch)

### **CURRENT NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Past President (Charlotte Branch)

#### Provincial Level

- First Vice President

### **OTHER NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Charlotte Branch Executive (2<sup>nd</sup> VP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, President, Past President, Director)

#### Provincial Level

- Second Vice President
- Group Insurance Committee Liaison
- *Reflections Magazine* Liaison
- NBSRT Representative to SERFNB Annual Meeting
- NBSRT Observer at ACER-CART Annual Meeting
- NBSRT Observer at ECRTD Biennial Meeting

### **PAST POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:**

- 25-Year member of the St Croix Branch #09 of the Royal Canadian Legion (2-time President and 5-year term as Chaplin)
- Licensed Lay Worship Leader (15 years)
- Vice-chair District 10 District Education Council and Sub-district Representative for Anglophone South School District (19 Years)

### **PERSONAL STRENGTHS TO THE POSITION:**

- Consistency
- Able to develop strong working relationships
- A focus on the best interests of retired teachers
- Able to represent the views of retired teachers
- Availability to all branches

## Candidates For 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



**BONNELL, Noreen**  
(Central Branch)

### **CURRENT NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Past President (Central Branch)
- Branch Correspondent - *Reflections*
- Volunteer – *Spring Into Wellness Expo*

#### Provincial Level

- Registered for AGM 2020

### **OTHER NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- President - Central Branch (2017-2019)
- Secretary - Central Branch (2015-2017)
- *Spring Into Wellness* Volunteer (Since Origin)

#### Provincial Level

- Provincial Director – Central Branch (2017-2019)
- Attended Provincial AGM's (2017 to present)

### **PAST POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:**

- NBTA President/NBTF Co-President (2009-2011)
- NBTA/NBTF Board of Directors (2003-2009)
- School Principal (1996-2009)
- Elem/Middle Sch/High Sch Teacher (1973-2011)
- Pres Fergusson Foundation Board (2015-2017)
- Professional Development Presenter
- Committee Chair (Multiple)
- Choir Director/Co-Director (Church & School)

### **PERSONAL STRENGTHS TO THE POSITION:**

- An energetic approach
- Leadership and teamwork experience
- The ability to connect, to seek input, to celebrate strengths, and to seek solutions with a firm belief in teamwork
- An awareness and concern with challenges in health, wellness, social connectedness, and how to have an impact on these issues
- An ability to adapt to the "new age" of the future
- "Teacher skills" developed over a full career



**HARBINSON, Barry**  
(Saint John Branch)

### **CURRENT NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Past President (Saint John Branch)
- Treasurer (Saint John Branch)
- Chair NBSRT AGM 2020 Planning Committee

#### Provincial Level

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President
- Chair NBSRT Pension Committee Since 2011
- Member NBSRT Membership Committee

### **OTHER NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- President Saint John Branch
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Saint John Branch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Saint John Branch
- Chair NBSRT Biennial (2011)

#### Provincial Level

- Not Active Prior To 2018 – See Above

### **PAST POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:**

- Principal Saint John High School
- NBTA Branch President (0820)

### **PERSONAL STRENGTHS TO THE POSITION:**

- A collegial, conscientious, and cautious approach
- NBSRT background and corporate knowledge
- Experience dealing with promoting NBSRT membership, wellness, and branch initiatives.

## Candidates For NBSRT Recording Secretary



**HOWALD, Rona**  
(Kings Branch)

### **CURRENT NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Past President (Kings Branch)
- Branch Director
- Membership Contact
- AGM2020 Organizing Committee

#### Provincial Level

- Member Group Insurance Committee
- Member Pension Committee

### **OTHER NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- President
- Secretary
- Area Director (KV)

#### Provincial Level

- Previous Service (Director, Grp Ins, Pension)

### **PAST POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:**

- NBTA – Local Executive, Committees, Subj Council
- English Instructor – Ningbo, China – Volunteer
- Canadian Diabetes Association Volunteer
- Proofreader – *Around the Block* Community Newspaper
- Multicultural & Newcomer Resource Center
- Executives – Little League/Figure Skating Club

### **PERSONAL STRENGTHS TO THE POSITION:**

- Respectful team player committed to NBSRT mission
- Strong organizational skills with a desire to contribute at the provincial level
- Excellent written & verbal skills – accurate notetaker
- Knowledgeable of committee proceedings
- Analytical thinker – bases decisions on relevant info
- Self-directed & highly productive within a time frame
- Able to take initiative & exceed what is expected



**MAXWELL, Linda**  
(Moncton - GMART Branch)

### **CURRENT NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Vice President (Moncton - GMART Branch)

#### Provincial Level

- Member NBSRT Membership Committee

### **OTHER NBSRT INVOLVEMENT:**

#### Branch Level

- Participated in planning activities for GMART members
- Organized Wine & Cheese Party that is designed to encourage new members

#### Provincial Level

- Membership Committee (2017 – Present)

### **PAST POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP:**

- School Administrator (12 years)
- Director & Alternate Director (NBTA)
- Committees (NBTA)
- Heart & Stroke Foundation Volunteer (6 Years)
- Canadian Cancer Society Volunteer (Team Captain)

### **PERSONAL STRENGTHS TO THE POSITION:**

- Administrative experience
- Organizational skills (Planned activities for GMART, Provincial Subject Councils, and Professional Development)