



**CMEA | ACME**

Canadian Music Educators' Association  
L'Association canadienne des musiciens éducateurs

# **Annual Reports**

2020-2021

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## **President Report 2020-2021**

The 2020-2021 year has been a strange one to say the least. It has been a case of keeping our heads above water while trying our best to support our music educators who have found themselves in many and varied circumstances with the reality of a global pandemic front and centre.

As the CMEA President, I was involved with many advocacy pieces during this time as the CMEA took a role in supporting the Choral Canada Study on Singing in Schools during the time of Covid as well as the continuation of the Coalition for Music Education National Study. Each of these pieces of research have provided valuable information for music educators and have served to paint a picture of the current state of music education across the province.

While my term as President is ending this year, I am sure that Rebecca Brown, incoming President will continue to work to bring a New Brunswick Music Educators Association into being, a project that has been worked on by both myself and the President before me. We will continue to work to create a truly Coast-to-Coast-to-Coast representation of music educators.

It has been my pleasure to serve the CMEA and its members and I look forward to continuing my role as the Past President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donalda Westcott

## **Past-President's Report - 2020/2021**

It was my great honour to serve as Past President for the Canadian Music Educators' Association from July 2019 to June 2021. This was my final year of the term and my tenth year on the CMEA board. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the table and am grateful for the opportunities I had during my tenure.

During the past year, I represented the CMEA at several events and associations: at the ISME national affiliates meeting and the Coalition for Music Education in Canada board of directors. Through these partnerships, I worked on the National Study on Music Education along with the Coalition, Musiccounts and Music Canada. This study is going to have a significant impact on the study of music education in Canada and will guide future research.

This year was an election year for the CMEA for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Director of Member Engagement, Director of Communications and Director of Higher Learning. As Past President, I put out the call for nominations for these positions, published the biographies and photos of the nominees, facilitated the online election platform, and ensured that all members were able to vote. Congratulations to the successful candidates.

Throughout the year, I was involved in many meetings at all levels: executive meetings, elected board and full board. The Full Board of the CMEA usually meets face to face in October but we were not able to do so this year. To thank everyone for their continued work, I sent a small thank you package to everyone. I hope that the Full Board can return to these weekend long meetings soon.

Helen Coker

## **Vice Presidents Report - 2020/2021**

First, I would like to thank Donalda Westcott for her leadership in this pandemic. This was a difficult time to be president of an organization that is spread across the country and she handled it with grace. I am honoured to be taking over the role of president under her guidance.

This full year under pandemic restrictions has proven difficult for many organizations, including the CMEA. In place of our usual in person board meetings in the fall, we met online for both our presidents' council and full board meetings. As chair of the presidents' council, I facilitated discussions about the different restrictions in each region and helped to create shared documents to aid educators in advocacy and program changes to ensure safe return to music instruction. I have also continued to communicate with New Brunswick as they begin the process of establishing an MEA. We look forward to welcoming them to the board table.

Being fiscally responsible in an uncertain year, we shelved many ongoing projects for the CMEA and focused on our online presence. I initiated the creation of a website committee, chaired by Mandart Chan. Our new website was published in August of 2021. I also continued to keep open lines of communication open between our provincial affiliates to assist with any pandemic related questions or concerns. I look forward to moving on to the position of president and wish our outgoing provincial representatives all the best.

Becky Brown

## **Director of Public Relations and Member Engagement - 2020/2021**

The 2020/2021 school year as the Director of Public Relations & Member Engagement with the CMEA has been a fun year! We have shared and re-tweeted several news articles surrounding music education across the country, so that we can all celebrate together. We also focused on quite a bit of Advocacy work to ensure that music education is in our schools. As we re-entered back into our schools, CMEA has been constant as we also share how each province, city, and town are handling how music can be taught during COVID-19. We have also updated the CMEA website, with a design from Aimee Rochard, who also designed the Coalition Canada website. It has been my pleasure to act as the Director of Public Relations & Member Engagement and I am happy to pass on the role to Matthew Martin (BC).

Submitted by,

Mandart Chan, CD MMus (he/him/his)

Uninvited visitor on the lands of the Lewkwungen people

## **Awards & Recognition**

Over the last year the Award Portfolio saw a number of awards handed out. Promotion of the Awards through our newsletter and to provincial associations was a priority and hopefully the increase in nominations continues into this year as well. Awards were presented to the following recipients in Fall of 2020:

- Honourary Life Member Recipient 2020: Ki Adams (NL)
  
- Builders Awards
  - Janet Wade, BC
  - Christin Reardon MacLellan, BC
  - Susanne O'Keefe, NL
  - Andrew Mercer, NL
  - Lynn Gracey, ON
  - Dr. Rodger Beatty, ON
  - Randy Haley, MB
  - Derek Klassen, MB
  - Yvonne Kurpjuweit, SK
  
- New Builder - Kristian Butt, NL

The CMEA website's online nomination forms, going right to our google drive account continues to help streamline the process from a paper/pencil form. Support documents still need to be emailed however with drive it is quite easy to keep track of these. The awards section of the CMEA website has been updated with the 2020 recipients and this will continue each year as well as an acknowledgement of recipients in the newsletter.

**Ashley Beresford**  
**Director of Awards & Recognition**

## **Director of Communications Report - 2020/2021**

Connecting CMEA members through timely distribution of our quarterly newsletters, current event emails, and electronic journal remain the priority for the Director of Communications. For each of the four electronic newsletters (Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer), upcoming events and special projects by the CMEA and our provincial affiliates are shared with our national membership. The Director of Communications is responsible for collecting, compiling, and distributing the newsletter via Mail Chimp. It is exciting to see the excellent work that takes place in music education in our country and hear about the wonderful professional learning opportunities that are available to CMEA members!

Distribution of electronic version of the CMEA journal, *The Canadian Music Educator*, is another role of this portfolio, and takes place on a quarterly basis. In addition, sharing news and important events directly with our membership, falls under the role of Director of Communications (ie Notice of Annual General Meeting, elections information, etc.).

We continue to strive to have news items shared from all across Canada and the CMEA's provincial organizations in our electronic newsletter. One goal moving forward is to have the newsletter become fully bilingual with information available in both English and French for our members.

Kara Helms



## Director of Higher Learning Report

I am pleased to have been elected to this position for the July 2021 - June 2023 term. I have served in this role from 2019-2021 as a replacement for Dr. Mary Kennedy.

This past year has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding one as I worked as the CMEA representative on the Choral Canada national team for the research survey ***Singing in Canadian School: COVID-19 Impact Survey***. The survey team consisted of Meghan Hila and Heather Fraser (Choral Canada), Dr. Andrea Rose (CMEA), Dr. Eric Favaro (Coalition Canada), Dr. Jody Stark (Kodaly Society of Canada), Cynthia Peyson-Wahl (Music Educator), and Dr. Francine Moran (Lead Researcher). The study was completed this year; materials have been, and continue to be, created and distributed (e.g., sample results, advocacy letters to provincial Ministries of Education, posters). The final report is forthcoming. As a lead partner and collaborator in this important national survey, CMEA has contributed greatly to the country's understanding of the impact of COVID-on on singing in K-12 classrooms and choral settings. The team continues to play a vital advocacy role now in the re-building of singing and choral programs in Canadian K-12 school settings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague Dr. Francine Morin for her tireless and important work as the lead researcher for this national survey.

I have been involved also with several CMEA committees:

- Publications Advisory Committee - A standing committee working on CMEA research activities and publications, e.g., CME Journal, CME Research-Practice Book Series. (Chair, Dr. Francine Morin);
- CMEA Advisory Committee on Outside Representation - Building on principles and practices relating to DEI - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to explore possibilities and opportunities for CMEA to develop pathways to include Indigenous and Francophone representation at the Board/Governance level, and possibly other areas of CMEA. (Chair, Jeff Weaver);
- Website Development Committee (Chair, Mandart Chan).

Primary area of development for this term includes the continuation of work with the national survey committee re. distribution of ***Singing in Canadian School: COVID-19 Impact Survey*** results, development of advocacy materials, publications; continuation of work associated with Publications Advisory Committee; building of relationships between CMEA and post-secondary institutions in Canada and the development of programs related to pre-service music teacher education and graduate studies in music education (e.g., CMEA student chapters, undergraduate/graduate symposia, publication of student research and curriculum materials developed through course work, Masters' projects and theses).

Dr. Andrea Rose

## **CMEA Annual Report of CME Journal Editor - 2020/2021**

In this last year of my role as Editor of the Canadian Music Educator, I am pleased to share that things are running very smoothly with the journal. We have seen an increase in the number of unsolicited submissions, with both national and international representation. The Editorial Board has been established and made transparent both in the journal and on the website. Clear distinctions in review processes and submission types have been made for contributors and board members regarding Peer Reviewed submissions and Editorial Board Reviewed submissions, with the Editorial Board playing an integral role in both types of reviews. The processes for indexing journal articles with databases have been streamlined and the journal information on our website has been updated. This year, we were very proud to publish a special issue on diversity, with Dr. Kathy Robinson at the helm as Guest Editor, and we are grateful to Kathy for her hard and exceptional work on this issue.

As I prepare to finish up my term as Editor after the March issue of the journal, I would like to thank the board for supporting my efforts over the last three years and for the opportunity to lead the journal at this time. I look forward to smoothing the transition to the next Editor over the coming months.

Sincerely,  
Charlene Ryan

## Coalition for Music Education in Canada - 2020/2021

A year in review with the Coalition:

A new **Board of Directors** was appointed at our AGM on June 24th, 2021.

**Kirsten MacLaine (PE)** Chair  
**Eric Favaro (NS)** Past Chair  
**Angela Elster (BC)** Vice Chair  
**David Peretz-Larochelle (QC)** Vice Chair Francophone  
**Helen Coker (ON)** Secretary  
**Rob Barg (ON)** Treasurer  
**Lynn Tucker (ON)**  
**Zora Kriz (ON)**  
**Sarah Veber (NL)**  
**Christina Buharry (ON)**  
**Kirk Wassmer (AB)**  
**Christin Reardon MacLellan (BC)**  
**Rebecca Brown (MB)** CMEA Representative  
**Inderjit Mudhar (ON)** Industry Representative

A new **Executive Director, Stacey Sinclair!**

- Our focus this year must be **advocacy!** Our advocacy committee is co-chaired by Dr. Eric Favaro and Lynn Tucker. Four pillars of our advocacy work:
  - **National Music Education Leadership Forum** (meets bi-annually) ○
  - **National Research Advisory Board**
  - **Policy Summit Working Group**
  - **Townhall Series:** October 6, November 24, January 19, March 2, April 27, and June 8.
  
- **National Survey**
  - **Part 1** - Is complete and currently being formatted. This first part is an overview of the project and will provide a brief analysis of the thousands of collected data points.
  - Several themes were revealed, including time allotted for music instruction, inconsistent funding for music programs, outdated curriculums, indigenous content and the urban/rural divide.
  - Once shared with our partners, this first part will then be released with a solid PR campaign, hopefully by the end of October.
  - **Part 2** - is currently underway, being co-written by Dr. Betty Anne Younker and Kyle Zavitz of UWO.
  - **Part 3** - Themes to be further explored.
  - Infographics available on our website.
  
- **Research Study Projects**
  - **COVID-19 and Choral Music** - In partnership with Choral Canada on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on singing in Canadian music

classrooms.

- **COVID-19 and Instrumental Music** - In partnership with the Canadian Band Association on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and instrumental music (all instrumental).

- **Youth4Music**

- Sharon Tikiryán, project manager.
- 2 summer students: Sidnee McLeod and Simon Proulx
  - Developed new Youth Advocacy Toolkit
    - Student/Teacher Resources, including “Made in Canada” playlists and a database of graduate level music programs.
    - 3 Youth4Music virtual workshops have been planned:
      - October 23 “Activating Youth Leaders”
      - December TBA “Songwriting” with Mimi Bonaswain
      - 2022 TBA “The Business of Being a Musician”

- **Music Monday 2022**

- Partnership with McGill University Schulich School of Music. A mentor will work with an early career composition student to compose this year’s anthem.

- **30th Anniversary Celebrations in 2022!** - *Stay tuned!*

Kirsten MacLaine, Board Chair

## **British Columbia Music Educators' Association**

The BCMEA is a provincial specialist association of the BC Teachers' Federation and has a mandate to act in defence and support of music educators and their students. Four main goal areas guide us: Outreach and Communication, Service, Education, and Advocacy.

Our 2020 online conference was an exceptional professional development opportunity and one for us to reconnect with each other and with reflection of why we do what we do, even during a global pandemic. At that time we celebrated the achievement of BC colleagues with awards recognizing excellence in classroom instruction and support for the music education community – Barb Paul (Outstanding Elementary Music Educator), Frances Roberts & Don Bennett (posthumously) (Outstanding Secondary Music Educator) and Janet Wade & Christin Reardon MacLellan (Distinguished Service).

Membership numbers held strong as a result of another highly attractive and comprehensive conference. We would like to recognize and thank those on the Conference Planning Committee for their excellent work and thank Jaymi Daniels and Cheston “CJ” Kumar for their efforts. We are happy to have Jaymi & CJ return as Conference Chair for our 2021 online conference.

The BCMEA has worked this year on a number of issues and projects. We have continued to support and stand up for music programs in the province. As the pandemic carried on, Janet Wade (BCMEA - 1st VP) continued to be on the Ministry of Education Steering Committee for Health & Safety, who has been a strong advocate for guidelines for music education. Quite a few silver linings have come from this time; town-hall check-ins with BCMEA members, provincial book club (thanks to Carment McDowell - BCMEA - 2nd VP), and a more updated scope on how the BCMEA executive can support all of our members. We hope to continue our endeavours to have a strong PSA for BCMEA members.

Another ongoing project that will also continue to develop stronger ties with and improve our communication with our Local Specialist Associations, (LSA) throughout BC. Each school district is encouraged to have an LSA for music that is under the umbrella organization of the BCMEA. We have found this is a great way to disseminate information, keep aware of developments in all of BC and maintain a sense of community.

The BCMEA is proud to continue supporting CMEBC and their national counterpart, Coalition Canada. We are excited to have worked with this enthusiastic group and look forward to our continued partnership. We are also proud to support our national the Canadian Music Educators' Association.

Communication continues on social media sites such as Facebook (BC Music Educators' Association), and Twitter (@bcmea). I would like to encourage all of our membership to share about your program highlights, performances, and events on social media so that we can help you share it with the province and our country.

As president for the past year, I would like to thank the BCMEA executive for their support and dedication to Music Education in British Columbia. It has been a pleasure to work with such wonderful colleagues in the pursuit of excellence in music education.

Respectfully submitted,

Mandart Chan, CD MMus (he/him/his)  
President  
BC Music Educators' Association

Uninvited visitor on the lands of the Lewkwungen people

## **Saskatchewan Music Educators Association Report 2020-21**

Like many organizations, SMEA had to adjust our programming on the fly after the spring of 2020. Throughout the last year, SMEA has committed to continue to offer relevant, and more diverse programming for all our members, and music educators within Saskatchewan.

In addition to our regular music conference in the fall, we have started to offer free, monthly PD to all members with our ‘Tell Me Thursday’ webinars. These webinars were not only a chance for educators to connect virtually on a more consistent basis, but were also designed to help teachers during a very difficult school year. We hosted many high-caliber music educators, such as Jacob Faithful, Dr. Peter Boonshaft, and Dr. Zeisner. These webinars have covered many topics from ‘How to Incorporate Indigenous Music in Your Classroom’ to fostering the administrator-teacher relationship.

We also recognized how music was being cut across the province in response to covering more classes throughout the last year. As a result, the board decided to put more resources into advocacy. In the early spring, we were able to collaborate with Long and McQuade and a couple of experienced teachers in Saskatoon, to organize a two-week advocacy campaign with Fran Kick. This campaign spent one week supporting students across the province, and the second week was spent providing parents with tools on how to keep music within our schools. SMEA was also a partner with many organizations who helped coordinate a study in how COVID affected singing in schools. The results of this survey were used to advocate to government and school division officials, which reflected how necessary music is for both students and teachers alike.

Last fall, SMEA held its music conference in a virtual format, very similarly to the way we held it again this year. Additionally, SMEA committed to find a way to continue to host our Honour Groups online as well, which was a success.

We were unable to host our Junior/Intermediate Band for the second straight year, but instead, the board created the first SMEA Music Classroom Contest. This contest had open qualifications to enter, and the submissions were outstanding! We had over 30 videos submitted, which included nearly 350 students. It was so great to see how music was being taught in such creative ways, during the school year.

After studying our workshop stats from previous years, the board made a commitment to support more diverse workshops, with a focus in reaching the northern part of our province. We also started a new program during the summer, which focuses on providing a relevant music education to students on Poundmaker Reservation.

Similar to a normal year, we continued to partner with Resonate, by providing funding for their teacher PD day, which was held virtually. Besides our focus to maintain relevant programming,

we also continue to work closely with SaskCulture and the STF to help maintain and secure our funding moving forward. We are in our second year of funding from SaskCulture, and they are pleased with our ability to thrive throughout the last year.

Nathan Seghers



## **Manitoba Music Educators' Association - 2020/2021**

The MMEA year in review:

- Tempo 2020 (Annual Conference) was virtually run and organized by Conn-Selmer and Elisa Janson Jones. Membership numbers have decreased as some school divisions have opted out of the MTS Pro D Day.
- Tempo 2021 (on Fri Oct 22) will be virtual with keynote speaker Peter Boonshaft and presenters from North America, Australia, and many local educators.
- Music Month celebrations were done online through YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Music Month has its own website page to upload videos, where they were submitted via an online form.
- MMEA continues to keep the lines of communication open with Manitoba Education and Shared Health.
- Our revised Returning to Manitoba Music Classrooms document has not been released at this point because we are reluctant to publish something that is not in line with public health recommendations and require further clarity before proceeding.
- Members of the MMEA board met with Manitoba Education and Training personnel on August 10 to discuss music education under the BEST strategy. We expressed concerns about the lack of reference to music and arts education in the document. It was agreed that Arts education is an important part of K-12 education. Further discussions will take place in the coming months.
- MMEA continues to communicate with MTS on issues related to music education.
- Thank you to all our partner organizations for their continued advocacy efforts. We look forward to meeting as a group in the coming weeks to discuss next steps for making our voices heard.

Janet Yochim

## **ONTARIO MUSIC EDUCATORS' ASSOCIATION**

The OMEA Annual General Meeting on November 7th, 2020 was held virtually at our OMEA/CMIEC joint conference, Amplify 2020. Due to COVID-19, music education in Ontario experienced severe periods of uncertainty throughout the school year causing periods of stress throughout our education system. In various boards across the province, to varying degrees, teachers continued to face the challenges associated with COVID-19 such as losing classroom space, shuttered instrument storage, being reassigned to teach other subjects, having to move programs partially or entirely online, cancelled classes, and severe restrictions by health authorities on the way both teachers and students experience music teaching and learning in their classrooms.

To respond, the OMEA continues to monitor research and wrote a new document, *Safe Singing and Playing in Ontario Music Programs, Fall 2021* to provide support to the government, boards of education, and public health officials in decision-making for a safe return for fall 2021. Our first version of this new document was released in June 2021 and our latest, version 3, was released in September 2021. This document assembles all of the current research and health advice locally and abroad, and provides recommendations, considerations, and implications for planning a safe return to singing and playing. This is happening on top of our usual work of preparing online workshops for members, publishing our quarterly journal, planning our upcoming conferences, administering scholarships and communicating with government, organizations, affiliates, and our corporate partners in Ontario as we all continue to navigate and support advocacy for music education in Ontario. We have also hosted multiple sessions for members to brainstorm, have conversations, share resources, as well as managing a Facebook Potluck group where members can share ideas.

The OMEA Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee is a group of 21 members and directors who meet regularly to discuss and plan for how the OMEA will make sustainable change within our organization as identified in our Equity Action Plan. Under the leadership of our EDI Director, our EDI committee consists of subgroups that support our equity work across all OMEA mandates. This year, we have developed an Equity Action Plan and set goals to guide us in this work. We have reviewed and updated our Bylaws (ratification expected at our 2021 AGM), and are conducting a holistic review of all OMEA policies and procedures, including the crafting of new membership policy and updating our Affiliate process to ensure accessibility and accountability. We continue to review our resources through an EDI lens and have created 13 new EDI resources as we work toward our goals and prioritize equitable and accessible music education. The OMEA is committed to centre equity, diversity, and inclusion in facets of decision-making, planning, and policies of the organization and our current focus is on, but not limited to, anti-racism, decolonization, and accessibility. This work is on-going. The OMEA is in the process of finalizing important internal legal work to ensure that we are

updating several elements of our corporate structure, our bylaws, charitable objects, accounting practices, and internal agreements with other organizations. This work is important in ensuring our compliance with the laws and regulations around charitable organizations such as ours. These changes will be presented to members for final adoption at the AGM in 2021. Please see the Policies and Procedures section of the OMEA website ([omea.on.ca](http://omea.on.ca)) for the most recent information and updates.

Con Fuoco 2021 is our conference this year, which will be held online. We are welcoming CMEA members from other provinces to join us! Please get in touch with your provincial MEA President for details on how to register.

Carolyn Lewis  
OMEA President

## **Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association - 2020/2021**

As the Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association Vice President, I have spent the last year supporting my executive and membership as we all navigate teaching music during a pandemic. Our association's main priority is typically October Conference. This was canceled in 2020 but we were able to plan for a fully virtual conference in 2021. We are also pleased to support the NLMEA in hosting the Atlantic Regional Conference (ARC).

We supported the National Choral Survey, spearheaded by Choral Canada. We have received our provincial report and are looking at ways we can use this information going forward. We have been working with Cape Breton University on a new Masters outline. This certificate will be specifically geared for Elementary Music Specialists.

I look forward to another year in my term as NSMEA President with a new executive, as all other positions are either finishing terms or being left vacant as members are unable to complete their terms.

Jillian Macnutt

## **Prince Edward Island Music Educators' Association - 2020/2021**

The PEIMEA is a specialist association of the PEITF – Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation. It was founded June 6, 1962 and continues to promote and advocate for music education on Prince Edward Island. Provide professional development opportunities for its membership, and be a voice for music educators as a liaison between the PEITF, Public Schools Branch and the PEI Department of Education.

Our 2021 Conference was held on Oct. 1/2021 at East Wiltshire Intermediate School in Cornwall, Prince Edward Island. It was a blended model – some in-person clinicians as well as 2 virtual sessions with presenters outside the province. We had 4 sessions for elementary music teachers that included Dalcroze Eurhythmics; Music and movement for the primary age group; Afternoon ti guide to teaching music, and an indigenous celebration including a smudging, residential school survivor stories and indigenous movement and drumming. The 4 sessions for instrumental teachers included a woodwind techniques refresher; The Band Room Podcast; Round table discussing issues of teaching today and a band reading session.

Our annual general meeting included presentations from the department of education, the Canadian Band Association and the Coalition for music education. We elected several new executive members for elementary music rep (Shanae Rogers), vice – president (Rory O'Donnell), and treasurer (Aaron Ellis). The secretary (Jessica Myers) and president's (Synthia MacEachern) role stayed the same.

Our paid membership stands at 55. Only 5 in our province have yet to pay their dues which is a huge improvement over past years. Our members are feeling heard and supported and are pleased at the high quality of professional development being offered within our community.

We have worked on several issues this year around unbalanced teaching schedules and an overabundance of duty. It is unfortunate, but, especially at the elementary level, music educators are seen as a teacher's break than an actual academic subject. It is disheartening to see such a disregard for our training and expertise. Principals are prioritizing providing coverage for classroom teachers at the expense of our enrichment programs.

One of our motions we are carrying through is to include music teacher's qualifications within the school act of our province. Currently, principals are beginning to hire non-music specialists over music education graduates and we have no policy on which to support a member's grievance.

I was so lucky to have worked with such a strong executive and I thank them and all of our members for their support this year.

Submitted respectfully by  
Synthia MacEachern  
B. Mus. Ed; M.Edl O.C.T  
President  
PEI Music Educators' Association

## **Newfoundland and Labrador Music Educators' Association**

The 2020-21 school year brought many challenges and changes to the way in which we teach. Teaching in a global pandemic has helped us all to develop new skills and taught us to become resourceful in ways we never could imagine. We have found creative ways not only to deliver the curriculum but to engage students and meet their social emotional needs. During the Spring of 2020 and continuing through the summer, we responded to the immediate need to provide online PD to address our ever-changing teaching landscape and prepare for what lay ahead. The NLMEA hosted teacher sharing sessions and turned to our social media outlets to increase communication and member engagement.

As with many MEAs in 2020, Newfoundland and Labrador hosted a virtual conference. Presenters were very engaging and connected with delegates in creative ways. Partnerships with The Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, Memorial University of Newfoundland, The Singing Network, Brilliant Labs and the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District helped to ensure a successful event.

The NLMEA hosted a Professional Learning opportunity in May, 2021 with *Decolonizing the Music Room*. This was a very worthwhile experience as we continue to work towards Truth and Reconciliation. We are pleased to offer a session with an Indigenous Music Educator at our 2021 conference as well, who will further help to educate our members to teach from a lens of understanding and sensitivity.

At our 2020 BGM, the executive presented a Motion to the membership of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association Music Special Interest Council (NLTA MSIC) to change our name to the Newfoundland and Labrador Music Educators' Association (NLMEA). The motion passed unanimously. This change was long overdue and puts us in line with our counterparts in other provinces in having a Music Educators' Association.

The NLMEA presented a proposal to CMEA to host the second ever Atlantic Regional Conference (ARC). We are honored to be hosting this event on Oct 23, 2021 in a virtual setting. The partnership with the Atlantic Provinces is extremely important and valuable to Music Education in our region.. We are excited to be continuing this vision and looking forward to an amazing conference.

In our September board meeting, we voted to have the Newfoundland and Labrador (NLBA) join us as an affiliate of our organization. The NLBA had been newly formed and lacked the membership base and funding to become grounded. Our partnership will help to build and engage educators of instrumental (namely band and strings) in a vital area of music education.

In recent years, the teacher allocation model in our province has caused redundancies in many music education positions, leaving classroom teachers responsible for delivering the music education curriculum. Furthermore, many positions in smaller centers advertise positions that are quite small (many under 25%), making it virtually impossible for teachers to move to and teach in these areas. New policies with Human Resources have also made it difficult for these part time teachers to substitute in general classrooms. Music educators have reached out to the NLMEA out of frustration, citing the possibility of leaving the profession as it is not a viable option for them.

We continue to face challenges with regards to providing in-person Professional Learning to colleagues in remote locations within our province. We hope to be able to have more flexibility this school year, given the high vaccine uptake in our province.

We have also noted some issues within our bylaws.. Under careful consideration and review, and in consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA), we hope to have these resolved with motions at our 2022 BGM.

**Michelle Collins**

**President, NLMEA**