

Professional Development Committee **Year End Report 2025-2026**

PD Committee Mandate

Professional Development Committee Reviews and develops policy, and programs intended to improve the effectiveness of teachers as professionals and advances education through research in Nova Scotia classrooms.

Committee Budget 2025-2026

	Actual year to date (6.30.26)	Annual budget	%
Professional Development	\$4228.35	\$5450.00	77.58

Conference Grant budgets for 2025-2026: at the time of this report-some expenses not received.

Category	Spent to date*	Budget
Conference Grants	\$10,795.47	\$16000
Full Time Study Grants	*no qualified applications-PE approved funds to be redirected to Conference Grants	\$10,000*
Educational Research Awards	\$2000 *additional funds from this category added to conference grant applications as previous years	\$3500*
Travel Grants	external	
TOTAL		\$30,000

PD Committee Members 2024-2025 (* denotes outgoing member)

Sarah Baldwin-Penny, Chair Lunenburg Local*

Lauren Slaunwhite, Kings Local *

Sarah Slauenwhite, Digby Local

Jason Jennings, Halifax County Local

Pauline Seymour, Richmond Local

NSTU Staff Liason: Amanda O'Regan-Marchand

Provincial Executive Liaison: Janet O'Brien, Antigonish/Guysborough County

Meeting Dates 2025-2026

November 3rd 2025 (hybrid option)

February 9th, 2026 (virtual only)

May 29th , 2026 (hybrid option)

Fall 2025 Meeting

The committee received 16 applications and approved 9 conference grants in the amount of up to \$600 each with 2 alternatives from the following locals: Pictou (2), Halifax City (2), Dartmouth (1), Halifax County (2 + 2 alternate), Kings (1) and Yarmouth (1).

During fall meetings, policies are reviewed on a rotational basis as they apply to each committee's mandate. During this meeting, the committee reviewed the following policies:

- 1) Policy 1 – LITERACY EDUCATION
- 2) Policy 2 – MEMBER PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES
- 3) Policy 3 – PRE-SERVICE TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- 4) Policy 4 – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
- 5) Policy 5 – PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
- 6) Policy 6 – SCHEDULING – MEMBER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR INSERVICING

and provided recommendations on the required form.

Recommendation to PE:

L. Slaunwhite/ J O'Brien/ carried

The committee decided to pursue request to increase funds again as per fall 2024

Recommendation to PE: That the annual budget for PD Grants and opportunities to be increased by \$6000 to a total of \$36000. This is due to an increase in the amount of applications being received in recent rounds and to ensure that the grants are distributed equitably among the regions, as well as APSEA.

Winter Meeting (Virtual) February 9th 2026

The committee approved five Education Research Grants in the amount of \$500 each with unused funds from that grant line to be moved to additional conference grant opportunities during the spring meeting.

The committee reviewed the vetting form for Education Research Grants and decided that a detailed rubric would allow for a more transparent vetting process, and a draft rubric was created.

Spring Meeting May 29th 2026

The committee did not approve any Full Time Study Grants.

The committee approved 6 Travel Fellowship Awards in the amount of \$500 each.

The committee also awarded additional Conference Grants in the amount of up to \$600 each and three alternate recipients. The increase in available opportunities is due to unspent funds in the Education Research Award line as per the minutes from the June 2026 Provincial Executive meeting.

Memo to the Nominating Committee

The PD Committee recommends that Jason Jennings serve as the PD Committee Chair for the 26-27 year.

The NSTU extends sincere appreciation to outgoing members, Sarah Baldwin-Penny and Lauren Slauenwhite for their time, energy and commitment on behalf of NSTU members

Council Resolutions Reviewed

2026-42

The PD committee recommends adoption of the following amendment:

Following the words:

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU request the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collaborate on developing a consistent onboarding process to occur during the instructional day and within the 195 days, between the 10th teaching day and prior to the end of September for newly hired teachers. This process should include clear guidance on accessing necessary digital systems (such as @gnspes accounts, PowerSchool, TIENET, and regional networks) as well as support for setting up benefits, insurance, and NSTU membership information.

2026-44 (Pre-C)-adopt

2026-45 (Pre-C) adopt “YES!” with the following amendment:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU request that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development collaborate with the NSTU to expand the number of universities able to accredit master’s degrees in counselling and increase the number of seats for the School Counselling stream at Acadia University.

2026-56 (Pre-C): adopt with amendment

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU request that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development make provisions for professional development or workshops during the instructional day, workshops, and resources specifically focused on AI in education, ensuring teachers are equipped to use AI safely, effectively, and creatively to enhance student learning outcomes.

2026-57 (Pre-C)-Adopt with the following amendment:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU lobbies the government to provide all members with voluntary access to Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) verbal intervention and de-escalation training year-round/as needed, during contractual hours, to support safe and respectful learning environments.