

NSTU Provincial Equity Committee
Year-End Committee Report 2022-2023

Committee Members:

Colin MacKenzie (Chair), Jessica Morse (maternity leave), Kassie Rose, Denise Stone, Laura Fryday, Myla Borden (Provincial Executive Liaison), Wendie Wilson (Executive Staff Liaison)

Committee Mandate:

As part of the mandate, the Committee will explore current practices, attitudes and research regarding diversity, equity, and social justice.

Meeting Dates:

October 14th (in person), February 10th (Zoom) and April 14th (in person)

Budget:

The budget for the committee was \$5100. The actual cost for the committee's business was \$2533.

Pre-Council Resolutions:

- 2023-62 (Pre-C) Current- BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU request that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development create policies as described in section two of Letter of Understanding (1) Equity and Diversity Initiative.

The Equity Committee recommends with resolution 2023-62 (Pre-C) with the following changes: BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU request that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development **collaborate with the NSTU to** create policies as described in section two of Letter of Understanding (1) Equity and Diversity Initiative.

- 2023-69 (Pre-C) BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU examine the impact of the Student Transportation Policy in relation to the Inclusive Education Policy, its impact on equity, issues of social justice, and delivery of curriculum and report the findings to membership by January 2024.

The Equity Committee defeats and does not recommend this resolution as written.

Summary of Committee Activities:

- This year the Equity Committee organized the biennial Equity Conference which took place on April 14th and 15th at Hotel Halifax. The conference was attended by a full compliment of delegates and received excellent feedback via an electronic evaluation form. Presentations included a virtual keynote by renowned educator Dr. Marie Baptist on the topic of Decolonizing Education. As well there were presentations/workshops on Africentric and Indigenous Frameworks (Wendie Wilson), Linguistic Diversity (Tom Mukuha), Inclusive Play (Kudnzi Marufu), Indigenous arts & crafts (Wendy Lyons) and Author of Water Love (Natalie Hodgson).
- The Informing Equity Workshops that have been developed and available to members are as follows: Myths and Misconceptions and Welcoming Gender Identity by Staff Officer Amanda O'Regan-Marchand and Inclusive Leadership and Indigenous Frameworks by Staff Officer Wendie Wilson.
- Action item to increase visibility and representation by making swag for Pride Parades and Equity Conference available. Pride themed pencils, breakaway lanyards, and t-shirts were available for Pride and Equity Diversity Inclusion breakaway lanyards were ordered and made available for the Equity Conference. The committee also discussed the idea of having a t-shirt available for African Heritage Month similar to the orange t-shirt campaign for Truth and Reconciliation Day in September and the Pride t-shirts made available in July.
- Action item to create a list of resources to be shared with members monthly. A book a month will be recommended to The Teacher and shared on social media.
- The Equity Committee submitted the Nova Scotia Coalition for Healthy School Food endorsement motion to PE/Table Officers and PE passed the motion to endorse the Nova Scotia Coalition for Healthy School Food.

The Equity Committee had a great year robust in conversations, learnings/unlearnings and take-aways. A recommendation for the incoming committee is to continue to explore current practices, attitudes and research regarding diversity, equity, and social justice in the context of the current Nova Scotian school system.

Submitted by Wendie Wilson (Staff Liaison)