

Year End Report
Professional Associations Coordinating Committee
2019-2020

The Professional Associations Coordinating Committee (PACC) is a group of dedicated leaders who endeavor to support professional learning and member engagement across subject and professional areas. There are now 21 professional associations of the NSTU.

Mandate:

The mandate of the Professional Associations Coordinating Committee is:

- a. To review resolutions forwarded by Professional Associations prior to submission to the Provincial Executive
- b. To recommend policy to the Provincial Executive with regard to the operation of Professional Associations
- c. To make recommendations to the Provincial Executive regarding the formation or disbandment of Professional Associations
- d. To advise the Provincial Executive on Professional Association matters
- e. To monitor the financial status of Professional Associations
- f. To assist the officers of Professional Associations in organizing, managing and directing the business and affairs of their respective Associations
- g. To receive the annual reports of Professional Associations
- h. To organize and facilitate an annual Professional Associations Conference
- i. Such other functions or tasks as assigned by the Provincial Executive of the NSTU

This mandate was reviewed. No changes were made.

Committee Members:

Denise Boulton (SPAA) - Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association

Natasha Yorke-Philip (PISA)

Justin Oliver (TAPHE)

Amanda Marchand (NSSCA)

Jill Cutler (ATYA, One Year Term)

Holly MacDonald (ATYA)

Peter Day (Executive Member)

Committee Meeting Dates:

October 4th, 2019

November 22nd, 2019

February 24, 2020

June 4, 2020 (zoom meeting to review survey results regarding recommendation on October conference 2020)

October 22nd, 2020

PALC Conference

PACC hosted the Professional Associations Leadership Conference (PALC) in November 2019. The focus of the conference was an effort to allow representatives from the different associations the time to

network with each other as well as with their PACC liaison, in addition to sharing ideas on conference planning.

PA Support

PACC committee members continue to reach out to the Professional Association Presidents prior to each PACC meeting, to inquire whether there are questions or concerns. If any concerns are raised they are brought to PACC to be discussed.

Annual Council

PISA and SPAA both submitted resolutions to be reviewed by PACC for consideration to Council. The NSTU staff liaison had forwarded the resolutions to Louis Robitaille, staff officer of research, governance, and policy. Louis provided feedback on the resolutions as presented. PACC recommended that the SPAA resolution be forwarded, with amendments (as written in bold below) to provincial executive for approval. PACC recommended that the PISA resolution be forwarded to the provincial executive for approval. These resolutions are written as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU adopt a new Policy – Speech-Language Pathologists, the new Policy to read:

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS

It is the position of the NSTU that speech-language pathologists are essential to the Public School System and the delivery of specialized supports to students. Specifically, the NSTU believes:

- A. speech-language pathologists working in the Public School System should be NSTU Members;
- B. speech-language pathologists are school-based specialists with training and competencies unique to a school setting; and,
- C. **in order to successfully do their job, speech-language pathologists require a private office with resources including, but not limited to: a cellular telephone, a lockable filing cabinet, and a secure portable computer (laptop) with appropriate technology capabilities.**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU adopt a new Policy – School Psychologists, the new Policy to read:

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS

It is the position of the NSTU that school psychologists are essential to the Public School System and the delivery of specialized mental health supports to students. Specifically, the NSTU believes:

- A. school psychologists working in the Public-School System should be NSTU Members;
- B. the responsibilities for a School Psychologist should not exceed a ratio of one (1) Psychologist to seven hundred (700) students (the student count to include the entire school populations from the School Psychologists' assigned schools); and,
- C. in order to successfully do their job, school psychologists require a private office with resources including, but not limited to: a cellular telephone, a lockable filing cabinet, and a secure portable computer (laptop) with appropriate technology capabilities.

--It should be noted that there was no Annual Council 2020, due to restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendations:

-Following NSTU Operational Procedure 13, PACC made the following recommendations to the provincial executive for their consideration:

THAT A NEW PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION, KNOWN AS THE NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION, BE CREATED.

THAT A BANK ACCOUNT BE OPENED IN THE NAME OF THE NOVA SCOTIA ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION AND \$1,000 BE TRANSFERRED INTO THE ACCOUNT.

-Due to the restrictions on gathering size and other limitations brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, PACC took part in meetings with the presidents of the PAs, as well as President Paul Wozney and some NSTU staff, to determine what the outcome would be for October conference day 2020. A survey was sent out to all PAs to fill out with their executives. PACC used the results of these surveys as well as consideration of discussions from the meetings previously mentioned, to make their recommendation to the Provincial Executive to cancel October conference 2020. This recommendation was made on June 4, 2020.

Budget

The Committee budget for 2019-2020 was \$7,680 and the Committee spent \$6,380.

Acknowledgements

PACC would like to acknowledge the support of NSTU Staff:

Bev Tufts for her commitment to October Conference registration, PA websites and email, and other technical and logistical support.

Melanie Waye for financial advice, support and information, reports for executive meetings, and prompt consideration of professional associations' needs.

Miguelle Légère, Staff Liaison, for staff support, meetings, minutes, and focus/ themes for discussion and PALC conference organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Boulton, Chair