

## PD Committee Year End Report

### 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 2023-2024

Professional Development	3,816.67\$	5,100.00\$	74.84%
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### Conference Grant budgets for 2023-2024:

	Budget	Spent
Conference Grants	\$16,500	
Education Research Award	\$3500	
Full-Time Study	\$10,000	
Travel Fellowship* (External funds)	\$4000* (carryover from COVID, normally 2000\$)	

### PD Committee Members 2023-2024

Dawn Spracklin – chair, Cape Breton District Local

Marilyn MacDougall, Northside Victoria Local

Jennifer Moriarty, Dartmouth Local

Deidre Peverill. Halifax County Local

Liam Timmons, Colchester-East Hants Local

Debbie Walker, Digby Local

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

## **Meeting Dates 2023/2024**

October 13, 2024

February 12, 2024 (virtual meeting)

April 19, 2024

## **Summary of Activities**

### **October 2023 Meeting**

The committee approved 9 conference grants in the amount of \$600 each.

The committee also discussed the idea of a new electronic application form that would be available in the spring for the March 1st deadline. There will also be a new accounting form in post-conference paperwork with receipts.

The committee also made a motion for the choosing of successful applicants for conference grants.

Motion ( L. Timmons / D. Walker) - Starting with the next deadline the PD Committee will consider successful applications using a draw system from each region (RRC/APSEA, CSANE). Should any regions not be represented, any remaining applications will be chosen from a general pool or remaining applications.

The PD Committee recommended the following changes to Policy 26: Teacher-Initiated Inservice:

- strike In-service and replace with "Professional Learning";
- The NSTU promotes the concept, through negotiation and lobbying, that each teacher be allowed to attend participate in one or more in-service day professional learning opportunity each school year that the teacher has personally designed, organized, or selected based upon the teacher's professional needs, but not to fall on the Provincial Conference Day in October.

This year's New Member item was shared with the committee; some committee members shared that the details of these lanyards were not made clear in all areas.

**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. Will be tabled to the spring meeting;

For next year, locals will be provided with additional information on how to distribute the new teacher item to members.

## **February 2024**

The committee approved 5 Education Research Grants in the amount of \$500 each. There were also 9 conference grants awarded in the amount of \$600 each. 1 conference grant was reserved for an early career teacher (within the first 5 years). This will continue for future conference grants.

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.

## **April 2024**

The committee approved 5 Full Time Study Grants in the amount of \$2000 each. During the meeting, the committee updated the Full-Time Study Grant vetting criteria to eliminate school and community contributions to help decrease barriers to accessing funds due to time constraints as communicated in the feedback from the Survey for Equity Deserving members.

The committee approved 8 Travel Fellowship Awards in the amount of \$500 each. There was \$4000 in funds available due to a carry over of money due to COVID.

The committee also awarded 9 Conference Grants in the amount of \$600 each.

### **Motion to PE -**

#### **J. O'Brien/J. Moriarty/Carried**

That the application deadlines for Professional Development grants be changed as follows:

- That the conference application deadline for the first Wednesday in January be deleted;
- That the application deadline for conference grants and Travel Fellowship be changed from the first Wednesday in March to May 1st (or the first business day following)

Rationale: These changes will allow timelier response time for applicants between the committee meeting and the recommendations from PE.

### **Recommendation #2:**

#### **J. O'Brien/D. Peverill/Carried**

Change to OP 25.A.iii

That this operational procedure be amended as follows:

Applications should be received and reviewed prior to the conference occurring.

That the conference shall have occurred within six months of the application deadline.

Rationale: to provide a more specific timeline for applicants and committee members than the current language provides.

**Memo to the Nominating Committee**

The PD Committee recommends that Jenn Moriarty serve as the PD Committee Chair for the 24-25 year.

**Council Resolutions Reviewed -**

All resolutions that were presented to the committee were recommended for adoption.

**Goals / Plans for 2024 -2025**

The committee will plan for a transfer of applications to an online forms for October 2024 deadline.

The Provincial PD Conference will take place Nov. 8 - 9 2024.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dawn Spracklin**

**PD Committee Chair**