

Professional Development Committee Year End Report 2022-23

For the 2022-2023 year, the Professional Development Committee was composed of the following members:

- Bernice Cameron (Pictou)
- Liam Timmons (Colchester-East Hants)
- Dawn Spracklin (Cape Breton District Local)
- Laura Lambie (Halifax City)
- Debbie Walker (Digby)
- Paul Syme (Kings)
- Meg Ferguson (Executive Member)
- Amanda O'Regan-Marchand, (NSTU Staff Liaison)

The committee met on the following dates (in-person and via Zoom)

- October 17, 2022 (V)
- February 10, 2023 (V)
- April 17th, 2023 (in-person)

The committee budget was \$5100. The actual amount spent was \$1227.58, due to the fact that 2 of the three meetings were held via zoom.

To fulfil the mandate of the professional development committee as outlined in the NSTU Operational Procedures, the committee engaged in robust discussions regarding the vetting of conference applications to ensure that the process is as equitable as possible, including moving to a new format of a draw of applications that sufficiently detail how the conference will support the applicant's professional learning goals. The vetting process will also be adjusted so that names are not included when committee members vet the application but only the name of their Local to also ensure equitable distribution of opportunities. One early-career applicant from each round was also designated. The new version of the form now includes a fillable excel spreadsheet to indicate expenses incurred and other sources of revenue to ensure that applicants are not reimbursed over and above their costs to attend the conference. They must also submit copies of receipts and/or photos.

Other future goals include an online application form that will not allow for an incomplete submission.

The committee reviewed the feedback from the November 2nd and 3rd PD Conference. Much of the feedback was positive and will be implemented for future conferences; The committee is considering offering testimonials from previous grant recipients at future conferences/events.

For the February Provincial Executive meeting, the committee submitted the recommendation that additional conference grants be awarded following a record number of applications received (47). The funds to support this came from underspending in other categories of the PD grant budget due to the amount of applications.

For the April Provincial Executive meeting, the committee submitted a recommendation to the Provincial Executive to adjust the deadline for the Full Time Study Grant to the 2nd Wednesday in April to better reflect the timing of when applicants would receive decisions from their respective post-secondary institutions. The deadline will be April 10, 2024 for the upcoming year.

The committee submitted the following recommendations to the Provincial Executive during the 2022-2024, all of which were approved:

Conference Grants in the amount of \$600 each for 32 applicants

NSTU Full Time Study Grants (\$2000): 5 (1 has withdrawn)

Education Research Awards: 6

It also approved 5 Travel Fellowship Grants in the amount of \$500 each with one applicant withdrawing their grant due to funding already having been received from other sources. There were only 5 applicants so the opportunity could not be offered to an alternate applicant.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda O'Regan-Marchand for
Bernice Cameron, Chair

PLEASE FORWARD THESE REPORTS TO SHELLY LANDRY fax 477-3517 or email shlandry@staff.nstu.ca BY JULY 31, 2023