

**Year End Report
Political Action Committee
2019-2020**

Mandate:

The mandate of the Political Action Committee is:

- i. Political Action
 - A. The Committee shall maintain contact with all major provincial political parties including, if possible, as members of those parties.
 - B. The Committee shall monitor the policies and practices of the major provincial political parties for the purpose of identifying issues impacting on education and NSTU Members. The Committee shall then advise the NSTU President and Provincial Executive of these issues.
 - C. During provincial elections, the Committee shall monitor the major provincial political parties for their public education platforms and policies and inform the NSTU President and Provincial Executive of any concerns.
 - D. The Committee shall identify educational issues for consideration by the Provincial Executive for political action.
 - E. The Committee shall identify corporate social responsibility and social justice issues for consideration by the Provincial Executive for political action.
 - F. The Committee shall develop strategies for encouraging NSTU member involvement in the political process.
 - G. The Committee shall develop strategies for encouraging NSTU member involvement in the election process including exercising their democratic right to vote.
 - H. The Committee shall seek opportunities to build relationships with educational stakeholders.

Committee Members:

Drew Moore, Colchester-East Hants (Chair)

Yolanda Aubrecht, Cape Breton District

Bill Murphy, Antigonish

Colleen Scott, Shelburne County

Joseph MacIsaac, Halifax County

Ian Kent, Provincial Executive Member

Ian Leblanc, Provincial Executive Member

Natalie MacIsaac, Provincial Executive Member

Mark Laventure, NSTU Staff

Preman Edwards, NSTU Staff

Committee Meeting Dates:

August 29, 2019 Joint meeting with Public Relations Committee

November 4, 2019

February 25, on-line meeting

April 2020 - cancelled

The budget for Committee meetings was \$12,780 and the Committee spent \$5,168.

The activities and accomplishments of the Political Action Committee included the following:

- The committee discussed numerous ways the NSTU could become more involved in the movement to create a more fair and just society.
- Committee members participated in an exercise to develop their political advocacy skills
- The committee investigated opportunities to become more involved in the electoral process at both the provincial and federal levels

Recommendations to PE:

- That the NSTU PR committee reinitiate extending invitations to the minister of education and critics.
- That legal advice be obtained for members/the NSTU on what stance we can take with regard to involvement (school debates) of candidates with explicitly discriminatory platforms.
- That the NSTU ask RCEs/CSAP & EECD to clarify their policies that frame or support Student Vote assemblies.
- That local PA/PR committees be encouraged to establish ongoing meetings with their respective MLAs
- That locals be encouraged to take political action at the local level
- That the NSTU use CTF's *I Teach, I Vote* campaign materials to support member engagement during the upcoming federal election.
- That the NSTU develop an action campaign to support members to advocate for a national poverty elimination strategy