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## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

### Year End Report 2024-2025

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

#### Committee Members:

*Andrew Gosney\**, Chair – NSSCA  
Scott MacKinnon, ATYA  
Dionne Reid- BETA  
Stephen Corbett SSTA  
Meghan MacNeil, SPAA  
Jennifer Eisnor – PETA

#### NSTU Staff:

Amanda O'Regan-Marchand - PACC Staff Liaison  
Jemita Buchanan - Provincial Executive Liaison

#### Meeting Dates:

November 22, 2024 (in-person/zoom option)  
February 7, 2025 (virtual)  
May 9, 2025 (in-person/zoom option)

### Summary of Committee Activities

#### Professional Associations Leaders' Conference:

PACC hosted the Professional Associations Leadership Conference (PALC) on November 22-23rd (in-person). Friday evening saw the delegates participate in an interactive art activity based on the Seven Sacred Teachings of Mi'kmaq facilitated by Robin Jensen, HRCE Regional Arts specialist. The finished product was an interwoven piece highlighting how the voices of all associations weave together and create intersections as crucial members of the NSTU. Saturday morning saw Table Talks with the following topics and facilitators: Handbook with Amanda, Constitutions with Louis Robitaille, Challenging Conversations with Sandra Murray, Treasurer updates and best practices with Melanie and Using Canva to promote your conference with Holly Schaller from SSTA.

#### PA Support:

PACC members continue to reach out to the Professional Association Presidents prior to each PACC meeting. Online "Fireside Chats" are ongoing covering topics appropriate for all PA Executive Members related to October Conference planning and Annual Council.

### Council Resolutions Reviewed:

#### **2025-67 (Pre-C) Action Professional Development**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the NSTU investigate a system of payment where members do not have to pay directly to cover the registration fees for members who attend Provincial Conference.

*Colchester-East Hants Local*

#### **Brief:**

The proposed resolution seeks to reduce financial and administrative barriers for teachers attending Provincial Conferences Day by allowing Professional Associations (PAs) to directly bill Regional Centres for Education (RCEs) or Article 60 funds for registration fees. With rising costs of living, many educators face financial strain, making upfront payments for conference fees an added burden. These fees are often charged to personal credit cards, resulting in interest payments to large corporations and further contributing to teachers' debt load. The current reimbursement process, requiring claim submissions and receipt tracking, adds unnecessary stress to teachers' already demanding workloads. Direct billing would eliminate these challenges, ensuring equitable access to professional development without increasing financial pressures or administrative responsibilities.

This change aligns with the NSTU's commitment to supporting its members' professional growth while addressing their time and financial realities.

#### Goals or Plans for Next Year:

-increase overall conference capacity by offering satellite sites/virtual options aligned with individual PA capacity.

-continuing to realize efficiencies in the planning of the Annual PA Conference Day

#### Budget:

PACC	720.44\$	5,100.00\$	14.13%
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#### Acknowledgements:

PACC would like to acknowledge the support of NSTU Staff:

Janice MacKenzie for her support with 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.

Amanda O'Regan-Marchand, Staff Liaison, for staff support, meetings, minutes, and focus/ themes for discussion and PALC conference organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Gosney