

## Professional Development Committee

### Year End Report 2024-2025

#### 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 2024-2025

Professional Development	3,313.28\$	5,100.00\$	64.97%
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Conference Grant budgets for 2024-2025: at the time of this report-some expenses not received.

Category	Spent to Date*	Budget	
Conference Grants	8,176.06\$	16,500.00\$	49.55%
Full Time Study Grants	7,000.00\$	10,000.00\$	70.00%
Educational Research Awards	2,000.00\$	3,500.00\$	57.14%
Travel Grants	-\$	-\$	N/A
17,176.06\$		30,000.00\$	

#### PD Committee Members 2024-2025 (\*denotes outgoing member)

Jennifer Moriarty, Chair Halifax County Local\*

Marilyn MacDougall, Northside Victoria Local\*

Deidre Peverill. Halifax County Local\*

Sarah Baldwin Penny, Queens Local

Lauren Slaunwhite, Annapolis Local

Bernice Stewart, Pictou Local

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

#### Meeting Dates 2024-2025

November 8, 2024 (with Conference)

February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (virtual only)

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 (hybrid option)

## Summary of Activities

### Fall 2024 Meeting

The committee received 62 applications and approved 9 conference grants in the amount of up to \$600 each with two alternatives from the following Locals: Cape Breton District (1), Colchester-East Hants (1), Dartmouth (2 + 1 alternate), Halifax City (2 +1 alternate), Halifax County (2) and Richmond Local (1).

The committee continued discussion of a new electronic application form that would be available in the spring for the March 1st deadline-this remains a goal but has been put on hold until after the webmail shutdown. There will also be a new accounting form in post-conference paperwork with receipts.

During fall meetings, policies are reviewed on a rotational basis as they apply to each committee's mandate. During this meeting, the committee reviewed the following policies:

1. Policy 7 – Funding of Public Education
2. Policy 8 – Funding of Inservicing
3. Policy 13 – Re-Certification

and provided recommendations on the required form.

### Recommendation to PE:

D. Peverill/M.Macdougall/Carried

the committee passed a motion at its February 2024 meeting and ask that it be considered for the 2025-26 budget.

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.

### PD Conference, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024:

The agenda for this conference included an overview of the grants and opportunities through an interactive activity using the Goosechase app which focused on alternative ways to explore the information available. Saturday morning saw a series of table talks focused on equipping and supporting VPs of PD in their roles including topics of: connecting to the shared drive which includes graphics and information on important deadlines for grants and opportunities and resources for Vps to use in their own Locals, the Chair of the committee, Jenn Moriarty led a table talk about the importance of taking care of self, a mentor matchup to share best practices and time with Central office staff providing information about available workshops and other supports; Feedback was very positive.

February 2025

The committee approved four Education Research Grants in the amount of \$500 each with unused funds from that grant line to be moved to additional conference grant opportunities during the spring meeting.

Recommendation to PE:

**RECOMMENDED MOTION 2**

THAT OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE 24 BE AMENDED BY INSERTING THE PHRASE “AND RESERVE” FOLLOWING THE WORD “ACTIVE” IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE FIRST PARAGRAPH.

The committee has requested that applications have names and identifying information redacted moving forward. This remains a standing item as a workable solution is being explored based on current procedures and available technology to admin support staff.

**June 2025**

The committee approved 5 Full Time Study Grants in the amount of \$2000 each: CSANE (1), Guysborough County (1) and two in Halifax County.

The committee approved 6 Travel Fellowship Awards in the amount of \$500 each.

The committee also awarded 14 Conference Grants in the amount of **up to** \$600 each and three alternate recipients. The increase in available opportunities is due to unspent funds in the Education Research Award line. Grants were awarded in the following regions: APSEA (1), CSANE (2), Dartmouth (1), Halifax City (1 + 1 alternate), Halifax County (3+1 alternate), Inverness (1), Kings (1), Lunenburg (1), Pictou (1), Yarmouth (1) and an additional alternate from Colchester East-Hants.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

THAT OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE 24. A. V. BE AMENDED BY STRIKING THE WORDS “WITH PRIORITY BEING GIVEN TO OUT OF PROVINCE CONFERENCE APPLICATIONS.”

RATIONALE: THE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS RETURNING TO THE 2020–2023 MODEL OF APPROVING ALL CONFERENCES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MEMBER-CHOSEN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING.\_

**Memo to the Nominating Committee**

The PD Committee recommends that Sarah Baldwin-Penny serve as the PD Committee Chair for the 25-26 year.

The NSTU extends sincere appreciation to outgoing members, Marilyn McDougall, Jennifer Moriarty and Deidre Peverill for their time, energy and commitment on behalf of NSTU members.

## **Council Resolutions Reviewed**

2025-63:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU lobby the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to deliver voluntary training in non-violent crisis prevention and intervention to NSTU members.

Conseil syndical acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse

The PD Committee recommended the adoption of this resolution with the following amendment: "During the instructional day" added at the end.

2025-64:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU lobby the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for equitable accessibility to quality professional development amongst School Psychologists, Social Workers, Speech Language Pathologists, and School Counsellors. PD committee recommendation as above.

2025-65:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU lobby the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to ensure accessibility to Professional Learning Community time for School Psychologists, Social Workers, Speech Language Pathologists, and School Counsellors within and/or between their respective roles.

Nova Scotia School Counsellors Association

PD committee recommendation as above.

2025-66:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU implore the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to provided targeted Professional Development during the school year to teachers who are assigned to multi-grade configurations.

Inverness Local

PD committee recommendation as above.

Goals / Plans for 2025 -2026

- promote reserve members qualifying for conference grants starting August 2025
- update application forms as needed;
- continue to work towards redaction of identifying information;

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda O'Regan-Marchand, Staff

On behalf of PD Committee Chair