

Education Week 2016



Shelley Morse
President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and our public school, Community College, and APSEA members, I congratulate the teachers and education partners who are making a difference in the lives of students, schools, and communities through their commitment to this year's EducationWeek theme **Media Literacy: Empowering Critical Thinking in a Digital Media World**/ Les compétences médiatiques : savoir faire preuve d'esprit critique à l'ère des médias numériques

Through media literacy, teachers encourage students to assess, understand and appreciate their own multimedia culture, and help them become active, engaged and critical media consumers and citizens. Teachers and education partners know the power of media in today's world and continually incorporate opportunities that focus on student-centred learning. Through the integration of technology in innovative ways to engage students, using social media for social good and recognizing the influence media have on youth, today's educators are advocating safe and inclusive spaces that enable students to become respectful, responsible and ethical digital citizens.

I also acknowledge the longtime support of the Teachers Plus Credit Union, the corporate sponsor of Nova Scotia's EducationWeek since 2003. Teachers Plus Credit Union continues to demonstrate its commitment to teachers and public education in Nova Scotia.

Please join me in celebrating the achievements and commitment of this year's EducationWeek award recipients.



Honourable Karen Casey
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development

As educators we care about student success. We want our students to do better and we strive to ensure they are prepared to lead productive lives in our changing world.

In our society, change is occurring rapidly—particularly when it comes to technology and information. Along with these shifts comes greater social responsibility. Educators play an important role in guiding students and helping to shape the next generation of Nova Scotians.

To support student success, government introduced Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education just over one year ago. Working collaboratively with teachers, schools, school boards, communities, and partners, our focus has been on improving the learning and teaching environment in our schools. We have implemented dozens of initiatives, including an innovative curriculum with an emphasis on math and literacy, and the early introduction of coding to support problem-solving and critical thinking. These accomplishments set the stage for more good work. Building a modern, successful public education system requires cooperation and hard work by everyone. Collectively, we have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of our students every day.

This year's Education Week theme, **Media Literacy: Empowering Critical Thinking in a Digital Media World**, focuses on the important role educators play in ensuring students have the skills they need to understand, create and critically interpret text in print, on screen, and in digital format. These media are a primary means of communication in the world of today's student and media literacy is essential to learning and to success in life and work. The educators and partners we are honouring this year are champions of teaching students to be respectful, ethical and responsible digital citizens.

On behalf of the department, I would like to express my sincere thanks to this year's award recipients and to all of the EducationWeek partners for your commitment to our students and their success.



Lisa Doucet
President, Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators

On behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, I would like to extend congratulations to the teachers and education partners being recognized for their leadership, hard work, and dedication to media and digital literacy in our schools and communities. Your work in this area is pivotal to opening up the world

of media and digital literacy to our students.

The theme for Education week 2016 is **Media Literacy: Empowering Critical Thinking in a Digital Media World**. Teachers and education partners work hard every day to ensure our students engage in educational experiences which provide opportunities to develop those critical thinking skills through media and digital literacy. As media and digital literacy are very important parts of our students' lives it is essential that we have dedicated role models who guide them in critical thinking, leadership, and digital citizenship. The EducationWeek Awards ceremony is a time to highlight and celebrate the work of the teachers and partners being recognized for their dedication and leadership in providing students with the media and digital literacy skills required in today's media world.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, to thank you, the recipients of the 2016 EducationWeek Award, for your invaluable contributions which touch the lives of students in the classrooms, schools, and communities across our province.



Charla Dorrington
President, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations I would like to extend our congratulations on your ongoing efforts to promote and support EducationWeek in Nova Scotia.

The Theme for 2016 "Media Literacy" is relevant with the recent changes to our education system here in Nova Scotia. With the changing tides in education "Media Literacy" is more important than ever. As our education system evolves the ability to access, analyze and evaluate the importance of media literacy grows.

Thank you for your efforts, which demonstrates continued active participation in our communities as well as continuing to engage the education partners which contributes to the global promotion of education in Nova Scotia.



Camille Maillet
Président, Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Le thème de la Semaine de l'éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse, « Les compétences médiatiques : savoir faire preuve d'esprit critique à l'air des médias numériques », soulève une question importante pour l'éducation de nos enfants.

La littératie médiatique et la littératie numérique sont des concepts récents. Dans l'ensemble, on s'entend pour dire que les habiletés et compétences de ces deux disciplines sont liées et sont sur la liste des compétences essentielles à

apprendre pour nos jeunes.

Aujourd'hui, nous vivons et travaillons dans un monde axé sur les médias et l'information.

La littératie médiatique signifie être au cœur des médias de masse et, par conséquent, des technologies numériques qui occupent aujourd'hui une place de choix. Les élèves ne sont plus de simples consommateurs d'information mais des participants actifs. Aujourd'hui toute une gamme d'habiletés est nécessaire comme la pensée critique, la gestion des communications et le traitement de l'information pour répondre aux exigences et aux réalités de la culture numérique. Ce changement nous oblige donc à élargir l'apprentissage de leurs compétences dans ce domaine.

La littératie numérique est l'ensemble des habiletés personnelles, technologiques et intellectuelles qui sont nécessaires pour évoluer dans un monde numérique. La technologie numérique a une place indispensable pour tout citoyen souhaitant participer pleinement à la vie en société. La compétence numérique nécessaires à nos jeunes fait référence aux aspects sociaux, éthiques, légaux et économiques qui s'y rattachent.

En cette semaine de l'éducation la fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse souhaite remercier tous les éducateurs et parents qui travaillent sans cesse pour apprendre à nos enfants, à devenir de futur citoyen numérique responsable, respectueux et conscients des règles d'éthique.



Susan Ritchie
President, Nova Scotia School Boards Association

On behalf of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), I extend sincere congratulations to the EducationWeek 2016 Award Recipients.

Communication methods and information sharing is coming at us in tidal waves of content. Digital and media literacy skills are becoming increasingly important, especially for our young people as they navigate through school, relationships, and life in general. This year's theme, **Media Literacy: Empowering critical thinking in a digital media world** recognizes those in the education field who are dedicated to helping students find their way

through vast amounts of content and information. While much of these lessons are delivered in the classroom, the NSSBA partner award recipient has demonstrated a commitment to ensuring media literacy is promoted in their school board.

All of the individuals being recognized with an EducationWeek Award have shown their dedication to supporting student development by encouraging critical thinking skills. Students are being encouraged to examine the information presented to them, and to look at print, screen-based and digital text through a critical lens. These skills will serve our students well throughout their lives.

Once again I would like to congratulate all of the award recipients for their commitment to the students of Nova Scotia.

**Media Literacy:
Empowering Critical
Thinking in a Digital
Media World**