

NSTU Provincial Equity Committee

Year-end Committee Report 2014-2015

Committee Members:

Vera Ryan, Chair, Yarmouth Local
Donna Lee Parker, Cape Breton District Local
Colleen Moore, Community College Local
Katrina Slaney, Shelburne Local
Cyril MacGillivray, Antigonish Local
Jill Burton, Inverness Local
Ben Sichel, Provincial Executive Member
G rard Cormier, NSTU Staff Liaison

Committee Mandate: To address matters relating to diversity, equity and social justice.

Meeting Dates:

Friday October 3, 2014
Friday April 17, 2015
Friday June 12, 2015

Budget:

The amount budgeted for 2014-2015 was \$5,400.00 and the amount expended was \$6,188.

Committee Activities and Recommendations:

1. The committee members approved an amended draft copy of the updated Equity Committee mandate which was sent to the Provincial Executive for ratification.
2. The committee reviewed NSTU policy and made recommendations.
3. The committee members helped plan the "Transitioning in Education" Equity conference. Friday evening was a panel comprised of three speakers followed by a Q & A period. Saturday morning saw a series of three bell ringer sessions with the focus of the conference being on issues related to gender identity and gender expression.
4. The committee members reviewed the feedback received from delegates/members who attended the Equity Conference with the consensus being how excellent and valuable the conference was.

5. Each of the committee members was assigned a Local Equity Liaison for communication purposes. The committee members reported that they had communicated with their zone contacts; however, little feedback was given to them.
6. The Sheonoroil Conference agenda was reviewed and the committee members were encouraged to attend and also for them to encourage the equity liaisons to attend as well.
7. Staff informed the committee members of a new NSTU Standing Committee (Status of Women Committee) that will deal exclusively with women's issues. The committee examined the mandates for both the Equity Committee and the Status of Women Committee for possible duplication but none were found.
8. We had three presenters at our meetings. Evan Coole, a community legal worker at Dal Legal aid and Mary-Dan Johnston presented on a Living Wage in support of RESOLUTION 2015-57. Amy Boudreau, a Halifax-area teacher, presented on Restorative Approaches in support of RESOLUTION 2015-1. Daniel Blinn, a Halifax teacher, came in and explained to the committee the reasons why a Metro GSA was formed and also talked about their activities this past year. The committee had some discussion how support groups like this could branch out to other areas.
9. The Chair of the committee attended Annual Council 2015 and spoke in support of the above mentioned Resolutions on behalf of the committee. Both resolutions were adopted.
10. The committee members reviewed the Equity Liaison Handbook and made the following points:
 - Add mandate for Status of Women Committee
 - Verify if French health curriculum resources are available
 - Include mention of Metro GSA
 - Have Status of Women Committee review the handbook next year.
11. The committee recommended that Donna Lee Parker from the Cape Breton District be the chair for 2015-2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSTU for giving me the opportunity to sit on this committee and also be the committee chair. I would also like to thank the other committee members for all their work and especially Gerard, the NSTU Staff Liaison, who puts so much into making this committee so successful!

I have learned a lot but most importantly I have learned how very important this committee is and how much work there is still to be done to promote and ensure a greater understanding of equity and equity issues.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vera Ryan