

## **2015-2016 Year End Committee Report – Status of Women Committee**

**Submitted by Peggy Joiner, Chair**

The mandate of the Status of Women Committee pertains to promoting ways of enhancing the status of women in the teaching profession and in society. The Status of Women Committee members are: Peggy Joiner (Chair), Tanya DeViller, Shari MacGillivray, Jennifer Adams, Nadine Arnold, Deborah Walker, Hope Lemoine (Provincial Executive), and Pamela Langille (Staff Liaison). The Committee held three meetings, the first on November 6, 2015, the second on January 15, 2016, and the third meeting on May 6, 2016.

With the 2015-2016 academic year being the first year for the Committee, the first meeting reviewed the mandate of the Committee and held a discussion forum on issues of concerns affecting women members within the Union, the workplace, and generally in society. Following this discussion, the Committee established its priorities for the year, which included the following summary of recommendations that were adopted by the NSTU Provincial Executive in December:

- Aligned the Status of Women Committee mandate with other Program & Coordinating committees by updating the Committee mandate to include policy review and consideration of referred resolutions
- Started this year, the Committee promoted International Women's Day by preparing and sending out an information packet to help Locals and workplaces, including the NSTU office, celebrate International Women's Day on March 8
- Established the responsibility of organizing a biennial provincially-sponsored conference under the Committee, the first of which is scheduled for the 2017-2018 academic year

The Status of Women Committee's year of inception was met with great passion, possibility and full engagement and commitment from the committee members as the many issues affecting women in the teaching profession and society were identified and discussed, and then had to be narrowed down to the initial, manageable priorities of the 2015-2016 academic year.

In addition, this year was the first year following a resolution passed at Annual Council 2015 regarding the use of restorative practices in meetings. The Committee had great success with imbedding this approach in conducting its business, evidenced by the genuine regard given to one another and the opportunities of relationship building that were harnessed in the meetings. As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tanya, Shari, Jennifer, Nadine, Deborah, Hope, Pam, and Shelley Morse for all their time and valuable contributions.

The budget for the committee for 2015-16 was \$5,580.00, the committee spent \$5,805.44.