

Reaching out

By Amanda O'Regan-Marchand and Pam Langille, NSTU Executive Staff Officers, Professional Learning

Hello, colleagues:

Happiest New Year to you all! Although 2022 may have entered with its challenges, I hope the holiday season allowed each of you some time for rest and relaxation in preparing to return to your learning spaces as ready as possible to meet what lay ahead.

This month, we are sharing an important collaboration shared with your Professional Associations' leaders at their conference in late November, 2021. The Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) are collaborating, along with our Curriculum Committee, to invite teachers to offer input at the provincial level.

What does this look like? Well, your NSTU Professional Learning team will compile a list of interested "subject area/specialist enthusiasts" who would be available to collaborate with the NSTU and the EECD on upcoming opportunities for first-voice around programs, services, curriculum and other projects going forward. Your Professional Associations' leaders had the opportunity to share ideas and provide input to EECD Deputy Minister Cathy Montreuil regarding the importance of including teacher and specialist voice in decision-making that affects our learning spaces and students' learning environments. From this collaboration, the Deputy shared that it is the goal of the Department to gather the names of NSTU members who are interested in offering input going forward on decisions that will impact students' learning conditions. If you are interested in being a part of this "*team of subject area enthusiasts and specialists*", please forward your name, email and a brief summary of your experience in teaching and any collaborative and/or leadership opportunities to team@nstu.ca. The ultimate goal is to have a list of teachers and specialists available to share with EECD who are ready, willing and able to collaborate going forward.

Connected to this invitation for input, we are sharing an exciting opportunity for teachers across the province

to offer input on the Physically Active Framework from the team of Mary Veinotte and Steve Machat at EECD which aims at supporting classroom and specialist teachers in implement movement into their learning spaces to accompany curriculum outcomes. The goal is to have a team-based approach for all levels—from teachers to school administrators to regional staff—to help the implementation of this framework to be as successful as possible.

As we are all in the season of setting goals for this year, it is common to consider "becoming more physically active". This framework allows for incorporation of opportunities for physical movement with existing resources and in areas that may not have been considered before. The short resources contained within, "Spark", for example, include cross-curricular ideas to supplement course outcomes with physical activity. In sharing these with students, we can also participate and model setting and working towards our own physical activity goals, while expanding opportunities for our hands-on learners to engage with their learning in a different way.

If you are interested and available to offer input for Mary's team for the Physical Activity Framework within the different subject areas, grade levels, etc., please email team@nstu.ca and indicate "PAFramework" in the subject line. We will be sure to forward your name and information along to Mary and her team!

If you have any questions on either of these upcoming collaboration opportunities, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Professional Learning team.

Yours in Education,
Amanda and Pam

