

*NSTU Provincial Equity Committee
Year-End Committee Report 2012-2013*

Committee Members

Alex Oickle, Chair
Nadine Arnold
Robert Lelievre
Stacy Thorburn
Ben Sichel
Sally Capstick, Executive Member
Gerard Cormier, NSTU Staff Liaison

Committee Mandate:

To address matters relating to the status of women, equity and diversity.

Meeting Dates:

Friday October 12, 2012
Friday February 15, 2013
Friday April 12, 2013

Budget

The budget for 2012-2013 was \$5,775.00 and the amount expended was \$6,340.36

Committee Activities and Recommendations

1. Every Teacher Project

Equity Committee members were encouraged to fill out the survey and promote it among their staffs/Locals.

2. Presentation from Mr. Nolan Pike, Youth Project

Mr. Pike gave a one-hour presentation on the issue of protecting the rights of transgender teachers and students. He shared with the committee members a copy of a Toronto School Board recently adopted policy entitled TDSB Guidelines for the Accommodation of Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Students and Staff. The committee will use this as a resource document in 2021-2013 for ideas around the language needed to amend current NSTU Policy 19. It was also suggested that Mr. Pike make the same presentation to the NSTU Provincial Executive in 2013-2014.

3. Equity Conference Planning

The committee members planned the **Sharing our Message (Step by Step) conference**. Friday evening was a panel comprised of three speakers representing various cultural groups followed by a Q & A period. The three groups represented were the Aboriginal Community, the Multicultural Community, and the Transgender Community.

Saturday morning saw a series of three bell ringer sessions dealing with the roles and responsibilities of the Equity Liaison, the contents of the Equity Handbook, and a brainstorming session regarding successes and barriers. There were also two workshops, one dealing with difficult people and situations and the other being an activity-based tool box session.

4. Equity Liaison

Each of the committee members was assigned a certain number of Local Equity Liaisons for communication purposes. Committee members gave each liaison a booklet and met individually with them during the conference.

5. Pride Parades

Committee members were encouraged to attend and encourage GSA involvement.

6. Equity Liaison Handbooks

Committee members made suggestions to update the Equity Liaison Handbook.

7. Committee Chair

The committee suggested Ben Sichel as chair of the Equity Committee for 2013-2014.