

**Year End Report  
2009-2010  
Public Affairs Committee**

**a. Mandate**

**i. Political Action**

- A. The Committee shall maintain contact with all major provincial political parties through participation, as observers, in the annual meetings of each party. Following attendance at each annual meeting, the Committee shall report to the Provincial Executive.
- B. The Committee shall monitor the policies and practices of the major provincial political parties for the purpose of identifying issues impacting on education. The Committee shall then advise the President and Provincial Executive of these issues and recommend appropriate political action.
- C. During provincial elections, the Committee shall develop and implement a program focusing on the position of the parties and their candidates with respect to education.
- D. The Committee shall develop NSTU member awareness and urge member involvement in election campaigns.
- E. The Committee will operate a hospitality suite at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of each of the political parties with representation in the N. S. legislature, as allowed by each party.

**ii. Process and Technical Support for Local Public Affairs Committees**

- A. The Committee shall publish a Public Affairs Handbook for Local committees.
- B. Subject to approval by the Provincial Executive, the Committee shall provide resource materials and training to assist Local committees in carrying out their mandate.
- C. Subject to approval by the Provincial Executive, the Committee shall provide opportunities for Local committees to network and share.
- D. The Committee plans, with Provincial Executive approval, an annual meeting of Local leaders of Public Affairs.
- E. The Committee shall identify educational issues for political action by the Provincial Executive.

**iii. Information to Member Candidates**

- A. The Committee shall publish a handbook on conditions of employment for members interested in becoming political candidates.
- B. The Committee shall compile a resource file of information relevant to political action in education and maintain this file in the NSTU central office.
- C. The NSTU maintains its historical position of not attaching itself to any political party.

**b. General**

- i. Consider such resolutions as may be referred by Annual Council and make appropriate recommendations.
- ii. Participate as required in the NSTU Policy Review Process by providing recommendations for the Provincial Executive's consideration.

**c. Composition**

The Committee shall consist of three (3) Provincial Executive members selected by the Provincial Executive and five (5) NSTU active members chosen through the Nominating Committee process.

**d. Meeting Frequency**

It is anticipated that the Public Affairs Committee will be able to accomplish the mandated tasks through three meetings per year. The Public Affairs and Public Relations Committees shall have some common meeting times to allow for discussion and exchange of initiatives, concerns and objectives.

*Reference: Provincial Executive, April 1988, March 1990, May 1994, June 2001, October 2002, July 2007*

**Committee Members**

The Public Affairs Committee was comprised of the following members:

Steven VanZoost (Chair), Hants West  
Myla Borden, Pictou  
Debbie McVeigh, Community College  
Susan Noiles, Halifax County  
Redmond MacDougall, Cape Breton  
Deborah Mitchell, Provincial Executive Member  
Milton Bonnar, Provincial Executive Member  
David Harris, Provincial Executive Member  
Grant MacLean, Staff Liaison

**Meeting Dates**

The Committee met on the following dates:

- October 2, 2009
- February 5, 2010: While attending the Progressive Conservative Annual General Meeting
- May 14, 2010: While attending the Liberal Annual General Meeting

Public Affairs  
Annual Report, 2009-2010

At the first meeting of the Public Affairs Committee on October 2, 2009, the following items were discussed:

- a) Welcome/Introductions
- b) Expense/meeting guidelines
- c) Selection of Recording Secretary
- d) Approval of minutes from February 27, 2009
- e) Meeting Dates for 2009-2010
- f) Review of Public Affairs Mandate
- g) Review of Year End Report 2008-2009
- h) Zone Contacts were established for Committee members
- i) MLA contact sheets
- j) Review of General Policy Statements / Governance for Council 2010
- k) Community College Email Campaign
- l) Resolution 2009-77
- m) Communications Conference (Topics)
- n) Planning for the upcoming year

The second meeting of the Public Affairs Committee was held February 5, 2010, prior to attending the Progressive Conservative Annual General meeting at the Westin Hotel. The PA Committee met, conducted business and during part of the afternoon held a joint meeting with the Public Relations Committee to discuss plans for the upcoming Communications Conference scheduled for April 23-24, 2010. The following items were discussed at the Public Affairs meeting:

- a) Resolution 2009-77
- b) Communications Conference planning
- c) Role of the Public Affairs Committee at the PC AGM

Following the adjournment of the PA meeting, committee members registered for the Progressive Conservative AGM and attended the evening session. Upon the close of the session Friday evening, the PA Committee hosted a hospitality suite and received delegates to discuss educational issues. The President of the NSTU attended. On Saturday, the Committee members attended sessions and hosted a hospitality suite during the evening. On both evenings, the hospitality suite was a busy spot with members of the PC caucus and general delegates engaging in the topic of the importance of education for our youth from elementary to post-secondary.

The PA Committee co-hosted the Communications Conference on April 23-24, 2010. The focus of the conference was to provide information to locals about technology issues in our schools. Topics included social networking sites, NSTU public service announcements, and encouraging MLAs to visit a classroom for a day. The presenters were Lorraine Storry Mockford, Bob MacRae (PEITF), Angela Murray (NSTU), and Grant MacLean, (NSTU). The conference was well attended and the staff of the NSTU did an excellent job of ensuring smooth running of the conference.

A third meeting of the Public Affairs Committee was held May 14, 2010, prior to attending the Liberal Party AGM, at St. FX University. The following items were discussed at the Public Affairs meeting:

- a) Communications Conference evaluation
- b) Role Of Public Affairs Committee at the Liberal Party AGM
- c) Recommendations for the PA Committee 2010-11
- d) Council Resolutions and comments at Annual Council 2010

The committee was not permitted to host a hospitality suite at the Liberal AGM.

The PA Committee also attended the New Democratic Party convention on June 4-6 at St. FX University. While there was not opportunity to host a hospitality suite, the committee attended the party's social event on Friday evening; the problem of school attendance was discussed with MLAs. The NSTU President attended. On Saturday evening, the committee attended the banquet and met informally with the Minister of Education.

Our presence at the AGMs allowed the Committee the opportunity to discuss educational issues with MLAs and party delegates.

**Public Affairs Committee Budget 2009-10**

Budgeted amount- \$18,060.00

Actual - \$13,813.35

As the out-going Chair, I would like to extend my thanks to the Committee for their dedication, time and efforts. Additionally I would like to offer a thank you to Grant MacLean for his assistance and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steven Van Zoost