

*NSTU Provincial Equity Committee
Year-End Committee Report 2011-2012*

Committee Members

Jenn Laudadio, Chair
Alex Oickle
Daniel Blinn
Mary MacLeod
Stacy Thorburn
Bev Roy
John MacKay, 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 7, 2011, 9:00-4:00
Friday March 5, 2012, 9:00-4:00
Friday April 13, 2011, 12:00-4:00

Budget

The budget for 2011-2012 was \$5,775.00 and the amount expended was \$6,278.00.

Committee Activities and Recommendations

1. NSTU Policy Review

The committee reviewed and supported both of the following resolutions:

2012-13

The NSTU Equity Committee supports, in principle, Resolution 2012-13. The committee believes that issues around intimidation and bullying are serious and must be dealt with. The committee would hope that any study of the issue would be global in nature as the issues around intimidation and bullying are not limited to any one category of individuals.

2012-18

The NSTU supports Resolution 2012-18. As the organization that is the Professional voice of the teaching profession in the province, the NSTU should continue to examine and provide leadership in regards to professional issues. Over the last number of years the NSTU has done exactly that by addressing issues of sexual orientation in the school system and the issue of peaceful schools. The positive response to these professional development initiatives shows that there is both an interest and a need on the part of the membership. Furthermore,

other Canadian teacher organizations are already hosting successful biennial conferences on professional issues.

Throughout the year, the committee also felt it important to review NSTU Policy 19. The Equity Committee feels that Policy 19 dealing with Anti-Homophobia and Anti-Heterosexism does not sufficiently address the issue of gender identity. The Committee would like to see the NSTU adopt a separate gender identity policy. Staff will look at the policies of other CTF member organizations in preparation for the fall meeting.

2. Visit from Betty-Jean Aucoin, Cyberbullying Task Force

Betty-Jean outlined the work that is being done by the Cyberbullying Task Force. She indicated that she is the voice of teachers at the table. She highlighted 2 websites that teachers could use as valuable resources. They are www.prevnet.ca and www.definetheline.ca

3. NSTU Equity Liaison Handbook

Staff reviewed the handbook and indicated to the Committee that a page on “Zone Responsibilities” similar to the one found in the Substitute Liaison Handbook should be created.

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. Canadian Human Rights Museum

The NSTU Equity Committee received a request from a Local Equity Liaison concerning possible NSTU support for the new Canadian Museum for Human Rights and made a recommendation to the Provincial Executive that the NSTU support the initiative by making a financial donation.

6. Every Teacher Project

The NSTU Equity Committee recommended to the Provincial Executive that the NSTU support “The Every Teacher Project”, a national study of Canadian Teachers’ perceptions and experiences of LGBTQ – Inclusive education.

7. “Tools For Safer Schools” Conference

The Equity Committee planned and executed the annual Equity conference April 13-14, 2012. The conference featured panelists and presenters, including Nolan Pike from the Youth Project, Betty-Jean Aucoin from the NSTU, Mike Isaac from the Department of Education, and Dr. Alan McLuckie of Dalhousie University.

8. Annual Council

Since Jenn Laudadio (Equity Chair) was unable to attend council due to health problems, Alex Oickle replaced Jenn as the Chair to discuss resolutions.

The Committee has suggested Alex Oickle as chair of the Equity Committee for 2012-2013.

It has been a truly gratifying experience being a member and the chair of the Equity Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NSTU for giving me this delightful opportunity, and hope that I am able to make contributions to the committee in future years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jenn Laudadio