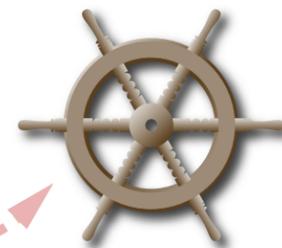




Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



CONTACT and DSS—Two Summer PD Opportunities for NSTU Members

CONTACT—by Gérard Cormier, NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development

DSS—by Danny Eddy, NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development

CONTACT

Every summer, CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching) is held in one of the four Atlantic provinces. It is a regional conference hosted by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association on a rotating basis. The conference provides teachers the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with their colleagues from the Atlantic region.

Each CONTACT is organized by an interprovincial committee comprised of a PD staff officer from each of the Anglophone Atlantic provinces teacher associations as well as a local planning committee comprised of teachers residing in the area where CONTACT is hosted. The interprovincial committee chooses the yearly theme and the presenters/keynote speakers. The host province provides the opening and closing keynote speakers and all of the provinces choose one presenter for the concurrent sessions. All sessions are focused on providing classroom teachers with practical ideas and strategies that they can use in their classroom right away.

In Nova Scotia delegates are chosen in the following manner. Each Local can send a delegate whose expenses are borne by the Local. There are a number of spaces reserved for Professional Associations to send their own delegate. There are also a limited number of spaces for NSTU members who are interested in attending using Article 60 monies.

This year's theme is **Cirque du School Eh!** It is being hosted by the NSTU on August 7-10 at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. Its keynote speakers will address how schools and classrooms have become more and more of a circus with educators being asked to juggle more and more balls. A circus can be viewed both positively and negatively and the sessions have been tailored to address specific issues such as the classroom environment, the engaging classroom, dealing with other adults in the classroom, and cyber bullying and digital citizenship.

If you have never seen **Cirque du School Eh!** now's your chance! For more information please contact your Local president, your Professional Association, or Lise Meunier at the NSTU Central Office.

DSS

In the mid 1990s, The Council of Atlantic Province Teacher Organizations—CAPTO - Professional Development staff officers saw the need for in depth structured PD for school administrators at a time of the year when schools were closed. The thought was that those in administrative positions would welcome this type of offering when they were not dealing with the day to day issues that consume many hours of school administrators' time both during and after school. The idea evolved to

be a PD offering three to four days in length, intensive in nature and relevant to cutting edge education related issues. Furthermore it was decided that the maximum group size should be kept small to enhance the quality of the offering coupled with increased one on one contact time with each summer's presenters. The Department of Education of the Province of New Brunswick also recognized the need for this type of PD and became an equal funding partner along with the NBTA, NFLTA, NSTU and PEITE.

As a result DSS (Developing Successful Schools) was created. Since New Brunswick was in effect a double partner they were provided with double the yearly seats available to each of the other provinces. Each province has 12 seats while New Brunswick has 24.

Over the years DSS has provided sessions on a variety of topics offered by respected and renowned education authors, researchers and presenters. In many instances there is a sole presenter for the annual July offering.

Topics over the years have included, "Leading A Learning Organization" in 1998, "Collaboration For Excellence" in 1997, "Canadian Public Schools: Our People, Our Purpose" in 2002, "What Great Principals Do Differently" in 2004 and "Learning Focused Conversation, Practical Strategies For Collaborative Inquiry" in 2009.

In addition to the excellent professional development opportunities, there is the chance to network closely with other school administrators from within the Atlantic Region.

From superintendents to central office administrators to school-based administrators, DSS continues to attract a

diverse crowd, many being repeat attendees.

Costs are kept reasonable with this year's fees being \$300. Attendees can opt to stay onsite in the new dorm accommodations at Mount Allison University with all sessions being located on campus.

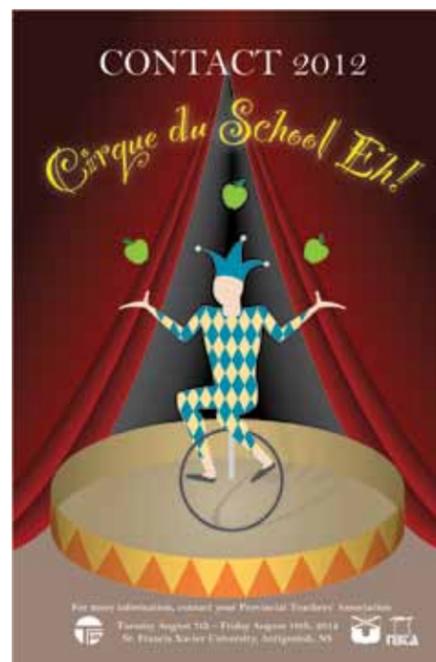
This year's offering is called "Strategic Approaches to Conflict Management and Negotiations" and will enable all participants to learn firsthand from three highly recognized presenters of Queen's University, a national leader in this field.

Robert Hickey, PhD teaches the core courses on unions and collective bargaining in the Master of Industrial Relations program at Queen's University. Robert's research interests focus on labour management relations in the context of industrial restructuring and public sector reform.

Glenda Fisk, PhD joined the School of Policy Studies at Queen's University in 2006 after completing her PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at The Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests focus on how emotional experience impacts work performance, stress, and resilience.

Brendan Sweeney, PhD works as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Queen's University Industrial Relations Centre. Dr. Sweeney is the lead researcher on a multiyear project that examines labour relations in Ontario's K-12 education sector, where he has helped develop workshops for school administrators and school board labour relations personnel.

Although the registration deadline is June 1 interested administrators can contact Gail Doucette at the NSTU up until Friday, June 15 to inquire if any seats remain available.



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