

## Mary-Lou Donnelly elected president designate of CTF

On July 11, Nova Scotia Teachers Union President Mary-Lou Donnelly was elected president designate of The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) during its 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Moncton, New Brunswick July 10 to 12.

"I am looking forward to serving Canadian teachers and advancing the cause of public education in Canada," says Donnelly.

Donnelly was one of two CTF vice-presidents running for president designate. She defeated candidate Paul Taillefer, president of the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO). As president

of the Canadian Teachers' Federation she will serve as its Chief Executive Officer advancing its policies, key issues and resolutions that have an impact on public education, students and teachers nationally.

Donnelly, who completed her second two-year term as president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union on July 31, 2008, will take on the post of running Canada's teacher organization beginning in July 2009, succeeding current CTF President Emily Noble. For the 2008-09 school year she will be principal at Le Marchant St. Thomas School in Halifax while occupying the position of past president on the NSTU's provincial executive.

She will be the sixth NSTU president to become a CTF president. The last NSTU president who served as president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation was Greg O'Keefe in 1982-83.

The 2008 CTF AGM's theme was *Education: A Sea of Knowledge to Discover*, and was hosted by the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick (AEFNB) at the Delta Beauséjour in Moncton.

CTF speaks for 220,000 teachers in Canada as their national voice on education and related social issues. CTF (<http://www.ctf-fce.ca>) is also a member of the international body of teachers, Education International (<http://www.ei-ie.org>).



Mary-Lou Donnelly at the CTF AGM.

## inside



### NSTU NOW

September 11 is *Stand Up Against Bullying Day*. Page 3 has details.

NSTU hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Leadership Development Conference in August. Read about it on page 4.

### ONLINE EDITION

[www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

### The Teacher Distribution for the 2008-09 School Year

Beginning with the October issue of *The Teacher* your school or campus will receive a set number of copies of *The Teacher*. This amount will either be the number requested by your NSTU rep or half the amount of NSTU members at your school/campus. Please share your copy with a colleague. *The Teacher* is also available online at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca). Contact *The Teacher* if you have any concerns at [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)

### NSTU Provincial Executive MEETING DATES

#### 2008

- September 26-27
- October 16
- Nov. 28-29



#### 2009

- January 15-16
- February 26-27
- April 3-4
- April 30
- June 5-6





# people

## Education Research Award

Mary-Lou Donnelly (now NSTU's past president) presented Marla Davis from Aldershot School in Kentville with her NSTU Education Research Award last June. The NSTU Education Research Award was established to encourage and assist education research. NSTU members are awarded a maximum of \$475 based on research completed in the current or previous two school years. Application forms are available from the NSTU website or Central Office and the deadline is the first Wednesday in December by 4 p.m. Davis (third from left) is shown with Kings Local President Cathy Reimer, NSTU first vice-president Shelley Morse, and Donnelly.



## NSTU members raise money for students in Ghana



The NSTU Ghana Bookmark project raised \$4,902.70 last fall to help children in Ghana go to school. During the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) Annual General Meeting in Moncton from July 10 to 12 Mary-Lou Donnelly, in her last official role as NSTU president presented the money to CTF. CTF is forwarding the funds to the Ghana National Association of Teachers who will provide *Start School Packages*, which include school uniforms, sneakers and school supplies, to students. More information about this year's Ghana Bookmark Project is available on page 3. From left is NSTU president Alexis Allen, CTF president Emily Noble, CTF past president Winston Carter, NSTU past president and CTF president designate Mary-Lou Donnelly and NSTU second vice-president Belinda Snow.



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e-mail theteacher@nstu.ca.

You may find past issues posted on our website: [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

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## Tri-county leaders attend Leadership conference

A photograph of four people standing together, likely at the Leadership conference.

Yarmouth Local President Eileen Coady, Digby Local President Bobby Archer, Tri-County RRC Chair John MacKay and Shelburne Local President Bonnie Mahaney were all in attendance at this year's Leadership Development Conference. This event saw 200 NSTU leaders come together to learn more about the NSTU and network with their counterparts around Nova Scotia. Read more about the conference on page 4.

## Scholar's Choice Teacher of the Year Award

On June 4, Stephanie Abriel of Crichton Park School in Dartmouth received the Scholar's Choice, Pupil's Choice, Teacher of the Year Award during a pizza party lunch at East Side Mario's at the Mic Mac Mall. The Grade 5/6 teacher was nominated by student Evan Higgins who wrote about why she should be chosen as teacher of the year. She is one of 26 teachers from across Canada who received the award from Scholar's Choice. Scholar's Choice Moyer Inc. (scholarschoice.ca) is the largest retailer of educational materials in Canada. The nominating student, teacher, and school all receive gift certificates for Scholar's Choice Moyer. As well, Abriel's class was treated to a pizza party. Abriel is shown with her student Evan, Scholar's Choice Dartmouth store manager Heather Belliveau, Scholar's Choice Education Product Consultant and retired teacher Sharral Goodwin, and Crichton Park School's principal Cheryl Highmore.

A photograph of five people standing together, likely at the Scholar's Choice award ceremony.

Page 2, The Teacher, September 2008



# Stand Up Against Bullying Day

## September 11

Last fall, The Honourable Rodney MacDonald, Premier of Nova Scotia, announced that the second Thursday of September (September 11, 2008 this year) shall be known as *Stand Up Against Bullying Day* in all public schools, colleges and universities across the province. On this day, schools are encouraged to focus on respect and peace education.

Coincidentally, September 11 also marks the anniversary of the terrorist attacks in the United States, an extreme example of violence being used to address conflict. It highlights the importance of peace education, communication and learning healthy conflict resolution skills.

The education partners, Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Nova Scotia School Boards Association, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations and Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse, in collaboration with the Nova Scotia Government, celebrate this special day and recognize the importance of healthy, safe and positive learning environments for students and educators alike. This day will also help to raise awareness of other initiatives happening in our schools, such as Positive Effective Behavioural Supports (PEBS).

“We welcome a day which celebrates the incredible work our teachers and students have been doing in an effort to create safe, peaceful environments at schools and Community College campuses across Nova Scotia,” says NSTU President Alexis Allen. “We hope this event will help highlight the importance of peace education in the system.”

The inspiration for the day came from the actions of Central Kings Rural High School Grade 12 students Travis Price and David Shepherd who rallied behind a new student to the school who was being bullied simply for wearing pink last fall.

*Stand Up Against Bullying Day* kits will be arriving in schools the first week of September to support the many new and well established initiatives already happening in our schools. This kit will include a letter explaining the importance of this day, a list of possible activities, and resources.

This day relays a positive message against bullying that will continue to work toward building healthier relationships and safer school climates. “I’d like to acknowledge our teachers and students for their remarkable work and commitment to developing peaceful schools,” says Allen.

## Education Week

### April 19-25, 2009

## Celebrates the Arts!

## Ghanaian children attend school through World Teachers’ Day bookmark program

On World Teachers’ Day—October 5, 2008 NSTU members are encouraged to mark this international celebration of teaching by donating a toonie in return for a special edition bookmark that will raise funds to help children in Ghana go to school.

“All funds raised will be directed to programs assisting Ghanaian children to attend school,” says NSTU President Alexis Allen. “This will help many Ghanaian children get the shoes, uniforms and lunches required for them to attend school.” It will also enable some of the world’s 77 million children to have access to education.

Since 2002, through the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF), Nova Scotia teachers have worked with the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) in the area of professional development of Ghanaian teachers through the Nkabom project. Another team of retired teachers travelled to Ghana last April as part of Phase II of the project.

The WTD bookmark program will see bilingual posters and bookmarks in both official languages distributed to schools and community college campuses this month. Donations should be forwarded to the NSTU Central Office. Funds for this project will be forwarded to Ghana through the Canadian Teachers’ Federation.

This is the fourth year the NSTU has undertaken a project to highlight the importance of the teaching profession on World Teachers’ Day. In 2005, NSTU members raised funds to assist educators in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. In the fall of 2006 and 2007 the World Teachers’ Day project continued to raise funds for education in Ghana.

UNESCO inaugurated World Teachers’ Day in 1994 to highlight the awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers at all levels make to education and development. Over 100 countries now observe World Teachers’ Day.

**77 million of the world's children are denied access to education.**

**We can change this.**

**WORLD TEACHERS' DAY**  
October 5, 2008

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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**Nous pouvons changer les choses**

**WORLD TEACHERS' DAY**  
October 5, 2008

Nova Scotia Teachers Union



The Professional Associations Conference Booklet is now available... See your NSTU Rep, go online at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) or contact the NSTU central office at 1-800-565-6788 if you haven't received your copy.

## executive highlights

### June 6

- Received table officers' report, approving two funding requests;
- Approved a resolution be directed to the CTF-AGM in July regarding the Anti-Bullying Crest Initiative;
- Appointed two members to the NSTU Insurance Trustees: Debbie McIsaac (Cape Breton Region) and Thérèse Forsythe (Annapolis Valley);
- Approved recommendations from the finance & property committee relating to guidelines for Local reserves and financial assets; RRC funding and surplus funds, and Professional Association grants;
- Referred a report on pension consultants to the pension committee for evaluation and report back to the Executive;
- Approved an expanded Equity Conference for 2009;
- Approved 12 out-of-province grants (+ alternates); five full-time study grants (+ alternates); and five summer travel fellowship grants (+ alternates);
- Approved an awareness campaign regarding GBLTT issues, and approved recommendations to carry out campaign;
- Approved the 2008 Disposition of Resolutions;
- Revised two Executive meeting dates for 2009 (revised dates February 26-27, 2009 and April 30th (Provincial Executive Meeting and Local Presidents May 1-2, 2009);
- Approved three years of Provincial Executive Meetings for 2009-2010, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012;
- Approved a new protocol for *Employer Referral of Teachers to Professional Services*, further to Article 37.04;

- Ratified the South Shore RRC Constitution;
- Approved an agreement to allow the CSAP to grant permits to teach for 2009-2010.

### July 4, 2008

- Ratified the Cape Breton-Victoria RRC Constitution;
- Ratified the Annapolis Valley RRC Constitution;
- Approved the Communication Protocol between the NSTU and the RTO.

### August 11-12, 2008

- Re-elected 2nd Vice-President Belinda Snow;
- Re-elected Secretary-Treasurer Dave Jones;
- Elected personnel committee: Belinda Snow, Chair; Eric Boutilier, Alison MacPherson, Susan Noiles;
- Elected nominating committee: Clifford Maillet, Chair; Cathy Anderson, Marlene Boyd, Damian Hall & Gail Walsh;
- Approved table officers' report;
- Approved the expansion of the provincial negotiating committee to include: the past president; the past first vice-president; and the community college negotiating committee include the past president;
- Approved the appointment of all standing committees for 2008-2009;
- Revised the date for the August 2009 Executive Meeting to August 17, 18 with the Leadership Development Conference to follow.

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## Largest ever Annual Leadership Development Conference



*NSTU president Alexis Allen addresses NSTU leaders at the Leadership Development Conference.*

Two-hundred Local leaders, provincial executive members and professional association presidents came together at St. Francis Xavier University's Millennium Centre August 12 to 14 to network and expand their knowledge of the NSTU.

"I'm thrilled to stand before you today as your new president," says NSTU President Alexis Allen. "The focus of this conference is all about leadership. What is truly amazing to see, is that so many of the leaders of the NSTU are in attendance—the most we've ever had. The large number who have registered to participate in this conference speaks to the dedication and commitment of our NSTU leaders."

Well-known folksinger, folklorist, and author Clary Croft opened the conference. Recognized for his contribution to Maritime folklore studies and ongoing research into the traditional music of the Maritime provinces, Croft shared his expertise of Nova Scotia history, culture and folklore through humour, stories and song.

Best known for his continuing work with the collection of his late mentor, Dr. Helen Creighton—the internationally renowned Canadian folklore pioneer—Croft encouraged the audience to take advantage of her collection at the Nova Scotia Archives, of which he catalogued. “Students can listen to actual tape, and hear the songs their grandparents and great grandparents used to sing.”

On August 13 and 14 NSTU leaders were offered 19 different concurrent sessions. These workshops included Demystifying Professional Learning Communities, Wellness, The Road to Arbitration, Violence in the Workplace Regulations, Staff Busters, Millennial Generation, Pension Basics, NSTU Webmail, Teachers and the Law, The ABCs of Building Community, and Dealing with Tragedy Grief Process and Protocols. "We used evaluations from last year's Leadership conference as well as emerging trends to help decide which workshops to offer," says NSTU



*Folklorist Clary Croft charms delegates at the opening session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NSTU Leadership Development Conference.*

President Alexis Allen. “NSTU leaders coming together and working towards progress helps set the stage for continued future success and growth of the organization.”

NSTU Executive Staff Officer Gérard Cormier presented the closing plenary session, *GBLTT: From the Personal to the Professional*, to all delegates. He explored historical milestones for the GBLTT community, like the Stonewall Riots in New York City in 1969, marking the first instance in American history that gays and lesbians acted on the offensive against a government-sponsored system that persecuted homosexuals, the removal of homosexuality as a mental illness from the American Psychiatric Association's DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder) in 1973, and the passing of same sex marriage legislation in Canada in 2005. "We've come a long way," says Cormier. "But we need to go further." This session continued to break the silence around the issue of homophobia in schools and encouraged NSTU leaders to seek help from their Union in dealing with these issues with students and at their worksites. "We can help you respond to these issues in your school."

Delegates also met by their respective NSTU Local roles—whether as vice-presidents of economic welfare, professional development, public affairs, public relations and communications, or secretaries, presidents or provincial executive members. Presidents, RRCs, professional association presidents, and treasurers, were given extended time to meet by role. Treasurers were also offered an additional optional session. Attendees could also take in a Festival Antigonish theatre production during the conference.

NSTU PD staff officers Danny Eddy and Ron Brunton organized the conference with support staff member Gail Doucette. Executive and intermediate staff officers hosted sessions and presented workshops throughout the conference.



*Cathy Anderson (centre), provincial executive member for the Northside-Victoria region with other NSTU leaders at the “Staff Busters” workshop, in which delegates learn more about the roles and responsibilities of NSTU staff.*

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## Register for Student Vote for October municipal and school board elections

Student Vote is a non-partisan, non-profit organization developing habits of democratic citizenship within young Canadians. During official election periods, Student Vote works with educators to provide a real-life parallel election experience for students under the voting age. The purpose is to begin a habit of voting that will last a life time. Since 1.5 million students across Canada have participated in Student Vote projects.



Student Vote Nova Scotia will coincide with the municipal and school board elections on October 18. Participating schools will receive Student Vote election kits with resources and electoral supplies. Teachers will use the suggested activities with their classes to study the democratic process, local candidates and issues. All exercises will complement the social studies and language arts curriculum.

Throughout the campaign, students will engage their peers, families and community at large in this democratic exercise. Many schools will host local candidate debates and participate in activities that will facilitate election dialogue in the community.

On October 16 and 17, students will take on the roles of election officials and organize their own Student Vote Day, where they will vote on the candidates running in their municipality. Results will be released following the close of the official polls through support from broadcast, radio and newspaper partners.

Student Vote is partnered with Democracy 250 for this initiative and received the support of the Department of Education and Elections Nova Scotia.

To register your class and get your school involved phone 1-866-488-8775 or visit the website at [www.studentvote.ca](http://www.studentvote.ca).



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2008 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

### **Congratulations to our Teacher Training Award winners!**

- Justin Green
- Karen Kemp
- Shana Newell
- Jodie Waalkerbos

### **Congratulations to our Post Secondary Entrance winners!**

- Alicia Blanchard
- Katherine Glen

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### **Should you consolidate your debt?**

For Canadian consumers sinking ever deeper into debt, consolidation loans can seem like life rafts: you get a lower interest rate, make smaller monthly payments and have a longer time frame to repay what you owe.

## TEACHERS *PLUS* INFO CENTRE

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- 3 Thinking about completing your Masters? Please drop by and see one of our Financial Service Officers to see what we have to offer.
- 4 Join us for food, refreshments and Door Prizes as we celebrate "Credit Union Day" in October. Please visit our website and upcoming issues of *The Teacher* for more details. We look forward to seeing you all there!
- 5 Teachers *Plus* Credit Union has more ABM's in Nova Scotia than any other Financial Institution. Need to find an ABM? We have an ABM locator available on our website.

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# Driving: Not just painful because of the gas prices?

By Jennifer Finlayson, EIP Manager

More and more NSTU members are travelling for work. Consultants, coordinators, and specialists who work in more than one school, as well as those teachers and Community College members who accept assignments outside their local communities are spending more and more time in their cars. Members have been listening to the occupational therapists with the Early Intervention Program preach office ergonomics for years now, but it is just as important to pay attention to your posture in the car as it is at your desk!

There are many factors which may cause development of back or neck pain while driving: sitting in one posture for prolonged periods of time without a break, awkward postures when using the car as an office, as well as poor lifting techniques to remove resources and bags from the car seat or trunk.

1) It is extremely important to adopt good and comfortable postures while in your car. Find a range of comfortable driving positions within your car seat's adjustability options and make frequent changes to the settings throughout your long road trips. AVOID awkward postures, twisting or leaning to one side, reaching with arms outstretched. Always keep your left leg extended next to the pedals (unless you are driving a standard), and use stop lights, construction zone stops and time sitting in drive-thrus to rotate your ankles and stretch your neck to get the blood flowing! Take a break from driving

every couple of hours if you are on a long road trip.

2) If you are using your car as an office space, AVOID using your laptop or doing paperwork in your car. There is no safe and stress free way to position your body in your car to use the computer. Instead, find an alternative location like a satellite office, coffee shop or even a picnic table during warm days.

3) Laws surrounding cell phone use in the car improves your safety and ergonomics in the car. Use hands-free or headset systems if you need to talk on the phone while driving. Otherwise, pull over and park your car to use your phone, and do not cradle the phone between your ear and your shoulder!

4) AVOID storage of supplies and resources in the front and back seats. This encourages reaching and twisting to access these items, and could be a safety hazard if you are required to stop suddenly. Instead, store your supplies in the trunk of the car. When lifting items out of the trunk, ensure you stand as close to the load as possible. Secure loose items at the front of the trunk to reduce unnecessary bending and reaching.

5) If you have to lift items out of your car, BE CAREFUL when you have been driving for a long time or the weather is cold, as you are at a greater risk of back injury. Park close to the drop off point when possible to avoid carrying long distances. Wheeled bags are also beneficial in some cases to minimize

carrying requirements. Keep in mind any stairs or curbs which may limit use of such bags.

Seating is also an important part of comfortable driving and is something we should all consider when purchasing a new car. The more adjustability options the seat has, the more likely you will find a comfortable posture. Seating in general should feel comfortable and have independent height and tilt adjustments. The following are features in a car you should be looking for:

- **Seat base:** adequate leg length so that thighs are supported and you can fit two fingers between the back of your knee and the edge of the seat. The seat width should be wider than the hips and thighs. The seat height should be adjustable so you can operate foot pedals and other controls without reaching, you can easily see all display panels, and you have good vision outside the car.
- **Back rest:** height of back rest should reach shoulders and not obstruct your rear vision. It should also be wide enough to support your shoulders and offer continuous support along the length of your spine. The lumbar support should fit the shape of your back without any gaps.
- **Headrest:** Ideally, the top of the headrest should be raised to or above ear level as this will offer the best support in the event of a sudden stop or acceleration.
- An adjustable **steering wheel** is best so you can comfortably hold the wheel with



both hands and your vision is not obstructed. It should be close enough to you that your arms have a slight bend which reduces arm and shoulder strain and provides you with greater control while steering.

Before you adjust your seat to suit your own needs, ensure the seat is in the initial set-up position with steering wheel full up and fully forward, seat height at its lowest, seat base tilted to its lowest position, back rest reclined about 30 degrees, seat all the way back. Once in this position, you can make the appropriate adjustments to meet the recommendations above to improve your comfort and safety during long or short drives. Remember, car ergonomics is important any time you drive – whether it's five minutes to the corner store or four hours on a summer road trip!

For more information on car ergonomics or for an individualized assessment, please contact one of the NSTU's occupational therapists at 1-800-565-6788, eip@nstu.ca. More research, recommendations and tips are available through Loughborough University online at www.lboro.ac.uk and www.otworks.ca.

## eBayMotors.co.uk characterizes the four most common driving postures and corrective postures for each:

1. **The Rollercoaster** is characterized by leaning forward and sitting upright, seat forward and arms and legs bent. It is corrected by relaxing and reclining the seat slightly to support the back.
2. **The Multi-tasker** is characterized by a straight back with arms bent and one hand on the gear shift. It is corrected by not multi-tasking, reclining the seat slightly and placing both hands on the wheel.
3. **The Racer** is characterized by straight arms and legs with a reclined seat and a low driving position. It is corrected by moving the seat so that arms and legs are slightly bent and raising the seat so that the hips are higher than the knees and the back is supported.
4. **The Pimp** is characterized by an inclined seat with one hand on the wheel and the other on the window or ledge or hanging out the window entirely. It is corrected by straightening the seat back so there is only a slight recline and raising the seat so hips are above the knees. Rolling up the window to remind you to keep both hands on the wheel may also help.

## did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness e-mail list at **Be\_Well@nstu.ca**.

Please contact Erin at ekeefe@nstu.ca to provide her with your NSTU e-mail address. The **Be\_Well@nstu.ca** list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



## TEACHERS NEED A BREAK TOO



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## 135,000 reasons to get involved in your local school board election



The 135,000 students of Nova Scotia deserve champions to advocate for their needs as learners. Their future depends on a strong public education system that ensures the success of every child. Do you know someone who has a contribution to make? The nomination deadline of September 9 will be here sooner than you think!

**Please remember to vote, October 18, 2008**

A message from the education partners—The Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, Nova Scotia Department of Education, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations, Nova Scotia School Boards Association and Nova Scotia Teachers Union



# Teachers gather for CONTACT 2008

Close to 100 teachers from Atlantic Canada congregated at St. F.X. University in Antigonish for the annual CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching) August 5 to 8, 2008.

“Effective teaching demands on-going professional development,” says NSTU President Alexis Allen. “This conference brings teachers together to share ideas, reflect on experiences and celebrate all that is best about teaching. It is one of the best opportunities for classroom teachers to meet and confer with colleagues from other Atlantic provinces.”

The year’s conference, hosted by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, focused on Classroom Connections. “We have gone global in society,” says NSTU executive staff officer Gérard Cormier and conference coordinator. “We talk about the global village, we talk about the global economy, we talk about how everything has gone global, and what we decided to do for the conference was to create workshops to look at how the classroom has changed as well.” A local committee consisting of NSTU members from the Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough and Inverness Locals organized the conference, which took place at the Millennium Centre on the St. F.X. campus.

Highlights of the event included the following plenary sessions: *Connecting with Students* presented by Charlie MacDonald, relationship technologist and retired teacher from the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board; *From Hopscotch to Hypermedia*, presented by Brenda MacIsaac, Elementary Programs’ Coordinator for the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board; *Diversity and Cultural Connections: Connecting Diversity to Human Rights and Global Citizenship* presented by Carolyn Keenan and Dina Desveaux, UNICEF Canada, Atlantic Region; and *Connecting to Our Future* presented by Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU executive staff officer.

In addition to the plenary sessions, other sessions focused on practical, effective techniques for making environmental, diversity & cultural, professional and technological connections designed to benefit all classroom teachers. Delegates included teachers from all grade levels in all subject areas.

CONTACT is a regional conference organized by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the New Brunswick Teachers’ Association, l’Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick, Prince Edward Island Teachers’ Federation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association. The conference provides teachers with the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with Atlantic Canadian colleagues.



Above is the organizing committee for CONTACT 2008: (l-r) Dean Marchand (Guysborough County President), Amanda Marchand (provincial executive member, Antigonish-Guysborough), Gérard Cormier, Joan McIsaac (Antigonish Local), Cheryl Sutherland (Pictou Local), Martha Keller (Inverness Local) and Cindy MacKinnon (Pictou Local President).

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- Canadian stories, heroes and celebrations
- Canada's connections to the world

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

“A very strong package coupled with excellent online resources and assessment tools.”

“Strong curriculum connections make the material easy to integrate.”

“Interactive and engaging – my students loved it.”

“Relevant, ready to go and well put together.”

“Perfect for our Canadian classrooms. The Gathering Place is one of the best elementary resources I have seen.”

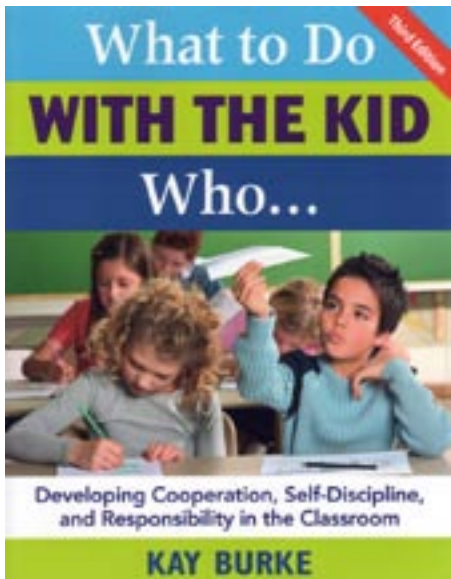
To view the resource, additional activities and assessment materials, go to [www.canadascapital.gc.ca/gatheringplace](http://www.canadascapital.gc.ca/gatheringplace). To get your free copy, email [info@classroomconnections.ca](mailto:info@classroomconnections.ca).



# fresh

## Putting new members in the KNOW!

E-mail your name, home address, and school or campus with **FRESH** in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by October 19 to be eligible for the draw.



It's the beginning of another school year, and new members are busily preparing their classrooms. Professional development books should be a part of a teacher's classroom resources. For beginning teachers, resources dealing with how to manage discipline issues in a classroom are a priority. This year's first book giveaway is *What to do With the Kid Who...Developing Cooperation, Self-discipline, and Responsibility in the Classroom*, written by Kay Burke and published by Corwin Press.

A review of the book states: "The author provides tons of up-to-date research and also explains what that means for teachers and the classroom environment.

The numerous strategies are explained in easy-to-implement ways, and the scenarios provide a model of interaction between teachers and students."

A quick glance at the table of contents reveals this resource assists teachers in the following areas:

- Meeting the educational challenges of the 21st century
- Reviewing current teaching and learning theories
- Setting a positive classroom climate for learning
- Teaching students how to use appropriate social skills
- Helping students who won't accept responsibility
- Helping students who lack effective interpersonal skills
- Addressing students who cause class disruptions
- Working with students who have special needs

Get the new school year off to a good start by winning this wonderful resource!

## NOVA SCOTIA Department of Education

### OVERSEAS SCHOOLS TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Are you

- A certified teacher in Nova Scotia
- A new teacher graduate seeking full-time experience
- A retiree still interested in teaching

#### Why not consider

- Teaching Nova Scotia curriculum in overseas schools
- Seeing the world while working in a rewarding school environment

#### Teaching/administrative opportunities are available immediately in

- China (High School Program)
- United Arab Emirates (Primary – High School Program)
- Kuwait (Primary – High School Program)
- Egypt (Primary – High School Program)

#### Compensation includes

- Basic salary
- Return airfare
- Fully furnished apartment (including utilities)
- Meal allowance
- Medical Insurance Plan
- Work Visa

#### Information sessions available- (all sessions 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

- |            |                   |                              |
|------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| • Sydney   | November 4, 2008  | Delta Hotel, Sydney          |
| • Yarmouth | November 26, 2008 | Rodd Hotel, Yarmouth         |
| • Truro    | February 3, 2009  | CCRSB 60 Lorne Street, Truro |
| • Halifax  | February 24, 2009 | Dartmouth Teacher's Centre   |

For further information contact [coveyfp@gov.ns.ca](mailto:coveyfp@gov.ns.ca)

## Halifax West Students Fundraise for their Peers in West Africa

Developing a connection to a place you've never been and for people you've never met can be a very difficult task.

However, for The World Involvement Committee at Halifax West High School this did not seem to pose a problem. Commitment, genuine interest and enthusiasm mixed with friends and fun days can net great financial support and awareness for a part of the world that at times can seem too far away to warrant care or attention.

During the last school year, Halifax West students raised \$4,000 for the Halifax-based Nova Scotia-Gambia Association (NSGA). NSGA focuses on educating West African youth and their communities about HIV/AIDS, STIs, reproductive health, malaria, gender equity and other areas.

The Committee raised the money by sloshing soapy water at themed car washes, hosting movie nights and bake sales, and using their lunch hours selling suckers at the school. Literally every day and at every possible school event the World Involvement Committee set up a booth and solicited money while providing information about West Africa and NSGA.

"We explained who NSGA is and what it does, and they were compelled to donate," explains Erin Bulger, Co-Minister of the World Involvement Committee. Her Co-Ministers (and good friends) Laura MacNevin and Brigitte Riley nod in acknowledgement and laugh at memories from the year. The three are recent graduates and brim with the excitement and possibility of their many adventures ahead.

These grads and the other students who generously donated time and money haven't visited West Africa, but their support continues a long connection between NSGA and Halifax West High School. In 1986, Burris Devanney, then teacher at the school, took a group of students to The Gambia. That inaugural trip spawned what is now a three-country organization. Starting in The Gambia nearly 20 years ago, NSGA expanded its resources and efforts into Sierra Leone in 2002.

Sandra Starratt is the energetic, motivating and supportive teacher coordinator for The World Involvement Committee. She says the Committee has become a cool thing for students to be part of: "When we first meet at the beginning of the year, the room is crammed with students wanting to volunteer." She also speaks of the support from administration which allows some class time for fundraising.

These Nova Scotia students, through their dedication to helping peers on the other side of the ocean, are developing their own sense of self and sense of the wider world beyond the familiar boundaries of their school, community and country.



Photo credit – Erin Bulger

Students from Halifax West High School lure motorists into a car wash during one of their many efforts to raise money for NSGA.

## did you KNOW?

### NSTU Mentorship Program

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union Mentorship Program was created to help address the long term staffing needs of the NSTU. It is intended for individuals who may be interested in applying for Executive Staff Officer positions within the NSTU. It offers an opportunity to job shadow and discuss with current staff a variety of topics and provide insight into the types of skills and training necessary to be successful.

The Program sees two participants, one in member services and one in professional services, spend a total of four consecutive days in their respective areas.

Participation in this program is not a prerequisite for employment with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, nor does such participation imply or guarantee preference in hiring with the Union.

**The deadline for the first application is October 15, 2008 for November 2008 and January 15, 2009 for April 2009. Application forms are available through your NSTU rep or on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca).**





# NOTICES

Register for Walk to School Month



October is International Walk to School Month, with Walk to School Week from October 6 to 10. Schools and youth organizations may register for the event at [www.ecologyaction.ca/asrts](http://www.ecologyaction.ca/asrts) and qualify for some great prize draws. Walk or wheel for the environment, physical activity and traffic safety. The event is an initiative of Active & Safe Routes to School, coordinated by the Ecology Action Center in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection as part of the Active Kids Healthy Kids Initiative. For more information contact: Janet Barlow at (902) 442-5055 or [asrts@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:asrts@ecologyaction.ca).

## Volunteer Position Available – Volunteer Coordinator

The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association (NSGA) is seeking a committed volunteer to assist in the recruitment and coordination of volunteers for approximately 10 hours per week. The NSGA is a non-profit organization working in Canada and West Africa in health education and development.

This individual will help NSGA build a solid volunteer base and ideally:

- Has previous experience working or volunteering with an NGO
- Is detail-oriented and has strong organizational skills
- Is passionate about international development
- Has strong people skills

If you are interested in applying for this position please submit a resumé and a short cover letter stating why you are interested in volunteering with NSGA to [info@novascotiagambia.ca](mailto:info@novascotiagambia.ca) with “Volunteer Coordinator” in the subject line. If you would like to learn more about NSGA, please visit [www.novascotiagambia.ca](http://www.novascotiagambia.ca).

## SPCA Volunteer Opportunities

Do you love animals? Do you want to use your knowledge and experience to help a great cause? The Nova Scotia SPCA Education Committee is looking for volunteers to help develop and deliver a humane education program for children and youth. Visit [www.spcans.ca](http://www.spcans.ca) to learn more.

## Canadian Council on Learning Call for Nominations

The Canadian Council on Learning (CCL) is seeking nominations for its second annual recognition program, *Sharing the Flame: Recognizing Excellence in Learning*. The deadline is **October 15, 2008**. *Sharing the Flame* highlights some

of Canada’s most promising practices in learning—giving these initiatives the visibility they deserve, and helping others to learn from their success.

CCL will recognize initiatives in the following learning themes: aboriginal learning, adult learning, early childhood learning, health-related learning and work and learning. Selected programs will be recognized on the CCL website ([www.ccl-cca.ca](http://www.ccl-cca.ca)) their projects will be featured in an electronic “ideas book,” to be distributed to stakeholders and interested parties across Canada in late 2008.

CCL welcomes entries from individuals and organizations with active projects

related to any of the five learning themes. Please complete and submit the *Sharing the Flame Call for Nominations* form by Wednesday, October 15, 2008. For more information, please visit [www.ccl-cca.ca](http://www.ccl-cca.ca) or email [sharingtheflame@ccl-cca.ca](mailto:sharingtheflame@ccl-cca.ca).

\*Any NSTU member that would like to submit a program through the NSTU can do so by completing the entry form and forwarding it to the NSTU Provincial Executive c/o Bill Redden, NSTU Executive Director, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, B3L 4L7, fax: 902-477-3517 or via e-mail at [bredden@nstu.ca](mailto:bredden@nstu.ca) **by September 24, 2008**.

## Change to Certification Appeal Process

Section 17 of the Governor-in-Council Education Act Regulations was recently amended so as to place a statutory time limit on appeals of the decisions of the Registrar of Teacher Certification (the Registrar) relating to classes of teacher certificates. As a result of this regulatory amendment, affected persons will have a maximum of 180 days (from the date in which they receive notice of the decision of the Registrar) to appeal a decision of the Registrar as it relates to their class of teacher certificate. For the purpose of administering this regulation, **November 15, 2008** has been established as the commencement date for the **180-day time limit**.

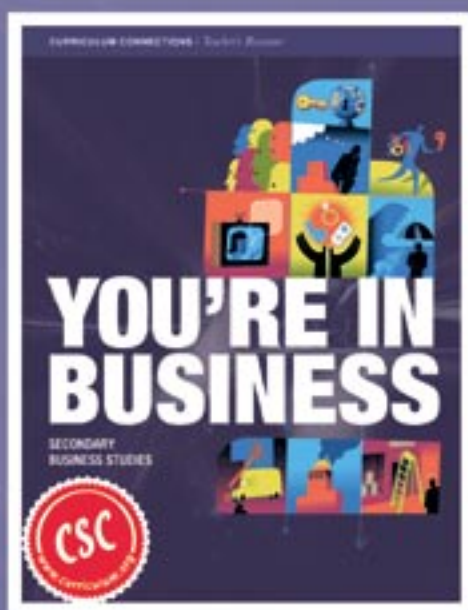
On the basis of this regulatory amendment, persons who wish to appeal a decision of the Registrar that was received on or before September 15, 2008 must file their Request for Review with the Certification Appeals Committee no later than May 13, 2009 (which is 180 days subsequent to the commencement date of November 15, 2008).

For those who wish to appeal a decision of the Registrar that is received after November 15, 2008, the affected person will have 180 days from the date in which they receive notification of the decision of the Registrar to file their Request for Review.

For more information about this appeal process, contact: Ms. Gaye Rawding, Chair, Certification Appeals Committee, Nova Scotia Department of Education, PO Box 578, Halifax, NS B3J 2S9; [RAWDINGG@gov.ns.ca](mailto:RAWDINGG@gov.ns.ca).

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS | Free Teachers' Resources

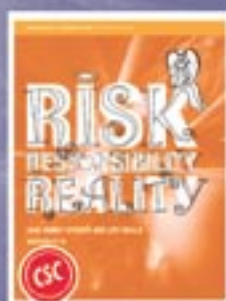
## BRING THE REAL WORLD INTO YOUR CLASSROOM



**You're IN Business** is the classroom resource designed to exceed provincial curriculum standards and to bring the big business of insurance into your business studies class.

- Show your students the core values of insurance through real world business examples.
- See how insurance faces business issues—financially, operationally, legally, and ethically.
- Developed for business education studies in General Business, Entrepreneurship, Finance, Business Ethics and Law
- 7 lessons & 21 built-in activities

Visit us on-line to order our **FREE** teachers' resources at [www.career-connections.info](http://www.career-connections.info)



Insurance Institute





# NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

## 2008 - 2009 COMMITTEES



The NSTU Nominating Committee would like to thank the 79 members who applied for NSTU Provincial Committees. Thirty-seven positions were filled based on a number of criteria including: regional representation; experience in Union activities; curriculum/grade level representation; and gender representation.

The Nominating Committee encourages members to continue to apply for NSTU committees.

*With the exception of the Resolutions Committee, the following list does not contain committees appointed at Annual Council or those members serving on external committees. **This list is current as of August 12, 2008.***

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

##### FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

**Dave Jones**, Chair, Secretary-Treasurer; **Wade Van Snick**, Cumberland (2009); **Ferne MacLennan**, Community College (2010); **Jack Toomey**, Northside-Victoria (2010); **Bonnie Steeves**, Executive Member Liaison; **Melanie Hartling**, Financial Officer, NSTU; **Maureen Smith**, Business Manager; **Bill Redden**, Executive Director, NSTU

##### NOMINATING COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

**Clifford Maillet**, Chair; **Cathy Anderson**, **Marlene Boyd**, **Damian Hall**, **Gail Walsh**, and **Bill Redden**, Executive Director, NSTU

##### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

**Belinda Snow**, Chair; **Eric Boutilier**, **Alison MacPherson**, **Susan Noiles** and **Bill Redden**, Executive Director, NSTU

#### PROGRAM

##### COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE

**Angele d'Entremont**, Chair (2009); **Ian Comeau** (2009); **Stéphanie Dionne** (2010); **Nadine Doiron**, (2010); **Stéphanie Moreau**, (2010); **Samuel Samson**, (2010); **Clifford Maillet**, Executive Member Liaison; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

**Kathy MacLean**, Chair, Cumberland (2009); **Gérard Allain**, CSANE (2009); **Marlene MacDonald**, Inverness (2009); **Glen Pulley**, Annapolis (2009); **Mary Anne Alley**, Colchester-East Hants (2010); **Elizabeth Barrett**, Digby (2010); **Donald Rice**, Lunenburg County (2010); **David Harris**, Executive Member Liaison; **Ron Brunton**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### EQUITY

**Mark MacPhee**, Chair, Halifax County (2009); **Kathy-Lee Brickenden**, Halifax City (2009); **Belinda Josephson**, Lunenburg County (2010); **Laura McCulley**, Kings (2010); **J. Scott Murchison**, Cape Breton (2010); **Meg Richardson**, Halifax County (2010); **Deborah Mitchell**, Executive Member Liaison; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Shelley Morse**, Chair (1st vice-president); **Mary Currie**, APSEA (2009 [1 year extension]); **Keri Butler**, Halifax City - VP, Ec. Welfare (2009); **Kevin Farrell**, Colchester-East Hants MAL (2009); **Linda MacNeil**, Annapolis MAL (2009); **Jackie Rankin**, Inverness MAL (2009); **Kevin Wilson**, Community College (2010); **Damian Hall**, Executive Member Liaison, Community College; **Janine Kerr**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### PENSION COMMITTEE

**Hope Lemoine**, Chair, Cumberland (2009); **Kerry Doucette**, Colchester-East Hants (2009); **Turk MacDonald**, Halifax County (2010); **Scott McKellar**, Community College (2010); **Jim Kavanaugh**, RTO Representative; **Mary-Lou Donnelly**, Past President, Pension Board Liaison; **Vince Gillis**, Executive Member Liaison; **Joan Ling**, NSTU Staff Liaison; **Allan MacLean**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**Tony Kelly**, Chair, Digby (2009); **Cindy MacKinnon**, Pictou (2009); **Duncan Smith**, Antigonish - replacement (2009); **Darlene Bereta**, Northside-Victoria (2010); **Angela Gillis**, Halifax City (2010); **Bonnie Mahaney**, Shelburne (2010); **Susan Noiles**, Executive Member Liaison; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**Lee MacKenzie**, Chair, Cape Breton (2009); **John Drish**, Community College (2009); **F. Sandra Mitchell**, Lunenburg County (2009); **Myla Borden**, Pictou (2010); **Steven Van**

**Zoost**, Hants West (2010); **Marlene Boyd**, Executive Member Liaison; **Russell Comeau**, Executive Member Liaison; **Jed Corbett**, Executive Member Liaison; **Grant MacLean**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

**Ramona Jennex**, Chair, Kings (2009); **Stephanie Black**, Cape Breton (2010); **Phillipe Goora**, Halifax County (2010); **Chris White**, Pictou (2010); **Eric Boutilier**, Executive Member Liaison; **Paul McCormick**, NSTU Staff Liaison; **Angela Murray**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE

**Amanda Marchand**, Executive Member Liaison. **To be appointed October 2008.**

##### TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

**Jayne Campbell**, Chair, Colchester-East Hants (2009); **Derek Carter**, Halifax County (2009); **Doug Keyes**, Hants West (2009); **Glenn DeMone**, Lunenburg County (2010); **Joyce Lively**, Cape Breton (2010); **David Sollows**, SAA Representative (2010); **Cathy Anderson**, Executive Member Liaison; **Danny Eddy**, NSTU Staff Liaison

#### STATUTORY

##### APPEALS COMMITTEE

**Dennis Arbuckle**, Chair, Cumberland (2009); **Bobbie Archer**, Digby (2009); **Janet Baignasay**, Pictou (2010); **Robert George**, Colchester-East Hants (2010); **John Helle**, Cape Breton (2010); **Lisa Mansfield**, Halifax (2010); **Gail Walsh**, Executive Member Liaison; **Bruce Kelloway**, Assistant Executive Director, NSTU Staff Liaison

### OTHER COMMITTEES

##### DISTANCE EDUCATION

**Bob Braedley**, Colchester-East Hants; **Wallace Fiander**, Yarmouth; **Patsy Height-Lewis**, Yarmouth; **Janine Kerr**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### INSURANCE TRUSTEES

**Paul Boudreau**, Chair, Halifax County (2011); **Jerry Berthiaume**, Antigonish (2011); **Peter Doucette**, Community College (2012); **Paul Sherren**, Colchester-East Hants (2012); **Debbie McIsaac**, Cape Breton (2013); **Thérèse Forsythe**, Kings (2013); **Ted Doane**, NSCC; **Joe MacEachern**, Department of Education; and **Joan Ling**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF) COMMITTEE

**Charles Colson**, Northside-Victoria (2009); **Dianne Raoul**, Guysborough County (2011); **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU Staff Liaison, Chair

##### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE

**Sabine M. Fels**, Chair (ATA); **Annick Godin Thériault** (AEA); **Dianne Raoul** (FSTA); **Ken Langille** (SSTA); **Christine Emberley** (ATENS); **Eileen English** (SAA); **Sue Hannem**, Executive Member Liaison; **Monica Maloney**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

**Simon Wilkin**, Chair, Executive Member; **Milton Bonnar**, Northside-Victoria (2009); **Yan Desormeau**, Halifax City (2009); **Don Church**, Halifax County (2010); **Hope Lemoine**, Cumberland (2010); **Monica Maloney**, NSTU Staff Liaison

##### SHEONOROIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bill Redden**, Chair, NSTU Executive Director; **Chuck Boudreau**, Antigonish (2009); **Cynthia Cunningham**, Northside-Victoria (2009); **Eileen Coady**, Yarmouth (2010); **Garnet Patterson**, Retired Teacher (2010); **Bill Bruhm**, Lunenburg County (2011); **Monica Ryan**, Inverness (2011); **Terry Doucette**, Executive Member Liaison (2009); **Paul Boudreau**, Insurance Trustees; **Alexis Allen**, President, NSTU; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, Coordinator, NSTU Executive Staff Officer

## did you KNOW?

Discounts are available for substitute teachers attending conferences on Provincial PD Day on October 24. Discounts vary among Professional Associations. Discounts are listed in the Provincial Professional Development Day Conference booklet, which is available through your NSTU rep at your school or campus. The booklet can also be found on-line at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca).

## Are you a new or returning substitute teacher?

**Don't forget to fill out the Substitute Teacher Contact Information Form available on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) (version française disponible). Please complete this form annually to ensure you remain on our mailing list.**



*Share Your  
Expertise with the*

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# **Substitute Teacher Committee**

The NSTU is actively seeking membership for its Substitute Teacher Committee. This committee advises the Provincial Executive on issues affecting and of concern to substitute teachers. To be eligible you must be an Active or Active Reserve member. Download the application form from the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) under the “Substitutes” menu click on “Committee”. See form on this page.

The deadline is 12:00 p.m. on October 10, 2008. The Substitute Teacher Committee will be appointed at the October 16 Executive Meeting.

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# 2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses

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## Presidential Campaign Expenses

*Alexis Allen*

Postage.....	\$506.86
Stationery .....	\$15.81
Printing .....	\$1,227.35
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$729.77
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,479.79</b>

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2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses	
Presidential Campaign Expenses	
<i>Eric Boutillier</i>	
Printing .....	\$1,751.19
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$764.92
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,516.11</b>

2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses	
Presidential Campaign Expenses	
<i>Eric Boutillier</i>	
Printing .....	\$1,751.19
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$764.92
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Other Promotional Costs .....	\$764.92
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,516.11</b>

# 2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses

---

## Presidential Campaign Expenses

*Jack Toomey*

Postage.....	\$409.36
Stationery .....	\$33.80
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$825.89
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,269.05</b>

# 2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses

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*Jack Toomey*

Postage.....	\$409.36
Stationery .....	\$33.80
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<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,269.05</b>

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Stationery .....	\$33.80
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$825.89
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$1,269.05</b>

# 2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses

---

## Presidential Campaign Expenses

*Simon Wilkin*

Postage.....	\$138.35
Stationery .....	\$120.95
Printing .....	\$1,316.05
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$1,336.62
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,911.97</b>

# 2008 Presidential Campaign Expenses

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Postage.....	\$138.35
Stationery .....	\$120.95
Printing .....	\$1,316.05
Other Promotional Costs .....	\$1,336.62
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,911.97</b>

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<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,911.97</b>

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<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,911.97</b>



# APPLICATION FORM

## *SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE*

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## *SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE*

# APPLICATION FORM

## *SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE*

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION (e.g., skills, interests, relevant courses, professional development, or experiences that relate to the committee on which you wish to serve. You may attach additional information to this application.)

List any other areas of interest you may have so we may consider you in the event that *ad hoc* committee work is required:

The NSTU is committed to the promotion of equity and affirmative action. Equity for under-represented groups, i.e., aboriginal persons, racially visible persons, persons with disabilities and women, must be considered in the hiring of staff, secondments, the formation of committees, and the Mentorship and Internship Programs. Should you choose to provide any relevant information, please indicate below:

*Individuals planning to retire prior to the expiry of a committee appointment term are encouraged not to apply for that committee.*  
(Prov. Exec. Sept. '94)

## NSTU ACTIVITIES

**NSTU ACTIVITIES**  
(Please attach additional sheet, if more space is required.)

**List below the NSTU Committees on which you have served:**

[illegible]

## List below the offices you have held at the:

[illegible]

**Submit to:** Nominating Committee  
Nova Scotia Teachers Union, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

**Substitute Teacher Committee applications must be received in Central Office by October 10, 2008. The Committee will be appointed at the Executive Meeting scheduled for October 16, 2008.**

While collection of this information conforms with regulations under PIPEDA, please be advised that disclosure of this information is limited to the administration of this organization.



# 2007-2008 Fresh & Equity Book Winners

### SEPTEMBER 2007

EQUITY: Kimberley Dillman, Riverside Education Centre, Milford  
FRESH: Alicia Howell, North Sydney

### OCTOBER 2007

FRESH: Theresa Nickerson, Barton Consolidated School, Barton  
EQUITY: Cathy MacNeil, Cornwallis Elementary, Sydney

### NOVEMBER 2007

FRESH: Michelle Tatlock, subsitute, Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board  
EQUITY: Anne Grenier, Holy Angels High, Cape Breton

### DECEMBER 2007

FRESH: Cathy Weldin, Redcliff Middle School, Truro  
EQUITY: Shelley Mahen, St. Mary's Bay Academy, Weymouth

### JANUARY 2008

FRESH: Ashley Withrow, BEd student, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax  
EQUITY: Lindsay Crossman, E.B. Chandler Junior High, Amherst

### FEBRUARY 2008

FRESH: Kenna MacLean, Baddeck Academy  
EQUITY: Joanne Lacey, Shubenacadie District Elementary

### MARCH 2008

FRESH: Jessica MacLennan, Teacher-Librarian, Strait Area  
EQUITY: Janet MacVicar, Marion Bridge Elementary

### APRIL 2008

FRESH: Christine Christensen, Prince Andrew High, Dartmouth  
EQUITY: Pat Dixon, Hants North Rural High, Kennetcook

### MAY 2008

FRESH: Amanda Marchand, St. Andrew Junior School, Antigonish  
EQUITY: Lynn Doyle, Southdale-North Woodside Elementary, Dartmouth

### JUNE 2008

FRESH: Shelley MacMillan, Halifax Regional School Board, Halifax  
EQUITY: Ann Robichaud, St. Mary's Bay Academy, St. Bernard

## EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

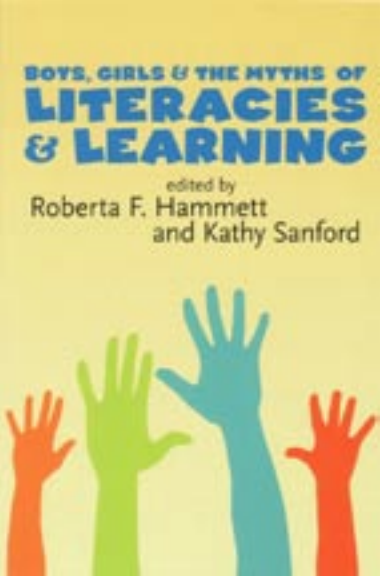
E-mail your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by October 19 to be eligible for the draw.

This year's first equity book giveaway is *Boys, Girls, and the Myths of Literacies and Learning*. Edited by Roberta F. Hammett and Kathy Sanford, it's published by Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.

A review of the resource says, "These essays serve to counter some of the simplistic curriculum notions associated with attempting to save the 'failing boys' – notions that are designed to detract attention from addressing largely issues of economic and class inequities created by society."

There are three main objectives which are explored: to call into question the essentializing of gender and of literacy; to suggest a deep examination of school practices in general; and to question who is served well and whose needs are ignored

The education system must promote a positive educational experience for all students, regardless of gender, class, culture, race, or sexual orientation. This resource will help educators do just that.



## NSTU REP PINS

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has the NSTU Rep pin available for **purchase by NSTU Locals**, for their NSTU Reps. At only \$2.50 each these brushed pewter pins are sure to be recognized at your school or campus.

To order, contact:

**NSTU Public Relations Department**

[Phone] 477-5621 or [Toll-Free] 1-800-565-6788

[E-mail] [pr@nstu.ca](mailto:pr@nstu.ca)



## project overseas

CANADIAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION AND ITS MEMBERS

## Volunteer Overseas with CTF—Summer 2009

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country? Are you interested in learning more about global education issues? Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?

### If yes, Project Overseas might be for you!

Each year approximately 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to volunteer with CTF's Project Overseas (PO). Through PO, Canadian teachers give their time and talent to offer professional development programs in partnership with teacher organizations in developing countries. Based on requests from CTF partners overseas, teams of Canadian teachers are formed in January and projects implemented in July and August.

CTF needs English and French-speaking Canadian teachers at the primary, elementary, and secondary levels interested in volunteering to provide professional development to teachers in developing countries (Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean).

Application criteria include:

- membership in a provincial or territorial teacher organization that sponsors PO and is a member of CTF;
- an appropriate teacher's certificate;
- at least five years teaching experience in Canada;
- Canadian citizenship; and,
- excellent health.

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations, CIDA, and the Wild Rose Foundation. No salaries or honoraria are paid to participants in PO.

Further information and application forms are available from Lillian Pottie, Nova Scotia Teachers Union, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) or on the web @ [www.ctf-fce.ca/en/](http://www.ctf-fce.ca/en/).

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 14, 2008**

### Bringing Climate Change into your Classroom!

The Climate Change Centre, a program of the environmental non-profit Clean Nova Scotia, is pleased to offer presentations to school classes (Gr.P-12), as well as in-service teacher training and PD day sessions anywhere in Nova Scotia. Some of our services are also available in French.

As well, the CCC can connect you with a wide variety of resources dealing with climate change and energy issues. Contact us or visit our website: [www.clean.ns.ca/ccc](http://www.clean.ns.ca/ccc)

For more information or to book a FREE climate change presentation, contact:

Rebecca McQuaid, Programs Officer  
(902) 420-6597 or Toll-free: 1-800-665-5377  
[rmcquaid@clean.ns.ca](mailto:rmcquaid@clean.ns.ca)

The work of the Climate Change Centre is funded by



# RESOURCES

## Online Resources from the Nova Scotia Museum

The Nova Scotia Museum's (<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/learn>) online Learning Resources Catalogue (LRC) adds excitement and adventure to your journey of learning, whether in the classroom or in the community. This site, made especially for educators and program leaders, features:

- 27 diverse museums to discover across Nova Scotia;
- hundreds of interactive experiences and tours to engage and inspire;
- dozens of virtual exhibits and collections that support school curriculum;
- scores of books or resources to expand your classroom learning;
- timely e-updates to keep you informed of new resources.

Through the virtual collections and exhibits of the Nova Scotia Museum, your students can access world-renowned collections without leaving their classroom. Learn about Canada's First Nations peoples in the Mi'kmaq Portraits Collection <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mikmaq/>. Meet the Gaels of Cape Breton Island, and explore their ancient language on the Cape Breton Chéilidh <http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Ceilidh/> virtual exhibit. Track the progress of an important fossil dig at Wasson's Bluff near Parrsboro, N.S. the site of North America's largest discovery of 200-million-year-old fossils. Then visit the online research lab and watch as lab technicians piece together the ancient bones of a Prosauropod dinosaur! Join the hunt on the Trace Fossils Mystery <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/tracefossils/> website, available in both French and English.

Need information and resources about black history in Canada? Discover the stories and struggles of the Black Loyalists and some of Canada's earliest black communities, <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/blackloyalists/> available in both official languages.

Studying maritime history? Discover Nova Scotia's connection to the Titanic through this unique online collection from the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mma/titanic/titanic.htm>. Take a virtual tour of Sable Island <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/sableisland/>, and visit our Halifax Explosion exhibit from your desktop, any time, from anywhere.

Heritage belongs to all of us. It's the story we share as a nation, and it shapes the stories our children will tell tomorrow. The Nova Scotia Museum brings Canada's rich cultural and natural heritage to your doorstep.

For more information or to sign up for museum education updates, please visit <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/learn>.

## Department of Natural Resources Tree Identification Guide

The Department of Natural Resources recently added an interactive CD presentation on tree identification guide to their library of educational resources. This interactive presentation has been developed to help landowners, teachers and students learn about Nova Scotia's native trees.

In Nova Scotia, about 70 per cent of forested lands are under private ownership, while the total Crown ownership represents about 30 per cent. The forestry sector employs about 13,000 people in Nova Scotia and contributes significantly to our national economy. Social

and environmental benefits of our forest resources are immeasurable.

The Department of Natural Resources believes that knowing the silvics of trees may help us understand how to take care and use the forestry resources wisely for the benefits of present and future generations. It is the intent of this tree ID guide to introduce the student/reader to most of Nova Scotia tree species, and their importance. Knowing about tree species will help students better understand the natural world and woodland owners make sustainable decisions.

This product is a testimony of commitment to outstanding stewardship and outreach and educational programs that encourage sustainable use of the province's natural resources.

The guide covers most tree species found in Nova Scotia but there are few non-commercial species that are not covered in the presentation. In addition to the guide, it may be useful to consult books such as *Trees of Nova Scotia*, *Native Trees of Canada* and, *The Silvics of forest Trees of The United States* by Gary Saunders, R.C. Rosie and *The US Department of Agriculture* respectively. These books are available at The Department of Natural Resources' library and, can be accessed at any local library throughout the province through interlibrary loan.

This interactive guide is a work in progress; the Department of Natural Resources intends to translate it into French, include species from all Atlantic Provinces and the state of Maine to cover the Acadian forest.

The guide is presented in a power point presentation and clear and easy instructions help the reader to navigate through the presentation. Some of the department's other educational opportunities include 15 home study modules on woodland management topics, hunter education information, kids in the forest program, and much more.

The presentation can be found on the website at [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/treeid/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry/treeid/) and is available on CD from the Natural Resources library at [nsdnrlib@gov.ns.ca](mailto:nsdnrlib@gov.ns.ca), or by calling 424-8633.

## Resources for Rethinking: A year older and over 500 teaching resources to offer

One year ago, 30 teachers came together with Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) to launch *Resources for Rethinking*, an online database of teacher-reviewed, curriculum-matched classroom resources that promotes the development of an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable society.

*Resources for Rethinking* can now connect teachers at no charge to more than 500 quality resources, each one having met rigorous evaluation criteria and offering excellence in both sustainability education and pedagogical principles. *Resources for Rethinking* allows users to search its inventory by sustainability issue, subject, grade or Province/territory, in both English and French. Not only does the database address a range of topics relevant to sustainable development, but an experienced classroom teacher has also reviewed each resource.

Tools are available for both teachers and resource developers and as the comments below clearly indicate, the response from both groups has been impressive.

"The resources I found were awesome! They told me how to assess the pedagogical approaches used and even provided links to relevant curriculum units," says a Bachelor of Education St. Thomas University student.

"This is the most comprehensive and thorough listing of topics that any teacher

could wish to have at their fingertips," says a middle grades teacher from BC

"Your *Resources for Rethinking* site is incredible! Thank you for putting together such a useful resource for educators," says Celia Lund, of Facing the Future

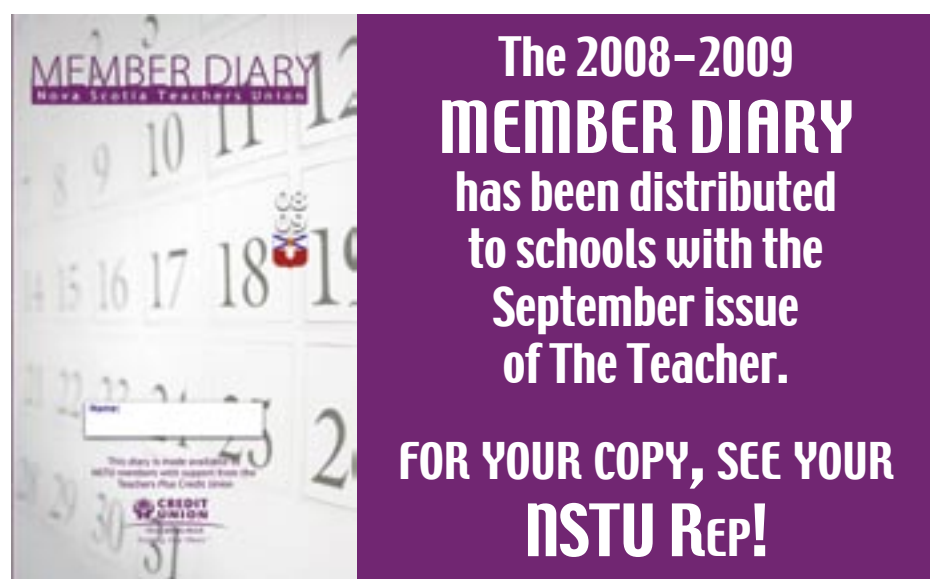
"Thank you for your support throughout the development of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) teaching resource. . . Support from organizations, such as LSF, is important to the implementation of the Convention," says Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary, UN Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Visit [www.resources4rethinking.ca](http://www.resources4rethinking.ca) and discover tools for active, relevant, and interdisciplinary teaching and learning. Get involved in the project by sending in your favourite resources for *The Resources for Rethinking* team to review.

## Rainforest Alliance's virtual treehouse

The nonprofit conservation organization Rainforest Alliance has created an exciting

new online game for children to raise their awareness about the environment. Their virtual treehouse ([www.rainforest-alliance.org/treehouse](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/treehouse)) allows children to explore the wonders of the rainforest and learn more about the plants, animals and people that are found there. Through this game, kids can go on a virtual trek, learn about children who live in the rainforest and track the production of foods like chocolate and bananas from the forest where they are grown to the kitchen table where they are eaten. The game was created in collaboration with WNET/Thirteen, a PBS affiliate in New York. This game will help make the rainforest come alive to children who live far from the tropics and show them how we all play a role in protecting our planet's resources. It supplements the Rainforest Alliance's free online environmental curriculum that teaches students about being good global citizens while meeting national standards in science, math, language arts and social studies. For more information, visit [www.rainforest-alliance.org/education](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/education).



**The 2008-2009  
MEMBER DIARY**  
has been distributed  
to schools with the  
September issue  
of The Teacher.

**FOR YOUR COPY, SEE YOUR  
NSTU Rep!**



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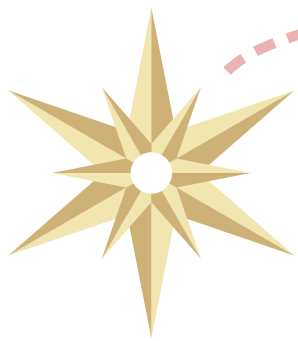
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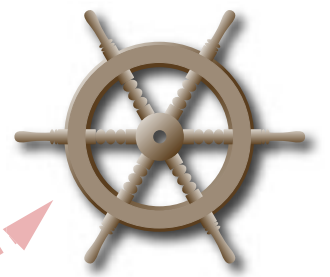
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# Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Leadership for Equity and Excellence

by Gérard Cormier

EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, OUTREACH PROGRAM & EQUITY SERVICES

Professional Development opportunities are all around us. If we are fortunate, some of those opportunities might find us in our classrooms, in our schools, in our Locals or in our province. The NSTU encourages you to take charge of your professional development by locating what is available, doing a needs assessment of your personal, school and local needs, and reaching out to participate in sessions that will enhance your professionalism and those of your colleagues. This year we have organized the Nova Scotia Teachers Union Professional Development offerings under the title *Charting Your Course for Professional Development*. Posters and pamphlets (see sample below) are being forwarded to all schools, locals and board offices. We hope that you access one or many of these workshops to support you in *Charting Your Course for Professional Development*. Please note that workshops and all expenses are provided free of charge to members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has the opportunity to show leadership through the professional development it offers its members. The professional development staff prides itself in the variety of workshops it offers to enhance professional growth. If the school climate is a concern, there are workshops that

deal with that specific topic. If making classroom connections is paramount, there are sessions that look at that particular area. Should members wish to enhance their professionalism, learn more about contractual matters, or look at the issue of teacher wellness, there are PD offerings which can assist them. Last but not least, if safe and inclusive schools are an issue, the NSTU offers several workshops which cover issues of equity and diversity.

One of the equity issues that has risen to the forefront in recent years is that of homophobia. Homophobia is defined in the Canadian Teachers' Federation's publication *Seeing the Rainbow* as the fear and hatred of homosexuality in others, often exhibited by prejudice, discrimination, bullying or acts of violence. As the staff officer assigned to coordinate equity initiatives, I receive numerous calls, e-mails, and personal visits from members concerned about the prevalence of homophobic language and behaviour in their respective places of work. Administrators, classroom teachers, guidance counsellors and RCH coordinators (among others) attend to issues that arise when homophobia rears its ugly head. Often they are seeking information that will assist them as professionals in dealing with homophobic incidents. As an



Staff officer Gérard Cormier addresses delegates at the Annual Leadership Development Conference with his Plenary Session GBLTT: From the Personal to the Professional.

organization, the NSTU has developed workshops to help members deal with this issue.

Professional development workshops are not 'one size fits all'; therefore, they can be tailored to respond to the needs of the school, class, staff, or Board in question. Whether it be the issue of starting up a Gay-Straight Alliance, the arrival of an openly gay/lesbian student in the school,

the issue of complaints from parents regarding the inclusion of GBLTT (Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, Transgender, Two-Spirited) issues within the curriculum, the arrival of same-gender families to the school community, an NSTU member who has 'come out', or the issue of the use of homophobic language by students and staff, sessions can emphasize one or several aspects mentioned above. Furthermore, additional professional development can be arranged if the situation warrants it. What is of importance is the fact that a professional development need exists, and that the NSTU is responding to it.

From time to time the NSTU hosts a conference concerning a particular theme. This past June the Provincial Executive passed a motion which will see the NSTU Equity Conference opened up to the general membership, be held over a period of two days, and have GBLTT issues as a primary focus. The Equity Committee will meet in September and begin planning for what will be the first GBLTT-focused conference hosted by a teacher organization in Atlantic Canada. The conference planning will take into account the various voices that must be heard and the means by which that will occur. Thought will be given to workshops, panels, kiosks, keynote addresses, etc., all of which will allow for authentic voices to be heard. Approximately 200 NSTU members will be given the opportunity to experience this powerful professional development event which will be held at the Delta Halifax on April 24-25, 2009.

It is said that a nation is judged by the way it treats its minorities. The education system must be held to the same standard.





# Teachers Experience Unique Holocaust Education

Three Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board Educators participated in the *March of the Living for Educators* this past summer in Toronto, Germany and Poland. The program was offered once before, three years ago and over 100 people applied to attend the summer seminar.

Sponsored by the regional Jewish communities of Ontario and private donors, the trip takes participants back to mid-20th century Europe when anti-Semitism was rampant. There was an orientation session in Toronto facilitated by the *March of the Living* where participants met some of the presenters including a Holocaust survivor, Bill Glide, who accompanied the teachers on their journey.

The itinerary consisted of the Wannsee Konferenz Haus outside of Berlin where the Nazis unveiled the “Final Solution,” walking tours of the city of Berlin, Krakow, Warsaw, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Otto Weidt Workshop for the Blind where Jews were hidden, the Jewish Quarter of Krakow, a tour of Auschwitz and Majdanek Concentration camps as well as the Warsaw Ghetto.

“Our group was assigned a German guide, a Polish interpreter, a Holocaust survivor, an Israeli guide, a Polish bodyguard as well as other facilitators from the *March of the Living* organization,” says Diane Lewis, art teacher at Greenfield Elementary in New Waterford.

We were able to view artifacts first hand, get a feeling for places we had been studying and talk to someone who was an eyewitness to the atrocities,” she continues. “The outdoors was our classroom and the monuments, Jewish cemeteries, architecture and art were our learning materials. It was the opportunity of a lifetime to step back in time and try to understand how blind hatred could turn the world into such a violent place.”

Lewis says their Holocaust survivor asked the teachers to talk to their students about the Holocaust. “I can’t imagine one person who went through this experience who will not keep that commitment,” concludes Lewis.



Mike Kelly (Glace Bay High), Diane Lewis (Greenfield Elementary) and Kevin Linden (Brookland Elementary) in Poland, for the *March of the Living for Educators 2008 seminar*.



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**VISUAL ARTS CERTIFICATE for Teachers**



All Nova Scotia teachers, art specialists and non-art specialist teachers, are welcome to participate in this program. Approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, this program meets provincial requirements for one level Advanced Teacher Certification.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Division of Continuing Studies:  
Email: [continuingstudies@nscad.ca](mailto:continuingstudies@nscad.ca)  
Telephone: 902-494-8185

**Application Deadlines:**  
**March 15 and October 15**

Visit [www.nscad.ca/cstudies](http://www.nscad.ca/cstudies) for the program description, requirements and application form.

*"Drawing enables me to see."*  
—Dr. Richard Serra, Convocation Address  
Graduation Ceremonies, April 25 2004



# coming events

**September is...** Arthritis Awareness Month ([www.arthritis.ca/novascotia](http://www.arthritis.ca/novascotia)); Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month ([www.muscle.ca](http://www.muscle.ca));

## SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

### Young Neptune Company School Tour

Entering the 28th year of touring, Neptune Theatre's Young Company Tour has performed to over 350,000 young Nova Scotians since its inception exposing many to live theatre for the first time. This year's Young Neptune Company School Tour, co-sponsored by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union is presenting *Bluenose* by Emil Sher for Grades Primary to 6 and *Brainstorm* by Peter Zednick for Grades 7 to 12.

*Bluenose*, a robust physical comedy, focuses on acceptance and friendship and is ideal for Grades Primary through 6. This tale about culture clashes and cultural assumptions provides students with a glimpse at small-scale imperialism as it unfolds on a cluttered, foul-smelling ship. Fuelled by intolerance but then swayed by insights, *Bluenose* embarks on a trip that leaves students richer for the journey. Quickly becoming a favourite of children across Canada

*Brainstorm* follows a teenager's emotional and inspiring journey in the aftermath of her diagnosis with epilepsy. As a happy, confident, smart 16-year-old with an active social life Trudy's life is turned upside down when she experiences a series of seizures and is diagnosed with epilepsy. The play looks at how the event affects her ambitions, expectations, friendships and relationships. A metaphor for any number of diseases or ailments that may afflict a teenager, *Brainstorm* offers insights in a fast-paced and entertaining show.

For further information and booking information visit the Neptune Theatre

website at [http://neptunetheatre.ca/content/Young\\_Neptune\\_Tour](http://neptunetheatre.ca/content/Young_Neptune_Tour) or phone 902-429-7300 or 1-800-565-7345 and ask for the tour coordinator.

## SEPTEMBER 14

### The Terry Fox Run

In Canada, the annual Terry Fox Run ([www.terryfoxrun.ca](http://www.terryfoxrun.ca)) is held every September, usually on the second Sunday following Labour Day. This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 14, 2008, and continue the Marathon of Hope that Terry Fox envisioned.

Fox was only 18 years old when he was diagnosed with bone cancer and forced to have his right leg amputated 15 centimetres above the knee in 1977. Overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients, many of them young children, he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He started his run in St. John's, Newfoundland on April 12, 1980 but was forced to stop running outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario because cancer had appeared in his lungs. He passed away on June 28, 1981 at age 22, but his legacy lives on.

To date, more than \$400 million has been raised worldwide for cancer research in Terry's name through the annual Terry Fox Run.

The run is a non-competitive event where people get together as individuals, families and groups to raise money in Terry's name. It is a day of celebrating Terry's legacy and helping to keep his dream of a cure for cancer alive.

For more information on including a listing of run site locations in Nova Scotia and school programs, visit <http://www.terryfoxrun.org/english/terry%20fox%20run/provincial/ns/default.asp?s=1> or call 1-888-836-9786.

## SEPTEMBER 18

### Shifting Perspectives: Youth Action for Global Change

The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association and Peaceful Schools International are hosting an evening of discussion and documentary film watching on Thursday, September 18. The event will examine how film can be used to motivate youth, students and adults to make change within their own communities and also globally.

Dr. Carole Roy, professor at St. Francis Xavier University and organizer of the annual International Antigonish Film Festival, will kick-off the evening speaking of the potential of film. As a follow-up from her doctoral thesis book, *The Raging Grannies: Wild Hats, Cheeky Songs, and Witty Actions for a Better World*, which was selected for the 2005 Amelia Bloomer Award by the Feminist Task Force of the American Library Association.

You'll also hear from ten-year old Logan MacGillivray. In his desire to lift the spirits of the children in the war-torn Northern Province of Sierra Leone, he spearheaded the collection of supplies for that country delivered in a 40-foot ocean container. Logan depicts this journey in a short documentary.

Students for Teaching Peace, a coalition of high school and university students who are keenly committed to being globally aware and socially engaged, will introduce trailers for films they worked on several years ago with Peaceful Schools International while still in high school.

After viewing the documentary film, *Teaching Peace in a Time of War*, a group of Canadian high-school students was inspired into action. These youth worked for several months to raise money to travel to war-torn Serbia to visit schools and attend a peace conference run by and for youth. The following year, they traveled to Northern Ireland to learn about "The Troubles" as they continued in their quest to better understand the roots of conflict.

This jam-packed evening of interesting discussion and ideas, expressed verbally and visually, will happen in Room 105 of the Weldon Law Building, Dalhousie University campus, Thursday, September 18 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Peaceful Schools International (PSI) is a network of 250 schools around the world that are addressing global issues. PSI ([peacefulschoolsinternational.org](http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org)) is currently working on developing links between schools in Canada and Sierra Leone.

The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association works with schools and communities in both The Gambia and Sierra Leone using peer health education, focusing on gender equity, HIV/AIDS and other STIs, malaria and landmine awareness.

## SEPTEMBER 28

### AIDS Walk for Life Halifax

The AIDS Walk for Life is a national event held annually to raise essential funds for AIDS service

organization across Canada. The AIDS Walk for Life Halifax will take place on September 28 starting at the Halifax Central Commons. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m.

Funds raised through the AIDS Walk for Life Halifax go directly to programs and services offered across Nova Scotia. The AIDS coalition of Nova Scotia (ACNS) organizes the Walk in Halifax. This non-profit community based AIDS organization empowers persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS and those at risk through health promotion and mutual support, and works to reduce the spread of HIV across the province.

Register a team, hold an in-house event or volunteer on Walk day. Your support is a demonstration of your commitment to support those living with HIV/AIDS within our community. For more information about this Walk, please contact: Robin Levy at [walk@acns.ns.ca](mailto:walk@acns.ns.ca), phone 902.425.4882 x.228, fax: 902.422.6200 or visit [www.acns.ns.ca](http://www.acns.ns.ca) or [www.aidswalkforlife.ca/Halifax.htm](http://www.aidswalkforlife.ca/Halifax.htm).



2008 Image, *The Nest* by acclaimed Canadian HIV positive artist Morgan McConnell

## OCTOBER 2 TO 4

### Conference on Childhood & Adolescent Obesity

The 2008 conference on Childhood & Adolescent Obesity, *How We Live, How We Learn, and How We Work: Implications for the Prevention and Treatment of Childhood Obesity*, will take place at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Suites in Vancouver, BC from October 2 to 4. This conference brings together an interdisciplinary group of professionals who work with or in the field of childhood and adolescent obesity. The sessions have been proposed based on a framework of living (home/community environment), learning (school environment) and working (work environment) and how these settings are associated with childhood obesity. A focus of this conference will include cultural considerations for working with Aboriginal communities and individuals.

You can register by phone, fax, direct mail, or through our online registration

# AVISO

THE MAGAZINE FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S TEACHING PROFESSION  
LA REVUE DE LA PROFESSION ENSEIGNANTE DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

## DEMANDE DE MANUSCRITS

Nous encourageons des soumissions des enseignants des écoles publiques et du personnel enseignant et de soutien des collèges communautaires. Veuillez envoyer vos soumissions à :

AVISO, 3106 chemin Joseph Howe  
Halifax, NS, B3L 4L7

Ou bien envoyez vos soumissions par courrier électronique à : [aviso@nstu.ca](mailto:aviso@nstu.ca)

Les manuscrits soumis devraient refléter la mission d'AVISO en tant que revue professionnelle des enseignants de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Les manuscrits ne seront pas retournés. Les manuscrits sélectionnés pour la publication dans AVISO pourront être édités pour ce qui est de la clarté, du style, de la longueur et de la cohérence.

Les directives relatives aux collaborateurs sont disponibles en consultant le site Web du NSTU — [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

Les manuscrits envoyés par voie électronique doivent être en format Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format ou Texte seulement.

## CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Submissions are encouraged from Nova Scotia's public school teachers and community college faculty and professional support staff. Please mail to:

AVISO, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive  
Halifax, NS, B3L 4L7

Or e-mail submissions to [aviso@nstu.ca](mailto:aviso@nstu.ca)

Manuscripts submitted should reflect AVISO's mandate as a professional journal for Nova Scotia's teaching profession. Manuscripts will not be returned. Any manuscript chosen to appear in AVISO may be edited for clarity, style, length and consistency.

Contributor guidelines are available to interested writers on the NSTU website — [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

Please ensure e-mail attachments are Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format or Text Only.



website at <http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?eventDisp=IPE%2EMAR09&subeventdisp=IN9553>. For a printed copy of the brochure, contact UBC at (604) 822-7524, by fax: (604) 822-4835 or via e-mail at [ipad@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ipad@interchange.ubc.ca).

For further information visit [www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Obesity\\_Conference.htm](http://www.interprofessional.ubc.ca/Obesity_Conference.htm).

### OCTOBER 4

#### Kodaly Society Workshop

The Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia will be holding its fall workshop on Saturday, October 4, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Buckley's Music Centre at 6208 Quinpool Road (second floor, side entrance). There will be a choral reading session with material for the elementary grades. Our clinician, Caron Daley, will present the Dalcroze approach to music education. Marlene Nolet will present a session on Musical Independence. Come and enjoy this chance to learn and network. The \$50 registration fee (regular, \$30 student/retired) includes refreshments and snacks and KSC and KSNS membership for one year). For further information contact Faith Daley, President of Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia at [fdaley@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:fdaley@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

### NOVEMBER 3 AND 4

#### Fourth annual National Character Education Conference

The Character Education Committee of Huntsville High School and the Trillium Lakelands District School Board

are pleased to announce *Schools that Shine with Character*, the fourth annual National Character Education Conference for teachers, counsellors, consultants, administrators, and support staff. The conference will take place on November 3 and 4 at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario.

Stephen Lewis, Michael "Pinball" Clemens and Dr. Hal Urban, experts on Character Education, will provide the keynote addresses. A pre-conference featuring Dr. Eva Olsson and Barbara Coloroso or Dr. Terry Scott will also be offered. There is also an opportunity to attend two workshops as a participant at the conference. For further information please refer to the website at [www.ncec.ca](http://www.ncec.ca).

### NOVEMBER 14 TO 15

#### Persuading to Win: 2008

On November 14 and 15 George Lakoff, whose insights into political framing helped U.S. Democrats rebound, comes to Canada for an exclusive, small-group symposium with leaders and strategists of Canada's democratic left in *Persuading to Win: 2008*. The symposium will take place at the Millcroft Inn resort, just west of Toronto.

Dr. Lakoff will speak and work one-on-one with symposium participants to apply his endlessly valuable expertise to their own political organizing and issues campaigns. George Lakoff is the author of the best-seller books *Don't Think of an Elephant* and *Thinking Points*.

Pollster and StraightGoods.ca director, Marc Zwelling will facilitate the sessions

with Lakoff and other guest resources.

*Persuading to Win: 2008* is a follow-up to the hugely successful StraightGoods.ca 2006 workshop with Dr. Lakoff who will be back with more advice and a deeper discussion of urgent challenges — privatization, the environmental and economic crises, trade deals, the war in Afghanistan, and the

challenge to organize against ever tougher corporate opposition. These critical current issues and more will be up for analysis. You'll get practical, real-world advice that you can use right away in your work.

For details, visit <http://www.straightgoods.ca/Lakoff2008>. Registration is limited.

## NSTU SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

Secondment application forms are available on the NSTU "Members-Only" website.

To obtain the secondment application form:

- Enter the NSTU members-only website
- Select "Union Affairs" from the menu
- Select "Secondments" from the drop-down menu

## The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2008-2009 school year are **September 15, December 15, and March 15.**

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.

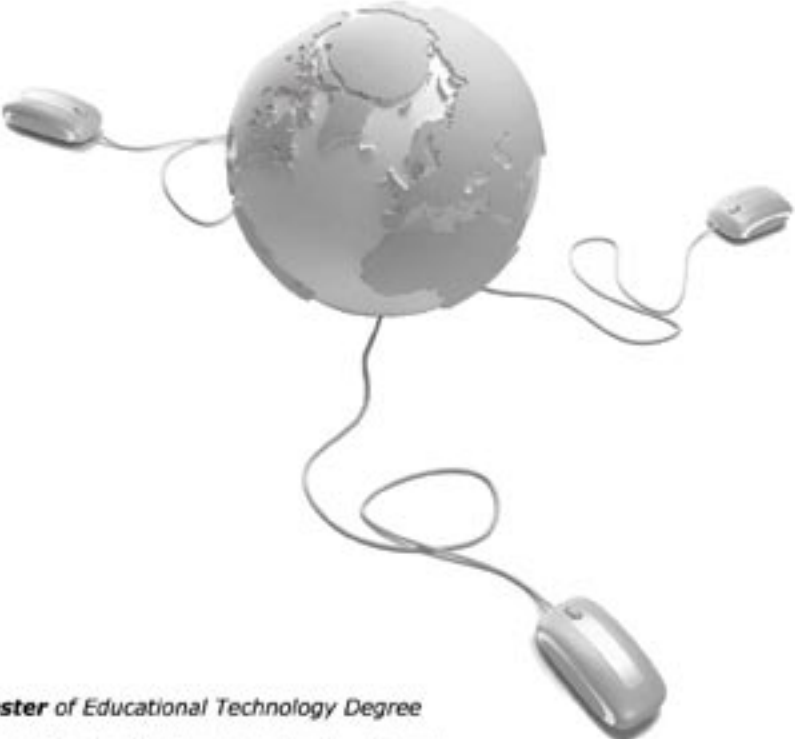
The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.

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**[museum.gov.ns.ca/learn](http://museum.gov.ns.ca/learn) 902-424-7353**



The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees would like to advise that if you are a new teacher or Community College member in Nova Scotia and have a term, probationary or permanent contract, you are eligible for benefits under the NSTU Group Insurance Plan.

Remember, the earlier you enroll, the earlier your coverage is effective.

**TOTAL CARE/MEDICAL – This benefit is not automatic.** You may apply for this benefit at any time. Coverage will take effect the first of the month following receipt of your application.

**Family:** NO COST (100% paid by employer)

**TOTAL CARE/DENTAL – This benefit is not automatic.** You must apply for this benefit by October 15, 2008. If you elect to participate, coverage will remain in effect for a full twelve (12) month period, provided you remain an active member. Coverage will take effect the first of the month following receipt of the application form.

**Single - Public School teachers:** \$16.48 (Difference paid by Teachers' Provincial Agreement or APSEA Agreement)

**NS Community College:** \$17.34 (Difference paid by Community College Agreement)

**Family - Public School teachers:** \$34.86 (Difference paid by Teachers' Provincial Agreement or APSEA Agreement)

**NS Community College:** \$36.66 (Difference paid by Community College Agreement)

**PROVINCIAL MASTER LIFE AND ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT** – You are automatically insured for this benefit. To designate a beneficiary, you must complete a beneficiary designation form.

For Public School teachers / Community College members and APSEA members, **\$50,000** Life Insurance and **\$50,000** Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance. NO COST (100% paid by employer).

**LONG TERM DISABILITY** - If you have not taught as a term, probationary or permanent contract teacher in the Province of Nova Scotia prior to this contract, you are automatically insured for Long Term Disability. You may opt out of the plan by forwarding a written confirmation. If you have previously taught in Nova Scotia prior to this contract, you are eligible to apply for the LTD plan, but your approval may be subject to medical evidence of insurability. Please contact Johnson Inc. to discuss your options. (Cost-shared 50% paid by employer)

As a new administrative practice under the Long Term Disability Program, a one-time exemption to “New Teachers” who start their career with a contract of less than 50% will be permitted. A new teacher who receives a contract of less than 50% can opt out of the NSTU LTD Program without penalty as long as you notify Johnson Inc. in writing of your intention to opt out within 31 days of receiving your package or effective date of coverage. If you choose to opt out after 31 days, you will be subject to evidence of insurability if you wish to join the LTD program in the future. Once you receive a contract of 50% or more, you then become eligible to join the program again with automatic enrollment. If you again opt out in writing at this opportunity, you will not be permitted to join the program in the future without providing medical evidence of insurability.

**OTHER COVERAGES** - The other plans available are Optional Life Insurance, Spousal Life Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment, MEDOC® Travel Plan, and Home and Automobile Insurance.

Further details of the above plans and information on enrollment is outlined in the Insurance Profile. Your NSTU Rep will have a copy of this.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A NEW TEACHER LETTER, APPLICATION FORM OR INSURANCE PROFILE, PLEASE CONTACT JOHNSON INC. AT 453-9543 (LOCAL) OR 1-800-453-9543 (TOLL FREE).**

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2008 NEW BRUNSWICK &amp; NOVA SCOTIA PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

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Saint John, NB - October 22-23  
Halifax, NS - October 27-28

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Saint John, NB - October 24  
Halifax, NS - October 29

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# resources

## New Health Resources from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Dubbing programs become a part of your school's collection; we charge only for the price of the blank media used. Read the Public Schools Branch newsletter Branching Out available online at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>.

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit [http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media\\_library/express/Video\\_Express.shtml](http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml)

**EBSCO Periodical database (<http://search.epnet.com>)** EBSCO provides a series of online bibliographic and full text databases so that you and your students can find information, pictures and citations on curriculum related topics.

EBSCO offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to a highly specialized collection of over 450 full text journals, designed for professional educators. EBSCO is available to all students and teachers in Nova Scotia through computers connected to Ednet, or at home with passwords that can be obtained from your school.

**ImagesProject (<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>)** Need a photo to use in a school project? Visit the ImagesProject, a web-based collection of images for Nova Scotia public school program use. Nova Scotia students and teachers who are on Ednet may freely download, use and modify images from the ImagesProject website for curriculum purposes.

These programs are available in VHS and DVD format. Unless otherwise specified, DVD format will be sent.

**Body Systems and Health (80 min.) Health - Grades 5-6 ; Healthy Living 7-8 ; Science - Grades 5-8**

This video includes four programs: Healthy Circulatory and Respiratory Systems, Healthy Skeletal and Muscular Systems, Healthy Digestive and Excretory Systems, and Healthy Nervous and Endocrine Systems. Each program explores the role of the system, things that we can do maintain the health of the system and some of the most common problems associated with the system.

**The Healthy Human Body Series (80 min.) Health - Grades 4-6 ; Science - Grades 4-6**

Introducing the structure, functions and care of their bodies to youngsters, this four-part series covers the skeletal/muscular system, respiratory system, digestive system, and circulatory system. It features live action shots of young people, three-dimensional models, animation, endoscopic cinematography, lab experiments, interactive quizzes and comic interludes. Titles in the series include: Skeletal & Muscular System; Respiratory & Circulatory System; Digestion & Nutrition; and, Blood, Heart & Circulation.

**The Human Body (90 min.) Health - Grades P-4 ; Science - Grades p-4**

The Magic School Bus is off on a roller-coaster ride through our insides and anybody could be the next field trip! Their valiant vehicle can go anywhere and be anything, so each field trip is an awesome adventure. In "For Lunch", Ms. Frizzle leads the class on an action-packed journey through Arnold's digestive system; "Inside Ralphie" is a pulsating excursion through Ralphie's bloodstream; and, "Flexes Its Muscles" is an exciting exploration through the Ralphie Robot to learn about bones, joints and muscles.

**Bully Smart Series (65 min.) Health - Grades 3-5 ; Bullying**

This four-video set explores positive ways to recognize and deal with bullying situations. Students are encouraged to work together to build a zero-tolerance policy toward bullying, while practicing skills that will both prevent and reduce bullying problems. This series also looks at why people bully and how to spot bullying in oneself. Titles include: Don't Stand By (15 min.), Five Ways to Stop a Bully (15 min.), Are You a Bully? (20 min.), and Help! I'm a Bully (15 min.).

**The Drawing (20 min.) Healthy Living 8-9 ; Bullying**

A young boy encounters critics' barbs early when his teacher and classmates ridicule his pencil sketch of a dinosaur. Staying true to his artistic temperament literally takes the 10-year old to society's fringes and makes his re-entry into playground politics an exercise in exile. Beautifully and starkly shot, this stylish drama deftly accesses the intense focus of a child's imagination.

**You're Mean! : When Words Hurt Us (13 min.) Health - Grades P-5 ; Bullying**

This age-appropriate program helps children understand that words can hurt—whether the insults are intentional or the inadvertent result of "trying to be funny." Four vignettes identify the power of words and each vignette includes a positive outcome where children find a way to stand up for themselves and



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## TENTATIVE 2008-2009

### PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS SCHEDULE

October	2 & 3 (Thursday & Friday)	Cape Breton
	8 & 9 (Wednesday & Thursday)	Yarmouth
	14 & 15 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	New Glasgow
	20 & 21 (Monday & Tuesday)	Port Hawkesbury
	27 & 28 (Monday & Tuesday)	Annapolis
November	30 & 31 (Thursday & Friday)	Cape Breton
	3 & 4 (Monday & Tuesday)	Amherst
	5 & 6 (Thursday & Friday)	Halifax
	24 & 25 (Monday & Tuesday)	Truro
	26 & 27 (Wednesday & Thursday)	Bridgewater
December	3 & 4 (Wednesday & Thursday)	Halifax
	9 & 10 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	Halifax
January	19 & 20 (Monday & Tuesday)	Halifax
	29 & 30 (Thursday & Friday)	Halifax

*Dates and venues for these seminars are still being confirmed, please check the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) regularly for updates.*



overcome the power of hurtful words. Techniques include: Stand Up for Yourself, Ignore the Bully, Explain How the Words Make You Feel, and Seek Help From an Adult.

**Developing Self Confidence (18 min.) Health - Grades 5-6 ; Healthy Living 7-9**

Using a series of dynamic vignettes and engaging animated cartoons, this program examines the ins and outs of learning self confidence. By watching Carly, Ben, Alex and Maria, students will learn four key strategies for improving self-confidence and how to analyze their own behaviour. The four strategies are: Stop Making Excuses, Take Reasonable Risks, Examine Your Fears, and Identify and Change Negative Self-Talk. Each strategy is carefully explained and dramatized in ways sure to inspire even the shyest middle-schooler.

**Feeling Good About Me (14 min.) Health - Grades P-2**

This video teaches children that being responsible means helping out when you're asked, following the rules, and doing the right thing without being told. These three points are illustrated in a series of engaging vignettes. The concepts are reinforced using a cheerful song about how being responsible makes kids feel proud "to the tips of my toes." Viewers see children performing many easy-to-follow tasks that foster teamwork and self-esteem: cleaning up toys, helping with family chores, helping an elderly relative and more. This program makes it clear that acting responsibly is a great way to feel good about yourself.

Education Media Library 424-2440; 428-5828 (fax), Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5 E-mail us at [mediacir@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:mediacir@ednet.ns.ca). Visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.



# St. Stephen's Elementary creates Backyard Classroom



Principal Kathy Henning addresses guests at the grand opening of St. Stephen's Backyard Classroom.

The grand opening of St. Stephen's Elementary Backyard Classroom took place on June 17. The school was able to create their outdoor classroom with an \$18,000 grant from the 4Cs Foundation. The 4Cs Foundation builds connections between children and their communities through art projects in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

"Our 4Cs backyard classroom project has been a true community project. We have involved all St. Stephen's students, students from Highland Park Junior High, parents and guardians and community organizations such as NSCC," said principal Kathy Henning at the grand opening.

Part of the project included workshops for all students during the winter. The workshops included carving, stepping stones/mosaics, music: producing a school song, bird houses, wind chimes, building a table, gardening, outdoor jewelry, and murals for benches. All the collaborative art making activities contributed to the backyard classroom. During the grand opening students premiered the new school song they wrote with local musician Rose Vaughn and teacher Brenda Ferguson-Davis and EPA Sharon Walker.

"We'd like to thank project artists Julie Adamson Miller and Laurie Mireau, builders Chris Dempsey and Kevin Hart, Mrs. Hayes, teacher leaders Nicole Delory and Angela Gillis and a special thank-you to our project coordinator Stephanie McInnis."

McInnis is a parent volunteer with the school, and Grade 2 students presented her with a book they made as a token of the school's appreciation.

For more information about the 4Cs Foundation visit [www.4csfoundation.com](http://www.4csfoundation.com). Deadlines for applications are October 15, January 15 and May 15 of each year.

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**ROOM TO RENT** - Close to Armdale Rotary. On bus route to Universities. \$400/month, non-smoker, references. Phone 902-477-9392 or e-mail [editpat@hotmail.com](mailto:editpat@hotmail.com) for information.

**HOUSE SITTER REQUIRED** - Retired teacher couple require housesitter(s) for January to end of March/09. Ideal Lower Sackville location, walk to all amenities. Brand new sun room with new furniture and TV. An ideal location to spend your winter months. References required. Contact (902) 864-5308.

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**AVAILABLE** - Genny Locke Magical Entertainer presents "THE NO BULLY ZONE PRESENTATION" ideal for school assemblies. Telephone: 902-567-0825.

**INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS** - Professional speaker Jeff Britton is celebrating 10 years empowering youth and inspiring change. Visit [www.jeffbritton.com](http://www.jeffbritton.com) for more information, or contact Jeff at 902-452-8967 to discuss having him visit your class or student body this fall!

**VOLUNTEER IN EAST AFRICA** - Orkeswa Secondary School in rural northern Tanzania is currently recruiting volunteer teachers (elementary or secondary) to begin teaching in January 2009. This is truly an opportunity to make a huge difference in a small rural village! For more information please e-mail Jeff at [email@bethechangeproject.ca](mailto:email@bethechangeproject.ca)

**JOB EXCHANGE** - Halifax Regional School Board teacher looking for a job exchange with an elementary or junior high teacher from the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board for the 2009-2010 school year. If interested, please email [scalnen@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:scalnen@staff.ednet.ns.ca) or call 902-403-9402.

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**Our mandate**  
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**Our purpose**  
is to support research, inquiry, reflection, writing, distribution of information and interventions which focus on all forms of violence in the public (Primary to Grade 12) and Community College education system.

**Our pledge**  
is to award funding grants for anti-violence programs that have a direct and immediate impact on public school and Community College classrooms, students, teachers, staff, administration and community.

**DEADLINE—NOVEMBER 7, 2008**