

October 3 Get to know your NSTU Rep—focus of the Union's first Member Engagement Day



The first annual NSTU Member Engagement Day will take place Friday, October 3, 2014. This Day is designed for NSTU Locals to raise the profile of NSTU programs and services among NSTU members at schools, campuses

and work sites around the province.

"Through our continued efforts in the area of member engagement, we are focusing on our NSTU representatives at schools and campuses around the province," says NSTU president Shelley Morse. "Through the help of NSTU Locals we are organizing the first NSTU Member Engagement Day, with the

theme *Get to know your NSTU Rep*. Our reps are the key link in providing information to members about their Union's programs and services."

Member Engagement Day came out of recommendations from 2012-13 ad hoc Committee on Member Engagement. This committee examined ways in which NSTU members actively engage with

(continued on page 3)

Morse elected vice-president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation



Nova Scotia Teachers Union president Shelley Morse was elected vice-president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) during CTF's 2014 Annual General Meeting held in Winnipeg, July 9-11, 2014.

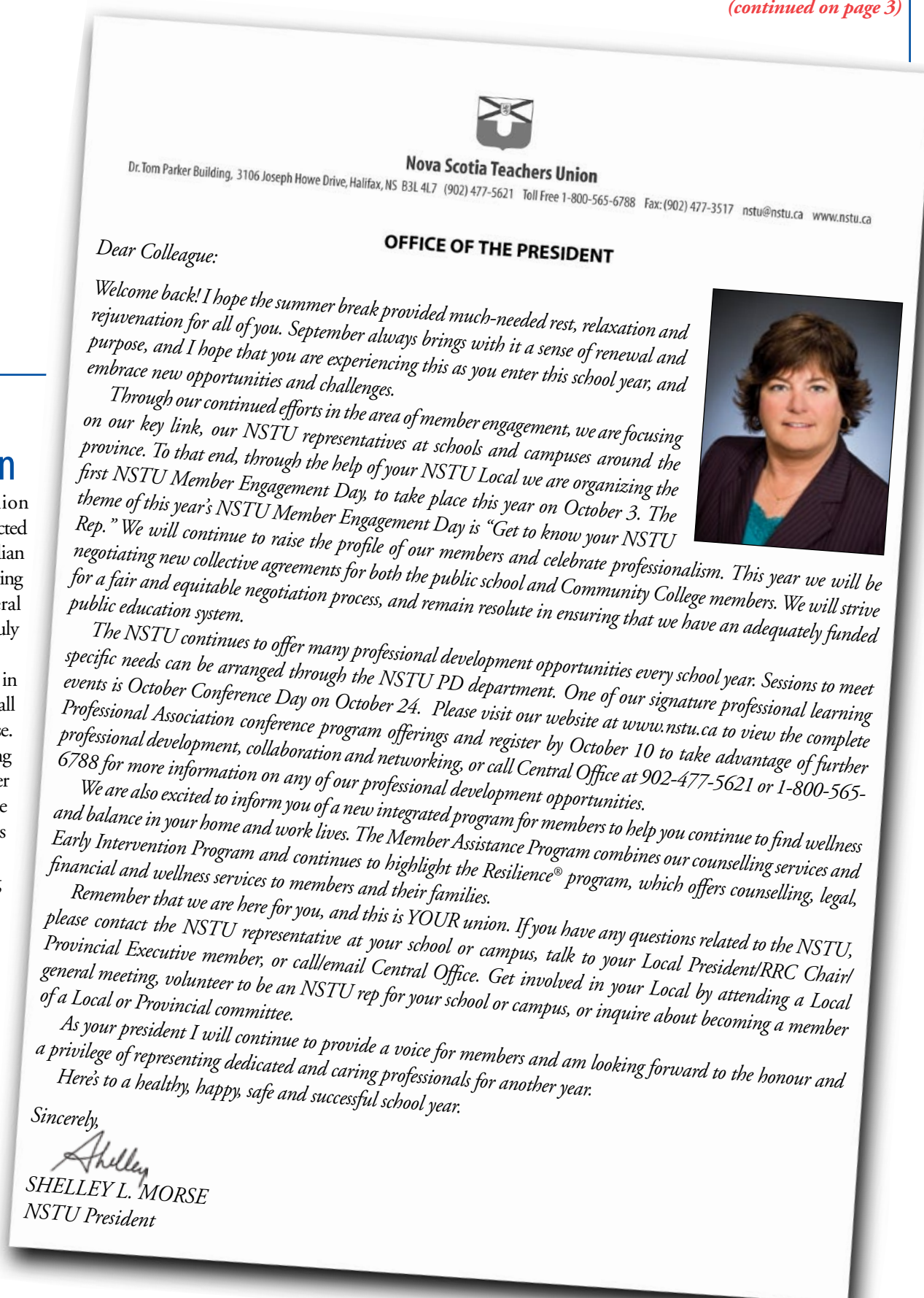
"Issues affecting teachers in Nova Scotia resonate with all Canadian teachers," says Morse. "I'm looking forward to providing our perspective in joining other

teacher leaders across the country in working to advance the cause of public education for students, teachers and teacher organizations in Canada."

Morse was one of four CTF vice-presidents elected during the AGM for one-year terms. As vice-president she will serve on the Executive for the organization and deal with key issues and resolutions that have an impact on public education, students and teachers nationally. In her new role she will chair CTF's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

Morse has had a long-time connection with the CTF. In her role as NSTU president she sits on the CTF Board of Directors. In 2012 she was appointed to the CTF Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, and in 2013 was also appointed as a trustee for the CTF Trust Fund for a three-year term and appointed to the Resolutions Committee. She has also served as an NSTU delegate or alternate at the CTF's AGM eight times. In 2009-2011 she represented the NSTU as a member of the CTF Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation is an alliance of nearly 200,000 elementary and secondary educators from 17 organizations (15 Members, one affiliate member and one Associate Member across Canada). CTF is also a member of Education International.



people

New delegates at NSTU Leadership 2014



This summer's NSTU's Leadership Skills Development Institute saw 55 first-time participants at the two-and-a-half-day-long event at StFX in Antigonish. Pictured above are a few of those delegates with NSTU Executive Director Joan Ling. From l-r: Mike MacKenzie (Dartmouth Local); Tracy Langille (Colchester-East Hants Local) and Lianna Gillis (Inverness Local).

Welcome Back!

NSTU CTF delegates attend AGM

Below are the Nova Scotia Teachers Union's CTF delegates, who attended CTF's Annual General Meeting from July 9 to 11 in Winnipeg. CTF delegates are elected at NSTU's Annual Council for three-year terms. The NSTU president, first vice-president and executive director also attend.

This year's AGM was hosted by Manitoba Teachers' Society. This year's theme was *Weaving social fabric: building citizenship*. The AGM was held after the CTF President's Forum, which took place July 7 & 8. The CTF AGM, the federation's top policy-making body, provides teacher leaders from across Canada the opportunity to discuss and debate policy, to approve a budget, to elect a new executive for 2014-2015 and a president-designate who will assume the presidency in July 2015.



From left to right: Meg Ferguson (Halifax County Local president); NSTU executive director Joan Ling; NSTU president Shelley Morse; NSTU first vice-president Alison MacPherson; Hope LeMoine (Cumberland) and Pam Langille (Kings).



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New Pension Agreement signed

Changes to the Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension Plan agreed upon by both the NSTU and the Government of Nova Scotia on June 12 were officially signed on July 2 at offices at the Department of Finance. Pictured here are NSTU president Shelley Morse and The Honourable Diana Whalen, Finance and Treasury Board Minister (centre) signing the new agreement. Also in attendance were Joan Ling, NSTU's executive director and Margaret MacDonald, Finance and Treasury Board Deputy Minister. The province and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union are joint trustees of the pension plan, which has 31,262 members. The plan covers public school teachers and NSTU Community College members. It is 75 per cent funded.



Halifax County Local planning session

Mid-August is a time when many NSTU Locals hold planning sessions for the upcoming school year. The Halifax County Local of the NSTU held its annual summer planning session in Truro August 14 and 15. Sessions included: *Brand Ambassadors & Membership Engagement* facilitated by Local president Meg Ferguson, *Valuing your Role* with NSTU executive staff officer, professional initiatives Debbie McIsaac, and *Connecting with Members Online* presented by NSTU executive staff officer, communication and technology Simon Wilkin. New NSTU Staff Liaison to the Local, Gérard Cormier, sat in on the first executive meeting of the year.



From left to right (front row): Jim King - Social & Wellness; Paul Boudreau - provincial executive member; Tracy Power - secretary; Grant Frost - first vice-president. Middle row (l-r): Crystal Isert - Equity & Reps; Terry Ryan - VP Communications; Duncan Cameron - VP PD. Back row (l-r): Meg Ferguson - Local president; Tim MacLeod - provincial executive member; Turk MacDonald - treasurer; and Shelley Luddington - Nominating & Resolutions.

St. Joseph's A McKay School's "Love of Reading"

There was a frenzy of activity, excitement and even tears of joy when the teaching staff from École St. Joseph's A. McKay (SJAM) school went on their first Chapters/Indigo shopping spree in Bayers Lake on June 22 after receiving its *Indigo Love of Reading* Grant.

"For staff, it has felt like a special honour to be given the freedom to purchase books that we know our kids will love for years, and fill our classroom libraries with them," says Grade 4/5 teacher Amy Hunt-Boudreau. "On our first Sunday morning shopping spree, for example, we purchased \$5,800 worth of books in both French and English, and we were ecstatic... and that is only a small fraction of the funding we will receive over three years."

During last school year, a team of teachers, parents and community members collaborated on an application for *Indigo Love of Reading* program. Late last April, SJAM found out it was chosen as one of 20 schools across Canada to be awarded with a grant from the million-dollar Indigo Love of Reading fund.

"Over the next three years, SJAM will spend \$67,000 on a wide variety of new, exciting and relevant books to transform the school library and classroom libraries - and possibly the lives of some of the students in the school community," says Hunt-Boudreau. "It only takes one good book..."

The Indigo Love of Reading Foundation addresses the underfunding of school libraries by transforming high-needs elementary schools and their children's lives with new books.

"Receiving the *Indigo Love of Reading* Grant has been such a positive boost for students, staff and families," continues Hunt-Boudreau. "We are grateful that Indigo recognizes the value of school libraries, and getting beautiful, new books into the hands of children."

Under the theme *It Only Takes One Good Book*, committee members compiled photo and video coverage of literacy activities and initiatives in the school community, showcasing commitment to raising readers but also a need for resources. In addition to completing a comprehensive written application for the grant, with both quantitative and qualitative data and references, the committee produced a YouTube video as a creative supplement to the application. The video can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_7ZSwTXBmj0



Shown above are some SJAM English and French Immersion staff at the first shopping spree at Chapters on June 22. From left to right: Natalie DeWare, Jennine Hardiman (front row), Andrew Aulenbach (Librarian), Chapters Staff Member, Shawn Mantley (back row), Erin Guthrie (front row), Tanya DeWare (center), Crissy Petrella, Chapters Staff Member, Laura King, Patricia Woodbury (Principal), Adele Megann, and Amy Hunt-Boudreau.

(continued from cover story)

the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, determining barriers to engagement and making recommendations on how to enhance member engagement.

"Through further consultation with NSTU leaders, staff and NSTU standing committee members, it became evident that a Member Engagement Day was a great way to increase interest and involvement in

the Union," continues Morse. "We want members to see value in their member organization, and we hope to help demonstrate this through an Annual Member Engagement Day."

Member Engagement Day will take place on or before World Teachers' Day (WTD) (October 5) depending on the day in which WTD falls. This year the Day will be celebrated on

October 3. Activities being organized by Locals include fairs and kiosks, face-to-face activities and after school socials.

The ad hoc Committee on Member Engagement, struck through a 2012 Council resolution also gauged priorities of NSTU member engagement from NSTU leaders at various levels, developed a member

engagement survey generated to a random sample of the NSTU membership, and conducted focus groups. Recommendations from this committee were forwarded to NSTU's provincial executive.

For more information about Member Engagement Day in your area, please contact your NSTU Local president.

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**September is a new school year
...and a fresh start for many.**

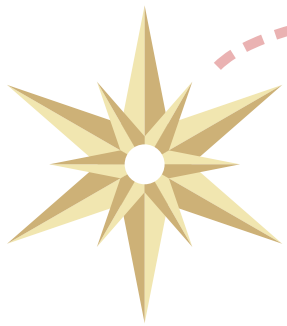
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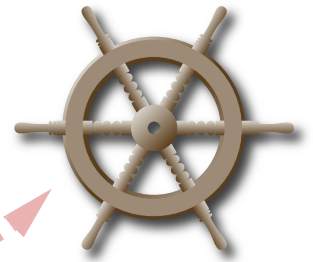
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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Kindling the fire through teacher-driven Professional Development

by Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Professional Associations

Welcome back all members to a new school year. I do hope that you had a wonderful summer enjoying family, friends and the beauty of our province. Throughout the summer, I took some time to recharge my batteries, connect with family and friends and participate in professional development opportunities. I was joined in these professional development opportunities with many members seeking new knowledge in support of their lifelong learning.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union takes the opportunity to partner with and engage its members in valuable professional development through such initiatives as: DSS (Developing Successful Schools); CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching); and NSTU Leadership. Each conference

our members; Provincial Professional Development Day—NSTU Annual Conference Day 2014. Every year 22 professional associations, representative of curriculum and roles within education, organize and put on conferences for our members. This process begins early in January as conference committees decide on themes, keynotes and workshops relevant to the needs of their members. They look seriously at the evaluations from previous conferences in tailoring their sessions to meet the needs of all. Throughout May and June, our office works collaboratively with all professional associations in collating information on sessions, to provide our members with online communication and registration.

Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC) in supporting the assessment and teaching of struggling readers. Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA), welcomes Alfie Kohn, the author of 13 books and scores of articles on such topics as performance vs learning, the cost of over emphasizing achievement. The Psychologists in Schools Association (PISA), is excited to announce that Dr. Russell Barkley, a world renowned expert in ADHD, will be their keynote speaker for 2014 October Conference Day.



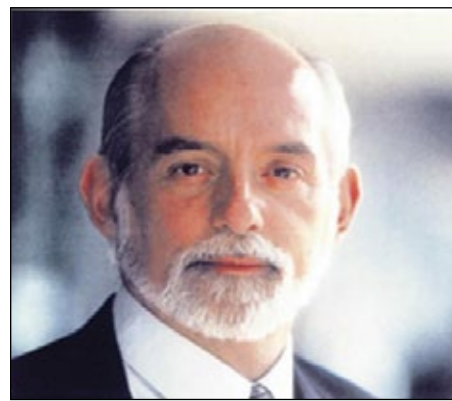
Alfie Kohn

Unfortunately, this article only permits me to name a few of the excellent speakers we have coming to a conference near you on Friday, October 24, 2014.

September is an exciting time for educators, students and parents. It is the formal beginning of a school year where members join in lighting the fire of learning for all. To support you in reaching out to all students, their exceptionalities, differences and needs your professional association is hard at work in bringing relevant and supportive learning to you. Be sure to log on to our NSTU Online Conference Registration and begin to preview the conference that best suits your professional needs. Registration opened on Friday, September 3 and closes Friday, October 10.

To conclude, I would like to thank all of our members who volunteer in making our NSTU Annual Conferences one of the best learning opportunities. I would also like to thank those members and partners who go above and beyond your role in providing professional development for our members.

Your dedication and support of lifelong learning is truly inspiring. Finally, best wishes to all members for a successful year ahead.



Dr. Russell Barkley



Karen Erickson, PhD

*"The Mind is not a Vessel to be filled,
but a Fire to be kindled."
—Plutarch*

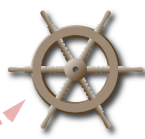
addressed the needs of administrators, teachers, faculty, professional support staff and member reps. Many members commented to me and to my colleagues that these conferences provide them some of the best professional development supportive of their learning, teaching and leading. As a former teacher, principal, coordinator and now a staff officer responsible for member professional development, I know the importance of relevant purposeful learning in supporting me.

As the summer concludes, we begin to prepare for another large scale professional development session for

Each year, I marvel at the work of our volunteers in bringing together member and partner leaders in our province who share their research and best practices. This conference often highlights some of the best national and international leaders in education. This year is no exception. Dr. Stan Kutcher will join AAE, Association of Adult Educators in supporting our faculty, professional support staff and public school teachers in promoting communities that foster mental well-being and learning. Karen Erickson, PhD, Director of the Center for Literacy and Disability at the University of North Carolina will join Association of



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

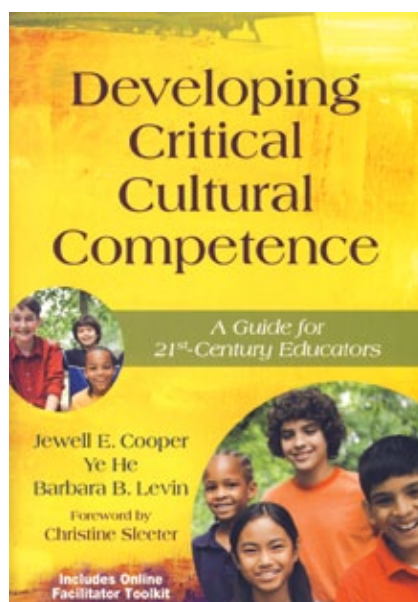


Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 5 to be eligible for the draw.

Developing Critical Cultural Competence

By Jewell E. Cooper, Ye He
& Barbara B. Levin
Foreword by Christine Sleeter

Developing Critical Cultural Competence published by Corwin, is a look at how cultural competence is instrumental in teaching. This resource focuses on providing professional development in areas that allow teachers to know who their students are, understanding communities and improving student success rates.



The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

*The deadlines for application for the
John Huntley Memorial Internship Program
for the 2014-2015 school year are*

September 15, November 15, February 15 and April 15.

*Applications for active NSTU members are available through your
NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at 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.*

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Lunenburg County Local at the Big Ex

NSTU president Shelley Morse joined members of the Lunenburg County Local at the South Shore Exhibition, Big Ex Parade in Bridgewater on July 22. Members of the Local have been participating in this annual event for many years. They marched through the streets carrying their Local's banner.



From left to right: Julia Moule; VP of PD Jillian Levy-Peverelle; provincial executive member Sandy Mitchell; Belinda Josephson; VP of PA Byron Butt; Charlotte Butt, student Nathaniel Butt, member-at-large & social Mai-Ling Storm, and retired provincial executive member Michael Stewart. Executive members missing from the photo: Marc Breaugh (VP PR), Local president Carol Hipwell, secretary Annette Carey, First VP Jaylene Chase, member-at-large Barb Fralick and treasurer Alex Oickle.

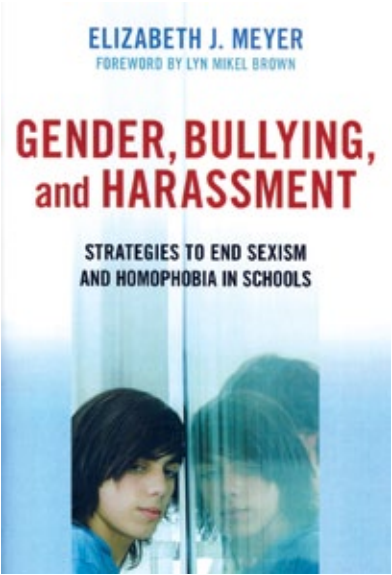


Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 5 to be eligible for the draw.

Gender, Bullying, and Harassment

By Elizabeth J. Meyer with
Foreward by Lyn Mikel Brown

Elizabeth J. Meyers, an instructor at McGill University, examines keys gender issues and relating them to bullying and harassment in school in her new book, *Gender, Bullying, and Harassment (Strategies to End Sexism and Homophobia in Schools)*, published by Teachers College Press. This interesting read will examine the effects of school culture on bullying and harassment, transforming schools and why teachers matter.



fresh

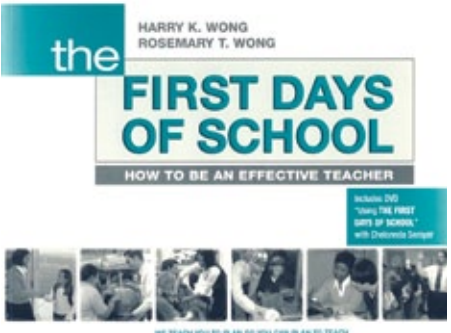
Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 5 to be eligible for the draw.

The First Days of School — How to be an Effective Teacher

By Harry K. Wong & Rosemary T. Wong

This essential resource is a great look at why people choose to teach as a profession. With helpful tips, fun and touching anecdotes and endless knowledge, *The First Days of School—How to be an Effective Teacher*, published by Harry K. Wong Publications, is a definite must have on your classroom bookshelf.



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(including rates and publication schedule),
please contact Sonia Matheson at
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We Want to Hear Your Story

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

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Or email submissions to aviso@nstu.ca

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Contributor guidelines are available to interested writers on the NSTU Website — www.nstu.ca

Please ensure email attachments are Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format or Text Only.

Original pictures or images related to submitted content are appreciated.

The themes for the 2014-2015 academic year AVISO editions are:

Fall – Challenging the Status Quo
Winter – A Day in the Life...
Spring – Professional in Supporting our Profession/Pride in Professionalism

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Ou bien envoyez vos soumissions par courrier électronique à : 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

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

Les photos/images originales reliées aux soumissions sont appréciées.

Les thèmes des éditions d'AVISO pour 2014-2015 sont les suivants:

Automne – Remettre en question le statu quo
Hiver – Une journée dans la vie de...
Printemps – Professionnels à l'appui de notre profession / Fiers de notre professionnalisme

Five Keys to Creating Better Health

by Dr. Marilyn Field, Chiropractor

The following five keys will help you to decrease aches and pain, to improve your energy level. Most importantly these things will help you to achieve a greater level of overall health and well-being. When you feel good you are able to do more of the things you love. My passion is health and helping people live well so they can do more of what they are passionate about doing.

My challenge to you is to pick one thing you could do to improve your health and make that change starting today!

Let's dive in to the five keys.

Key #1: Movement

Our bodies are designed to work the best when they are in motion. So whenever you get the chance, move your body.

The current guidelines recommend adults get 150 minutes of physical activity per week. That works out to about 20 minutes per day, which you can break down into 10-minute chunks.

It's not just how much structured activity that matters, it's also important to simply reduce the amount of time you spend sitting each day. Some are even calling sitting the new smoking. Over the years the effects of sitting for a large portion of the day add up and can lead to health problems like weight gain, decreased bone density, and increased cholesterol.

The good news is that there are things you can do to help counteract the negative health effects of too much sitting such as: getting the recommended 150 minutes of activity per week, taking the stairs, parking further away, and getting off the bus a stop early. Move as much as you can in whatever ways you can. It all adds up.

Key #2: Eating Well

The best food advice I have heard is from Michael Pollan: "eat food, not too much, mostly plants," — short, simple and to the point. There are so many fad diets and so many food options out there it can be very confusing. Which diet should I follow? Should I be eating all raw foods? Should I go gluten free? These are all good questions, but the honest answer is that there is no one "right" way to eat. Everyone is different. However, here are a few good guidelines to start with:

Eat lots of fresh vegetables and fruit. One study found that people who ate the most fruits and veggies had a lower risk of all causes of mortality, particularly



cardiovascular mortality.

Decrease refined sugar consumption. Sugar wreaks havoc on the body. From a chiropractic perspective it creates inflammation in the body; not only can this create more aches and pains, it can also alter digestion and affect body chemistry, leading to all sorts of health problems.

Avoid "frankenfoods" as much as possible. These are foods that have a long list of ingredients and are getting really far from being real food. Try eating wholesome natural foods as much as possible, such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, grains, meats. When eating a packaged food aim to eat foods with fewer than five ingredients.

Key #3: Drink Enough Water

The benefits of being well hydrated range from better looking skin, improved digestion, fewer aches and pains and increased energy, just to name a few. A good rough calculation of how much water you need is to divide your weight (in pounds) by two; this will give you the ounces of water you should be getting per day. As an example; a 130 lb person should be getting about 65 ounces of water, which is roughly eight cups per day.

Does coffee count towards your water consumption? The thinking used to be that the caffeine in coffee would act as a diuretic and actually promote water loss. However, studies have found that this only happens when you are consuming a large amount of caffeine all at once (about two to three cups) and haven't had any caffeine for weeks. My general rule of thumb is to count two cups of coffee (or caffeinated tea) per day towards your water intake, anything over that you're starting to increase

caffeine intake and generally I don't count it towards the water total.

Key #4: Set Goals and Have a Plan

There was an interesting study conducted at Harvard in 1979 looking at success and goal setting. They found that only three per cent of the Harvard MBA class had written out goals; they followed up with the students 10 years later and found that the three per cent who had written goals were earning 10 times more than the other 97 per cent of the class combined! That is pretty compelling proof right that goal setting is important.

If you don't know where you are going and have some sort of plan on how to get there, your life is much more likely to go in the direction of someone else's dreams.

Write down your top five goals in life and put them somewhere that you can read them daily. I recommend setting goals around the major areas of your life. Tony Robbins suggests the pyramid of mastery, which consists of seven key areas for creating an extraordinary life. These are: 1. Physical Body; 2. Emotions & Meaning; 3. Relationships; 4. Time 5. Work/Career/ Mission; 6. Finances; 7. Spiritual Sense.

Set goals in all of these areas or just pick a few to start with. When you have clarity on what you want in life, you become more hopeful and energized.

Key #5: Take Care of your Body before it's broken

Health is not something that just happens to you, you create health through consistent good choices. Genetics only accounts for a small percentage of our health or illness; our daily choices have a far greater impact in creating the state of our health and well-being.

By taking care of your body before it is sick or injured you are going to improve your health, have more energy and be able to get the most out of life. We don't wait until our cars are broken with smoke coming out of the engines before taking them for an oil change, just as we don't wait until our teeth are rotting to go to the dentist. We should treat the rest of our body the same way.

People under regular chiropractic care have been found to have fewer aches and pains, spend less money on medications and have fewer hospital visits. Chiropractic is safe and effective for all ages from infants to great grandparents! And whether it's chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy, or whichever type of healthcare you find benefit from, be sure to take the time to care for yourself before a major health problem develops.

I hope you enjoyed these five tips and have identified one area you can improve on. When we make healthy choices on a regular basis we create a strong, resilient, healthy body.

Dr. Marilyn Field is a chiropractor practicing out of Body Life Atlantic in Halifax and The Disc Clinic in Musquodoboit Harbour. She enjoys treating people at all ages and stages of life. Learn more at www.DrMarilynDC.com

For previous *The Well Teacher* articles, go to www.nstu.ca

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The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at Be_Well@nstu.ca
Please contact Darcell at dcromwell@staff.nstu.ca and provide your NSTU email address.

This list provides information about the EIP and other wellness topics.

October's deadline for *The Teacher* is September 26.
Contact Sonia at theteacher@nstu.ca or 1-800-565-6788

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NSTU Provincial Executive 2014-2015



Seated: Jacinta Gracie (Northside-Victoria), Ben Sichel (Dartmouth), John Helle (secretary-treasurer, Cape Breton District), Shelley Morse (president), Alison MacPherson (first vice-president, Pictou), Wally Fiander (second vice-president, Digby-Yarmouth), Belinda Snow (Annapolis-Hants West-Kings) and Sally Capstick (Cape Breton District).

Standing: Paul Boudreau (Halifax County), Keri Butler (Halifax City), Cherie Abriel (Colchester-East Hants), Sandy Mitchell (Lunenburg County), Joe Salah (Community College), Stacy Thorburn (Shelburne-Queens), Tim MacLeod (Halifax County), Bill Murphy (Antigonish-Guysborough), Sheila Hawley (Inverness-Richmond), Louis Robitaille (Community College), Pat Hillier (Cumberland), Cynthia MacKinnon (Pictou), Ian Comeau (CSANE) and Kim Frank (Annapolis-Hants West-Kings).

Missing from photo: Shawn Hanifen (Halifax City).

For an up-to-date listing with details of

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If There's Something Weird and It Don't Look Good, Who Ya Gonna Call? Your Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee!

Starting this September, the NSTU is encouraging NSTU representatives to sit on their schools'/campuses Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS) committees. We want teachers and Community College members to have a strong voice on JOHS committees so proactive steps are taken to protect health and safety at work, and so NSTU members' health and safety concerns are quickly and effectively dealt with. We encourage teachers to reach out to their NSTU reps with concerns they have about workplace health and safety. Here is a short description of the role of JOHS committees and the important work they do.

Required when 20 or more People Employed

The Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act requires a JOHS committee for every workplace where 20 or more people are regularly employed.

Equal Management and Non-Management

The Employer and the Unions at the workplace decide on how many people will be on the JOHS committee. However, management representatives can make up no more than 50 per cent of the members of the Committee. There must be a management co-chair and a non-management co-chair.

NSTU Representatives to be designated by NSTU

The NSTU is entitled under the Act to designate who will represent the interests of its members on the JOHS committee. In the past, administration has called for volunteers to sit on the Committee. Effective this September, the NSTU is asking NSTU reps to sit on their JOHS committee, and if they cannot, to speak with their colleagues to see who would be interested in sitting on the Committee. The NSTU wants a strong voice for members on the JOHS committees, and wants to ensure a direct line of communication between the JOHS committee representatives and the Union.

- ♦ Meetings at least once a month and names of committee members and minutes of meetings to be posted.

- ♦ The Act requires that the JOHS committee meets at least once a month. The Committee must keep minutes of those meetings, and the minutes and the names of the Committee Members must be posted.

- ♦ JOHS committees can enlist the assistance of the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Labour and Advanced Education if they have a concern about health and safety that is not being adequately addressed by the Employer.

Functions of JOHS Committees

Employee and management representatives on JOHS committees work together to:

- ♦ Identify hazards to health and safety and effective systems to respond.
- ♦ Audit compliance with health and safety requirements.
- ♦ Receive, investigate and promptly respond to complaints about health and safety.
- ♦ Participate in inspections and investigations concerning health and safety.
- ♦ Advise on protective devices and equipment.
- ♦ Advise the Employer on the policies and programs that the Employer is required to adopt under the Act.
- ♦ Maintain records and minutes of committee meetings.
- ♦ Make written recommendations to the Employer or make requests for health and safety information, and require a written response from the Employer.
- ♦ Receive reports from the Employer of health and safety inspections, monitoring and tests.
- ♦ Report to an Officer of the Division of Occupational Health and Safety if the Employer is not complying with its obligations under the Act.
- ♦ Observe health and safety monitoring and the taking of samples and measurements.
- ♦ Have input into the Employer's Violence Risk Assessment of the Workplace and any Workplace Violence Prevention Plan established by the Employer.

The Role of the NSTU

By having NSTU reps sit on JOHS committees, the NSTU hopes to encourage more frequent communication between the JOHS committee member and the NSTU. This will hopefully lead to a stronger voice for teachers on JOHS committees, and the ability of the NSTU to take proactive action if a workplace health and safety issue isn't being appropriately dealt with by the Committee or the Employer.

I Ain't Afraid of No Ghost!

Don't be afraid of speaking up for health and safety. Reach out to your NSTU representative on the JOHS committee.



Executive Planning 2014

This year's Executive Planning conference took place at the Delta Halifax from July 2 to 4. This year's Provincial Executive Planning session was facilitated by NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development Betty-Jean Aucoin, who led the group in reviewing the 2012-13 Annual Action Plan and along with members of the provincial executive, and NSTU staff, set goals and priorities for the 2014-15 Annual Action Plan. Allan MacLean and executive director Joan Ling updated the group on changes to the Teachers' Pension Plan. A session with Gail Gatchalian, Lawyer with Pink Larkin, focused on Duties and Responsibilities of the NSTU Provincial Executive. Staff Officer Mark MacPhee updated the group on the Education Review Panel process and Angela Murray, Professional Services Staff Officer, Public Relations and Communications presented results from the Member Engagement and Satisfaction Survey.

The Provincial Executive Planning Conference not only focuses on goals and priorities for the NSTU for the coming year, but also honours the contributions of outgoing provincial executive members and welcomes new members of the provincial executive.



Above are members of the provincial executive participating in a goal setting exercise. Clockwise from the left: Paul Boudreau (Halifax County), Cindy MacKinnon (Pictou), Ben Sichel (Dartmouth), and Kim Frank (Annapolis-Hants West-Kings).

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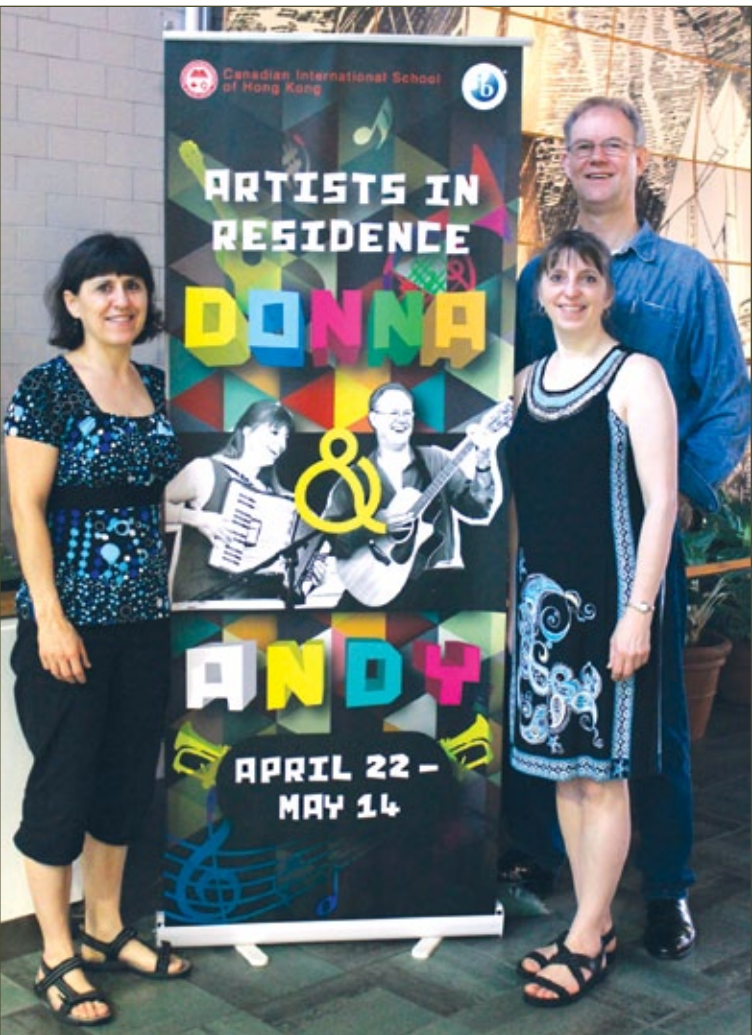


Teachers participate in Hong Kong Artist-in-Residence program

Two teachers from the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board (AVRSB) had a teaching experience last spring they will not soon forget. Donna Rhodenizer and Gisèle Caron travelled to Hong Kong where they were invited to teach students at the Canadian International School of Hong Kong (CDNIS) as part of a four-week Artist-in-Residence initiative. Rhodenizer is an elementary music teacher and Caron is a Grade 5 immersion teacher, both at Kings County Academy in Kentville. Their duties at CDNIS began with Rhodenizer performing in an introductory concert with Andy Duinker as part of the duo, Donna & Andy, and then all three spent three and a half weeks teaching students in Pre-reception to Grade 2 as well as presenting a workshop for teachers. During their classroom sessions, the students enthusiastically learned Rhodenizer's original music, Canadian and maritime folk songs, and were interested to hear about Nova Scotia/Maritime culture and climate (they were especially intrigued with pictures of snow). A final concert at the end of the residency project included Prep to Grade 2 students who sang an entire concert of Rhodenizer's original music concluding with all 370 students on stage singing her song *Raise Up Your Voices* as a massed group finale, to the delight of the proud parents in the audience. CDNIS is one of the top three private schools in Hong Kong and delivers an International Baccalaureate program for students in Pre-reception (three-year olds) to Grade 12.

Donna & Andy have been performing together since 1996. Their one-hour interactive musical performance and educational resources support the delivery of elementary music curriculum and music education. They perform extensively at elementary schools throughout Atlantic Canada and Ontario. Their recent trip to Hong Kong is their first international performing experience. Donna Rhodenizer is the 2011 recipient of the Canadian Music Educators' Association Jubilate Award of Merit for her significant contribution to music education in Canada. She also received the Nova Scotia Music Educators' Association Musica Viva Award for her contribution to music education in Nova Scotia.

For more information visit: www.donnaandandy.com or www.donnarhodenizer.com.



Left to right: Gisèle Caron, Donna Rhodenizer and Andy Duinker.



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION 2014 - 2015 COMMITTEES

At the July 3 Provincial Executive meeting, the following NSTU members were appointed to the committees listed:

STANDING COMMITTEES

Personnel Committee:

Wally Fiander, Chair, Belinda Snow, Pat Hillier and Joe Salah

Governance & Policy Committee:

Kim Frank, Sally Capstick, Cindy MacKinnon, Paul Boudreau, Sandy Mitchell, Sheila Hawley, Stacy Thorburn and Louis Robitaille

executive highlights

July 3

- Appointed all standing committees for 2014-2015;
- Approved NSTU signing officers for the 2014-2015 year;
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedures 17. Resolutions, (iv) Resolutions Submission, A. Procedures, ii;
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedures 17. Resolutions, (vii) Time Lines (b);
- Elected 2nd vice-president: **Wally Fiander**
- Re-Elected Secretary-Treasurer: **John Helle**
- Elected Personnel Committee and Governance & Policy Committee

NOVA SCOTIA TEACH OVERSEAS

Teaching opportunities in the Nova Scotia International Programs

Live and work in a new culture teaching the Nova Scotia curriculum. Teach in an exciting environment or apply your school leadership expertise to a new set of experiences. We are seeking teachers with commitment and energy for positions in the Nova Scotia international programs. Opportunities arise throughout the year for full-time and short-term positions.

Nova Scotia programs in China (grades 10-12) and the UAE (grades P-12) offer:

- competitive pay
- annual return flights
- apartment or living allowance
- paid holidays

To learn more, please contact: internationalprograms@gov.ns.ca

'A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.'

Oliver Wendell Holmes



GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

We can help you turn your idea into a useful, practical program!

If you, your class, or your colleagues have ideas to share with other teachers, classrooms and campuses in Nova Scotia, get a Sheonorail Project Application Form from sheonorail.nstu.ca



Project Application Mailing Address
Sheonorail Foundation Project
Review Committee
3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

Deadline—November 14, 2014



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

2014 - 2015 COMMITTEES



The NSTU Nominating Committee would like to thank the 64 members who applied for NSTU Provincial Committees. Thirty-eight positions were filled based on a number of criteria including: regional representation; experience in Union activities; curriculum/grade level representation; and gender representation. The 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 1, 2014.***

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE

FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

John Helle, Chair, secretary-treasurer; **Ron MacIntosh**, Cape Breton District (2015); **Shane Goucher**, Hants West (2016); **Judy Rogers**, Yarmouth (2016); **Keri Butler**, executive member; **Melanie Waye**, NSTU financial officer; **Maureen Smith**, NSTU business manager; **Joan Ling**, NSTU executive director

GOVERNANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE

Kim Frank, Annapolis; **Sally Capstick**, Cape Breton; **Cindy MacKinnon**, Chignecto; **Paul Boudreau**, Halifax; **Sandy Mitchell**, South Shore; **Sheila Hawley**, Strait; **Stacy Thorburn**, Tri-County; **Louis Robitaille**, Community College; **Shelley Morse**, NSTU president; **Joan Ling**, NSTU executive director and **Debbie McIsaac**, NSTU staff liaison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

Jacinta Gracie, Chair; **Sandy Mitchell**, **Bill Murphy**, **Stacy Thorburn**, **Louis Robitaille**, and **Joan Ling**, NSTU executive director

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

Wally Fiander, Chair, 2nd vice-president; **Belinda Snow**, **Pat Hillier**, **Joe Salah** and **Joan Ling**, NSTU executive director

PROGRAM

COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE

Joel Chiasson, Chair (2015); **Nadine Doiron**, (2015); **Nathan Robar**, (2016); **Phillip Meuse**, (2016); **Suzanne Comeau**, (2017); **Christophe Dol** (2017); **Ian Comeau**, executive member; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Marc Breagh, Chair, Lunenburg County (2015); **Kathy Fougere**, Colchester-East Hants (2015); **Darlene Bereta**, Northside-Victoria (2015); **Jason Ralph**, Dartmouth (2015); **Sheri Scott**, Halifax County (2016); **Keith Partridge**, CSANE (2016); **David MacFarlane**, Antigonish (2016); **Jacinta Gracie**, executive member; and **Debbie McIsaac**, NSTU staff liaison

EQUITY

Vera Ryan, Chair, Yarmouth (2015); **Bridget Moore**, Community College (2015); **Katrina Slaney**, Shelburne County (2016); **Donna Lee Parker**, Cape Breton District (2016); **Cyril MacGillivray**, Antigonish (2016); **Jill Burton**, Inverness (2016); **Ben Sichel**, executive member; and **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Alison MacPherson, Chair, 1st vice-president; **Pamela Langille**, Kings, (2015); **Donalda Westcott**, Cape Breton District, (2015); **Phillip Samson**, Richmond, (2015); **Ryan Lutes**, Halifax City, (2015); **Sarah Eddy**, APSEA, (2015); **Seana Blanchard**, Community College, (2016); **Joe Salah**, executive member; and **Janine Kerr**, NSTU staff liaison

PENSION COMMITTEE

Hope Lemoine, Chair, Cumberland, (2015); **Dayna Enguehard**, Cape Breton District, (2015); **Bernard LeBlanc**, Richmond, (2015); **Jodie MacIlreith**, Halifax County, (2016); **Thérèse Forsythe**, Kings, (2017); **David Kokocki**, Lunenburg County, (2017); **Albert Johnson**, RTO representative; **Paul Boudreau**, executive member & pension board liaison; **Allan MacLean** and **Kyle Marryatt**, NSTU staff liaisons

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Lori Richard, Chair, Inverness (2015); **Ian Kent**, Queens (2015); **Tanya Chisholm**, Halifax County (2015); **Tanya Samson**, Richmond (2016); **Janine MacAulay**, Cape Breton District (2016); **Daniel Doroshenko**, Colchester-East Hants (2016); **Cherie Abriel**, executive member; and **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC WELFARE COMMITTEE

Alison MacPherson, 1st vice-president; **Krissy Brewer**, Dartmouth; **Pam Langille**, Kings; **Stacy Samson**, CSANE; **Jane Dorey**, Richmond; **Charles Colson**, Northside-Victoria; **Wade Van Snick**, Cumberland; **Alex Oickle**, Lunenburg County; **Mark MacPhee**, Halifax City; **TBA**, TWAR representative; **Shelley Morse** NSTU president **Joan Ling**, NSTU executive director; **Bruce Kelloway**, NSTU assistant executive director and **Janine Kerr**, NSTU staff liaison

PUBLIC AFFAIRS/ PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Keli Brewer, Chair, Cape Breton District (2015); **Andrew MacIntosh**, Halifax City (2016); **Grant Frost**, Halifax County (2016); **Paula Landry**, Inverness (2016); **Rolland Hannem**, Yarmouth (2016); **Louis Robitaille** and **Tim MacLeod**, executive members; **Simon Wilkin**, NSTU staff liaison and **Angela Murray**, NSTU PR coordinator

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE - To be appointed October 2014

Sally Capstick, executive member and **Jack MacLeod**, NSTU staff liaison

TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Joyce Veinot-Gates, Chair, SAA representative, 2015; **Mary McLeod**, Cape Breton District (2015); **Grant Dunn**, Yarmouth (2015); **Robert Wigle**, Dartmouth (2015); **Andy MacNeil**, Halifax County, 2016; **Brian MacIsaac**, Pictou, 2016; **Sandy Mitchell**, executive member; and **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

STATUTORY

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Preman Edwards, Chair, Halifax County (2015); **Jeffrey Raine**, Digby, (2015); **Holly MacDonald**, Cumberland (2016); **Meghan Phelan**, Colchester-East Hants (2016); **Dawn Spracklin**, Cape Breton District (2016); **Ellen Louth**, Dartmouth (2016); **Bill Murphy**, executive member; and **Bruce Kelloway**, assistant executive director, NSTU staff liaison

OTHER COMMITTEES

INSURANCE TRUSTEES

Stephanie Black, Chair, Cape Breton District (2015); **Phil Doucette**, Antigonish (2016); **Susan Noiles**, Halifax County (2016); **Wanda Rodgerson Fuller**, Yarmouth (2017); **Sharon Midwinter**, Cumberland (2017); **Michael Cameron**, Kings (2018); **Bruce Spares**, NSCC; **Joe MacEachern**, Dept. of Education; **Sheila Landry**, Dept. of Education **Allan MacLean**, NSTU staff liaison and **Joan Ling**, NSTU executive director

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF) COMMITTEE

Milton Bonnar, Northside-Victoria (2015); **Angela Wisen**, Halifax County (2017); and **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Shari MacGillivray, Chair, (FSTA, 2015); **Donalda Westcott** (NSMEA, 2015); **Brenda Newcombe** (PETA, 2015); **Teri Cochrane** (NSSCA, 2016); **Mike Landry** (SAA, 2016); **Steve Ranni** (TAPHE, 2016); **Cindy MacKinnon**, executive member; and **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Pat Hillier, Chair, executive member; **Myla Borden**, Pictou (2015); **Turk MacDonald**, Halifax County (2015); **Joyce Lively**, Cape Breton District (2016); **Heather Ryan**, Halifax County (2016); and **Debbie McIsaac**, NSTU staff liaison

SHEONORIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joan Ling, Chair, NSTU executive director; **Liam Timmons**, Cumberland (2015); **Gail Walsh**, retired member (2015); **Angèle Marr**, CSANE (2016); **Christopher Nicholson**, Northside-Victoria (2016); **Debbie McVeigh**, Community College (2017); **John White**, Cape Breton District (2017); **Shawn Hanifen**, executive member; **Stephanie Black**, Insurance Trustees; **Shelley Morse**, NSTU president; and **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU executive staff officer

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 under the “Substitutes” menu and click on “Committee”.

The deadline is October 10.

The Substitute Teacher Committee will be appointed
at the October 17th Executive Meeting.

**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
(version française disponible)

**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM ANNUALLY
TO ENSURE YOU REMAIN ON OUR MAILING LIST.**

NSTU's Pride continues

The NSTU continued to support ongoing awareness about sexual minority issues in education, through its continued participation in Pride Parades in Nova Scotia this summer.

"I applaud the continued efforts by the NSTU and its members' in creating safe and caring schools and campuses for all students and staff," says NSTU president Shelley Morse.

NSTU president Shelley Morse and NSTU Equity Services staff officer joined NSTU members and their families in both Halifax and Sydney to celebrate and show solidarity for the sexual minority community. Buses, banners, rainbow pencils and t-shirts



Above are NSTU members shown with NSTU president Shelley Morse (far right) at the Halifax Pride Parade.

donning a rainbow apple with the slogan *We're proud to represent diversity* ensured that the NSTU presence was recognized at both parades.

This summer marked the 27th Halifax Pride festival, Once Upon a Pride, which ran July 17 to 27 with the Pride Parade in downtown Halifax on July 26. Each year the collective creativity, talents, and energy of Halifax communities come together to wow the world, and celebrate the diversity and variety of life in the HRM. The 14th annual Cape Breton's Pride Festival, Taking Pride in Cape Breton took place August 8 to 17. The Cape Breton Pride Parade took place on August 9 in downtown Sydney.



Above are NSTU members shown with NSTU president Shelley Morse (far right) at the Sydney Pride Parade.

NSTU Provincial Executive
MEETING DATES

2014

• September 19-20

• October 17

• December 5-6

2015

• January 15-16

• March 5-6

• April 9

• June 5-6

The deadlines for the next two issues of *The Teacher* are:

OCTOBER ISSUE —
September 26.

AND

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER
ISSUE — November 14.

Congratulations to our Book Winners
from June!

FRESH - Frayne Kyte of Digby

EQUITY - Kendra Bergman of Bedford

PD - Sally Smith of Kentville

SUBMISSION FOR PROVINCIAL
PUBLIC SCHOOL NEGOTIATIONS 2014

(One item per page)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Please **CHECK ONE** Box Only:

New Article ☐ (or) Current Article ☐ Article Number _____

Subject Title: _____

Proposal: _____

Explanation/Clarification/Rationale: _____

Signature: _____ School: _____

Date: _____ Local: _____

Note: Must be Received by October 31, 2014

Send to NSTU, c/o Erin Keefe, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

Fax at 902-477-3517 or email ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca

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The hook? Your students compete for \$75,000 in travel and prizes.

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Teachers, sign up your school for the 2015 competition

poetryinvoice.com

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SARAH NYENHUIS FROM
MIDDLETON RECITES
"OZYMANDIAS" BY PERCY
BYSSHE SHELLEY

The Teacher, September 2014, Page 11

More Report Card changes

On August 29 Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey announced changes to report cards that will take place over the next year to build on the work already being done by teachers to improve communication with families and students.

Based on feedback from the report card survey and analysis by the Report Card Review Committee, the department is working with school boards on the following changes to report card templates:

- add a comment section to the learner profile for specialist teachers such as physical education and music for Grades P-8
- add a comment section to the learner profile for Grades 7-12.
- add percentage grades for Grades 7 and 8
- revise the Primary report card to add a learner profile, comment section and attendance.

The department will also provide professional development to all principals to ensure they have a good understanding of the changes. Over the next year, the department will develop an assessment, evaluation and reporting policy to ensure report cards provide the right information on student performance.

“Parents, students, teachers and principals made it clear they wanted changes and improvements to report cards and we are doing just that,” said Casey. “Students and parents can take comfort in knowing that report cards will provide more insight and information into student performance. Teachers and principals will know that they are encouraged to provide open and honest feedback to help the student continue to learn, both at school, and home.”

Teachers and principals will continue to ensure report card comments are personal, identify students’ strengths and areas for improvement, and make suggestions to support student learning at home.

In May, the minister asked all teachers and principals to ensure comments on the June report cards were more personalized about individual student performance. “I want to thank the thousands of teachers who took the extra time to ensure comments were useful and helpful for students and parents,” said Casey.

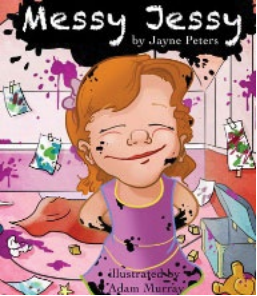
The department will monitor changes to the report cards. It will meet with the Report Card Review Committee which includes representation from the NSTU, later this year to update progress and discuss whether more improvements are needed.

In total, 5,811 students, parents, teachers and school administrators from across the province filled out the survey from March 19 to April 11.

An overview of the survey results and more details on the improvements being made to report cards is available at www.ednet.ns.ca.

Peters books available through Book Bureau

Two books by Jayne Peters are now available through the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development’s Nova Scotia School Book Bureau. Both *Messy Jessy* and *Whispering Wings* will be available starting in October.



Peters, a teacher at Elmsdale District School, is about to release her third book, *Anything Can Happen in Mrs. Whynot’s Room*, will be available beginning in October through Amazon and Puddle Duck Publishing (www.puddleduckpublishing.com/). For more information about Peters visit www.jaynepeters.com



Another
BOOK
GIVEAWAY
on page 17!

BOOK GIVEAWAY

On behalf of *Acorn Press* and *The Teacher*, we have a bundle of three books to give away to NSTU members teaching children aged 13-16.

To win these books for your school, email your name, home address and school name with **ACORN** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by **October 5** to be eligible for the draw.



The Sewing Basket

By Susan White
This novel by New Brunswick author Susan White and published by Acorn Press Canada, looks at how a change in family dynamic coupled with the constantly changing outside world shows a person’s true strength of character.

Ten Thousand Truths

By Susan White
Ten Thousand Truths by New Brunswick author Susan White and published by Acorn Press Canada, is a thrilling story of a troubled teen unable to feel at home in foster care. After getting in trouble with the law, Rachel finds herself living with a recluse and discovering her past will always catch-up with her no matter how far she runs.

Kira’s Secret

By Orysia Dawydiak
An exciting novel written by Orysia Dawydiak and published by Acorn Press Canada, telling the tale of a rebellious girl who cannot be kept away from the sea no matter how hard her parents try discovering secrets, harsh realities and the truth behind her real family.

NOVEMBER 6-7, 2014

HALIFAX MARRIOTT HARBOURFRONT HOTEL
1919 Upper Water Street - Halifax, Nova Scotia

ANNE DAVIES & SANDRA HERBST

LEADING EQUITABLE ASSESSMENT PRACTICES
ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS

Anne Davies

Sandra Herbst

Anne Davies and Sandra Herbst, two of the world's foremost experts on assessment for learning, introduce the concept of Assessment Leadership for Learning and how you can move your system forward — whether your system is a school, a cluster of schools, a department, or an entire district.

The NSELC in partnership with Education Leadership Canada is pleased to offer this exciting professional learning opportunity for educational leaders and leadership teams at all levels such as P-12 teachers, and administrators at the school, district and provincial level.

This two-day conference will provide participants with multiple opportunities for discussion and reflection on how to move the principles of assessment for learning beyond theory and into practice. Participants will develop strategies, tools and a site based action plan that will support them in leading the implementation of a culture of assessment in the service of learning.

Register at
www.nselc.ca

REGISTRATION FEE
\$470 (plus tax)
(includes continental breakfast,
nutrition breaks and lunch each day)

WORKSHOP AGENDA
Registration: 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Day One Workshop: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Day Two Workshop: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Education Leadership Canada® provides a comprehensive package of training and assessment opportunities for school principals and vice-principals. These include skills assessments, needs identification, mentoring support from experienced peers, workshop sessions, video-based training programs and learning opportunities via online delivery modes.
Education Leadership Canada® may be accessed by individual principals and vice-principals, principal associations and district school boards.
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www.principals.ca

The Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium is a non-profit organization comprised of partners who share a common interest and commitment to public education. The NSELC offers a wide variety of professional learning programs which develop and expand learning for educators who are or aspire to be educational leaders. These programs are based on current research and best practices, and provide educators with the skills development they require to become more effective leaders.
NSELC, Suite 395, 3 Spectacle Lake Drive
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1W4
Phone: 902-422-3270
www.nselc.ca

Page 12, The Teacher, September 2014

Teachers in Canada strengthen public education in developing countries through Project Overseas

Over 50 teachers from across Canada participated in Project Overseas (PO) this summer. PO is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and its Member organizations.

In its 53rd year, PO offers Canadian teachers the opportunity to work with overseas colleagues as they provide professional development (PD) workshops to teachers and school heads. These workshops are a key part of long-term projects designed to strengthen public education in developing countries. PO is a core component of CTF's International Program – Teachers' Action for Learning.

"Project Overseas is a wonderful opportunity for Canadian teachers to share and expand their knowledge and skills. It is also challenging development work and CTF is both proud of and grateful to the Canadian teachers who generously volunteer their time and expertise with PO," said CTF president Dianne Woloschuk. This year, participants worked with CTF partner organizations in 11 different countries across Africa and the Caribbean, during the month of July.

CTF is committed to supporting its volunteers. The preparatory phase for PO runs February through July and includes team leader training; team building; partner information; project development; assistance with intercultural effectiveness and culminates in a three-day orientation program at CTF. Immediately after the orientation in Ottawa the 52



Above is a group shot of this year's Project Overseas participants outside the Canadian Teachers' Federation in Ottawa prior to departing for their host countries.

volunteers travelled to their 11 different destinations where they participated in professional development work with CTF's overseas partners. After returning to Canada, in August, participants are supported in their debrief and encouraged to build upon their experience.

This year's Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) participants were: Owen Ferguson, team member to Ghana and Maxine Richards, team member to Uganda.

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PROJECT OVERSEAS 2015 Teachers' Action for Teaching

VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WITH CTF!

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 during the summer?

PO has assisted teacher organizations in over fifty countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean. PO currently places over fifty volunteers in approximately twelve countries every July and August.

If yes, Project Overseas (PO) might be for you!

CTF seeks English and French-speaking Canadian teachers who are interested in volunteering to offer in-services in a wide range of subjects in developing countries such as: Barbados, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, and Uganda.

Application criteria include:

- Membership in a provincial or territorial organization that supports PO
- Valid teachers' certificate
- At least five years teaching in Canada by July 2015
- Canadian citizenship
- Excellent health and ability to work in developing country conditions (a doctor's letter is required)
- Show evidence of flexibility, mature judgment and a strong willingness to put the team and project needs above personal needs
- Canadian passport valid until at least December 2015, at the time of application (proof that a passport application has been made will be accepted)

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members). No salaries or honoraria are paid to participants in PO and the sponsors do not cover costs associated with substitute teachers or release time.

Further information and application forms are available from
Gail Doucette, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7;
www.nstu.ca or 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 or www.ctf-fce.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 14, 2014

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coming events

September is...

Breakfast for Learning Month (www.breakfastforlearning.ca); Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.ca); Men's Cancer Health Awareness Month (www.cancer.ca); Arthritis Awareness Month (www.arthritis.ca); Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (www.ovariancanada.org); Prostate Cancer Awareness (www.prostatecancer.ca); World Suicide Prevention Day (Sept. 10) (suicideprevention.ca/world-suicide-prevention-day/); Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Week (Sept. 13-21) (www.aidswalkforlife.ca); The Terry Fox Run (Sept. 14) (www.terryfox.org); Growth Awareness Week (Sept. 14-20) (www.magicfoundation.org/www/docs/1279/canada); Alzheimer Coffee Break Day (Sept. 18) (www.alzheimercoffeebreak.ca); Big Brothers Big Sisters Month (www.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca); Muscular Dystrophy Month (www.muscle.ca); World Heart Day (Sept. 29) (www.world-heart-federation.org); International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) (www.un.org); Learn @ Work Week (Sept. 22-26) (www.cstd.ca)

SEPTEMBER 13 TO 21

Scotiabank Aids Walk for Life 2014



With over 71,300 Canadians living with Aids, Scotiabank presents its yearly event to raise awareness and support for this disease with no cure. *Walk for Life* is a fundraising event where all proceeds raised will go towards HIV/AIDS programs within the community. To register or to find out more information please visit www.aidswalkforlife.ca/Home.htm

SEPTEMBER 14

The Terry Fox Run 2014

The Terry Fox Run is an annual event held all over Canada in hopes of raising awareness and funds for cancer research. Since the inauguration of this event in 1980, over \$650 million dollars has been raised and support has grown. Please visit www.terryfox.org/TerryFox/T_Fox.html for more information on events happening in your community.

SEPTEMBER 27

The Blue Dot Tour with David Suzuki and Friends

An evening with David Suzuki in Halifax at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on Saturday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

On his last national tour, David Suzuki shares the wisdom of a life full of action and celebrates Canadians who are standing up for the people and places they love. A special evening of inspiration, music and learning.

A special VIP experience offers an exclusive opportunity to join community leaders from diverse sectors for an intimate reception with David Suzuki and select performers. You'll also receive premium seating at the event,

sustainable appetizers, alcoholic and or non-alcoholic beverages and an inside look at the movement that's sweeping the nation and making positive change in your community.

Special guests include: Joel Plaskett, Jenn Grant and Shane Koyczan. (Please note: lineup subject to change without notice.)

For tickets and more information visit: bluedot.ca

OCTOBER

October is Walk to School Month: Register Now!

October is *International Walk to School Month* (and *Walk at School Month*). Join us and walk for the environment, physical activity, safety and fun! Registered schools/groups qualify to win great prizes. Register online at www.saferoutesns.ca

OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 10

Meaning of Home Writing Contest—Writing for a Great Cause

In support of Habitat for Humanity, the *Meaning of Home Writing Contest* is looking for students in Grades 4, 5 and 6 to put their creative skills to work and describe what home means to them.

Encourage participation at your school and help raise money towards Habitat for Humanity Canada. Genworth Canada donates \$5 per entry and the winner gets to direct a \$60,000 grant from Genworth Canada to a Habitat build of their choice. Additional prizes include an iPad and a pizza party for the entire school!

Please visit www.meaningofhome.ca for more information.

OCTOBER 2 TO 5

Governor General Award winning play: It is Solved by Walking

White Rooster Theatre and HomeFirst Productions present the Governor General's award-winning play *It is Solved By Walking*

by Catherine Banks from October 2 to 5 at Neptune Theatre's Scotiabank Studio Theatre in Halifax. This play is framed by the America poet Wallace Stevens' poem *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*. At its core is the story of a women determined to escape the prison of a failed marriage and reclaim her creativity. The play is directed by Mary Vingoe and features Ruth Lawrence as Margaret and Hugh Thompson as Wallace Stevens. For more information, contact bookingsolved@gmail.com or the Neptune Theatre Box Office at 902-429-7070.

OCTOBER 20 TO 24

School Bus Safety Awareness Week (Campaign)

This year's theme for School Bus Safety Awareness Week is *For My Sake Stop for the School Bus*, which will take place October 20 to 24. Yet school bus safety will be promoted throughout September and October, as children go back to school. For details and how to enter the video contest visit www.schoolbussafety.ca or contact Arminta Kennedy, 902-454-9621, x222 or kennedy@safetyservicesns.ca



**NO ON-SITE
REGISTRATION
Register Early!**

2014 NSTU Professional Associations Conferences

Friday, October 24, 2014
Online Registration is Now Open
Closes – October 10
(No refunds after October 10)

1	AAE	NSCC Waterfront Campus, DARTMOUTH
2	AEA	École secondaire du Sommet, HALIFAX & Université Sainte-Anne, POINTE-DE-L'ÉGLISE
3	AST	Halifax West High School, HALIFAX
4	ATA	The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia & Nova Scotia College of Art & Design, HALIFAX
5	ATEC	Cineplex, DARTMOUTH CROSSING
6	ATENS	Park Place Ramada Plaza Hotel, DARTMOUTH
7	ATYA	Riverside Education Centre, MILFORD STATION
8	BETA	Wolfville Farmer's Market, WOLFVILLE
9	EDANS	Dartmouth High School, DARTMOUTH
10	FSTA	Northeast Kings Education Centre, CANNING
11	MTA	Charles P. Allen High, BEDFORD
12	NSLTA /AELNE	NSTU Building (ESL-EAL teachers only), HALIFAX (FSL teachers - location to be determined)
13	NSMEA	North Nova Education Centre, NEW GLASGOW
14	NSSCA	Northumberland Regional High, ALMA
15	NSTALL	Cobequid Education Centre, TRURO
16	NSTEA	Sir John A. Macdonald High School, UPPER TANTALLON
17	PETA	Casino Nova Scotia, HALIFAX
18	PISA	Mount Saint Vincent University, HALIFAX
19	SAA	New Glasgow Academy, NEW GLASGOW
20	SPAA	Best Western Plus, Spectacle Lake, DARTMOUTH
21	SSTA	Lockview High School, FALL RIVER
22	TAPHE	Cape Breton University, SYDNEY

While we encourage all members to have an NSTU web account, please be advised that access to the online registration is **NOT** dependent on having one. **ANY** email address will gain you access to the registration forms. The advantage to accessing the form with an NSTU username and password, plus confirmation of your identity with either your professional or NSCC employee number, is that your personal information will be automatically entered into the registration form.

NSTU web account activation is automated. You may activate an account from the NSTU website. Simply follow this link (<http://nstu.ca/default.asp?mn=1.56.299>) to the page containing activation information. Please read the information on the page carefully before activating your account.

2014 Provincial Conference Sites



As per NSTU Operational Procedure 14(e)(iii): **RECEIPTS OF PAYMENT** and attendance will not be distributed until the conference has concluded.

For Conference details & Registration go to www.nstu.ca

NOTICES

NSTU sponsors Neptune Theatre’s student outreach programs

The NSTU has been a long time supporter of Neptune Theatre’s student outreach programs and again this year is the proud sponsor of the theatre’s Young Neptune Company (YNC) Tour, Student Matinee Program and Teachers Night.

The YNC Tour is Neptune’s widest reaching community outreach program, and has reached over 425,000 young Nova Scotians with the magic of live theatre. Last season, it exceeded its target of reaching over 25,000 students.

Starting in the spring of 2015 the Neptune Young Company will tour two shows: *Tchaikovsky Discovers America*, for the P to 6 audience. This play tells the story of the great composers’ arrival in New York for the grand opening of Carnegie Hall in 1891 and his famous trip to Niagra Falls. The show for Grades 7 to 12 is *Body Image*, by Charlie Rhindress. This play addressed youth issues about body image.

The NSTU is also supporting Neptune Theatre’s Student Matinee Program, which offers its mainstage and Youth Performance Company performances for teachers, schools and students. This year six performances including *Into the Woods*, *Billy Bishop Goes to War* and *A Christmas Story* are part of the Student Matinee program.

NSTU members receive a 20 per cent discount on Neptune Theatre shows. Contact the box office at 902-429-7070 and use the code 2014NSTU.

“Making a Mark” stories wanted

The Chronicle Herald is looking for your good news stories! A weekly column called *Making A Mark* features positive news stories from Nova Scotia’s schools. Whether it’s a student who has achieved something extraordinary, a special class trip, fundraisers for charities, an award-winning teacher or student, or a unique project the whole school has participated in, the Herald wants to hear about it.

This is a great way to shine a spotlight on the positive things taking place in your school community.

To share your story, please forward: a description of your good news story and a contact number where you can be reached to: schools@herald.ca

Holocaust Education Week -2014

Remember the Past—Work for Peace, Location: Temple Sons of Israel, Sydney, Nova Scotia, November 14, 2004 (9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.) The presenter is award winning author Kathy Kacer, winner of: Silver Birch, Red Maple and Hackmatack awards. For more information: http://holocausteducationweek.tumblr.com/ or email: educationholocaust@gmail.com

Creative, Connected and Collaborative: Media Literacy Week 2014 to focus on youth and social networking



MediaSmarts and the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) Media Literacy Week, November 3 to 7, 2014, will focus on the positive uses of social networking by young people.

The official theme of the week – Youth and Social Networking: Creative, connected and collaborative – encourages teachers and parents to work with young people to promote the wide range of activities they use daily on social platforms.

“Youth are using social networks in all kinds of interesting ways that allow them to build communities and connect to the world,” said Cathy Wing, Co-Executive Director, MediaSmarts. “We want adults to join with young people in exploring the opportunities these powerful tools provide for contributing positively to society and building digital skills for the future.”

“Media Literacy Week is an opportunity for teachers to dialogue and engage with their students on ways to become responsible digital citizens and creative learners thanks to the use of social media,” said CTF president Dianne Woloschuk.

MediaSmarts’ 2013 survey of 5,436 students in Grades 4-11, showed there is a high use of social networking by young Canadians. Sites for posting and sharing content such as YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Tumblr were among the top sites, across all age groups. While a primary focus for these platforms is their social lives, students are also using them for learning, creative expression, peer support and advocacy.

MediaSmarts and the CTF are very pleased to welcome back YouTube as the 2014 Gold Sponsor of Media Literacy Week.

During Media Literacy Week, a variety of activities take place in homes, schools and communities across Canada and internationally, with the goal of promoting the importance of digital and media literacy for children and teens.

To find out how to get involved or become a sponsor of the week, visit: medialiteracyweek.ca

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Halifax, NS: October 16-17

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Halifax, NS: November 13

DE-ESCALATING POTENTIALLY VIOLENT SITUATIONS™
Halifax, NS: November 14

MINDFULNESS COUNSELLING STRATEGIES
- Activating Compassion and Regulation
Halifax, NS: December 11-12

CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS IN YOUTH - Strategies for Intervention
Halifax, NS: February 12

BULLYING INTERVENTION STRATEGIES - Responding for Intervention
Halifax, NS: February 13

TRAUMA - Strategies for Resolving the Impact of Post Traumatic Stress
Halifax, NS: March 9-10

ANXIETY - Practical Intervention Strategies
Halifax, NS: March 11



TRAIN-THE-TRAINER Certification Workshop
DE-ESCALATING POTENTIALLY VIOLENT SITUATIONS™

Edmonton: December 10-12, 2014
Toronto: May 27-29, 2015

Due to the high demand for this workshop and its relevance to many workplaces, CTRI offers a train-the-trainer program for our De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations™ workshop. Training an internal trainer to deliver this workshop both enhances organization know-how and saves costs at the same time.

Please visit our website for details and fee information.

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COACHING STRATEGIES FOR LEADERS - Conflict, Performance, Change
Halifax, NS: October 10

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE - Expanding Influence
Halifax, NS: November 12

DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE
Halifax, NS: December 9

MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION - The Crucial Skills
Halifax, NS: December 10

ASSERTIVE COMMUNICATION
Halifax, NS: February 19

CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS
Halifax, NS: February 20

LEADERSHIP - The Essential Foundations
Halifax, NS: March 23

CHANGE MANAGEMENT - A Leader's Guid
Halifax, NS: March 24



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update

The NSTU Group Insurance Program – An Overview for New Members

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees would like to advise that if you are a new NSTU member and have a term, probationary or permanent contract, you are eligible for benefits under the NSTU Group Insurance Plan. Please review the information below carefully to ensure you enroll on a timely basis and receive the benefits you wish and are entitled to as a NSTU member.

The NSTU, through the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees, offer excellent coverages to active members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Hopefully, this article will provide some useful information with regard to the coverages available.

Employer Cost-Shared Benefits You Need to Enroll In

Total Care Medical

The Total Care Medical Program is a comprehensive supplementary health care program available to all active Public School, APSEA, and Community College members and the premium is paid 100 per cent by the employer. This program provides prescription drug coverage, semi-private hospital room, vision care, paramedical services, including physiotherapy and massage therapy, and many other benefits as outlined in the Group Insurance Profile you will receive. **This benefit is not automatic.** You may apply for this benefit at any time provided you are actively at work.

Total Care Dental

Similarly, the Total Care Dental Program provides comprehensive dental care coverage to NSTU members. Total Care Dental includes Basic Preventative Services, Major Restorative Services, and Prosthodontic and Orthodontic Services. The employer cost shares 65 per cent of the Basic and Major Restorative premiums of the Total Care Dental while the member pays 35 per cent for Basic Preventative and Major Restorative premiums, plus 100 per cent for Prosthodontic and Orthodontic premiums. **This benefit is not automatic.** You may enroll in the NSTU Total Care Dental Program once per year before October 15. Also, new members have 31 days from the receipt of their new member package to enroll.

The current member cost for the Total Care Dental Plan is as follows:

Public School/APSEA Members

Single - \$16.92 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Family - \$35.80 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Community College Members

Single - \$18.66 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Family - \$39.40 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Coverage for both the Total Care Medical and Total Care Dental will take effect first of the month following receipt of application.

Automatic Coverage for Every New Member

Provincial Master Life Insurance

A \$50,000 term life policy is available to all active Public School, APSEA, and Community College members. A Dependent Life benefit of \$3,000 for your spouse and \$1,500 for each eligible dependent child is also included in this coverage. The premium for this benefit is 100 per cent paid by each employer, therefore, there is no charge to the member for this coverage. It is very important that you designate a beneficiary for your Provincial Master Life Insurance.

Provincial Master Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

As part of the Provincial Master Life Insurance coverage, a matching \$50,000 of insurance is included for Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D).

As well, under the Provincial Master AD&D Plan there is a \$2,000 Critical Illness benefit for you, the member. This benefit provides a one-time lump sum tax free payment that may be payable, if you are diagnosed with one of the following critical illnesses: Heart attack, coronary artery by-pass surgery, stroke, life threatening cancer.

Long Term Disability

Effective August 1, 2014, the NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is mandatory for all members. However, if you have 35 years of pensionable service, less your accumulated sick leave, you will be exempt from the long term disability plan. As well, if you are 64 years of age and have enough accumulated sick time to reach your 65th birthday, you may also be exempt from the long term disability plan.

This coverage provides a benefit based on 70 per cent of your gross monthly salary at the time your claim commences. This is a taxable benefit as the employer contributes to the cost of the premium.

The Long Term Disability benefit is integrated with the Canada Pension Plan. The qualifying period before benefit payments would commence is the greater of 90 calendar days or your accumulated sick leave.

The NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is cost-shared with the Employer at 50 per cent.

Hospital Cash

A Hospital Cash benefit is provided to all NSTU members who are enrolled in the NSTU Long Term Disability Program. This coverage is a daily benefit of \$20.00 to an insured member when the member is in a hospital and under the care of a physician. This benefit will be paid from the first day of hospitalization, if hospitalized for at least four days. The premium for this coverage is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Resilience® – Employee and Family Assistance Program

Resilience® is an Employee and Family Assistance Program for active NSTU members who have a permanent, probationary or term contract. Through Resilience®, members can reach a team of experienced counsellors from Homewood Health™ who will listen to the issue, offer sound advice and help you create an action plan to address issues. This program also provides Plan Smart and Career Smart Services which includes Childcare and Parenting Caregiver Support Services, Elder & Family Care Services, Legal Advisory Services, Nutritional Support, and many others. The premium for this program is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

CAREpath – The Cancer Assistance Program

All active and retired members of the NSTU are eligible to use the services of CAREpath. The CAREpath navigation system is a service provided by the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees. If you, your spouse, or eligible dependent children suspect having cancer, are diagnosed with cancer, or living with cancer, CAREpath is ready and able to provide support, guidance and answers. The premium for this program is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Optional Coverages Paid By Members

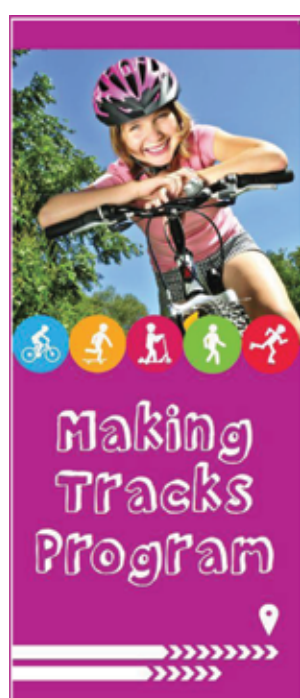
There are a number of optional benefits available to NSTU members that provide the opportunity to purchase additional insurance coverages through payroll deduction, such as, Optional Group

Life/Spousal Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment, MEDOC® Travel Plan, MEDOC® Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance, Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance, and Home/Auto Insurance. These coverages are 100 per cent paid by the member and are offered at competitive premium rates. Details on these programs are contained within the Group Insurance Profile.

Stay tuned this fall for an exciting opportunity from the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees regarding the Optional Group Life/Spousal Life Insurance Plan.

This is a brief overview of the benefits detailed through the NSTU Group Insurance Program. Full details of your NSTU Group Insurance Program are contained within the Group Insurance Profile, which you should take the time to review carefully.

Once you receive your new member package or should you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 902-453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).



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**refer to brochure or the NSTU Member Diary for access*

Support quality education on World Teachers' Day

On October 5, teachers around the globe will be celebrated in classrooms, villages, and cities for their tireless dedication to the profession. From Sydney to Delhi, Nairobi to Brussels and from Buenos Aires to New York and Paris, the great work of teachers will be on the international stage.

This year as Education International marks the conclusion of the *Unite for Quality Education* Campaign by throwing the spotlight on the 30 million members to deliver a message to the United Nations.

To make October 5 a day to remember, EI is calling on all members and colleagues

to take part by having their voices heard to ensure world leaders know how important a quality teacher is to helping students reach their full potential.

Beginning at 12:00 noon, wherever you may be in the world on October 5, EI asks everyone to 'Push the Button' by emailing, texting, or tweeting your messages of support for quality education directly to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

By simply signing your name, the Secretary General will hear loud and clear how important getting all girls into school, achieving education for

all, and the development of a post 2015 Development Goal for education is to you!

With the help of your contributions, the reality of a quality education for all will continue long after the campaign ends.

Taking part is simple. All you need to do is add your name by going to <http://www.5oct.org/2014/> and hitting send to have the chance of delivering your message to the top of the UN.

Do you have your own story to tell? Don't hesitate to let EI know by dropping them a line at unite@ei-ie.org.

On behalf of *Random House* and *The Teacher*, these books (three) have been made available to give away to NSTU members teaching children aged 13-16.

To win these books for your school, email your name, home address and school name with RANDOM HOUSE in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 5 to be eligible for the draw.

Picture me Gone – By Meg Rosoff
This novel by Meg Rosoff and published by Doubleday Canada, that looks at a young girls ability to read and profile people, rooms and situations to help her father solve the mystery of his missing best friend.

The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B – By Teresa Toten
This Young Adult novel by Teresa Toten, award winning author, and published by Doubleday Canada, is a story of young love, trying to fit-in and dealing with life's complicated situations.

The Oathbreaker's Shadow – By Amy McCulloch
Amy McCulloch first novel *The Oathbreaker's Shadow*, published by Doubleday Canada, is a tale of honour and adventure will have any reader captivated from the very first page.



IT ALL STARTS WITH A QUALIFIED TEACHER!

OCTOBER 5TH 2014
WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

Education International
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Engaging reps focus of NSTU leadership institute



Executive Director Joan Ling addresses delegates at the 2014 Leadership Development Institute.

Close to 160 NSTU leaders, including 55 members new to the leadership conference continued to develop their leadership abilities at the 4th Annual NSTU Leadership Skills Development Institute August 12 to 14 at St. Francis Xavier University (StFX) in Antigonish.

This year's NSTU Leadership Skills Development Institute, Engaging NSTU reps, celebrated the leadership within the organization and the important role NSTU representatives play in the organization.

"Our reps are the key link to members throughout the province, and it's important for them to be engaged and informed," comments NSTU president Shelley Morse.

"Our provincial executive members, other NSTU leaders and staff encourage members to continue their leadership journey in the NSTU through this Institute."



The opening "Jeopardy" session of Leadership featured Donna Griffin (Kings); Tami Cox Jardine (Hants West); Natalie MacIsaac (Kings) and Adam 'Alex Trebek' Boyd (Hants West).



Professional development executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin facilitates a Leadership Renewal Session on the Deprofessionalization of Teachers.

The opening night session featured four NSTU members, from the Kings and Hants West Locals, in a funny, interactive spoof of the game *Jeopardy*TM, which included NSTU's own Alex Trebek (Adam Boyd from the Hants West Local).

Throughout this session delegates learned more about the NSTU, through the categories that were part of the NSTU *Jeopardy*TM Game, in keeping with the *Engaging NSTU Reps* theme. Topics included: *Famous NSTU Reps*, *Questions Reps Get Asked* and *Rep Downfalls*.

This is the tenth summer in a row that the two-day leadership conference was held at StFX. The conference enables NSTU members to participate in sessions relative to their individual leadership requirements. "This annual professional development offering for NSTU leaders is a three-year curriculum-based event that focuses on providing training that enhances members' volunteer roles within the NSTU," says Morse. "It also supplements our members' expertise in their educational leadership roles in their classrooms, schools and campuses."



Member services executive staff officer Grant MacLean is shown above facilitating a session on employee/member discipline.

Master of Education Programs at StFX



PART-TIME DISTANCE PROGRAMS

Students may complete Master of Education programs in *Educational Administration and Leadership* or a variety of *Curriculum and Instruction* areas. These part-time programs require one month of study on campus in July. The remainder of the program can be completed online over a two-year period. These programs may be completed by course-based, project, or thesis routes.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME GRADUATE STUDY

StFX admits a limited number of full-time graduate students annually who wish to develop capacity in teaching/leadership or applied research. Students are paired with faculty who provide them with internship opportunities related to university teaching and field experience in the BEd program and/or research. Students who choose the research-based option will participate in funded research programs in collaboration with full-time faculty.



INFORMATION

For more information or to receive an information package, contact:
1-877-867-3906
Email: med@stfx.ca
<http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/master>

Application deadline: February 15th

Here's what StFX MEd students have to say...

- "People showed genuine interest and curiosity about what I do, how I teach, my school environment and who I am, and in return I gained a great amount of knowledge from listening to their experiences."
- "The personal and professional development that takes place in the presence of each other creates a common experience that extends to the online classes, making the program feel like a continuum, rather than pieces that create a whole."
- "It has been both formative and relevant to my teaching and I recommend the experience whole-heartedly."



The musical talents of NSTU members were in full-force during Wednesday evening's dinner and kitchen party. From left to right: Mark Savoury (Dartmouth Local president); retired member Yves Rossignol (Lunenburg County); Terri Dean-MacNeil (Shelburne County) and Donalda Westcott (Cape Breton District). Missing from the photo: Antigonish native Barbara Gillis (Community College, Burridge Campus).

resources

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Let's Learn About... Confederation and the Constitution

Social Studies - Grades 5, 7 and 8

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

In part one of this series, students examine the key events and people that led to Confederation and the signing of the British North American Act in 1867. Appropriate for Grades 5-9. (2011; 20 min.)

Let's Learn About... Local and Provincial/Territorial Government

Social Studies - Grades 7 and 8

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

In part two of this series, students learn about the responsibilities and structure of local and provincial governments and ways in which government and the responsibilities of citizenship directly affect their own lives. Appropriate for Grades 5-9. (2011; 20 min.)

Let's Learn About... Our Federal Government

Social Studies – Grades 7 and 8

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

Part three of this series delves into the function and responsibilities of Canada's federal government. We learn about the branches of government, the Parliamentary System and the Assembly of the First Nations. Appropriate for Grades 5-9. (2011; 20 min.)

Let's Learn About... The Electoral Process

Social Studies – Grades 7 and 8

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

Part four of this series examines the electoral process in Canada and asks: Why vote? What does it mean? Our hosts learn why voting is so important and why it is the right and responsibility of all eligible Canadian citizens. Appropriate for Grades 5-9. (2011; 20 min.)

Pioneer Life in Canada

Social Studies – Grades 4 and 5

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

Michelle, a young modern-day student, is transported back in time to a pioneer village and learns about life in a pioneer settlement, where the pioneers came from, where they settled, and how they worked the land. Tour the village with Michelle and learn about the grist mill, the blacksmith shop, the general store, post office, and the school house. Appropriate for Grades 3-6. (2009; 20 min.)

Provincial and Territorial Symbols

Social Studies – Grades 3 and 4

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

Discover the official symbols and emblems for each of the 13 provinces and territories of Canada. Included are the motto, the provincial/territorial flag, coat of arms, flower, bird, and tree with background information on each particular symbol, its history, why and when it was chosen. Appropriate for Grades 3-6. (2008; 65 min.)

Symbols of Canada

Social Studies – Grades 3 and 4

Formats Available: DVD, Streaming, Downloading

Every country has its own set of unique symbols that establish an identity that sets it apart from other nations in the world. Symbols also tell a story of a nation, its people, environment and history but, perhaps even more important, symbols embody what a nation represents, both to other nations and to its citizens. This video introduces students to the Symbols of Canada. Appropriate for Grades 3-6. (2008; 20 min.)



RESOURCES

New MSVU grad courses in Math Education

Mount Saint Vincent University is offering new graduate courses in math education.

GCRD 6329: Curricular Topics in High School Mathematics, is an examination of current perspectives in mathematics education regarding content knowledge at the high school level. Areas to be reviewed include research on students' development of quantitative, algebraic, spatial, and statistical reasoning. This course aims to support high school mathematics teachers as they implement the new curriculum. Consequently, the course will focus on ways to put theory into practice. The course will be held on Thursday evenings and begins September 4, 2014, 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For further information contact: Dr. Geneviève Boulet, Associate Professor, Genevieve.Boulet@msvu.ca.

GCRD 6357/GFDD 6557: Special Topics: Educational Perspectives on the Nature of Mathematics is an examination of mathematics, as a form of knowledge and a teachable subject, from multiple perspectives, including philosophy of mathematics education, psychology and cognitive science, and the philosophy, history and sociology of mathematics. Students will consider implications of these perspectives for their teaching practice. This course aims to support teachers from P-12 as they plan effective learning experiences for their students. The course will be held on Tuesday evenings, and begins January 5, 2015, 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For further information contact: Eva Knoll, PhD Assistant Professor, Eva.Knoll@msvu.ca.



For detailed information on individual businesses in our Deals & Discounts Program for our NSTU Members (including RTO Members) - go to www.nstu.ca and click on Communications and then Deals & Discounts.

The War Amps
presents
Newsreel of the Week

See history in action by following The War Amps on YouTube as a newsreel from *The Canadian Army Newsreels* series is added every week.

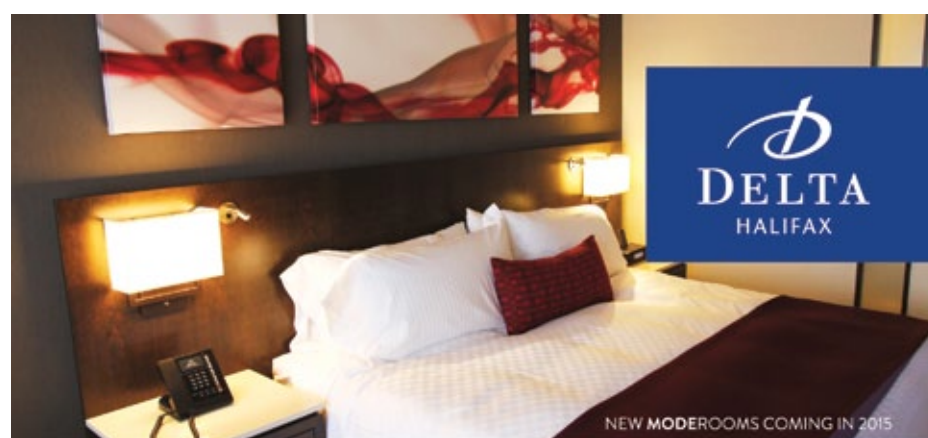
Army cameramen documented Canadian troops in training and on the front lines during the Second World War. They scooped the world on major events, including D-Day.

This collection holds an important place in Canada's history. **Watch, learn and share** these newsreels by visiting youtube.com/warampsofcanada.

The War Amps
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Students and volunteers pack over 7,500 backpacks for at-risk students across Canada



Start2Finish, in partnership with Canadian office solutions provider OfficeMax Grand & Toy, equipped students in low-income communities across the country with a backpack full of school supplies through its Backpack Packing Day event on August 21.

The Start2Finish Backpack Program, in cooperation with school boards and local administrators, identifies children in need and equips them with the tools to help even the playing field and prepare them for a successful school year.

“Our work with Start2Finish is one way our employees, our company and our vendor partners can give back to the communities in which we live and work,” said Marla Allan, Vice President of Human Resources, OfficeMax Grand & Toy. “For our many hundreds of volunteers, the Backpack Program is an important reminder of what is at stake for all of the Canadian children currently living at or below the poverty line. At OfficeMax Grand & Toy, we believe that every child deserves a chance.”

OfficeMax Grand & Toy, as well as volunteers and corporate sponsors, help Start2Finish make this initiative possible by donating time, supplies, and in-kind services.

Experiencing first-hand the positive effects of this initiative, Start2Finish scholarship recipients and program graduates volunteered at this year’s packing event which took place in Dartmouth at the OfficeMax Grand & Toy offices in Burnside. A number of these students were on hand to discuss how Start2Finish made a positive impact in their lives.

This year’s Backpack Packing Days were also held in Toronto and Hamilton involving hundreds of corporate volunteers and community groups packing over 7,500 backpacks with school essentials.

OfficeMax Grand & Toy and Start2Finish have partnered for eight years to support Start2Finish’s mission of breaking the cycle of child poverty by providing ongoing educational support to Canada’s at risk children from Grade 1 through to their graduation from high school.

Journée DE L'ENGAGEMENT DES MEMBRES

VENDREDI

3

VENDREDI

OCTOBRE

Faites connaissance avec
votre représentant du NSTU



Nova Scotia
Teachers Union

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional or NSCC Employee number. Non-members pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word.

To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca

FRENCH LESSONS AVAILABLE IN HALIFAX - Preparation for French assessment for HRSB for French Immersion teacher or Core French private lessons, semi-private or group (maximum four) to our center in Halifax. Check our website for more information <http://www.thefrenchdoctor.com> or call 902-446-5709.

DAYCARE AVAILABLE - Experienced teacher and early childhood educator opening an in-home daycare near MSVU. Two healthy snacks and lunch provided. Located on a quiet, dead-end residential street with a large, fenced backyard. For more details please contact Francine at murdoch1972@hotmail.com or 902-453-2985.

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY - I've moved to a new location! CHRIS BAGNELL, RMT is now located at SPA SOLUTIONS, 657 Portland St., Dartmouth, 902-469-4772. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year per family member with Blue Cross. No referral required.

Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension, fibromyalgia, improving sleep. 10+ years experience. To contact CHRIS for an appointment call... 902-469-4772.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent elementary teacher with HRSB interested in an exchange with a permanent elementary teacher from CBVRSB for 2015-16 school year. Possible permanent exchange desired. If interested, contact djclark@nstu.ca

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Guidance counsellor with the CBVRSB looking for a one year and hopefully permanent exchange with a guidance counsellor, or teacher from AVRBS. Please contact Jennifer at jrmorrison@nstu.ca

FOR RENT - Enjoy the fall splendor in beautiful South West Margaree. Six-bedroom home with all amenities. Weekly rentals only. Enjoy Celtic Colours, Cabot Links Golf Course and breath taking vistas. Call Dave at 902-466-2570.

NSTU members and their families joined NSTU president Shelley Morse for the Annual Labour Day rally and parade, organized by the Halifax-Dartmouth District Labour Council on September 1.



Left to right: NSTU president Shelley Morse, Mike Stewart (retired Lunenburg County), Byron Butt (Lunenburg County), Pam Langille (Kings), Erica Ans and Grant Frost (Halifax County), Pam Mason (Halifax City) and Tanya Chisholm (Halifax County). Missing from photo: Meg Ferguson (Halifax County Local president).

BOOK GIVEAWAY

On behalf of *The Teacher*, these six elementary books have been made available to give away to NSTU members who teach children in Elementary Grades .

To win these books for your school, email your name, home address and school name with **ELEMENTARY** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by **October 5** to be eligible for the draw.

Chung Lee Loves Lobsters – Story by Hugh MacDonald, Illustrated by Glen & Perri Craig

Written by a Poet Laureate of P.E.I., **Chung Lee Loves Lobsters**, published by Acorn Press Canada, is a story of understanding and reason for children for many of life’s different stories and the people who create them.

Owen’s Pirate Adventure – By Patti Larsen, Illustrated by Shaun Patterson

Owen’s Pirate Adventure by Patti Larsen, published by Acorn Press Canada, is a cute and exciting story for all kids that dream of living the Pirate Life. Join Owen as he takes a ride on a real pirate ship, explores the open ocean and meets a sea-monster.

Treasure to Find – By Dale McNevin

This poetic picture book explores the wonders of reading. **Treasures to Find** by Dale McNevin and published by Acorn Press Canada, inspires the thought of reading as endless possibilities and adventure.

Alien Invaders – by Jane Drake & Ann Love, Illustrated by Mark Thurman

Alien Invaders by Jane Drake & Ann Love, published by Tundra Books, teaches children about the many species of animals and plants our world has to offer and the dangers they can cause, where they came from and how to stay safe.

Tallulah the Theatre Cat – By Jennifer Brown

This cute and quirky book with excite the poet inside and the lover of all things artistic. With its witty verses and colourful illustrations, **Tallulah the Theater Cat** by Jennifer Brown and published by Acorn Press Canada, will be a winner at reading time.

Spin to Sea – By Izra Fitch, Cowritten with Doretta Groenendyk

A wonderful story written by 15-year-old Izra Fitch, published by Acorn Press Canada, **Spin to Sea** celebrates the yearly celebration of harvest and family along the South Shore of NS.

