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**NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION** 

**VOLUME 53, NUMBER 6** 

**APRIL 2015** 

## **NSTU participates in International Summit on the Teaching** Profession—Focuses on effective teacher practice and policy

NSTU president Shelley Morse and executive director Joan Ling participated in the 5th International Summit on the Teaching Profession (ISTP 2015) in Banff, Alberta, March 29 and 30. This is the first time the summit was held in Canada.

As an affiliate of the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the NSTU and other teacher organizations across Canada were encouraged to participate in this Summit. Morse and other CTF affiliate representatives were present to ensure that the voice of Canadian teachers was well represented. "Nova Scotia teachers and Canadian teachers believe that a strong publicly funded public education system is essential for democracy," says Morse. "Our education system must work for the good of all through universality, equity, responsiveness and accountability."

The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC), and The Learning Partnership hosted the event in partnership with OECD and Education International under the theme Implementing Highly Effective Teacher Policy and Practice. According to Summit organizers, this theme was in recognition of the challenge of moving from dialogue to action in the context of complex systems and multiple political, economic, and social imperatives.

ISTP brings together education ministers and leaders of teachers' unions and associations from countries and regions with high-performing and rapidly improving education systems to discuss education policy and practice and the teaching profession. Individual teachers, education experts, and a variety of Canadian education stakeholders were in attendance.

The Summit focused on three interrelated topics: developing and promoting effective leadership among principals, teachers, and administrators; valuing teachers and strengthening their sense of effectiveness or self-efficacy; and encouraging innovation in the 21st century classroom.

Morse says issues of privatization, demands on teachers' time, teacher recognition, and fostering equity for all learners were some of the issues promoted through teacher organizations during the Summit.

'We ensured that education policy makers and politicians from across Canada and around the world understood that teacher associations believe that public education must remain independent of privatization," says Morse. "Too much privatization in our sector weakens equity and erodes the concept of education as a public good."

Above is NSTU president Shelley Morse with some Nova Scotia teachers who attended the International Summit on the Teaching Profession held in Banff, Alberta from March 29 and 30. From left to right: Paige Ferguson, Park View Education Centre (SSRSB); Ryan Fougere, Richmond Education Centre/Academy (SRSB); Glenn Thompson, Cobequid Educational Centre (CCRSB); Doreen Milhet, Beechville Lakeside Timberlea School (HRSB, currently seconded to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development); Jill MacDonald, Lawrencetown Consolidated School (AVRSB); Mitzy Grimshaw-Poole, Arcadia Consolidated School (TCRSB); NSTU president Shelley Morse; and Armel Boudreau, École secondaire du Sommet (CSAP). The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development chose these teachers to participate in the Summit.

Morse and her colleagues, including CTF president Dianne Woloschuk reminded fellow participants and policy makers through dialogue that concerns around child poverty, child and youth mental health, gender equity, education in Francophone minority settings and aboriginal education need to be addressed to seek equity for all learners in Canada.

"Each country was to set their three top priorities for the coming year," says Morse. The top priorities set for Canada by the Ministers of Education and union leaders were:

- Focus on teacher leadership and real forms of collaboration with a focus on teacher recognition and career enrichment
- Fostering a climate of innovation that supports deeper learning and practice
- Fostering collective ownership of and responsibility for a climate of high expectations and well-being of all students, which includes: integration of services; engagement of families and communities; and, providing equitable access to fair and inclusive education environments, with a special emphasis on Aboriginal children.

"Education International reported that fewer than one-third of the teachers in the world feel their profession is valued in society, which is appalling," continues Morse. "It's time to follow the lead of countries such as Finland and the province of Manitoba to change this belief. We need to ensure that teacher professionalism is not undermined by promoting the incredible work teachers do and by improving working conditions."

Morse says it was a very worthwhile event. "It was exciting to be part of this Summit, and hear and see firsthand what works in education systems around the world," adds Morse. "This was an important forum to be a part of, and I was happy to include the voice of Nova Scotian and Canadian teachers in dialogue on education transformation.

Morse joined dozens of education ministers, teachers' union leaders, and special guests from Canada and around the world. These included: CTF president Dianne Woloschuk; Chair of CMEC and Alberta's Minister of Education Gordon Dirks; New Zealand's Minister of Education Hekia Parata; US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; Finland's Minister of Education and Science Krista Kiuru; Vice Minister of Education, Peoples' Republic of China Hao Ping; and OECD Deputy Secretary-General Stefan Kapferer.



Implementing Highly Effective Teacher Policy and Practice

Key sessions were facilitated by a number of world-renowned education experts, including: Andreas Schleicher, Director for Education and Skills, OECD; Michael Fullan, OC, Education adviser to the Premier and the Minister of Education of Ontario, and Linda Darling-Hammond, Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education, Stanford University.

"I was disappointed that our education minister and deputy minister were not in attendance at this valuable event, as we worked towards a shared agenda for education reform," concludes Morse. "Public education in Nova Scotia is going through its own reform and it would have been important to see our elected education leader participate in this process."

The Pan Canadian Summit on Education, took place in Banff on

March 28 to provide an opportunity for Canadian education leaders to meet and discuss issues prior to the ISTP. For more information on ISTP visit: http://istp2015.org.





#### Teachers Plus Credit Union continues its support of Education Week



Teachers Plus Credit Union (TPCU) has been the proud sponsor of Nova Scotia's Education Week for a dozen years now. The support of TPCU has helped to raise the profile of the Week and further demonstrated its commitment to public education and to Nova Scotia's teachers. Above is TPCU CEO Steve Richard shown with Education Week 2015 Chairperson Richelle MacLaughlin. MacLaughlin is a member of the Board of Directors of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), and the District 7, Antigonish West School Board Member for the Strait Regional School Board. Both are holding this year's Education Week poster designed by NSTU graphic designer Paul Hamer. NSSBA is one of six organizations that comprise the Education Week Committee. This year's Education Week theme is Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds Open Doors/Les écoles communautaires citoyennes: ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes.

Education Week will be celebrated April 19 to 25 and the awards ceremony will take place on Monday, April 20 at École du Carrefour in Dartmouth.

#### Public Affairs/Public Relations committee meets with education critics

The Public Affairs/Public Relations committee held its final meeting of the 2014-15 school year on March 27. This committee is a merging of the public relations and the public affairs standing committees and has been operating under this configuration for two years. The committee's mandate includes promoting involvement in public affairs by encouraging NSTU members to take an active part in government affairs pertaining to education. It also examines and reviews NSTU public relations and communications programs. Since changes to the Nova Scotia Elections Act, members of this committee can no longer attend political party AGMs. To that end the committee invites MLAs, in particular Education critics and leaders of political parties to meet with them to discuss issues of importance for teachers, Community College members and public education. On March 27, committee members met with the Honourable Pat Dunn, MLA for Pictou Centre, and Education Critic for the Progressive Conservative Party of Nova Scotia. The Honourable Maureen MacDonald, MLA for Halifax Needham, Leader of Nova Scotia's NDP and The Honourable Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA for Chester-St. Margaret's, NDP's Education Critic also met with the committee. Unfortunately no member of the Liberal party of Nova Scotia was able to meet with the committee.



Seated: provincial executive representative Tim MacLeod (Halifax County); Paula Landry (Richmond) and committee chair Keli Brewer (Cape Breton District). Standing: Grant Frost (Halifax County); Roland Hannem (Yarmouth); and Andrew MacIntosh (Halifax City).



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You may find past issues posted on our website: www.nstu.ca

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#### Community College Economic Welfare committee continues to work on asking package

The Community College Economic Welfare Committee (CCEWC) held a two-day meeting March 25 and 26 to continue work on developing an Asking Package for the two Community College Bargaining Units represented by the NSTU, faculty and professional support. To date this committee has met a total of six days since May of last year.

The Community College contract (both faculty and professional support) expired on August 31, 2014. The Nova Scotia

Teachers Union represents close to 1,000 members t h e i n Community College system in both faculty and professional support bargaining units.

Seated (lr): CCEWC chair and



Community College provincial executive representative, Louis Robitaille (Lunenburg Campus, faculty); Damian Hall (Pictou Campus, faculty), Ann Windsor-Hall (Pictou Campus, professional support) and NSTU staff liaison Simon Wilkin. Standing: Community College Local president, Ferne MacLennan (Kingstec, faculty); Mike Kelly (Marconi Campus, faculty); Peggy Joiner (Truro Campus, faculty); Seana Blanchard (Waterfront Campus, professional support); Laurie Dauphinee (Kingstec, faculty); and NSTU president Shelley Morse.

#### **Staff Secondments**

The NSTU welcomes two NSTU members who have been seconded from their positions to work in the member services department of the NSTU.

Louis Robitaille, who has been seconded for a month effective March 23 to work in member services, including providing support for Community College members. Robitaille is currently one of two community college representatives on the provincial executive. He has been an adult educator for over 20 years starting his teaching career at the College in the Pre-Tech for Women Program at the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology in 1992. He then taught similar programs at the Adult Vocational Training Centre Dartmouth and



Akerley Campuses from 1994 to 1996. Starting in the fall of 1996 he taught in the Electronics Assembly Person Program at the Cumberland Campus and then moved to the Lunenburg Campus in 1998 where he remains. He has taught in the Electronic Engineering Technician Program there, and currently teaches related subjects to the trades (math, physics, statistics, and electrical theory). He has a BSc from Waterloo (Co-op Physics Honours), received his BEd from Dalhousie University and has a Master of Science in Physics from Queens University. Prior to his teaching career he was employed with Northern Telecom in Ottawa.



Secondment application forms are available on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca.

To obtain the secondment application form go to the NSTU website:

- Select "The NSTU" from the drop down menu
  - Select "Staff" from the drop down menu
    - Select "Secondments"

Stacy Samson, a member of the CSANE executive has been seconded for a three-month term effective March 26 working in member services for francophone members and taking on duties previously occupied by Janine Kerr, who is currently on maternity leave. She has served on the CSANE executive for the past 13 years and is currently the Local's first vice-president. She was also the vice-president of professional development over 10 years for the Local and has been an NSTU rep at École Beau-Port. Samson will be responsible



for the CSANE Local and Cape Breton-Victoria RRC. She has been a teacher for 19 years and currently teaches Grade 9 French, PDR and Social Studies at École secondaire du Sommet in Bedford. She has also taught at École Bois Joli and École Beau-Port. Samson has also been involved with the NSTU on provincial committees including curriculum and professional committee, and most recently was a member of the Provincial Economic Welfare Committee. She is a native of Isle Madame and has a BEd from the Université de Moncton and has worked towards a Masters of School Administration at the same university.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union seconds active members to meet staffing needs that occur from time to time as the result of a special project/initiative or specific demands of the organization. These members remain as an employee of their school board or the Community College in every respect and the Union reimburses the employer for the cost of salary and benefits.

The NSTU is always updating its secondment file of members interested in being considered for short-term secondments. Only active members with a form on file are eligible to be selected.

Assignments of existing staff may be changed to accommodate changing demands, therefore, seconded positions could be in programs or services caused by the reassignment of staff.

For more info: www.nstu.ca/default.asp?id=190&sfield=content.id&search=168&mn=1.3.69.205

Peadlines for the last two issues of The Teacher are:

May — April 17 AND June — May 29

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- Does your bank send you a cheque for doing business? Check your mailbox in May for your Credit Union Rebate. Please call Teachers Plus Credit Union to find how you can get a spring cheque in 2016.
- Please plan to visit our booth at the Nova Scotia Teachers Annual Council for a sweet treat!

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# Education Week 2015 · April 19 to 25 Schools as Communities Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors



Les écoles communautaires citoyennes:
ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'exprit, ouverture des portes

#### Shelley Morse President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union



On behalf of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and our public school teachers, Community College and APSEA members, I congratulate the teachers and education partners who are making a difference in the lives of students, schools and communities through their commitment to this year's Education Week theme Schools as Communities Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors/ Les écoles communautaires citoyennes: ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes.

Our schools are not only places of learning, but provide the pulse for social and community activism, events and activities. They play an essential role in creating and developing communal spirit. Providing service learning and cooperative education opportunities for students, involving community

groups in enhancing the delivery of curriculum and encouraging students to see and experience the world beyond the school doors are just a few ways teachers open hearts and minds in creating positive global citizens. Teachers and administrators are the pillars of the school who create safe and supportive learning environments. Like Education Week itself, teachers and education partners know the value of partnership and collaboration in providing quality public education for all.

I would also like to acknowledge the longtime support of the Teachers Plus Credit Union, who has been a sponsor of Nova Scotia's Education Week since 2003. It continues to demonstrate its commitment to teachers and public education in Nova Scotia.

Please join me in celebrating the achievements and commitment of this year's Education Week award recipients.

## Honourable Karen Casey Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development



As an educator, I know that schools are the foundation of our communities. Every day teachers open their classrooms to share the knowledge that will help to shape the next generation of Nova Scotians and embody the shared values that make Nova Scotia great.

As a department, we are working collaboratively with teachers, schools, communities and partners to share best practices across boards to improve education as part of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education. To do this we need to continue to work together. As teachers you make a positive difference in the lives of our students every single day. We respect your opinions and we want to hear from

you as we improve education together.

This year's Education Week theme, Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, revolves around the outstanding work being done by our educators to bring students and our communities together. At the heart of every good school are the great teachers and staff that work tirelessly to ensure a safe and inclusive space for everyone. The educators and partners we are honouring this year are champions of student-community engagement. They have done an exemplary job introducing students to the many different opportunities available to them to shape our communities and how vital communities are to their education.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and the betterment of our communities.

#### Gary Clarke President, Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators



On behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations and appreciation to the teachers and educational partners who are being recognized for helping make our schools safe, supportive and socially just learning environments and for extending those environments to the surrounding community. It is important to celebrate the dedication, support and commitment given by these leaders to ensure that our schools are open and welcoming places, while at the same time recognizing that community stakeholders also play an important role in the education of

The 2015 Education Week theme, Schools as Communities:

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors recognizes the importance and responsibility of teachers and partners to support student development by engaging the community through community based learning opportunities. Success in our province is dependent on maximizing the successes and achievements of our students and giving them every opportunity to lead, get involved and make positive contributions to their local community and province. The teachers and partners being acknowledged here today are doing just that.

The Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators is proud and thankful for the contributions of these outstanding individuals being recognized as part of Education Week 2015.

#### **Charla Dorrington**

#### President, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations



The NSFHSA is very proud to be part of Education Week in Nova Scotia.

To have an avenue that allows our communities and education partners the opportunity to recognize those who contribute to education in Nova Scotia is something that is very important to us all.

We often forget that some of life's most important lessons are taught in our classrooms and within our communities. The school communities our children are part of are just as important as the families they come from. This year's theme speaks volumes to what we as Nova Scotians

want for our children.

We want our children to be social activists for change, have a voice and offer democratic views, to have a social outlet where they feel safe and part of a community. All parents want the education their children receive to open their minds and to experience spiritual awakening. Our children will face so many changes during their lives, and if you truly think about it they spend more time in school and in our communities than they do at home with us. I personally feel the relationships we build with role models who are part of that day to day life with our children deserve to be recognized and acknowledged.

It is my pleasure to thank not just the recipients of this year's awards but all who contribute to our future by encouraging, supporting, guiding and teaching our children who will be the teachers of tomorrow. Congratulations!

#### Pierre Lebreton

#### Président, Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse



Le thème de la Semaine de l'éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse, «Les écoles communautaires citoyennes: ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes», souligne très bien le travail exceptionnel des éducateurs et des communautés acadiennes et francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Les écoles communautaires citoyennes sont un concept que nous connaissons depuis plusieurs années et que nous favorisons pour la pérennité de la langue et de la culture acadienne dans nos communautés.

Le proverbe «Ça prend tout un village pour élever un enfant» décrit bien le sentiment dans nos communautés. Le bâtiment de l'école n'est qu'une structure. Il faut des gens, non seulement de l'environnement scolaire pour

l'alimenter, mais des gens de nos communautés qui vont aussi faire rayonner nos enfants à leur plein potentiel.

Les communautés acadiennes et francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse sont uniques car il y en a plusieurs qui intègrent un centre communautaire dans l'édifice de l'école. C'est un lieu de rassemblement pour la communauté où elle peut vivre en français et faire vivre sa langue et sa culture. Les enseignants, les parents, le personnel de soutien, les centres communautaires, les agents de développement scolaire et communautaire jouent tous un rôle primordial dans l'enseignement des élèves, tant dans le contexte scolaire et que dans la vie de tous les jours.

C'est en assurant une collaboration entre tous les partenaires que nous saurons assurer un milieu propice pour l'apprentissage de nos élèves et une relève pour nos communautés acadiennes et francophones qui durera des décennies.

En cette semaine de l'éducation je lève mon chapeau à tous les éducateurs et parents qui œuvrent sans cesse pour le bien être de nos enfants, malgré les défis qui se présentent au quotidien. La Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse reconnait l'effort et le temps consacré pour encourager les jeunes à vivre leur langue et leur culture et à assurer leur continuité.

#### Susan Ritchie President, Nova Scotia School Boards Association



On behalf of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), I extend sincere congratulations to the Education Week 2015 Award Recitients.

Teachers make a difference every day in both the classroom and the community they serve. This year's theme, Schools as communities: Open hearts, open minds, open doors gives us an opportunity to celebrate the work done by educators and dedicated volunteers across the province. Our award recipients have demonstrated their dedication to their school communities, and we are pleased to see them recognized for their work.

The NSSBA believes in working together to provide equitable access to education for all students across the province. Recognizing schools as

communities allows us to find ways to work together to provide opportunities for the youth of Nova Scotia. Opening hearts, minds and doors in our school communities brings us together to collaborate and support students.

All of the individuals being recognized with an Education Week. Award have shown their dedication to supporting student development by engaging their communities. Service learning, community projects and co-operative education are all examples of connecting students with their communities.

Once again I would like to congratulate all of the award recipients for their commitment to the students of Nova Scotia.

#### 2015 Candidate for 1st Vice-President

#### **Wally Fiander**

In 1995 I earned my Bachelor's degree in Education at the Nova Scotia Teachers College in Truro. During my years there, I was actively involved in a campaign against the government of the time to prevent the closure of the NSTC. While we were not successful, my passion for the power of a union was born. I realized then the need and importance for positive leadership in education.

Since then, I have taught at Yarmouth High School. In my second probationary year, I began to attend

Local meetings as an NSTU school representative. That spring, the government set its budget on the back of education. For me it meant receiving notice that my services would no longer be required. This motivated me to take an active role with the NSTU. While very uncomfortable at the time, I grew in my confidence and capabilities as an NSTU leader. The next year I was elected vice-president of Economic Welfare and I have continued to have growing leadership roles within the NSTU to date.

Over the next year we will be entering into what appears to be a set of difficult negotiations. My long-standing history and active involvement with the NSTU have shown that I am able to make difficult decisions when I need to, but also that I am prepared to push back if the situation warrants it.

To continue to move forward with success in improving working conditions in schools we will need strong experience in our leadership. We will need tireless, efficient leaders with a firm background in negotiations and a thorough understanding of our rights and how and why we fought so hard to achieve what we now have. The past two decades have provided me with continuous learning and hands-on opportunities as well as first-hand valuable experience in these fields. I have served to protect our collective interests through some hard times and I have proven my ability as an experienced leader in several levels of our organization, so I look forward to continuing my work as your First Vice-President.

I am now asking that you allow me the opportunity to continue in my efforts with the NSTU and work on your behalf. I am confident that I will be an effective voice for teachers going into these upcoming negotiations as well as at the Provincial Executive

At Annual Council 2015, I ask that you choose a proven effective leader as your next Vice-President. Two decades of union activism has given me valuable knowledge and insight that one can only gain from experience.

Please vote for me, Wally Fiander.

#### The Provincial Education Week Committee congratulates all recipients of this year's

# Education Week 2

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board Dave Galloway, Horton High School Johnny Marshall, Bridgetown Regional High Karen Wallace, Falmouth District School

Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board Elizabeth Sehl, Dr. T. L. Sullivan Junior High Clara Wadman, Glace Bay High School

Chignecto-Central Regional School Board Shana MacPherson, Debert Elementary Karri Ann Noel, West Pictou Consolidated School Kathy Wells, Cumberland North Academy

Conseil scolaire acadien provincial **Lianne Comeau,** École secondaire de Clare Chantal Samson-Haley, École Beau-Port

**Eric Shantz,** École Bois-Joli Halifax Regional School Board

**Gilles Boudreau**, Brookhouse Elementary **Brian DeMone**, Sackville Heights Junior High **Laura Kennedy,** Sir Charles Tupper Elementary

South Shore Regional School Board **Sandra Himmelman,** Hebbville Academy **Cameron Strong,** North Queens Community School

Strait Regional School Board **Robert MacDonald, Richmond Education Centre/** Academy

**Mike MacIsaac,** St. Mary's Education Centre/ Academy

**Tiffany MacNeil,** H.M. MacDonald Elementary **Rob Ryan,** Tamarac Education Centre







Tri-County Regional School Board

Adam Aldred, Barrington Municipal High School **Karen Shupe,** Digby Elementary Stephanie Wallace, Carleton Consolidated Elementary

**Partner Awards** 

**John Cochrane**, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

**Andrea Huskilson,** Nova Scotia Schools Boards Association

**Danielle McNeil-Hessian,** Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators

**Katie St-Martin,** Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse

**Diane Power,** Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations







#### 2015 Candidate for CTF Delegate

#### **Mark Savoury**

#### **OFFICES HELD:**

#### **Local Experience (Dartmouth):**

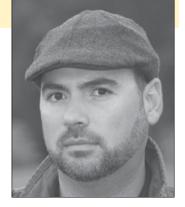
- President
- VP of Public Affairs/Public Relations
- Member-at-Large
- School Rep
- Chair of Local Nominating Committee
- Chair of Local Public Affairs/Public **Relations Committee**
- Regional Electoral Officer for multiple Local votes
- Annual Council Delegate (last 9 years)

#### Regional (Halifax Regional **Representative Council):**

- Chair of Halifax Regional Representative Council
- Co-Chair of Regional Management **Teacher Committee**
- Chair of Regional Class Climate Committee
- Chair of Regional Public Affairs/ **Public Relations Committee**

#### **Provincial:**

**Provincial Executive Member** (2 terms)



#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

#### Local (Dartmouth):

- Resolutions Committee member
- Nominating Committee member
- PA/PR Committee member

#### **Regional (Halifax Regional Representative Council):**

- Grievance Committee member
- Chair of Regional Public Affairs/ **Public Relations Committee**

#### **Provincial:**

- **Provincial Economic Welfare** Committee (PEWC) member
- Personnel Committee member
- Nominating Committee member
- **Public Affairs Committee** (Provincial Executive Liaison)
- **Public Relations Committee** (Provincial Executive Liaison)

#### Why do I want to be a CTF delegate?

Since beginning my career as a teacher in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, I have become increasingly involved in unionism at the local, regional and provincial levels. I have enjoyed every role that I have taken on, within the NSTU, and I have gained invaluable experience. I have also learned a tremendous amount in terms of the complexities of educating, leading, and inspiring our members, while also working behind the scenes to lobby, negotiate, represent and stand up for them too. I feel that it is only natural that I now expand my knowledge and skills by getting involved at the national level and that journey begins as a CTF delegate.

Since 1920, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) has been the national voice of teachers in promoting quality education, the status of teachers and equality of opportunity through education. They work on behalf of over 200,000 members in Canada and offer valuable assistance, programs and opportunities for all of us. It wasn't until I served on the Provincial Executive that I learned about how much we (the NSTU) rely on the research that CTF does, to ensure that we know what is happening in other provinces. This helps us tremendously when we prepare for bargaining with the provincial government. They also have a proud tradition of offering phenomenal opportunities to teachers through programs like Project Overseas.

I have a strong track record that has been built on honesty, integrity, hard work and my ability to connect with and lead others. If chosen for this position I will bring all these attributes to the role while also harnessing my energy, creativity and willingness to learn. I thank you for your consideration and I hope you will lend me your support.

#### **2015 NSTU CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES**



NSTU Annual Council 2015 delegates running for Council Committees (First Vice-President, CTF Delegate, Discipline Committee, Professional Committee, and Resolutions Committee) have until **April 22** for the May issue of *The Teacher*.

The information should be given or sent directly to The Teacher office at theteacher@nstu.ca.

Complete Campaign Guidelines are found here: www.nstu.ca/default.asp?id=190&sfield=content. id&search=600&mn=1.373.375.385





#### Charting Your Course for Empathy, Self Regulation and Resiliency

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

I had the opportunity to join 9,000 plus educators at the 70th Annual Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development Conference (ASCD) over the March Break. Educators had the opportunity to learn, share and grow together. There were over 350 sessions offered to support all educators in their needs, interests and practices. I attended a full-day session on the development of self-regulation, empathy and resilience along with many workshops on topics such as Differentiated Instruction and Assessment and Supporting New Teachers. I am unable to provide an overview of all sessions within this article; however, my full-day session left me with a lot to think about and act upon in support of students, teachers and school communities

The full-day session with Dr. Bob Sornson on Developing Self-Regulation, Empathy and Resilience was of great interest to educators around the world. Many educators have noticed that more children are coming to school lacking the ability to self-regulate, showcase empathy and practice resilience.

As a new teacher, 28 years ago, I taught a Primary, Grade 1/2 multi-aged classroom. The majority of students arrived with the foundation of self-regulation skills in place. Children develop the foundational skills of self-regulation in the first five years of life. (Blair, 2000). I joined parents and guardians in supporting students' ongoing development of empathy, self-regulation and resilience.

Currently, I now enter classrooms across this province where I see teachers working with large numbers of students who have little or no self-regulation, who are unable to understand the feelings of others and who are frustrated in completing simple tasks. Teachers are now asked to focus more in these areas to assist children in self-regulation. Children who are able to self-regulate are able to calm themselves and persist, even if things are difficult or boring. They focus on the right things, delay gratification, are able to calm themselves, notice the feelings of others and respect adult authority. Regulating one's thinking, emotions and behaviour is critical for success in school, work and life. (Mind in Making, 2010).

Throughout the session, we discussed how to raise, support and teach resilient children. Many of the suggestions reminded me of my own upbringing and school years. At home and in school we should ensure the following variables exist: clear consistent routines; use of respectful speech rather than arguing; opportunities for thinking time; ensure that children have responsibility for chores and completion of tasks; notice positive behaviours more than negative ones; teach children to solve problems on their own; celebrate mistakes and learn from them and most importantly model self-regulation and resilience. Simple, but it takes the effort and commitment of parents and teachers to persevere and to follow through.

Later in the session we discussed the social emotional skill that precedes all



Betty-Jean Aucoin (far right) is shown with Dr. Sornson (front middle) and NSTU member Jeanne Rhodenizer (back row, far right) and North American colleagues at the ASCD conference.

others: Empathy. Children who learn empathy are able to connect appropriately to others. They care about how others feel and help one another in good times and in bad. Children who are able to empathize with others showcase positive social skills and are successful in school, work and life.

One of the needs of empathy is security. The home and school environments need spaces that provide children security. We need opportunities for children to hear stories of others and how others feel. Children who show empathy are more often willing to stand up for their peers and for themselves. We want children to feel for others and to react in supporting them when they are hurting or being bullied.

Children who develop self-regulation,

resilience and empathy are leaders in our schools, our communities and beyond. As educators and school communities, it is imperative that we join together in understanding how children learn and sustain these critical social emotional skills. It is also important that we impart this knowledge to the home and school community to ensure all children have the opportunity to learn from their first teacher—their parent or guardian. As a parent, I thank the many teachers who join me throughout the school year to provide guidance and support to my son. As a teacher, I acknowledge that his success, and the success of all children, relies on both foundations of home and school.



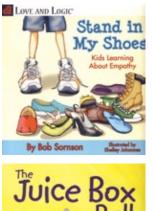
Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 24 to be eligible for the draw.

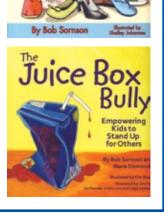
This month's PD book giveaway features two juvenile fiction books by Dr. Bob Sornson, who is the founder of the Early Learning Foundation. He is a former teacher and administrator, now best-selling author and international speaker, trainer, and consultant. The work of Sornson is highlighted in this month's Charting Your Course for Professional Development column above.

*The Juice Box Bully* is a great resource in helping to teach social skills in the early elementary setting. It helps to teach children about the dangers of bullying and standing up for themselves and others.

Stand in My Shoes helps kids learn about empathy. Through the story presented children are given the opportunity to see how it feels to step inside another person's shoes and understand their feelings.

Both *The Juice Box Bully* and *Stand in My Shoes* are published by Ferne Press.





# EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

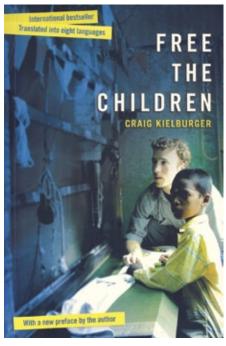
Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 24 to be eligible for the draw.

**Free the Children** by Craig Kielburger

This month's Equity book giveaway, *Free the Children*, is a moving story of the transformation of a regular, middle-class kid from the suburbs to an activist fighting against child labour on the world stage of international human rights.

Kielburger and his organization *Free* the Children, which he founded at the age of 12, have brought unprecedented attention to the worldwide abuse of children's rights.

Free the Children is an amazing story that shows us how children and young adults have the power to change the world as witnessed by so many people—through the achievements of one remarkable young man.



# DEVELOPING SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

## Cognitive Coaching® for Educational Leaders

Mount Allison University Sackville, NB

July 6-9, 2015

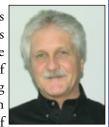
An Instructional Leadership Institute

Sponsored by:

New Brunswick Department of Education and Early Childhood Development New Brunswick Teachers' Association Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation Nova Scotia Teachers Union Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association Nunavut Teachers' Association

# Institute Resource Person JOHN CLARKE

John Clarke has facilitated programs that promote the development of enhanced teaching practice, the creation and maintenance of



positive and successful school cultures and the establishment of quality work environments. He has been a trainer, facilitator and presenter for schools, school districts and professional organizations across Canada, the United States and Australia for 25 years.

John is a Training Associate for Thinking Collaborative (www.thinkingcollaborative.com), offering "Adaptive Schools" and "Cognitive Coaching" Seminars to schools, school districts and organizations. John also, presently, works with school districts to create long term professional development plans aimed at student achievement, enhanced teacher practice and organizational success.

#### **Special Qualifications**

John has over 30 years experience as a counsellor, teacher and principal at the Junior and Senior High School levels. He holds a Master's Degree in counselling psychology.

#### Program Overview

#### Cognitive Coaching<sup>®</sup> for Educational Leaders

The mission of Cognitive Coaching® is to produce self-directed persons with the cognitive capacity for excellence both independently and as members of a community. Research indicates that teaching is a complex intellectual activity and that teachers who think at higher levels produce students who are higher achieving, more cooperative, and better problem solvers. It is the invisible skills of teaching, the thinking processes that underlie instructional decisions, which produce superior instruction. Cognitive Coaching® is a research-based model that capitalizes upon and enhances teachers' cognitive processes.

In the seminar, participants learn how to:

- develop trust and rapport
- develop an identity as a mediator of thinking
- utilize conversation structures for planning, reflecting and problem resolving
- develop teachers' autonomy and sense of community
- develop higher levels of efficacy, consciousness, craftsmanship, flexibility and interdependence
- apply four support functions: coaching, evaluating, consulting, collaborating
- utilize the coaching tools of pausing, paraphrasing, and posing questions
- distinguish among the five forms of feedback
- use data to mediate thinking

These sessions will be a continuation of the Cognitive Coaching work offered in 2014 but will be tailored to also provide powerful, "quality added" thinking and skills for educators who are attending for the first time (or who were unable to attend last year). This work focuses on building capacity and enhancing practice.

This Institute is intended for School/District and other educational administrators from Atlantic Canada. A total of 60 participants will be accepted. Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations - registration fee is \$300. All others \$400.

For Nova Scotia registration information, contact:

BETTY-JEAN AUCOIN

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Professional Development,

3106 Joseph Howe Drive,

Halifax, N.S.

B3L 4L7

Phone: 902-477-5621 / 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free in N.S.)

Fax: 902-477-3517

Email: bjaucoin@staff.nstu.ca

# fresh

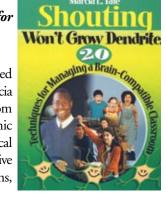
#### Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 24 to be eligible for the draw.

Shouting Won't Grow Dendrites — 20 Techniques for Managing a Brain-Compatible Classroom

by Marcia L. Tate

The number one issue for both new teachers and experienced educators is Classroom management. Best-selling author, Marcia L. Tate shows that, with appropriate planning, a classroom manager can reduce learning problems and increase academic achievement. She demonstrates how to cultivate a physical classroom environment conducive to learning, develop a proactive classroom management plan, deliver brain-compatible lessons, and deal with chronic behaviour problems.



This reader-friendly guide covers the use of lighting, music, humour, constructive conversations, movement, classroom rituals, and parental support to actively engage students in a positive way.

Each chapter follows a consistent structure and contains: A clear definition of the strategy; numerous sample classroom applications and reflective activities for creating your own strategies.

The book is sure to be an essential resource for all teachers.







#### **Attention Teachers:**

- All the acupuncture treatments are performed by Dr. (TCM) Wei Yuan and Tom Tian from China with more than twenty years of clinic experience.
- With what can our treatment help you?
  - **Stress management:** including depression, anxiety, insomnia.
  - Acute and chronic pain treatment: headache & migraine, neck and shoulder pain, back pain, tennis elbow, arthritis and many more.
  - ► Sport injury and car accident injury
  - Health maintenance program to promote your energy level.

Your treatment is 80% covered by your health benefit under acupuncture and direct billing to Blue Cross is available. So arrange a time to visit us, you deserve a healthier and happier life. Call **902-444-3111** to make an appointment. The clinic is located at 6021 Young Street (at Robie Street). You can also visit the website at **www.istoppain.ca** to get more information.



#### **TEACH in CHINA**

China Maple Leaf Educational Systems www.mapleleafschools.com

Maple Leaf International Schools currently offer the BC Global Education Program in seven cities located throughout China. CMLES is the first and largest BC offshore school system in China with more than 6500 students registered as BC students in seven high schools and two K-9 Foreign Nationals Schools. Our schools are certified to offer the BC curriculum, fully taught in English by over 300 BC certified teachers. Join our team!

Now Hiring New and Experienced Teachers in all Subject Areas and Experienced ESL Teachers for September 2015.

Our teachers receive competitive salary and benefits including paid holidays, medical insurance and yearly travel to and from China.

For More Information Contact:
Archie MacEachern, MEd
Eastern Canada Recruitment Representative
archie@mapleleafschools.com



# **Healthy Legs and Feet**

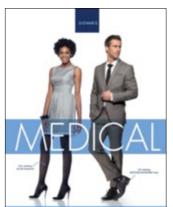
by Lisa Shebib C.Ped., Comfort Orthotics & Podiatry Clinic

As educators, you focus on your students. As a result of your dedication, your own needs are often neglected. This article is to explain the importance of maintaining healthy legs and feet. There are a number of things you can do to help reduce the symptoms of some conditions and help in the prevention of possible future problems regarding your legs and feet.

#### **Your Legs**

In your workplace, many employees stand or sit for extended periods of time. The function of standing/sitting for long periods of time over the accumulation of years of work, can lead to a variety of symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms may include: Heaviness and Fatigue, Edema, Varicose Veins, Skin Changes or even Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT). The following are tips that will assist you in maintaining healthy legs.

- Avoid sitting or standing for long periods of time. Our circulation improves with physical activity, so GET UP! Take a short walk, climb stairs, or make an effort to move around the office and at home. Avoid prolonged sitting or standing as this may increase leg pain and swelling.
- After a long tiring day, especially during the summer, revitalize your legs with a cool shower or bath. Avoid extended exposure to heat from sunbathing, hot baths, or the sauna as excessive heat will cause your veins to dilate and may induce swelling.
- Elevate your legs. To boost your body's natural circulation, elevate your legs while you are sitting on the sofa or lying in bed at home. At the office, keep a leg rest under your desk.
- Work out. Regular exercise helps keep your body healthy. Some sports are better for improving circulation, such as swimming, walking, biking and yoga.
- Control your weight. When you manage your weight through a healthy diet and regular exercise, you are more likely to have less leg symptoms and/or less
- Wear graduated compression socks and stockings. Quality compression socks and stockings improve venous circulation to prevent and treat venous problems.



Compression stockings are available in an assortment of products designed to fit your lifestyle. These products can help improve your circulation, increase your energy and aid in keeping your legs healthy. Your physician will prescribe the right level of compression for you and a Certified Compression Fitter will measure your legs and help you find the type of material best suited for you.

Patients who benefit from graduated compression include:

- People who stand or sit for long periods of time
- People who have been prescribed anticoagulants
- People who travel
- Women who are pregnant
- People who have had a Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)
- People who experience swelling in their legs and feet
- People with varicose and/or spider veins

#### **Your Feet**

Your foot health can have a big impact on both your professional and personal life. Day to day tasks are certainly more difficult when you feel discomfort with every step you take, or you know that by 2 p.m. your feet will scream "We have had enough."

If you are experiencing foot pain, it is important to know the cause of the pain to determine how to best treat it. The best place to start is either with your family physician or a visit to a podiatrist. Both of these professionals can assess, diagnose and prescribe a treatment. Depending on the condition, physicians often recommend patients see a pedorthists for orthotics or orthopedic footwear. In other cases they may refer to a podiatrist to have them diagnose and prescribe the best treatment plan.

Some of the common conditions foot professionals can assist with include:

- Injuries
- Heel Spurs
- Arthritis
- Calluses / Corns
- Nail Care Warts
- Diabetes
- Metatarsalgia Hammer Toes
- Bunions
- Ingrown toe nails
- And more
- Plantar Fasciitis
- Morton's Neuroma
- Leg Length Differences
- Ulcer Care
- Fungal conditions

Treatments for these conditions may include: orthotics, orthopedic footwear, footwear modifications, exercises, minor office procedures, foot care, etc. Pedorthists and Podiatrists are allied health professionals and work with your physician to ensure you receive the best possible care.

Your choice of footwear also plays a big role in your foot health. It is important to select your footwear carefully. When seeing a foot specialist like a pedorthist or podiatrist, they will be able to provide you with information regarding the footwear that will work best to meet your specific needs. The information below is a general guideline to follow when selecting footwear.

#### Selecting Footwear

- Wear footwear appropriate for the activity. On occasion when dress shoes must be worn, limit excessive walking.
- Lace-up shoes provide more support than slip on shoes.
- *Fit for your largest foot* Many people have one foot larger than the other.
- Replace footwear as required Many people wear shoes long after they wear out. Factors such as activity, walking surfaces, and weight, will affect the life of
- Ensure the shape of the shoe matches the shape of your foot Make sure the widest part of your foot (the ball) fits comfortably into the widest part of the shoe.
- Shoes should be as wide as your feet and up to (3/8 - 1/2) inch longer. When shoes do not fit correctly, their function is compromised and flex points will not match your foot anatomy.
- Shoe sizes are not standardized. Sizes vary between all shoe brands and styles. A size 9 from one shoe manufacturer might fit like a size 8 from another. Don't rely on the size marked on the shoe.
- The shape of the shoe should match the shape of your foot.
- Shop for shoes at the end of the day During the day feet often swell.
- The arch area of the shoe should be strong and supportive, it should never bend. You should not be able to compress the heel counter (back of the shoe) or easily twist the shoe.
- Shop at shoe stores that offer a good selection of sizes and widths.
- **Properly trained staff** will ensure a good fit.
- Shoes with removable insoles allow for full length orthotics should they be required.

If you have already taken a step forward in addressing your foot and leg health – Congratulations!

If you would like additional information, there is help available. Quite often the issue is finding the time. As educators, you know the value of information and we understand the challenges you face in finding the time to take care of your foot and leg health.

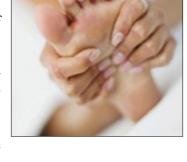
#### Information Session:

Help is just a call away. As a team of certified health professionals (Podiatrist, Pedorthist and a Sigvaris Compression Fitter) we are pleased to offer schools in the Halifax Region a "Foot and Leg Health Education" session at your school. This is an information session only. Products will not be sold at these sessions. If you would like to schedule a session for your school please contact Lisa at Comfort Orthotics & Podiatry on the Second level in the Sunnyside Mall in Bedford 902-835-7463 or comfortorthotics@ *eastlink.ca* to arrange a date and time.

If you are outside the Halifax area, we are happy to contact professionals in your area to arrange a similar service.

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

Click on >> Communications >> NSTU Publications >> The Teacher >> The Well Teacher



# NSTU Leader Profile CINDY MacKINNON - Pictou NSTU Provincial Executive

Cindy MacKinnon is known around the provincial executive table for her thoughtful, calm and patient demeanor. These traits are essential in teaching early elementary students, but are also important in deliberating and debating challenges facing public education in Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

When you visit MacKinnon's Grade 1 classroom at A.G. Baillie Elementary School in New Glasgow you get the sense that she's running a pet store on the side. Over the last decade her classroom has been home to chicks raised from fertilized eggs, hamsters, fish, frogs and butterflies. "The care of living things is part of the Grade 1 science curriculum, and children can learn firsthand about the lifecycle of animals and caring for them," she says.

It is the chicks in the classroom that are very memorable to MacKinnon and her students. "The first year we tried it, only one of the fertilized eggs hatched, and that chick, who was actually a rooster stayed in the classroom for two months and became a class pet," she continues. "Once Slick started to crow it was time to send him back to the farm. He really loved our reading circle time."

She has been an early elementary teacher for 32 years and has been teaching at A.G. Baillie School since the 2001-02 school year. She has always taught for schools

now under the jurisdiction of the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board, including positions in Truro, Tatamagouche and West Pictou.

She met NSTU's first vice-president Alison MacPherson, who happens to teach Grade Primary at A. G. Baillie, during a first stint of teaching at her current school many years ago. "When I got my permanent contract 15 years ago, I started getting involved with the Union as a rep," she says.

MacPherson and former Chignecto RRC Chair John Sperdakes, who has since retired, got her involved in the Pictou Local. "They were needing a vice-president of communications for the Local, and I said I'd take it." And... she's never looked back.

She was also the VP of PD for her Local, VP of Economic Welfare and became Local president nine years ago, a position she held for close to five years, before joining the provincial executive during the 2011-12 school year. Her provincial executive term ends on July 31, 2015.

MacKinnon has found it very fulfilling to be part of the provincial executive, not only for her own professional career, but in assisting colleagues in navigating

through the teaching profession in Nova Scotia. "I really love the collaborative aspect of the executive table," she says.

While president of the Pictou Local she, along with then Colchester-East Hants president Gerry Alley and Cumberland president Pat Hillier, worked cooperatively in serving members of the Chignecto RRC. All three served together on the provincial executive for three years and both Hillier and MacKinnon are serving out their last year together. "Former NSTU president Alexis Allen used to call us the three musketeers," she jokes. "That collaboration and common vision was a great primer for my role on the provincial executive."

In her provincial executive role she has been liaison for the professional development, curriculum, nominating, and professional association coordination committees. Currently she is a member of the governance and policy committee. "I was also the provincial executive liaison for the ad hoc committee on member engagement," she makes sure to add.

"It was very rewarding to be a part of that experience and get our members' views on their union. It was a very important aspect of the work we should be doing as involved NSTU members."

Her provincial executive leadership role has been really rewarding "The biggest thing I will take away with me from my time as a provincial executive member is the collegiality I've been part of, getting to know colleagues from around the province and networking."

While she has witnessed similarities with teaching colleagues and their challenges in Nova Scotia, "My eyes were opened to the differences that exist in our province. When I finally sat around the provincial executive table, I started to realize how diverse the province is culturally, and how that affects public education. What works in one area won't work in another."

She believes that the culture impacts the delivery of education. "Even with a thread of common issues, there are great differences between delivery in urban and rural Nova Scotia."

She sees some continued challenges for the NSTU in the area of engaging with members and ensuring that the organization remains relevant. She believes, like members have said in the NSTU member engagement survey that, "Continued communication, especially face-to-face delivery will become more important in making and maintaining relationships."

She also wants members to realize that the provincial executive body continually strives to meet member needs. "We need the voices of teachers to be heard and we do hear them, and I will continue to carry out this in any way I can."

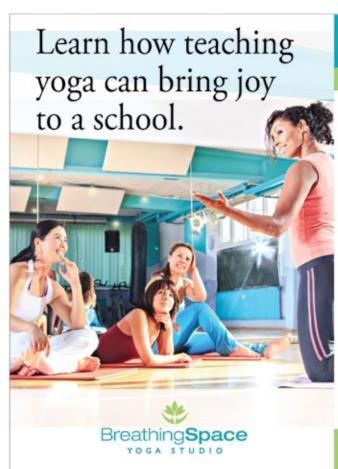
While she knows there has been much degradation of teachers in the media in the past few months through the Minister's action plan for education and the controversy over lost school days from weather, she believes that teachers will continue to carry on. "As a teacher I am always trying to look at things in a positive light. We do this for our students and we need to do this for our profession too. We need to continue to promote the good that teachers provide."

When she finishes her term in her current leadership role she admits that she'll miss not being as involved. "I've become a better decision maker through my experience at

the provincial executive table," she says. "It has made me ask more questions, be more curious and more of a thinker and look at all aspects of my teaching in a more strategic way."

She will continue to be involved in the NSTU in some way, whether it's applying to be on a provincial committee or fulfilling a role at her Local if needed. "I will always try and contribute in some way, and will continue to encourage others to learn more about and get involved with the NSTU."





#### Yoga in Schools New Summer Conference

4 days that inspires growth, connection and inner peace.

This conference offers workshops for every level: from the curious beginner to the certified yoga instructor. Workshop titles include: Introduction to Yoga, Yoga Grade 11, Yoga for Special Needs and Autism, NEW Girl on Fire Empowerment Program, NEW Mindfulness Manual, Yoga and Story telling as well as multi-level posture classes

THIS SUMMER CONFERENCE WILL LEAVE YOU FEELING REFRESHED, RENEWED AND INSPIRED.

Conference Leaders:

Jenny Kierstead, author of 6 yoga school programs and award-winning educator, is founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studios. She is currently piloting her NEW Girl on Fire Program in NB schools.

Blair Abbass has been teaching meditation and stress reduction for students and teachers for over 25 years and was the first teacher to bring Yoga 11 to HRSB. He is currently piloting a program using his NEW Mindfulness Manual.

Leading Educators and Guest Speakers soon to be announced!

Who can attend: This program is suitable for all teachers/specialist especially Phys.Ed., support staff and guidance.

Date(s) & Time: July 20th-23rd, 2015; 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. each day.

Location: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax

Fee: \$ 500.00 + HST (check local PD for funding)

Register early to secure your spot! Call 902.444.YOGA or email info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca to register.

"My overall health, relationships & teaching practices have been influenced by this training. Be prepared for a life altering workshop!"

- Tanya Thibeau, Yoga in Schools Graduate

#### Mock Annual Council highlight of NSTU/StFX

collaboration

On March 12, St. Francis Xavier University pre-service teachers experienced how the Nova Scotia Teachers Union conducts its Annual Council through a "mock council".

This was the tenth installment of the event, which is part of an ongoing unique collaboration between the NSTU and St. Francis Xavier University's School of Education.



This tradition has been part of the NSTU University liaison program with StFX which was developed to teach soon to be teachers about unionism and the role teacher organizations play in developing the teaching profession. Student participants organize themselves into Locals, and research, write, and present resolutions that fall under a number of categories including curriculum and governance. Executive staff officer Jack MacLeod was the acting chair residing over the Mock Council, and executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin, who organizes the program on behalf of the NSTU was there, along with StFX School of Education faculty to help facilitate the process.



Executive staff officer Jack MacLeod is shown chairing the StFX/NSTU Mock Council.



# GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

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

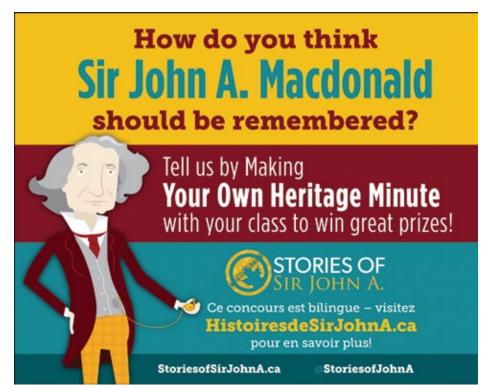
If you, your class, or your colleagues have ideas to share with other teachers, classrooms and campuses in Nova Scotia, get a Sheonoroil Project

Application Form from sheonoroil.nstu.ca



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

Deadline—April 10, 2015



# Reducing Stigma, Promoting Resilience: Population Health Intervention for LGBTQ Youth

The Department of Health Promotion at Dalhousie University is conducting a research study titled Reducing Stigma, Promoting Resilience: Population Health Intervention for LGBTQ Youth, and is seeking input from teachers and administrators for the research. NSTU members are invited to participate in this online survey addressing the needs, concerns and issues facing LGBTQ students and staff if you have not already done so.

The purpose of this study is to gain a better understanding of the needs, concerns and issues facing sexual orientation and gender identity minority students, teachers and staff. To do this, study participants are asked a number of questions relating to their perception of school and community environments, understanding of policies, knowledge or professional development options, and use of resources.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw at any time by simply closing your web browser.

It is estimated that it will take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

Links to the survey are provided below:

English: https://surveys.dal.ca/opinio/s?s=26958 French: https://surveys.dal.ca/opinio/s?s=27379

#### **2nd Annual Inspire Awards**

Halifax County Local's Second Annual Inspire Awards presentation took place November 20, 2014 at the Ramada Inn in Dartmouth. Halifax County Local teachers are nominated by their colleagues for their excellence in teaching, passion, community-mindedness, and positive effect they have on their colleagues. Eight awards are given to the general membership and two outstanding NSTU school representatives. NSTU president Shelley Morse brought greetings on behalf of the NSTU provincial body at the event.



From left to right, back row: Andrew Ardley, Ocean View Elementary; Roberta Jones, Holland Road Elementary; Shauna Higgins, Musquodoboit Rural High; Jacqueline McCormick, Astral Drive Elementary; Meghan O'Neill, Ridgecliff Middle School; and Mark Blades, Sackville Heights Junior High. Front row: Heather Ryan, Oyster Pond Academy; and from Sackville Heights Junior High, Tanya Mercer, Heidi Betyna and Janice Leger-MacKendrick.



# HOP INTO SPRING WITH A DELTA VACATION

Indulge in some rest and relaxation with your NSTU Leisure Rate! Starting at \$98/night (plus taxes)

RESERVATIONS: 1-800-268-1133

Based on single/double occupancy per night and includes self-parking for \$9.95, complimentary local and long-distance access fees, and HSIA. NSTU card must be presented upon check-in.

#### **Teachers who make a difference**

#### Reanne Comeau-Shantz

When Reanne Comeau-Shantz found out that she was recognized as a teacher who makes a difference it, "really lifted my spirits." She had heard about the campaign, had seen the poster in her school and read about it in *The Teacher*, but never imagined she'd be nominated and chosen as one of nine teachers for the NSTU's *Teachers Make a Difference* campaign.

For the third year in a row the NSTU-developed program has been encouraging students and parents to nominate a teacher who has made a difference in their lives, schools and communities. "I would have never expected it to be me," says Comeau-Shantz. "I was pretty excited, and am very honoured."

She says all of her colleagues are worthy of such recognition. "Every teacher is deserving of one of these awards. We all work really hard and the public doesn't really know how much we put in every day."

In her 17th year of teaching, the Clare, NS native, who studied education at Université Ste. Anne has been a French immersion teacher with the Halifax Regional School Board since 1997, spending the last dozen years at Tallahassee Community School in Eastern Passage teaching Grade 2. Before that she taught at St. Joseph A. MacKay School in Halifax.

Her husband Eric Shantz is a phys ed teacher with the Conseil scolaire acadian provincial at École Bois Joli in Dartmouth.

It turns out that award-winning runs in the family. Shantz will be recognized at this year's Education Week ceremony on April 20 as one of 23 teachers receiving an Education Week award under the theme Schools as Communities Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors/Les écoles communautaires citoyennes: ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes.

"It's nice that we are both being recognized," says Comeau-Shantz. The couple, who are avid runners, are both being singled out for going above and beyond through the running clubs they've organized at their respective schools.



NSTU president presented Reanne Comeau-Shantz with her Teacher Makes a Difference award at Tallahassee Community School with her teaching colleagues on March 24. From left to right: Halifax County Local president Meg Ferguson; vice-principal Chris Smith; Reanne Comeau-Shantz; NSTU president Shelley Morse and principal Joe Walsh.

They have been instrumental in ensuring their students remain active through the Doctors Nova Scotia sponsored Youth Running Series (YRS), which provides youth the opportunity to engage in running at all levels as a means to a healthy, active and positive lifestyle. "We've been battling it out for the last number of years," adds Comeau-Shantz. "Either my school or Bois Joli comes in first or second."

Comeau-Shantz received her nomination from a parent, who provided these reasons for nominating her. "She prompts health and well-being by running a run club in our school. She got our school involved in YRS and with that the school has finished first and second over the last two years for participation points. This has allowed the school to receive money to put into gym equipment and other things. She is just awesome, fun, energetic and she cares about the health of our children not just the learning from books."

A runner for over two decades she is looking forward to the melting snow to get her outdoor running club going again.

Described by her colleagues as someone who doesn't like the spotlight focused on her, Comeau-Shantz says that this school year has been particularly challenging and being recognized as a teacher who makes a difference made a difference to her. "It gave me a real boost," she says. "To receive recognition for the hard work you do gives you a nice feeling and reinforces that I'm doing good."

As part of the Teachers Make a Difference program, Comeau-Shantz received \$300 for the school's breakfast program.





Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium

#### The Artisan Teacher Conference

Featuring Dr. Mike Rutherford



August 11 and 12, 2015

Best Western Plus Dartmouth
15 Spectacle Lake Drive
Dartmouth, NS
(902) 463-2000

#### August 11 and 12, 2015

The NSELC, in partnership with the Rutherford Learning Group, is pleased to offer an exciting professional learning opportunity for P-12 teachers and educational leaders. The two day conference will focus on strategies for high performance teaching that enhance student learning. Participants will be introduced to patterns of skillful instruction. They will become familiar with the 23 themes of teaching that enable teachers to create classrooms with high levels of student engagement, effort, clarity, thinking, performance, and success. Conference participants will recognize the themes in their own teaching, determine their skills and strengths, and enhance their practice.



Dr. Mike Rutherford, educator, author, speaker, and creator of the Skillful Observation Coaching Laboratory program and The Artisan Teacher multi-media series is recognized as a leading international authority on adult learning, professional leadership, instructional coaching, and teacher efficacy.

Dr. Rutherford's work with administrators enrolled in the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy has illustrated the impact that the themes of the Artisan Teacher have had on leadership that supports best practices in instruction and assessment. The Artisan Teacher Conference offers an opportunity for teachers in Nova Scotia to learn from Mike's dynamic research-based work.

Register at www.nselc.ca

When booking at the Best Western Plus Dartmouth, reference the NSELC Artisan Teacher Conference to get the preferred room rate.

(902) 463-2000



#### REGISTRATION FEE

\$470.00 (plus HST) = \$540.50 Includes :

conference materials, lunch each day, nutrition breaks, and

a copy of The Artisan Teacher: A Field Guide to Skillful Teaching

#### CONFERENCE AGENDA

Day One Registration: 7:30-8:45 AM

Day One Workshop: 8:45 AM – 3:30 PM

Day Two Workshop: 8:45 AM – 3:30 PM

Contact—nselc@nselc.ca or (902) 422-3270

#### Halifax County Teacherspiel

The Halifax County Local held its annual curling bonspiel event—Teacherspiel on February 28 at CFB Halifax Curling Club. This day provided a great opportunity for mental, social and physical wellness. This event is organized by the Local's Social and Wellness Committee.



Halifax County Local members from Cole Harbour District High, Auburn Drive High, Sir John A. Macdonald High and Sackville High shown above received the Most Sportspeople-like/Team Spirit Award at the annual Halifax County Teacherspiel.



The Game of Stones team from Leslie Thomas Junior High School took second place.



Above are members of the 1st place team Eggs, Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato from Beechville Lakeside Timberlea School.

For an up-to-date listing (with details) of

#### **DEALS AND DISCOUNTS**

for **NSTU** members (including **RTO** members), please visit either of the websites at www.nstu.ca / rto.nstu.ca

or email theteacher@nstu.ca
or phone Sonia Matheson at 902-477-5621 (local)
1-800-565-6788 (toll-free)

#### executive highlights

#### March 5-6

- Filed Table Officers Report;
- Selected six candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program, along with two alternates;
- Selected members to serve on the Council Elections Committee;
- Selected members to serve on the Council Steering Committee;
- Approved changes to the Halifax County Constitution;
- Approved a resolution be forwarded to Annual Council 2015 regarding Policy 75 – School Based Staff Development;
- Approved Audited Financial Statements as of July 31, 2014 to be forwarded to Annual Council 2015;
- Approved the formation of a new Committee on the Status of Women effective August 1, 2015;
- Approved the draft budget to go forward to Annual Council 2015 for 2015-2016 with a recommendation that it be adopted;
- Approved the Asking Package with modifications for the Teachers' Provincial Agreement;
- Approved a recommendation that the President of the NSTU forward a letter to the Minister of Education & Early Childhood Development requesting the opening of bargaining;
- Appointed members to serve on the Negotiating Team;
- Approved the granting of five (5) Local Service Awards be awarded at Annual Council 2015;
- Approved a recommendation that two Provincial Executive members be appointed to assist in the planning of the July Provincial Executive Planning Conference;

- Approved a recommendation that staff explore options of meeting with other public sector unions to discuss issues with the current government and report back to the Provincial Executive;
- Approved a recommendation that Policy 76 Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) be reaffirmed;
- Approved resolutions be forwarded to Annual Council 2015 regarding the following:
  - Policy 80 Communicable Diseases;
  - By-Law, Article IV 7. The Provincial Executive;
  - Standing Order 15 (a) Committees of the Provincial Executive;
  - Policy 13 (d) (i) Provincial Executive Committees;
  - By-Law, Article V 2. c. (i) & d. (i) Officers;
- Standing Order 12 (b) Recording of Provincial Executive Meeting Minutes:
- Standing Order 4 (e) Council Procedures;
- Stand Order 10 (a) Composition of the Provincial Executive;
- Policy 79 Closure (or Restructure) of Educational Sites;
- Policy 93 Pornography;
- Approved amendments to the following Operational Procedures:
  - Operational Procedure 4 (a) Standing Committees (viii) Nominating Committee Procedures, (a) Guidelines, (i) & (vii);
  - Operational Procedure 4 (x) Personnel Committee b. Composition vi.;
  - Operational Procedure 15 Provincial Executive, (k) motions, (i) & (ii);
- Approved a resolution be forwarded to Annual Council 2015 that the NSTU lobby the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to review the implementation of AESOP®.



#### **NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION**

**2014 - 2015 COMMITTEES** 

At the March 5-6 Provincial Executive meeting, the following NSTU members were appointed to the committees listed:

*John Huntley Memorial Internship Program:* Jeff Newbery, Kings; Suzanne Greenlaw, Annapolis; Wendy Gould, Colchester-East Hants; Shelley Luddington, Halifax County; Jennifer Field, Cumberland; and Robert de la Chevotiere, Halifax County. *Alternates:* Maxine Hardy, Northside-Victoria and Darren Stoddard, Shelburne County.

*Council Elections Committee:* Angela Gillis, Chair, Halifax City; Mary Alice Ali, Pictou; Hope Lemoine, Cumberland; and Dean Marchand, Antigonish.

*Council Steering Committee:* Nadine Arnold, Chair, Colchester-East Hants; Kenneth Hassell, Kings; and Sheri Scott, Halifax County.

Negotiating Team: Jane Dorey, Richmond and Alex Oickle, Lunenburg County.



Calling all grade 7-9 Math and Science Teachers, we need more girls in STEM!

Did you know Canada faces a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) workforce shortage? Less than 25% of STEM workers are female!

Could you be unconsciously steering girls away from a career in STEM? Want to learn more? Contact us at:

WISEatlantic@msvu.ca or 902-457-6294

#### Visit WISEatlantic.ca for:

- Free STEM Career Poster
- Career videos & transcripts
- Myriads of resources



#### **NOTICES**

#### Nova Scotia Hiking Summit, Scotsburn April 24-26

Hike Nova Scotia's fourth annual Hiking Summit will take place April 24 to 26 in Scotsburn. A celebration of hiking culture, it includes best practices, stories and networking opportunities. **The deadline for registration is April 20, 2015.** Learn more and register here: www.hikenovascotia.ca.

#### Nova Scotia Teachers College (NSTC)

Are you a NSTC grad? Are you an Alumni Association member? Do you attend Annual Reunions? Get (re)connected with your TC classmates and other grads. Come to Truro for a fun weekend. Join the Alumni Association!

For more information: Email - *info@nsteacherscollege.ca*; Website - *http://nsteacherscollege.ca*; Twitter - @NSTCAlumni; Facebook - *http://on.fb.me/1yfveXO*; Alumni Association of NSTC, P.O. Box 25005, Truro, N.S. B2N 7B8. We look forward to hearing from you!!

#### Sherlock Holmes Teaching Grant — Deadline May 1, 2015

The Beacon Society, a Sherlock Holmes literary group, offers grants up to \$500 to fund the development of programs that will introduce young people to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective.

Jan Stauber Grants have been given to creative teachers and librarians in the USA since 2004 and in Canada since 2012. Previous awardees have used Sherlock Holmes to teach English, literature, history, mathematics, deductive reasoning, forensics, and critical thinking to students from elementary through high school.

The Beacon Society is a not-for-profit affiliate of the Baker Street Irregulars, the New York City-based group of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts founded in 1934.

The grants honour the late Jan Stauber, a New Jersey middle-school teacher who for 10 years visited classes in the guise of Sherlock Holmes to encourage students to discover the joys of reading. Stauber, who died in 2005, was the first winner of the society's Beacon Award, given annually to one teacher whose exemplary educational experiences fulfill the mission of the society.

The grants seek to promote similar creative work by giving financial help to public and private school teachers, organizations, libraries, counsellors and others who develop literary curriculum projects and other educational experiences encouraging young people to read, primarily by introducing them to the stories about Sherlock Holmes.

An application form, guidelines and other details about Jan Stauber Grants may be obtained at the society's website, <a href="http://BeaconSociety.com/">http://BeaconSociety.com/</a>. For more information about the grants, contact Allan Devitt at <a href="mailto:adevitt@comcast.net">adevitt@comcast.net</a>. The deadline for 2015 grant applications is May 1.

Follow the Beacon Society at www.facebook.com/TeachSherlock, http://TeachSherlock.Tumblr.com/ and Twitter: @TeachSherlock.



## Join the aviso Team!

Aviso magazine is looking for NSTU members who would be interested in serving on the Aviso Content Editorial Team.

#### Mandate

- To identify magazine article topics and writers.
- To review draft issues of the magazine prior to publication.

#### Consideration given to:

- representation of the range in teaching assignments;
- representation across the province;
- experience in working with print publications.

#### **Time Commitment**

Three meetings per year.

#### To submit an expression of interest include:

- name and contact information;
- work site;
- any other relevant information for consideration.

#### Deadline for receipt of expression of interest is 4:00 p.m., Friday, April 24, 2015 by email to:

Debbie McIsaac Executive Staff Officer, Professional Initiatives (dmcisaac@staff.nstu.ca)

> Nova Scotia Teachers Union 3106 Joseph Howe Drive Halifax, NS B3L 4L7



# 2014-2015 Pre-Retirement SEMINAR



April 20 & 21 (Monday & Tuesday)

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board — Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich

#### Master of Education Cohort Programs at StFX



# Responding to the learning needs of educators...

 Master of Education in Leadership with a concentration in Teaching Indigenous Students

For educators who are teaching First Nations, Metis or Inuit students. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous educators from all across the country are invited to apply. A strong focus on decolonization is threaded throughout this cohort. This cohort aligns with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's objectives to promote equity and literacy access and development for students from diverse backgrounds. The courses in the summer of 2015 will take place on campus in Antigonish with the remainder offered online. (Summer 2015 - Summer 2017).

Application deadline extended to: April 24, 2015

 Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Transforming Learning with Technology and Digital Resources

Modern technologies afford the opportunity to personalize and transform learning experiences inside and outside our classrooms—not just for students, but also for their teachers. Research shows that through the effective use of technology, learning can be deepened and enhanced supporting the components of 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. This cohort aligns with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's objectives to provide access to technology to support classroom teaching and learning. Courses will be offered online. (Fall 2015 - Winter 2018)

Application deadline: June 1, 2015

 Master of Education in Leadership with a concentration on Mental Health Education

This program will advance the leadership capabilities of participants to understand and promote mental health education in public schools supporting the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's belief that mental health education is a foundation for successful learning and living. The courses in the summer of 2015 will take place on campus in Antigonish with the remainder offered online. (Summer 2015 - Summer 2017)

Application deadline: May 1, 2015

 Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a Concentration in Early Elementary Pedagogy

This program will advance the capabilities of participants to offer exceptional educative experiences to young students in multi-ability, possibly multi-aged contexts in public schools. This program aligns with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's increased recognition of the importance of the early years in preparation for lifelong success. The courses in the summer of 2015 will take place on campus in Antigonish with the remainder offered online. (Summer 2015 - Summer 2017)

Application deadline: May 1, 2015

 Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Instructional Practices for Secondary Area Content Teachers (for Educators in HRSB)

For educators in the Halifax Regional School Board of grades 7-12 who teach math, science, social studies, English language arts, among other content areas, with particular focus on literacy development and content area learning and social inclusion of Canadian-born and newcomers, English as Additional Language (EALs) learners, African Nova Scotian (ANS), and Mi'kmaw learners. This cohort aligns with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's objectives to promote equity and literacy access and development for students from diverse backgrounds and increase student achievement in literacy. The courses in the summer of 2015 will take place on campus in Antigonish with the remainder offered in HRM and online. (Summer 2015 - Summer 2017)

Application deadline: May 1, 2015

For more information call 1.877.867.3906 or 902.867.3906 or e-mail: med@stfx.ca

# coming event

#### April is...

Day of Pink - April 9 (www.dayofpink. org/); Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge - April 9 (www.veterans. gc.ca/eng/remembrance/history/firstworld-war/vimy-ridge); National Volunteer Week – April 6-12 (volunteer. ca/nvw2015); Daffodil Month Cancer Awareness (www.cancer.ca/ en/?region=ns); Parkinson's Awareness Month (www.parkinsonmaritimes.ca); Oral Health Month (National Dental Hygienists Week - April 6 to April 12 (www.cdha.ca); National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week - April 20 to April 27 (www.legacyoflife.ns.ca/); World Hemophilia Day - April 17 (www. wfh.org/en/news--events/events/worldhemophilia-day-2015-EN); Earth Day - April 22 (www.earthday.ca/); World Malaria Day - April 25 (www.who.int/ campaigns/malaria-day/2015/event/ en/); National Day of Mourning - April 28 (www.ccohs.ca/events/mourning/)

#### **APRIL 11**

#### Orff Nova Scotia presentation

There will be a Music Workshop with Rick Layton and Jacque Schrader presented by Orff Nova Scotia held on Saturday, April 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The workshop will be held at Kingswood Elementary School in Hammonds Plains, NS. Workshop fees are payable at the door and there will be a nutrition snack provided.

Orff NS members \$25; non-members \$40; full-time students (Orff NS members) - free; full-time students (Nonmembers) \$10. Lunch orders must be ordered before April 3. Pre-registration is welcome. Please contact Charlotte Myers at myersc1@nspes.ca

#### **APRIL 13 TO MAY 1**

#### CBC Canada Writes Shakespeare Selfie contest for youth

The challenge: Write a modernday soliloquy or monologue by a Shakespearean character. Could be in iambic pentameter or modern syntax.

2015 themes: Focus your entry on one of the following current affairs topics:

- Rehtaeh Parsons and online bullying
- The Kardashians—any member(s) of this modern-day royal family and their dramas
- The Michael Brown shooting and the Ferguson riots
- The reign of Taylor Swift—her huge album, her feud with Katy Perry,
- The rise of ISIS militants
- LeBron James leaves Miami and comes home to Cleveland
- "Lone wolf" attacks
- The Ebola outbreak

The word count should be 200-400 words. The contest is open to Grades 7-12. Prizes include a prize of an iPad Mini for each age category, as well as a school prize for each grand prize winner. Governor General's Award-winning young-adult author Kenneth Oppel will be judging the 2015 Shakespeare Selfie. His Silverwing trilogy has sold over a million copies worldwide.

Earlybird incentive: Teachers who let us know by March 15, 2015 that they're planning to participate with their class will be entered into a draw for a online video writers' workshop with Kenneth Oppel for their class during the challenge

For more info: www.cbc.ca/ books/canadawrites/challenges/ shakespeareselfie/index.html

#### **APRIL 17 DEADLINE**

Teachers called to create the World's Largest Lesson

Education r International and its global partners have launched the World's Largest Lesson Plan, inviting the world's teachers to educate and popularize the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, to be launched in September by the United Nations. This set of global goals aims to make our planet fair, healthy and sustainable by 2030. "The World's Largest Lesson" is one



"Project Everyone" initiatives that will share the goals throughout the world spearheaded by movie producer Richard

Through a global online competition, teachers around the world are being invited to develop unique lesson plans or ideas about the principles and themes of the goals. Winning lesson ideas will be celebrated throughout the world and published as a global set of learning resources on The World's Largest Lesson website, https://www.tes.co.uk/ worldslargestlesson/the-goals/ which features footage from EI's "A Day in the Life" documentary, to enable teachers to craft a relevant lesson on The Goals for the children that they teach.

Once uploaded, all lesson plans can be viewed, shared and rated by peers on the TES lesson plan platform. The top rated plan from each of the five global regions will be crowned a winner. The winning teachers will be invited, along with their school, to take part in a filmed lesson event with a visiting celebrity. They also have the chance to be celebrated at EI's 7th World Congress in Ottawa this July. Lesson plan submissions can be uploaded until the April 17.

#### **APRIL 17 DEADLINE**

#### The Government of Canada History Awards for Teachers

The Government of Canada History Awards for Teachers are open to high school teachers across Canada. Teachers are invited to submit their best project to help mark some of the important milestones and commemorations taking place in Canada over the coming years. The projects will help create a guide for all teachers to mark these important anniversaries.

The award consists of up to 30 prizes of \$2,000 each - Up to \$60,000 in award money. The 2015 themes highlight several important anniversaries including the bicentennial of Sir John A. Macdonald's birth, the 50th anniversary of the National Flag of Canada, and the 75th anniversary of the start of the Second World War. The deadline for entries is April 17th, 2015.

The Government of Canada History Awards for Teachers are open to all residents of Canada currently certified as a teacher in Canada. Teachers may submit more than one project for consideration but will only be eligible for one prize. The award consists of up to 30 prizes of \$2,000 each – Up to \$60,000 in award money.

For more info: www.canadashistory.ca/ History-Awards/Teaching-Award/Home

#### **APRIL 17 DEADLINE**

#### Youth Canada Challenge 2015

Youth 8 to 18 years old across Canada who can tell us what makes them proud to be Canadian by submitting their best, most dynamic drawings, photos or pieces of creative writing that represents everything that Canada is as a strong, proud and free nation, have a chance to win great prizes. These include trips for two to Ottawa to celebrate Canada Day on Parliament Hill: go backstage, meet some of Canada's most inspiring people, tour museums, galleries, the iconic Parliament Buildings and be part

of a special summer exhibit at the Canadian Museum of History!

Winners will also receive a chance to work with the National Film Board of Canada to create their very own short films about their adventures in Ottawa.

Please visit www.pch.gc.ca/ eng/1292268977681/1292268977684 for complete contest details.

#### **APRIL 22**

#### Earth Day 2015

This year is Earth Day's 45th anniversary. Teacher and students interested in our environmental impact should visit Earth Day Canada at www.earthday.ca for tons of information, ideas, activities and resources, links for teachers, students, and communities to help them find ways to help keep Earth clean and safe for generations to come. Even though Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 each year, we should do our part to keep the Earth the best we can all year long!

#### **APRIL 30 DEADLINE**

#### 12th annual National Ambassador Youth Forum now open for applications!

French for the Future invites all bilingual Grade 11 students to submit their application and join this year's National Ambassador Youth Forum (NAYF), held in Moncton, NB, from August 13 to 18, 2015. Thirty students from across Canada will be selected to become the organization's newest ambassadors!

To participate, students must visit French for the Future's website and submit their application by April 30, 2015.

The purpose of the NAYF is to bring together Canada's youth to engage in cultural and linguistic exchanges to learn about the different issues surrounding official bilingualism in Canada in a fun, leadership-oriented environment. There are no registration fees. Travel, food and lodging are provided for all participants.

#### Orff Nova Scotia Presents ORFF LEVEL I ORFF LEVEL

JULY 20-31, 2015 KINGSWOOD ELEMENTARY, HAMMONDS PLAINS, NS



Level I Instructors: James Jackson, Marg Kristie, and Katrina Mills Pecknold Level II Instructors: Catherine West, Marg Kristie, and Katrina Mills Pecknold

These two-week intensive courses in the principles and techniques of Carl Orff's Music for Children lead to Orff Specialist certification. The Orff philosophy of music education is an internationally recognized approach to teaching music in schools or group classes. In these courses, teachers learn to foster student performance skills, literacy, and creativity through carefully sequenced musical experiences using songs, games, rhythms, poems, dances, and stories from around the world. Participants receive training from specialists in recorder playing, choral techniques, movement, percussion instrument technique, and pedagogy.

COURSE FEES: Level I:

S675 + \$25 Registration fee for Carl Orff Canada members

\$695 + \$25 Registration fee for Non-members

\$675. + \$25 Participants in Level II must be a member of Carl Orff Canada. Level II:

Membership to Carl Orff Canada and information on scholarships for Level II courses are available online: www.orffcanada.ca

For a registration form please email: James Jackson jacksoj@nspes.ca Course is dependent on numbers. Please apply early to ensure a space in th

For more information on the NAYF and the selection criteria, please visit French for the Future's website at *www. french-future.org* 

#### **MAY 5 & 6**

### National Ballet of Canada YOU dance performance Live Stream

The National Ballet of Canada's highly acclaimed YOU dance program introduces ballet to children to inspire creativity and imagination. YOU dance offers free workshops and performances for Grades 4, 5, and 6. The next YOU dance performance will be streamed live on May 5 & 6, 2015.

Students watch a live streamed performance featuring five specially selected pieces danced by the Ballet's apprentices. Students will also enjoy a glimpse backstage to see how the dancers prepare before a performance.

Students are lead through discussions before and after the performance and questions can be asked and answered.

Participants must register (http://national.ballet.ca/YouDance/livestream.php) ahead of time and curriculum-based teacher resources will be available. Both live streams run from 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. AST on May 5 and 6. For more info contact Lisa Robinson at Irobinson@national.ballet.ca or 416-345-9686 x377.

#### **MAY 15 TO 17**

#### The Blue Nose Marathon

The Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon is the largest fitness event in Atlantic Canada. For 2015, up to 14,000 walkers

and runners are expected on the streets of Halifax and Dartmouth. In our 12th year, we're adding the



Heritage Gas Marathon Team Relay. Teams of 4 to 8 people can sign up for a great time on the official marathon route. The Johnson Insurance 5K run will take place on Saturday May 16th at 3:00 p.m. along with the Doctors of Nova Scotia Youth run at 11 a.m. All other races will take place on Sunday, May 17.

Please visit *bluenosemarathon.com* for information on registration, race times and how to get involved.

#### MAY 20 (EARLY BIRD DEADLINE)

#### All Things Marine

This summer, from July 20-24 the Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews, New Brunswick is offering All Things Marine, a hands-on marine experience, to teachers, families and friends. Join us as we explore the unique and diverse environment of the Bay of Fundy. What we catch and collect is what we will study! This hands-on marine experience will explore connections between biology, art, history, culture and more. *Register before May 20th to receive an early bird discount.* 

For more information visit our website *www.huntsmanmarine.ca* or call (506) 529-1200. There is no better maritime outdoor classroom than Canada's own Bay of Fundy!



#### SCHOOL GROUND GREENING WORKSHOP SERIES SPRING 2015









NONA SCOTIA NOUVELLE GOSSE Education and Early Chilchood Development Education et Développement de la petitre enfance Teachers, parents, staff, and high school students are invited to join this free workshop series by Evergreen. Attend both sessions and learn how to design healthy, natural spaces for exploration, learning and play.

Join other participants in an interactive workshop to help start your school ground greening project! These workshops are appropriate for schools planning new projects or adding a phase to an existing project.

To qualify for design assistance from Evergreen each school must have a minimum of two representatives attend both workshops.

Register now! Workshops are limited to 30 people.

See reverse for complete list of workshop dates and locations.

see reverse for complete tist of workshop dates and tocation

#### **Workshop Descriptions**

#### **Getting Started Workshop**

How do you get going on greening your school grounds? Come learn the nuts and botts of a proven participatory process. See successful local projects and programs from around the world. Meet others who are embarking on projects or those who want to learn more and advance their plans to make a greener school ground.

#### Design Workshop

This workshop will take you through the process to create a conceptual plan of big ideas for your site. From this, we'll explore the realities of designing for your school ground:

- Simple design elements to consider
- Constraints and opportunities—basing plans on the site audits you have completed
- A conceptual plan: think big, but start small
- Consider ongoing maintenance and species selection

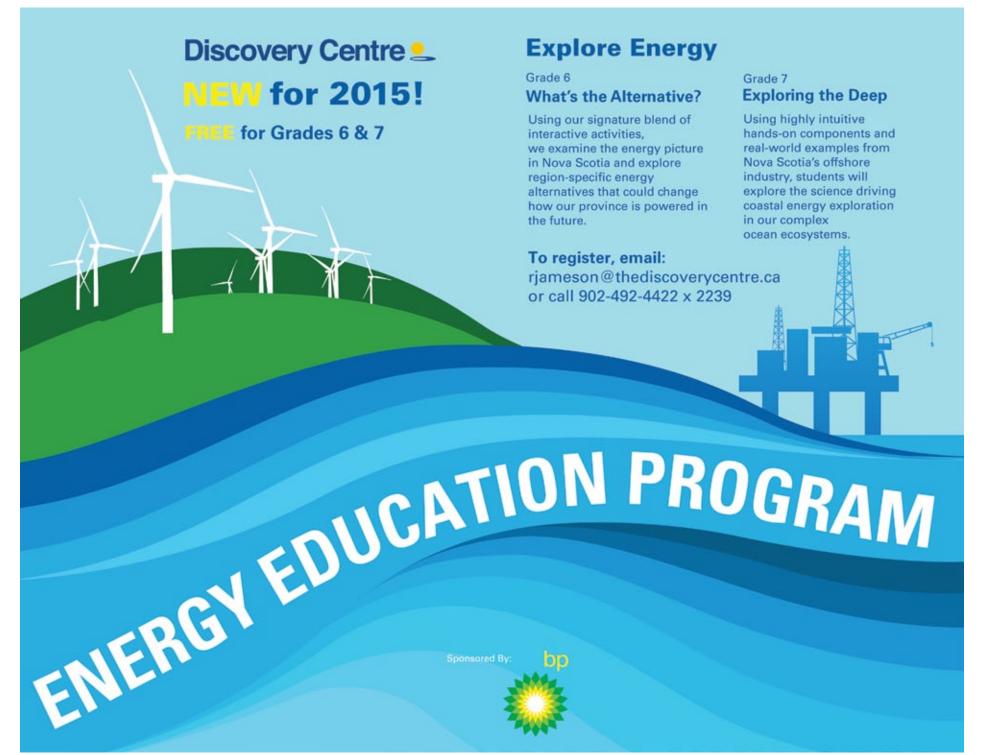
#### To register contact Rhea Dawn Mahar, Evergreen Associate Telephone: (902) 424-3107

Email: nova.scotlagerergreen.ca
Please leave your name, number, names of school colleague(s) also registering and school affiliation (or other affiliation).

Evergreen.ca

All Times are from 4-6 p.m.

Halifax Regional	Design	April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ecole Burton Ettinger School	52 Alex St., Halifax
Chignecto-Central Regional	Getting Started	April 16 <sup>th</sup>	Board offices	PD Room-60 Lorne St., Truro
	Design	April 29 <sup>th</sup>	Board offices	PD Room-60 Lorne St., Truro
Conseil scolaire Acadien provincial- Clare/Argyle	Design	April 21st	Ecole Jean-Marie- Gay	Libraire-9680 Rte. 1, Saulnierville



#### Valley students learn about Nova Scotia's film industry through special program

In keeping with this year's Education Week theme—Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors—students at three valley schools, Annapolis West Education Centre, Bridgetown Regional High and Middleton Regional High had special visits



Mark Deveault of Devo FX.

curriculum. Allister Wadden, who teaches at Annapolis West visits from filmmakers, a effects makeup expert and

from representatives from local film industry infused into the Grade 12 Film and Video and Media Studies

Education Centre says the program, which included sound producer, a special ViewFinders Film Festival manager Jeff Parker, was organized by the local Arts Council. "It would not have happened without the work



Above is AWEC teacher Allister Wadden with special effects expert Marc Deveault and students Eric Peek and Sydney Everett.

of retired principal Heather McCormick who worked with the arts council to raise money to bring in the filmmakers."

#### On March 10 Quebec native Marc Deveault, who is the owner/operator of Devo FX shared his expertise in Allister Wadden's Grade 12 Film and Video class at Annapolis West Education Centre.

Deveault's visit introduced students to another option that's available in the world of film. Deveault is based out of Kingston and created the masks for the film Lord of Chaos, featured at the Atlantic Film Festival by filmmaker Luke Freeman, who also participated in the program. His work has also been shown in Stephen King's series Haven, shot in Nova Scotia and the six-part series the Lizzie Borden Chronicles, which was recently shot in Halifax.

"I started out as a model at a film make-up school in Toronto," he says. "I basically hung out at makeup school and took note of how things were done."

The licensed pyrotechnician and former paramedic with the Canadian military has seen real blood and injury in action through tours of duty in Bosnia, Haiti and Afghanistan. This along with casualty simulation for the military has helped him create authentic gory details he is known for in his work, which he does mostly for horror genre films and television series.

Deveault displayed some of his work in the classroom and imparted some secrets of the trade to students, but he also imparted some  $important \ life \ less ons \ needed \ in \ attaining \ goals$ in the industry. "There is a lot of learning by doing in my work," he says. "If you're not breaking things or having to go back and do things over, you're not learning enough."

He also reminded the students that special effects make-up isn't just about creating monsters and zombies. "It's also about human transformation—making a young face look old."

Deveault has only been doing this kind of work for just over five years, and he loves it. "If you have a dream, keep at it," he says. "Do something because you like it, and keep practicing your craft."

He's been able to rub shoulders with some celebs since doing this work, but says that, "They are just like everyone else really." He was thrilled to get a call from Stephen King himself to work on Haven. He was also thrilled to work alongside Oscar award winning make up artist Rick Baker during the work he did on the Lizzie Borden Chronicles.

Wadden said the experience of having real entrepreneurs working in the industry in Nova Scotia was very rewarding for his students. "It's been a great experience for all of us," he says.

#### **NSTU STANDING & OTHER COMMITTEES**



Would you like to serve the NSTU at the Provincial Level?

The NSTU needs input from the widest-possible cross section of its members to make the most effective contribution to education. Members serve on most provincial standing committees for a maximum of two years,\* so we are constantly in search of skilled and interested persons to make our committee structure operate successfully. Committee membership is open to Active and Active Reserve Members.

\*NSTU Operational Procedures state: Appointment to a committee will be for one defined term of two years. In extraordinary circumstances, an extension of one year is permissible.

- **APPEALS** reviews applications for assistance on appeals under Section 26 of the Education Act and decides if the appealing teacher is to receive legal assistance from the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.
- **COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE -** studies the curriculum and all proposed changes in it as it relates to Acadian schools under the direction of CSAP and reports it findings to the Provincial Executive.
- **CURRICULUM** studies the curriculum of schools and proposed changes and reports the findings and recommendations to the Provincial Executive.
- **EQUITY** is concerned with matters pertaining to equity, diversity and social justice.
- **FINANCE & PROPERTY** prepares the annual budget for Council, keeps informed of the Union's financial position, supervises the payment of accounts, forwards financial statements to Executive meetings, determines the amount of travel expenses to Council and checks every NSTU expenditure on property.
- **INSURANCE TRUSTEES** oversee the operation of the NSTU Group Insurance Plan which offers Life, Optional Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Total Care Medical/Total Care Dental, LTD, MEDOC® and Home & Auto. NOTE: One appointment will be made from the Cape Breton Region.
- **MEMBER SERVICES** identifies bargainable items; prepares background information related to merits of negotiable items; identifies trends and developments in teacher bargaining across Canada; reviews economic forecasts; considers Council resolutions; plans workshops for REWC negotiators; reviews results of most recent contract bargaining. **NOTE: Five** appointments will be made one of which will be an APSEA member.
- **PDAF** reviews applications for financial assistance to support innovative curriculum projects and awards grants to successful applicants.

- **PENSION** studies pension resolutions and keeps the Executive informed of trends and changes affecting teachers' pensions. **NOTE: Three appointments** will be made: one from the Chignecto-Central Region, one from the Cape Breton Region and one from the Strait Region.
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT reviews and develops policy programs and ideas intended to improve the effectiveness of teachers as professionals and to advance education through research in Nova Scotian classrooms.
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS/PUBLIC RELATIONS promotes the involvement in public affairs by encouraging NSTU members (and others) to take an active part in government affairs pertaining to public education. Examines and reviews NSTU public relations and communications
- **TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES -** provides a voice, within the NSTU, for teachers with administrative responsibilities.
- SHEONOROIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS the Sheonoroil Foundation is an arms-length charitable agency created to fund school and campusbased projects and research directed at reducing violence in schools and Community College campuses. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Foundation; it develops Foundation policy, mandates Foundation initiatives and approves project funding. NOTE: Two appointments will be made, one of which will be a retired member.
- **STATUS OF WOMEN -** promotes ways of enhancing the status of women in the teaching profession and in society.
- **SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** advises the Provincial Executive on issues affecting and of concern to substitute teachers. NOTE: Appointments to the Substitute Teacher Committee are made at the October meeting of the Provincial Executive. Therefore, the deadline for receipt of applications to this Committee is October 9, 2015.
- I would be willing to serve on any committee.

#### Applications must be received in Central Office by Friday, May 15, 2015 Note exception: Substitute Teacher Committee (October 9, 2015)

You may download the NSTU Standing/Other Committees application form from the NSTU website or apply online by going to the following link (you do not require an NSTU webmail account to apply online):

http://www.nstu.ca/default.asp?mn=1.373.376.395

The NSTU reserves the right to re-advertise any position if a sufficient number of applications are not received by the deadline.



# Violence in the Workplace: What Can an OHS Officer Do?

You are probably aware that the law in Nova Scotia as well as the Collective Agreement requires that your employer provide you with a safe and healthy workplace. You may also know that if you believe your workplace is unsafe and your concerns have not been adequately addressed by either your principal/supervisor or the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, you may bring your concerns to an Officer with the Occupational

Health and Safety Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour. An Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Officer may also become involved as part of an incident or accident investigation or a right to refuse investigation. But what is the role of an OHS Officer and what can he or she do?

An OHS Officer enforces the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations to ensure that workplaces in the province are safe for workers and in compliance with the laws. In carrying out their duties, an OHS Officer has certain powers. For example, OHS Officers can:

- Enter any premise, at any reasonable time, where work is taking place;
- Take pictures, measurements or samples;
- Issue orders that
- Require an unsafe working condition to be remedied at some specified time;
- Conduct interviews and ask questions;
- Gather information, ask for, examine and make copies of documents;
- Stop work immediately until the hazard is fixed.

As noted above, one of the main powers of an OHS Officer is the power to issue orders. A compliance order is a direction (oral or written) to address a contravention of the law. The order will explain what is wrong and what the legislation requires the employer to do in order to be in compliance with the law. It will also tell the employer the date by which an order must be complied with. A 'stop-work' order is issued when an OHS Officer observes an imminent hazard—work must stop immediately until the hazard is appropriately addressed.

To take an example, if you believe your workplace is unsafe due to the violent behaviour of a student, after an investigation, an OHS Officer may issue compliance orders requiring the employer to:

- Provide training or re-training concerning the employer's violence in the workplace risk assessment and the employer's violence in the workplace prevention plan;
- Develop and implement a policy for classroom panic buttons including regular testing and an inspection protocol;
- Develop and implement a policy for the use and carrying of two-way radios;
- Conduct a violence risk assessment concerning teachers who are required to work alone with students with reported violent behaviour issues and to develop and implement a violence prevention plan in relation to any risks of violence identified in the risk assessment;
- Provide documentation to the Division such as copies of Behaviour Incident Tracking Forms and actions taken by administration, as well as copies of any staff injury reports as a result of the violent behaviour of particular students.

An employer who receives a compliance order will need to respond to the violations noted in the order and send a compliance notice to the OHS Officer indicating what they have done to ensure compliance. If an employer fails to comply with an OHS Officer's order, the Officer can issue an administrative penalty or a summary offence ticket. An OHS Officer may also lay "long form charges" requiring the accused to enter a plea in court. The maximum fine upon conviction for each offence under the OHS Act is \$250,000 or \$500,000 if the offence resulted in a fatality.



Remember: the NSTU is here to assist you in dealing with concerns regarding workplace health and safety.





# update

#### Total Care Medical and Dental Claims Reimbursement Can Be Convenient!!

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to ensure that members are aware of the methods by which claims are paid and the most convenient ways to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses related to Total Care Medical and Total Care Dental claims.

#### **Claims Payment**

Medavie Blue Cross (MBC) is billed directly by your pharmacy for eligible prescription drugs. You are required to pay the \$5.00 co-pay for each prescription. If you have a hospital stay, hospitals will bill MBC directly so members are not required to be out-of-pocket for semi-private hospital accommodation charges. There are some items insured under Hospital Benefits and Extended Health Benefits such as ambulance service, medical supplies, paramedical services, medical equipment that may have to be paid up front. When this occurs, many members ask the question:

What is the best method to be reimbursed as quickly as possible for expenses to ensure I am out-of-pocket the least amount of time?

This is an excellent question. MBC have established electronic adjudication for many of its service providers. Providers such as massage therapists and physiotherapists can have your claim adjudicated online requiring you to pay only the applicable co-insurance. As an example, many physiotherapists can bill MBC directly at the time of service and only charge you the 20% co-insurance before you leave their office. This is also true for many dental offices that can also bill MBC directly to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses. Ask your service provider if they have the ability to bill MBC directly.

#### Claims Submission by eClaim

If you do have to pay the provider and submit a claim for reimbursement, Medavie Blue Cross has made it convenient to submit claims electronically. It is important to note that you must be set up for Direct Deposit to take advantage of this feature.

To Submit an eClaim:

- 1. Go to www.medavie.bluecross.ca.
- 2. Click on **Submit a Claim** in the middle of the page to the left.

3. On the next page, scroll down and you will see By eClaim?

You must login to your account to submit an eClaim. If you are a first time user, click on Log in to your account, then click on 1st Time, Register Now and follow the instructions.

#### Medavie Blue Cross Mobile App

You can also submit claims through the Medavie Blue Cross Mobile App. There are many other convenient features to this app including reviewing benefit usage history, access and share a mobile ID card and view and sort past claims. You can download the app free at the App Store for Apple products, Google Play for android apps and Blackberry App World for Blackberry devices. Once you have down loaded the app, follow the instructions under **Submit a Claim** to submit a claim for reimbursement.

#### **Direct Deposit**

As mentioned above, you must be registered for Direct Deposit to take advantage of eClaims and Mobile App claims submission. It is important to remember that all paid-in-full receipts must be submitted to MBC for reimbursement within one year from the date the expense is incurred. Direct Deposit with MBC will allow claims reimbursement to be transferred electronically to your chosen bank account which will eliminate waits for cheques through the mail, cut back on trips to the bank and will reduce the risk of theft or loss of your reimbursement cheque. MBC will send you a notice each time they make a deposit into your bank account.

Registering for Direct Deposit is easy!

- 1. Go to www.medavie.bluecross.ca
- 2. In the middle of the page select **Get a Form**.
- 3. On the page that pops up, under Member Type, select Group Plans: Ontario/Atlantic Canada.
- 4. Under **Request Forms** select **Direct Deposit**, and open the form. You can complete this form and send it along to Medavie Blue Cross. Once you have registered, reimbursement will be deposited directly into your account which will cut the time significantly for you to receive your out-of-pocket expenses.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Johnson Inc. at 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free) or 453-9543 (local).



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#### **TEACHERS, GET READY TO SAVE.**

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Pop quiz: Who's been supporting teachers longer than the Internet? Johnson Insurance, of course. We appreciate all the hard work you do. That's why we're offering **lower auto insurance rates** for teachers. It's our way of saying 'thank you for being you'.

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# resources



# **Teachers**

The Media Library is the place to go for all your curriculum video needs! We provide you with access to over 10,000 online videos to stream or download and have a collection of over 5,000 educational videos and DVDs that support Grades P to 12 in all subject areas of the Nova Scotia curriculum.

Everything is accessible from the EduPortal (https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/ eduportal/) or visit our website directly at http://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca to access these and other digital classroom resources!

#### Videos to help support Literacy P-3 from the Media Library!!

#### The following videos are available to purchase in DVD format:

#### Animal Alphabet

Introduce students to the alphabet's 26 letters by engaging their natural curiosity about the animal kingdom. From "ant" to "zebra", the video features animals familiar and exotic. Fun, easy-to-read graphics are reinforced with simple alliterative phrases.

#### Chicka Chicka 1-2-3

Based on the book by Bill Martin Jr., Michael Sampson and Lois Ehlert, this animated film will have children singing and counting along with the dancing numbers.

#### Diary of a Spider

Based on the book by Doreen Cronin, this animated film shows students that the life of a spider isn't very much different from their own. This portrait of an upside-down web world will have kids wishing they could be spiders too.

#### Diary of a Worm

Based on the book by Doreen Cronin, this animated film chronicles the ups and downs of being a worm and teaches children facts about worms.

#### The Ezra Jack Keats Library

This video is a collection of well known stories by Ezra Jack Keats. Titles in this collection: The Snowy Day, Whistle for Willie, Peter's Chair, Letter to Amy, Apt. 3, Pet Show!, and The Trip. This video also includes the six-minute, Getting to Know Ezra Jack Keats, which was filmed in 1970 and features Keats discussing what influenced his work as a children's book author and illustrator.

#### Open Wide: Tooth School Inside

Based on the book by Laurie Keller, this animated film makes learning about teeth entertaining and interesting. Presenting fascinating facts and tasty tidbits about teeth and dental hygiene, this lively cast of characters will have viewers happily reaching for their toothbrushes.

#### Seasons and Changes

This enchanting video adaptation of award-winning, outstanding children's literature will help to make books come alive for every child, no matter their learning style. This classroom collection includes these three titles: *The Mysterious* Tadpole, by Steven Kellog; The Caterpillar and the Polliwog, by Jack Kent; and, Time of Wonder, by Robert McCloskey.

#### The Wheels on the Bus

Based on the book by Paul O. Zelinsky, this animated film brings to life one of the most well-known and classic children's songs.

#### The Sweater

In this animated short, Roch Carrier recounts the book *The Hockey Sweater*, is an NFB classic that appeals to hockey lovers of all ages.



#### **RESOURCES**

New Drug Education Curriculum Resources Introduced for Junior High Schools

Junior high school students now have access to new drug and alcohol prevention curriculum resources.

The departments of Education and Early Childhood Development and Health and Wellness introduced seven lesson plans for Grades 7 to 9 on February 19, to get students talking about the pressures and influences that may lead to using substances like alcohol, cannabis and prescription drugs.

The lesson plans are available as part of the current health education curriculum. Teachers, mental health clinicians, guidance counsellors and school board administrators from across the province were invited to participate in training sessions to help them implement the lesson plans. So far, more than 300 teachers and counsellors have attended sessions. The province will provide ongoing support and coaching, as needed.

The lessons are: Super Powers (Grade 7); Super Powers Part 2 (Grade 7); My Back and My Brain (Grade 8); Drug Land (Grade 9); Angels and Demons (Grade 9); Getting from Here to There (Grade 9); and Super Powers (Grade 9)

This resource for the Healthy Living curriculum is the first of its kind in Canada. It has been tested with youth in the province, is voluntary and will help teachers meet mandatory learning outcomes for health education.

Feedback on student engagement and response to the lessons from classrooms around the province has been positive.

The lesson plans can be accessed at <a href="http://novascotia.ca/education">http://novascotia.ca/education</a>.

#### *New, free family literacy program*

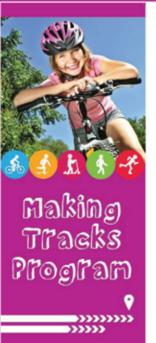
ABC Life Literacy Canada (ABC) and HSBC Bank Canada (HSBC) have a new initiative aimed at improving the literacy skills of Canadian families, including those who are new to Canada.

The program is built around a series of learning modules. Each module includes an easy-to-use Facilitator's Guide and features an original story relevant to Canadian culture. The story links to fun learning activities, increasing engagement and reinforcing literacy skills. The modules will be available online and through literacy programs at a variety of community hubs, including community, settlement, and learning and literacy centres.

Modules are designed to allow for a variety of instructors to deliver the program, including parents, teachers, and centre facilitators. HSBC employee volunteers across Canada will also help to deliver the program at organizations in their communities.

- In 2015, four modules will be offered in English, French and Simplified Chinese.
- In 2016 and 2017 three new modules will be released, each year, in Canada's two official languages, as well as a new common first language.
- HSBC Bank Canada has made a three-year commitment in support of the program. This marks a significant increase in support from HSBC, who previously supported ABC's online HSBC Learning Activity Centre and Family Literacy Day.
- The first 2015 module is now available at *FamilyLiteracyFirst.ca* . Literacy organizations and parents need simply register to access the free stories & activities.





#### Nova Scotia's #1 Active Transportation Training Program

- ✓ Leadership training for teachers and youth
- Modes include cycling, skateboarding, scootering, walking safety and in-line skating
- Teaches safety, preparedness, rules of the road, skills, equipment maintenance and safe routes
- Curriculum-linked to physical education and leadership outcomes
- ✓ Activities that easily fit your classroom or afterschool needs
- ✓ Approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Education
- 5000 children and youth trained since 2008

www.saferoutesns.ca | mt@ecologyaction.ca | 902.442.0209









# 2015 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS



All regional elections will be conducted by electronic vote.

· ·			
Region	Close of Nominations	Date of Election Acclaimed	
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	Thérèse Forsythe		
Cape Breton District	March 6	April 7	
Community College	Damian Hall	Acclaimed	
Cumberland	Hope Lemoine	Elected	
CSANE	Susan Larivière-Jenkins	Acclaimed	
Digby/Shelburne/Yarmouth	March 16	April 23	
Halifax City	Keri Butler	Acclaimed	
Halifax County	Tim MacLeod	Acclaimed	
Northside-Victoria	March 12	April 14	
Pictou	Nancy Doyle	Acclaimed	

#### **NEW DEALS & DISCOUNTS**

FOR NSTW/RTO MEMBERS ONLY!



**GRANITE SPRINGS GOLF COURSE** - Granite Springs Golf Course is proud to present a discount on our Corporate Lighthouse Passes to all members of the NSTU. All members are able to buy 10 pass packages at the 30 pass package rate. What does this mean? You're able to get 10 rounds of golf at \$30 per round, which are normally \$40 per round! Details: **NSTU LIGHTHOUSE OFFER** - 10 Lighthouse Passes (10 Rounds of Golf) for \$300; Passes are 100% transferable - use of up to 8 per visit, split between friends/colleagues; Good for tee times any day/time; 4 day advance booking; 20% off guest green fee; and 20% off carts. **Contact Tim to secure** - **902-717-0335 or tim@granitespringsgolf.com** 

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#### **Resilience®**

EFAP/Employee and Family Assistance Program offered by the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees

#### **Counselling Services**

Stress
Marital /Family
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Alcohol and Drug Abuse
and more.....

#### **Plan Smart and Career Smart Services**

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#### **Depression Care Services**

 $Provides\ assistance\ for\ individuals\ suffering\ from\ certain\ types\ of\ depression$ 

#### **Wellness Sessions**

One hour group wellness sessions for 10 to 35 members.

(Contact NSTU Liaison Officer for Trustees)

#### Access is Easy! 1-877-955-NSTU (6788)

Call collect if outside of Canada 1-604-689-1717 Pour service en français, appelez à frais virés au 1-514-875-0720

On-line access at: www.myresilience.com

# 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

FOR SALE - Lovely two-bedroom cottage on beautiful Lake Torment, East Dalhousie, NS. One hour 20 minutes from Halifax, 40 minutes from Bridgewater. One bath, five appliances, year round, 175 ft waterfront. Fully, tastefully furnished, laminate, ceramic tile throughout, full walkout basement. Email: jta71588@

#### DARTMOUTH SHORT TERM RENTAL -

gmail.com. Pics available. \$214,000.

Furnished two-bedroom, two-bathroom home on quite cul de sac in Brightwood area. Available mid—June until end of October. Utilities included in rent. For further details email *hollyj12@gmail.com* 

**REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY** - I've moved to a new location! **CHRIS BAGNELL, RMT** is now located at **SPA SOLUTIONS, 657 Portland Street, Dartmouth,** 902-469-4772. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages/ year per family member with Blue Cross. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension, fibromyalgia, improving sleep. 10+ years experience. To contact CHRIS for an appointment call... 902-469-4772.

**SEEKING JOB SHARE PARTNER:** Seeking a qualified Learning Center teacher to work 50% (half days) at St. Catherine's Elementary for the 2015-2016 year. Please email *la\_goodwin@hotmail.com* 

**SEEKING JOB SHARE PARTNER** – Qualified resource teacher looking to job share 20% within the HRSB for 2015-16 school year. Presently job sharing. *wartsila55@yahoo.ca* 

JOB SHARE - Seeking a partner to do 20% (possibly up to 40%) job share at Caledonia Junior High Learning Center for 2015-16 school year. Please email me at *Ihollohan@hrsb.ca* or call Lisa at 902-462-9966.

**SEEKING JOB SHARE PARTNER** - Looking for a job share partner who is wanting to do 80% in Elementary resource, learning centre or Grades P-2 for 2015-16; as I am only interested in 20%. Email Sheila at *scamp@ns.sympatico.ca* 

JOB SHARE - French Immersion teacher seeking a 20% teaching position with HRSB

for 2015/16. Fluently bilingual, 23-years experience in P-5 Immersion. References upon request. Please contact *losierdt@staff.ednet.ns.ca* 

JOB SHARE - Elementary French job share partner wanted. Seeking a qualified teacher with elementary French methods for a 40-50% job share in elementary Core French for the 2015-2016 school year in the Halifax/Dartmouth area. Please email sunflowers2020@hotmail.com

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - Permanent SSRSB teacher looking for an exchange (preferably permanent) with permanent HRSB teacher. Contact *JC310682@gmail.com* 

**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** - Permanent elementary teacher with the HRSB interested in an exchange with a permanent teacher within the SRSB, preferably an hour or so commute from Cheticamp for the 2015-2016 year and a permanent exchange desired. Contact **coqw@staff.ednet.ns.ca** 

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - I am looking for a Secondary Teacher in the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board to do a teacher exchange with a Secondary Teacher from the Halifax Regional School Board for the 2015-2016 school year. If you are interested, or know someone who is looking for this exchange, please contact me at *gsinclair@hrsb.ca* 

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - I am looking to do a teacher exchange for the 2015-16 school year. P-12 Guidance Counsellor in the Strait Regional School Board looking to do an exchange with a Guidance Counsellor in HRSB or school within up to one hour commute of HRM. Housing available in town of Antigonish, 70% Guidance with a small teaching load. Please contact **guitarzan61@hotmail.com** 

For Advertising information for The Teacher (including rates & publication schedule), please contact Sonia Matheson at 902-477-5621 or toll free 1-800-565-6788 or visit www.nstu.ca / email theteacher@nstu.ca

# The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The final deadline for application for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2014-2015 school year is 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**