



## NSTU members recognized for making a difference

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union is recognizing ten of its members through its *Teachers Make a Difference* recognition program for making an impact in the lives of their students. The recognition program, which took place during the month of October, encouraged students to nominate a teacher who has made a big difference in their lives, and contributed to their school and community. It garnered 445 nominations representing 263 teachers. Each recognized recipient of the *Teachers Make a Difference* program will receive a \$300 donation towards their home school or campus' breakfast or library program.

"Teachers make a difference by not only developing minds and skills, but focusing on students' hearts, hopes and dreams," says NSTU president Shelley Morse. "Teachers care about the needs of all children and youth and are responsive to their varied strengths and needs. These ten teachers represent all teachers in the province."

The following NSTU members are being recognized as teachers who make a difference: Brenda Burt, a science teacher at Richmond Academy; Louise Graham, a Grade 6 teacher at Bridgewater Elementary School; Nicole LeBlanc, a music teacher from École NDA in Cheticamp; Celine

Leclerc, a Grade 2 teacher at Digby Elementary School; Bill Malloy, a Grade 5-6 teacher at Shannon Park Elementary School in Dartmouth; APSEA (Atlantic Provinces' Special Education Authority) teacher Kate McCara who works with students who are deaf or hard of hearing in the Halifax Regional School Board; Michael McPhee, a drama teacher at Glace Bay High School; Joan Porter, an English teacher at North Nova Education Centre in New Glasgow; Community College faculty Trevor Reddick who teaches in the Human Services & School of Access department at NSCC, Pictou Campus; and Steve Wohlmut, global geography teacher at Central Kings Rural High.



*Park West School Grade 5 teacher Amy Mackay (left) is shown with principal Derek Carter and CTV's Crystal Garrett.*

Some of the reasons cited by students in their nominations as to why their teachers make a difference include: demonstrating kindness and dedication, encouraging the best out of each and every student, being an inspiration, instilling passion to drive and succeed, and making learning fun. During this month, four 60-second vignettes are being broadcast on CTV, which focus on the ways teachers make a difference and highlight the selected NSTU members.

The vignettes are also posted on the NSTU's website at [nstu.ca](http://nstu.ca) through its YouTube station at [youtube.com/nstuwebcast](http://youtube.com/nstuwebcast).

The vignettes were filmed at Park West School in Halifax. The NSTU sends out a special thanks to the Park West School parents and students and in particular principal Derek Carter and his staff, including Grade 9 ELA teacher Lorna Bennett (featured in one of the vignettes); vice-principals, Makiko Chiasson and Brian Melanson; Primary teacher Cindy Ng; Grade 5 teachers Amy Mackay and Linda MacDonald; phys ed teachers Mike Carrigan and Amanda Koski; ESL teachers Marilyn Sydney and Tanya Graham; and EPA Lisa Sutherland.



*Above is a shot of the filming of the Teachers Make a Difference vignettes at Park West School, featuring Grade 9 ELA teacher Lorna Bennett (right) and CTV's Crystal Garrett.*

## Teachers Make a Difference



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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# people

## NSTU supports *Coady Celebrates!*



As a long-time supporter of the Coady Institute, the NSTU was once again a proud sponsor of the *Coady Celebrates!* event in the bronze category. The annual event took place at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax on October 10. Organized by the Coady Institute, proceeds for the event go towards scholarships for citizen leaders from around the world to attend Coady's development education programs. This year's keynote speaker was The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada, who was appointed UNESCO Special Envoy to Haiti on October 1, 2010. A longstanding supporter of the Coady Institute, Jean became an honorary patron of the Coady Institute in 2012. She is shown above with NSTU president Shelley Morse; secretary-treasurer John Helle; executive director Bill Redden; second vice-president Allister Wadden and executive staff officer Debbie McIsaac.

## STAFF PROFILE: Hilton Smith Daytime Custodian

Hilton Smith, a familiar face to visitors to the NSTU building, will celebrate 20 years with the organization on December 1 as the NSTU's daytime custodian.

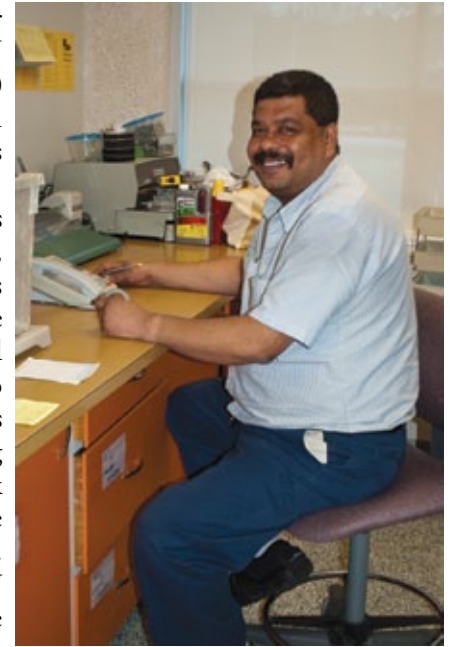
He continually responds to the many needs of staff, NSTU leadership, members and guests to the building. He is responsible for janitorial and general maintenance service to the building, but also processes all of the NSTU's outgoing mail, maintains paper stock inventory, and is responsible for daily meeting room set-up. He's also a great help to NSTU staff officers travelling on the road in ensuring their cars are loaded and unloaded with projectors, presentations, and other equipment.

He has been a member of the NSTU's Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee and ensures that the building's WHMIS (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System) is up to date and continually upgrades his WHMIS and OHS training.

What he loves about his job is though there may be some routine tasks, "There is a diverse array of daily duties, that keep me on my toes," he says. "I also enjoy seeing former teachers and chatting with the NSTU members that use the building."

As the NSTU's building caretaker, Smith says he's always working on organizing his daily duties and trouble shooting the many issues that arise in the run of a day in a building with 35+ staff and sometimes upwards of 150 guests. His role with the NSTU involves maintaining optimum building temperature, facilitating building changes and ongoing OHS issues.

Smith loves to read, listen to music and take long walks, "when my weary feet are up to the task," he adds. In thinking about a teacher that made a difference in his life, he reminisces about former NSTU executive staff officer, the late Earl Rutledge, who was his teacher in Grade 9. "He was the type of teacher that could engage all, to make learning much more interesting and enjoyable."



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# Professional Development Day — Highlights 2012



On the October 26 Provincial Professional Development Day, over 6,500 NSTU members, including classroom and specialist teachers, administrators, guidance counsellors, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, Community College faculty and professional support staff attended 22 different conferences in locations in the Valley, South Shore, Clare, Truro, Amherst, Sydney and the HRM, participating in more than 550 keynotes, plenary sessions and workshops.

“This conference day demonstrates just one of the ways NSTU members engage in life long learning to improve their professional practice to influence student success,” says NSTU president Shelley Morse.

Each conference is planned, developed and implemented by volunteer educators.

“Congratulations to all the professional associations that hosted 22 outstanding conferences for our public school teachers, Community College members, APSEA teachers and other professionals in the education field,” says Morse. “The members involved in our professional associations are all volunteers who organize these conferences in the evenings and on weekends; and do it with a smile and unwavering dedication. My hat goes off to all of you for your hard work and a job well done—yet another way that teachers make a difference for their colleagues and students.”

Workshops for the day focused on a myriad of topics including cyberbullying, digital citizenship, technology integration, and enhancing the delivery of curriculum through the sharing of resources and best practices.

“Provincial PD day provides an opportunity for thousands of members to enhance their practice and knowledge. Teachers leave these conferences with new understandings and relevant resources to bring directly back into classrooms, schools and campuses,” concludes Morse.

## NSTALL Conference



NSTU's coordinator of professional development Betty-Jean Aucoin, who is also the coordinator of NSTU's professional associations delivered a Struggling Readers workshop for the Nova Scotia Teachers Association for Literacy and Learning (NSTALL) at Sir John A. Macdonald High School in Tantallon. Aucoin helped participants understand the reading process, provided Monday-relevant strategies to support struggling readers in every classroom and provided approaches to best equip struggling readers in reaching their reading potential.

## ATA/EDANS Conference



Dr. Stan Kutcher, Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health, an internationally-renowned expert in the area of adolescent mental health provided the keynote address for ATA/EDANS (Art Teachers Association/Educational Drama Association of Nova Scotia) conference at J.L. Ilsley High School in Halifax. He discussed the complex relationship between the Arts and mental health as adolescent years are a time when mental health issues arise and interest in the Arts develops.



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## What really matters in schools today?

What really matters in schools today? It's a question we have asked ourselves all too often over the past few years.

As educators we know that what matters is our students and our ability to reach them academically, cognitively, emotionally, socially and behaviourally. Our quandary in the classroom today is how to achieve these ends with limited resources and supports. Teaching is about more than literacy, numeracy and test scores...it's also about developing the whole child.

This premise has been lost in the shuffle of standardized tests and outcomes. One would have to ask—Are these scores more for the adults or the students? How much do the scores matter? What role do they play in the realm of education? What kind of education do students need? and What part should parents play in promoting a child's need to succeed?

In a new book by Paul Tough called, *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character*, the author discusses qualities of character that students require to achieve success in school. He states, through brain research and first-hand observations, that parents and the school community have an influential part to play in nurturing the character traits that encourage achievement.

Angela Duckworth (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaeFnxSfSC4>), a psychologist who studies achievement, states that students need certain character traits to thrive. She believes grit is one of those character traits and it is necessary for students to achieve and be successful in school. Within grit is perseverance, tenacity, and sustained passion.

Years ago teachers had the flexibility to teach students about the need for hard work and determination; to teach them the importance of meeting deadlines, achieving to be successful in life. We taught students how to become good community members and how to contribute to society in meaningful ways. Credit recovery, lax deadlines and reduced student responsibility are moving us away from the grit required to assist students in the real world. Today the classroom is filled with numerous assessment binders, checklists, and a record for essentially every move made in the run of a school day.

Within this context where is the room for the teachable moment, the life lesson, the teaching of academic persistence? We need to teach students particular skills, but we also need time for nurturing students' hearts and for developing caring citizens. Our teachers have the ability to develop grit in a students' character, but, no means by which to

deliver. Teachers want students to succeed and achieve, and they work long hours to this end. However, we also need the proper resources, ability to make choices, support and the time.

## Qu'est-ce qui importe vraiment dans nos écoles aujourd'hui?

Qu'est-ce qui importe vraiment dans nos écoles aujourd'hui? C'est une question que nous nous sommes posés trop souvent au cours des dernières années.

En tant qu'éducateurs, nous savons que ce qui importe le plus sont nos élèves et notre capacité à les stimuler au plan intellectuel, cognitif, affectif, social et comportemental. Notre dilemme dans la salle de classe d'aujourd'hui est de trouver le moyen de parvenir à ces fins avec des ressources et des soutiens limités. L'enseignement est beaucoup plus que la littératie, la numératie et les résultats aux tests... L'enseignement, c'est aussi le développement de l'enfant dans sa totalité.

Ce principe s'est égaré dans la mêlée des tests standardisés et des résultats d'apprentissage. On doit se poser ces questions : Ces scores sont-ils davantage au profit des adultes que des élèves? Quelle est l'importance de ces scores? Quel rôle jouent-ils dans le domaine de l'éducation? De quel type d'éducation ont besoin les élèves? Et quel rôle devraient jouer les parents pour encourager un enfant à réussir?

Dans un nouveau livre de Paul Tough intitulé : *How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity and the Hidden Power of Character* (comment les enfants réussissent : le cran, la curiosité et le pouvoir caché du caractère), l'auteur décrit les qualités de caractère dont ont besoin les élèves pour réussir à l'école. Il explique, en citant des recherches sur le cerveau et des observations directes, que les parents et la communauté scolaire ont un rôle essentiel à jouer pour cultiver les traits de caractère qui favorisent la réussite.

Angela Duckworth (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaeFnxSfSC4>), une psychologue qui étudie la réussite scolaire, affirme que les élèves ont besoin de certains traits de caractère pour réussir. Elle pense que le « cran » est l'un de ces traits de caractère et que les élèves ont besoin de cran pour réussir et obtenir de bons résultats à l'école. Le cran, c'est aussi la persévérance, la ténacité et la passion soutenue.

Autrefois, les enseignants avaient la flexibilité d'enseigner aux élèves la nécessité du travail ardu et de la détermination; de leur enseigner qu'il est important de respecter les échéances et d'obtenir de bons résultats pour réussir dans la vie. Nous apprenions à nos élèves comment devenir de bons citoyens de la communauté et comment contribuer à la société de manière significative. La récupération des crédits, le laxisme en matière d'échéances et la réduction de la responsabilité des élèves nous éloignent des qualités qui sont nécessaires aux élèves pour réussir dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. La salle de classe d'aujourd'hui est remplie de classeurs d'évaluation, de listes de contrôle, et de dossiers qui enregistrent pratiquement chaque mouvement fait au cours d'une journée scolaire.

Dans ce contexte, où allons-nous trouver l'espace pour une période propice à l'apprentissage, une leçon de vie, pour enseigner la persistance scolaire? Nous avons besoin d'enseigner à nos élèves des compétences particulières mais nous avons également besoin de temps pour nourrir le cœur de nos élèves et en faire des citoyens bienveillants. Nos enseignants ont la capacité de donner du « cran » à leurs élèves mais ils n'ont pas les moyens pour le faire. Les enseignants veulent que les élèves réussissent et obtiennent de bons résultats et ils consacrent de nombreuses heures à cette fin. Toutefois, nous avons également besoin de ressources appropriées, de la possibilité de faire des choix, de soutien et de temps.

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# AAE Conference

NSTU president Shelley Morse brought greetings to delegates of the AAE (Association of Adult Educators) conference on October 26, which was held at the NSCC, Marconi Campus. AAE is a professional association that serves NSTU's Community College members. Shown are members of the organizing committee for this year's AAE conference, faculty members of the Marconi Campus:

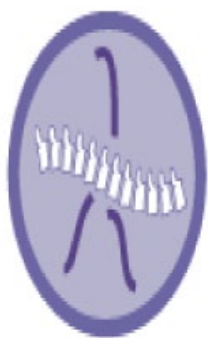


Front Row: Carole Clark (Business), Bernadette Julien (Nursing), Barbara MacNeil (Business), Shelley Morse, and Debbie McVeigh (Academic & Career Connections) and AAE conference chair. Back row: Ed Petruskavich (Electro Engineer Tech), conference delegate Joe Salah (Cumberland Campus Adult Learning Program faculty), Community College Local president Ferne MacLennan (Kingstec Campus, Business Programs faculty), Community College provincial executive member Louis Robitaille (Lunenburg Campus, Rel Subj Trades faculty) Kevin Wilson (Academic & Career Connections) and Larry Johnston (Industrial Instrumentation).

*Shown here is AAE workshop presenter, Dr. Donovan Plumb who is a professor and lifelong learning coordinator for Mount Saint Vincent*



University's Faculty of Education. Plumb revealed for participants the deep connection between learning and emotion, and encouraged the adult educators in the workshop to explore the important role emotions play in adult education contexts. "We can teach people how to build interpersonal relationships and interact with the material world, but at the same time help them develop a good sense of their internal emotionality, and they can learn richly for the rest of their lives. You need to be emotionally open for students," he told participants. But reminded them to be cognizant of the boundaries between teacher and student. "You are not their friends or parents, but their teachers."



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## NSMEA Conference



Music teachers from across the province sang, moved, and played their way through a busy day of sessions at South Colchester Academy in Brookfield. Doug Goodkin, an Orff specialist from San Francisco was keynote speaker and gave several sessions at varying levels from Primary to Grade 8 and beyond.

*Back Row: Phil Black (CCRSB); Laura Johnston, Debbie MacIsaac (HRSB); Gillian Connolly (CCRSB); Doug Goodkin, Toria Aidoo, James Jackson, and Michelle Hartley (HRSB). Front Row: Maureen MacMullin (HRSB); Charlotte Myers (Retired); and Patti Marshall-Casavechia (HRSB).*

## SAA Conference

This year's SAA (School Administrators' Association) conference *Opening the Door, Unlocking the Potential*, took place in Sydney and was organized by Cape Breton-Victoria SAA. NSTU president Shelley Morse stopped by a reception on the evening of October 25.

*Back row (l-r): Derek Carter, SAA provincial president; Charles Yorke, principal, Dr. T.L. Sullivan Junior High; Kurt Kublek, IT Professional Development / SIS Consultant for the staff development centre of the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board; Shelley Morse; Mikki Armishaw, principal, Sydney River Elementary; retired administrator Patsy Blais & former Cape Breton-Victoria SAA president; Elizabeth Yorke, vice-principal, Thompson Junior High; and Ginny Sampson, vice-principal, Glace Bay High. Front row: Joyce Lively, principal, St. Agnes Elementary; Henry White, vice-principal, Malcolm Monroe Junior High and registrar & treasurer of the Cape Breton SAA; Stephanie Campbell, principal, Brookland Elementary; and Chris Nicholson, vice-principal, Memorial Composite High.*



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## Huntley interns at NSTU's central office



The John Huntley Internship program started this school year with a full house. Eight NSTU members including new provincial executive members met with NSTU staff October 24 and 25 to learn more about how the NSTU works on behalf of its members.

*Seated (l-r): Edward Avery (Guysborough County); Halifax County Local president Meg Ferguson; Kings Local president Natalie MacIsaac; NSTU Early Intervention Program Case Coordinator Maya Follows; and Juanita Romard (Cape Breton District). Standing (l-r): Community College professional support member Alan Gaudet; Cape Breton District provincial executive member Sally Capstick; Brennan Goreham (Yarmouth); and Halifax City provincial executive member Shawn Hanifen. Three more internships will take place during this school year. The next application deadline is November 15. Click here to learn more: <http://www.nstu.ca/default.asp?id=190&sfld=content.id&search=132&mn=1.22.91.114>*

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## NSTU SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

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

To obtain the secondment application form:

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

### Attention Teachers:

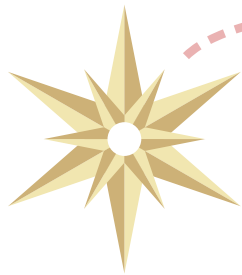
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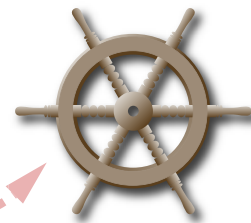
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# Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Addressing cyber bullying

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

On October 29, the province announced amendments to the Education Act requiring all school staff, not just teachers and administrators, to report incidents of bullying and cyber bullying.

This new legislation in no way differs from present practice in schools; bus drivers through bus incident reports, teachers through conversation with principals and guidance counsellors and principals with parents have been reporting incidences of bullying and cyber bullying. This is part of how our members ensure our schools and campuses are safe places for all students. What this legislation does not address is the fact that bullying/cyber bullying has increased with the emergent use of multiple technologies. Cyber bullying and incidences of bullying now take place off school sites, in bedrooms, rec rooms and other places.

What I hear many teachers say throughout the numerous workshops, keynotes and one-on-one meetings I conduct is that they need support.

Through NSTU's *Charting Your Course For Professional Development* offerings we have presented workshops for a number of years under the safe and inclusive schools/campuses theme in the areas of creating safe spaces, conflict resolution, appropriate online conduct and digital citizenship and more recently—addressing cyber bullying. The NSTU has been working to educate our members, who in turn educate their students on what bullying and cyber bullying is, the various methods of cyber bullying and how one protects themselves and others. We have also been working on educating our teachers and students on the six tenets of being a good citizen and cyber citizen: respect yourself, protect yourself, respect others, protect others, respect intellectual property, protect intellectual property.

Through my involvement on the Nova Scotia Cyberbullying Task Force as the NSTU representative, I helped to research and develop supports for students, teachers, schools and teacher organizations on this topic. By providing participants with knowledge and providing resources to reinforce action on this topic, we help to support our members in their efforts in creating safe environments.

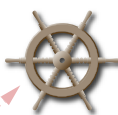
Our Sheonorail Foundation has been providing project funding to schools and campuses



*Betty-Jean Aucoin presents her Addressing Cyberbullying workshop to students at E.B. Chandler Junior High students on October 29. Aucoin also presented the topic for E.B. Chandler staff following the student presentation.*



### Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by November 30 to be eligible for the draw.**

Written by Doretta Groenendyk, a painter, writer and teacher living in the Annapolis Valley, *Bully 101* explores both the temptations of bullying and the remarkable possibility of kindness. It is an excellent conversation starter for both families and schools, and anyone who hopes for peace. *Bully 101* is published by Acorn Press in Charlottetown, PEI. For more information on Groenendyk visit [doretta-art.com](http://doretta-art.com).



for over ten years to support research, inquiry, reflection, writing, distribution of information and interventions that focus on all forms of violence in the public school and community college systems, including anti-bullying and peaceful schools initiatives (<http://sheonorail.nstu.ca/>).

Parents need to be educated too. Parents are placing technology in their children's hands without providing them with important lessons of appropriate use of social media tools and technology. Beyond reporting incidents of cyber bullying and educating teachers and students, we must also have in place policies that support the mitigation of bullying and cyber bullying. So too should parents have in place learning consequences for their children to ensure they are supported in learning how to be ethical digital citizens. Parents are our children's first and life long teachers. Teachers join parents in supporting their children in becoming respectful citizens.

Digital citizenship is supported by three pillars: infrastructure; guidance; and practice. It's imperative that these three pillars are practiced within the home, at school and in the community at large.

For more information on the Addressing Cyber Bullying Workshop or other NSTUPD workshops, contact Gail Doucette at [gdoucette@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:gdoucette@staff.nstu.ca).

# NOTICES

## *Invitation to Anglophone Teachers: Every Teacher – A Project on LGBTQ-inclusive education*

The NSTU has lent its support to the *Every Teacher* project. This national study is designed to identify and make widely available the collective expertise that exists among Canadian teachers on inclusive education practices for sexual and gender minority students. All members of teacher organizations are encouraged to participate. Members and other educators who have not received an email invitation, can request one by contacting [everyteacherproject@gmail.com](mailto:everyteacherproject@gmail.com) or [gcormier@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:gcormier@staff.nstu.ca)

## *Listen to a Life Essay Contest*

Join the Legacy Project in presenting this year's *Listen to a Life* essay topic of Time Travel. The Legacy Project is encouraging students to interview an older adult in the hope that by discovering their story, they will learn surprising things about the past and how these life lessons are applicable to improving the future. With the grand prize of a Lenovo ThinkCenter computer, the Legacy Project would like to welcome all students to listen and learn from previous generations. For more information please visit <http://www.legacyproject.org/>.

## *The Canadian Science Challenge – December 31, 2012*

Students have an exciting chance to create an experiment that although simple to execute on earth, would be challenging in a zero-gravity environment. With limited materials, available to

astronaut Chris Hadfield while on his six-month mission, the winning experiment will be performed on board during a LIVE televised session. Students will also get the opportunity to speak with Chris. <http://www.asc-csa.gc.ca/index.html>

## *Teacher Help for ADHD needs teacher participation*

Last chance to participate... Dr. Penny Corkum of Dalhousie University & IWK Health Centre ([Penny.Corkum@dal.ca](mailto:Penny.Corkum@dal.ca)) and her research team including project coordinator Pamela Blotnicky ([Pamela.Blotnicky@dal.ca](mailto:Pamela.Blotnicky@dal.ca)) are evaluating a web-based ADHD program, designed to provide teachers with knowledge and tools to better work with students who have ADHD. *Teacher Help for ADHD* is a partnership between the Department of Education (DOE), seven Nova Scotia school boards, and researchers in the field of ADHD.

If you choose to participate, DOE will recognize this PD opportunity and provide substitute relief for you to take part in this research. Participants will also receive a DOE approved certificate for completion of this six-week ADHD Treatment Program. Lastly, you will be given an honorarium (thank-you gift) for your participation for each measurement period (baseline, end of program, and follow-up). You will be paid in gift certificates (e.g., Amazon.ca) in the amount of \$20 for each assessment period, for a total of \$60.

*(continued on page 11)*

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## NOTICES (cont'd)

We welcome you to participate in this study if you teach Grades 1-6 and have a student in your class who has been diagnosed with ADHD. Please ask the researchers about eligibility if your student is currently undergoing medication changes, is on an Individual Program Plan, is in French Immersion, or exhibits severe behaviour or mental health difficulties apart from ADHD symptoms. Note: only one teacher per school may participate (this includes our previous *Teacher Help for ADHD* cohorts and pilot study).

Please contact the research team by November 23, 2012 at the above emails or by phoning 902-494-5177 with your interest or for additional information. This last *Teacher Help for ADHD* group will start early in January, 2013.

### **Canada's Next Green Journalist - Deadline for entries March 1, 2013**

Environmental Defense is asking youth in Canada to find the journalist inside in hopes of shedding light on this year's environmental issue: litter. In time for Earth Day, Environmental Defense will choose one submission of a photo, an article or a video. "Canada's Next Green Journalist," is encouraging youth to

## EDUCATION WEEK APRIL 21-27, 2013

### *Teaching for a Sustainable Future*

shed light on the problem of litter and solutions that friends and family can follow. The winner will have their submission published along with other prizes. They will also compete at an international level with students from 28 countries and experience an all-expense paid trip to report on an environmental education mission. The deadline for entries is March 1, 2013. For more information please visit [www.youngreporters.ca](http://www.youngreporters.ca).




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# coming events

## November is...

Osteoporosis Month ([www.osteoporosis.ca](http://www.osteoporosis.ca)); Diabetes Awareness Month ([www.diabetes.ca](http://www.diabetes.ca)); Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Month ([www.ccfc.ca](http://www.ccfc.ca)); and CPR Awareness Month ([www.heartandstroke.ca](http://www.heartandstroke.ca)).

### NOVEMBER 13-20

#### *National Reading Campaign*

Please join the National Reading Campaign for a page-turning week full of contests and activities to promote the importance and fun of reading. This campaign is open to all organizations and the public. The week-long event is composed of contests and activities for schools, libraries and organizations such as "What did you read today?" with a chance to win great prizes. Schools and public libraries can win \$1000 in books and the general public has a chance to win one of ten Kobo eReaders. For more information or to register please email [sarah@nationalreadingcampaign.ca](mailto:sarah@nationalreadingcampaign.ca).

### NOVEMBER 22-23

#### *2nd Annual TNT Passport 2 You-th Success XPO*

Please join thousands of students from Grades 9-12 for what some call, "The best school field trip ever!" *Teens Now Talk* magazine will be hosting a two-day event for students at the Halifax forum to meet face-to-face with various organizations, businesses and post-secondary institutions, to promote and empower students socially, in education, health and career development. Students can expect great networking opportunities, free swag, door prizes and an awesome experience. For more information about this exciting event please visit [www.teensnowtalk.com](http://www.teensnowtalk.com).

### NOVEMBER 30

#### *Diversity Dialogue*

Mount Saint Vincent University presents an invitation to start a conversation on diversity. Guest speaker Elizabeth Mills, the executive director of the Nova Scotia Office of Immigration will be exploring the topic of Immigration and Labour Trends in Halifax and Nova Scotia.

## Negotiations Update

**Public School** - The Provincial Negotiating Committee met with the Department of Education negotiating team on October 15 & 16. Upcoming negotiating dates have been scheduled for November 28 & 29, and December 3-5, 13 & 14, 2012.

**Community College** - The Community College Negotiating Committee met on November 2. The Community College Negotiating Committee has scheduled negotiation dates with the College's negotiating team on November 23, December 11, January 10 & 11 and 24 & 25, 2013.

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-Avenelle Fortune-Johnson  
Online Master of Education Graduate

#### **Application Deadlines:**

January 31 (to start in July)  
August 31 (to start in January)  
[www.unbf.ca/education](http://www.unbf.ca/education)



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## NSTU Group Insurance Program: The Importance of Designating a Beneficiary & Co-ordination of Benefits (COB) - Do you know how to make the most of two Family Plans?

The **importance** of designating a beneficiary can be overlooked. In the midst of our busy lives, we forget to take care of this very important item when it comes to our insurance coverages.

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees hope the information below will encourage members to take care of this important detail when it comes time to review or designate your beneficiary for the first time.

### The Importance of Designating a Beneficiary

You should review and/or designate a beneficiary for any of your Life and/or Accidental Death & Dismemberment policies you may have through the NSTU Group Insurance Program. One of the main advantages of designating a beneficiary for these policies is that the proceeds of the policy are excluded from your Estate upon your death. Through this exclusion, the proceeds are free from claim by any creditor of your Estate. The proceeds are excluded because legal title irrevocably transfers upon your death and the proceeds become payable to your beneficiary(ies) at that time. Another good reason to designate a beneficiary is to ensure that Life Insurance proceeds are distributed as per your wishes. A signed and up-to-date Beneficiary Designation Form will make certain that this occurs.

Please take a moment to think about your beneficiary designation and if they are up-to-date. If your life has changed recently, i.e. married, birth of a child, etc., you may need to revisit your beneficiary designation(s). If you are not sure of your beneficiary nomination, due to privacy, you, the member, may contact Johnson Inc. or check the Johnson Inc. Members Only Website.

### Co-Ordination of Benefits (COB)

One of the most complicated provisions to understand with respect to Supplementary Health and Dental Programs is the provision for Co-ordination Of Benefits (COB). If you do not fully understand this provision, you may be missing out on **possible** reimbursement for up to 100 per cent of eligible claims through the COB process. This process was developed by the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association to ensure consistency for all insurance companies and their insured members.

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to try to simplify a process that may appear to be quite complicated.

Through the Teachers' Provincial Agreement, the Province of Nova Scotia pays 100 per cent of the monthly premium for Total Care Medical for single or family coverage. In addition, the Province of Nova Scotia pays 65 per cent of the Basic Total Care Dental Benefit. Based on this cost sharing, there are many families who choose to be insured for two family plans and therefore, a good understanding of the COB provision is important. **It should be noted you may hold only one family Health or Dental contract through the NSTU Group Insurance Plan.**

### You and Your Spouse

If you are the primary cardholder of the Total Care Medical and Dental programs, your personal claims must be submitted to Medavie Blue Cross first. If your spouse has a benefits plan, he or she must submit claims to his or her provider first. Once the primary provider for the

applicable subscriber pays the eligible claim, you can then submit any unpaid portion to your spouse's plan for COB. This means you **may** receive reimbursement for this unpaid portion, if eligible, under your spouse's plan up to 100 per cent of the eligible amount.

### Children

When you and your spouse have coverage from two separate plans, claims for your children will be processed under the plan of the parent whose birth month falls first in the calendar year. COB uses month, then day, to determine which plan the children's claims are submitted to first. When parents are separated or divorced, the custodian parent would claim under his or her plan first.

### So, how does Co-ordination of Benefits Work?

As an example of how COB can work so that you may receive reimbursement for up to 100 per cent of your eligible claims, consider the following scenario:

John and Joan have two children and two family benefit plans. John is insured under the NSTU Group Insurance Program through Medavie Blue Cross while Joan is a member of her employer's plan with another insurance company (or Medavie Blue Cross).

John has a Dental check-up and he sends his \$100.00 claim to Medavie Blue Cross and receives 80 per cent reimbursement or \$80.00. The co-pay amount John was required to pay out-of-pocket was \$20.00. Along with his reimbursement cheque from Medavie Blue Cross, he receives an Explanation of Benefits (EOB), which is a statement explaining what portion of the eligible claim was paid. John then sends his EOB statement, along with a copy of the original claim, to Joan's insurance company. Her insurer processes the claim and sends a cheque for the eligible amount of the unpaid balance. The result **may** be that John receives 100 per cent reimbursement for the cost of his check-up.

### What happens when their daughters, Emily and Laura, have a prescription to be filled at the pharmacy?

Claims go first to the insurance company of the parent whose birth month is the first in the year and then to the other parent's program. In this case, Joan's birthday is in May while John's birthday is in July. So if Emily or Laura needs a prescription filled at the pharmacy, their claims go first to Joan's insurance company and later to Medavie Blue Cross under the NSTU Group Insurance Program for consideration of the remaining balance.

It is important to note when having a claim processed at the pharmacy, you should always advise the pharmacist that you have two insurance plans. This way, the claim can be conveniently processed. You will need to provide the appropriate insurance information such as the name of the provider, your spouse's name and date of birth, as well as the appropriate subscriber numbers.

We hope the above explanation and examples provide some assistance to you in understanding the COB provision and the importance of designating a beneficiary for your Life and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Policies. If you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).



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# Master of Education Programs at StFX

## PART-TIME DISTANCE PROGRAMS

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

## INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

StFX is currently accepting applications for our program in Educational Administration and Leadership with a specific focus in Instructional Leadership. This part-time course-based program commences with an intensive summer institute in July at the StFX campus. The remainder of the program can be completed online.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FULL-TIME GRADUATE STUDY

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

## INFORMATION

For more information or to receive an information package, contact:

**1-877-867-3906**

Email: [med@stfx.ca](mailto:med@stfx.ca)



<http://sites.stfx.ca/continuingeducation/master>

**Application deadline: February 15th**

# executive highlights

**October 19, 2012**

- Filed table officers report;
- Appointed the Substitute Teacher ad hoc Committee on Member Engagement;
- Received audited financial statements of the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund;
- Approved amendments to: Operational Procedure 13 (g) – President's Benefits; Operational Procedure 14 (c) – Professional Associations – Finances; and Operational Procedure 5 (b)(ii) (c) & (d) – NSTU Group Insurance Trustees;
- Adopted the NSTU Annual Action Plan;
- Granted six out-of-province conference grants of \$475 each, with three alternates;
- Selected a member to serve on the College Union Committee – Professional Support.

**Deadline for the December issue of  
The Teacher: November 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Contact Sonia Matheson at [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)**



**2012-2013**

**PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES—[www.nselc.ca](http://www.nselc.ca)**

NSELC is offering 3 & 4-day professional learning modules.

*Module 1 "Working with People"*

*Module 2 "Strategies for Teaching & Learning"*

*Module 4 "The School Leader & the Law"*

*Module 8 "Schooling & Social Justice"*

*Module 9 "Programming for Students with Special Needs"*

*Module 12 "Coaching & Mentoring"*

*Module 13 "Using Assessment to Improve Teaching & Learning"*

*Module 14 "Autism Spectrum Disorder"*

Also offered are: a 1-day *Insights Discovery* workshop and 2-day *Classroom Management* workshops.

The Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy Program (NSILA) offered by the Department of Education (DOE) in partnership with the NSELC, leading to a Diploma in Instructional Leadership (DIL) consists of 6 courses extending over 3 years. Granted by DOE, the DIL represents a demonstrated competency in instructional leadership.

**September, 2013 cohort application deadline: February, 2013.**

Application forms will be available on the NSELC/NSILA website in February, 2013. Who can apply: Principals and vice-principals (considered first) / board consultants and coordinators (space permitting).



**Sue LeBel**  
Program Coordinator  
902.354.8134  
[slebel@nselc.ca](mailto:slebel@nselc.ca)

# resources

The Learning Resources and Technology Services Media Library is the place to go for all your multimedia curriculum resource needs!



**Educational Videos:** Our three collections let you borrow, buy, or stream/download videos for your classroom.

**Branching Out**, the Public Schools Branch newsletter, is available online at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

**EBSCO Periodical database** Online bibliographic and full text databases that are Available to all students and teachers in Nova Scotia. Also available from EBSCO are professional databases and specialized collections designed for professional educators. <http://search.ebscohost.com>

**Share.EDnet/Ensemble.EDnet** Learning resources and professional materials designed and created by the Nova Scotia education community and mapped to Nova Scotia learning outcomes. <http://Share.EDnet.ns.ca> [English] <http://Ensemble.EDnet.ns.ca> [French]

**ImagesProject** A collection of images for Nova Scotia public school program use. Nova Scotia students and teachers may freely download, use and modify images for curriculum purposes. <http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>

**Education Portal** (EduPortal) <https://edapps.ednet.ns.ca/eduportal/>  
Search our online catalogue, order videos, access other departmental resources and so much more! Check out our new website <http://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca> for more information on these and many other digital resources.

## CONGRATULATIONS to our October Book Winners!

**EQUITY - JENNIFER FLETCHER,**  
Bedford Junior High

**FRESH - BETH HANNEM,**  
Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High

**PD - KRISTA LUNN,**  
Annapolis Valley Regional School Board

## RESOURCE

### *Integrated Media Literacy Project*

The Integrated Media Literacy Project provides valuable high quality professional development resources, for teachers in various subjects. These resources aid in challenging and deepening learning within students using media and communication tools. Please visit <http://thecinematheque.ca/education/impl/> for more information and links to the projects undertaken by facilitators.

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1600 Bedford Highway suite # 420 Halifax, NS B4A 1E8



# classifieds

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

To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)

**MARCH BREAK SKI TRIP** - Group rates on ski and stay packages at Sunday River for March break. Ski in ski out condos and hotel units are available. Call Heather at 902-889-2620 for details.

**AVAILABLE** - Engaging and entertaining play about cyberbullying. Affordable production rights are available for Mirror Crack'd 2.0. Rave reviews in 2012. Flexible cast, minimal staging, one hour in length. Suitable for Grade 6 and up. Contact Erin Dunn-Keefe for more information at [edunn@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:edunn@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO HELP PROMOTE WORLD PEACE WHILE DOING SOME TRAVELLING?** CISV Halifax is the perfect match for you! We are looking for dynamic leaders to accompany delegations of youth to international camps being held in summer 2013, expenses paid. Contact [halifax@ca.cisv.org](mailto:halifax@ca.cisv.org) for more information or view [www.cisvhalifax.ca](http://www.cisvhalifax.ca)

**FOR RENT** - Apartment to sublet from January to the end of April, 2013. Fully furnished 2 bedroom with all appliances including washer and dryer. Great view from a large deck. Heat is included and for renter's convenience, WI FI and 2 cable TVs are available. Ideal for mature students or business executives, it is located in a quiet, private neighbourhood in Fleming Park area off the Purcell's Cove Road. Easy access to walking trails, parks and in close proximity to shopping centers and grocery stores. Downtown Halifax businesses and universities are within a 10-15 minute drive and bus service is a 4-5 minute walk. Parking is available in this non-smoking, no pets environment. Call Anna @ 902-446-9119 or email [annabutland@eastlink.ca](mailto:annabutland@eastlink.ca).

**AVAILABLE** - Oceanstone Resort: picturesque and tranquil retreat for all occasions large or small, 4 kms from Peggy's Cove on the beautiful shoreline of St. Margaret's Bay, N.S. Voted one of the top 5 places in Canada for weddings by Elle magazine Full weddings

packages (weekends and during the week). Weekend or midweek breaks, conferences large/small, meetings, bridge, art clubs etc. Accommodation includes cottages by the sea, suites with sea views and rooms in our Inn. Please contact: Lizzie Moore 823-2160.

**ESTERO FLORIDA CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT** - Tropical temperatures above 23 degrees year round! Close to beaches, golf included, 2 pools, tennis, fitness centre, shopping. For details email [pmccallum@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:pmccallum@hfx.eastlink.ca)

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - I am seeking an exchange with an elementary teacher in the AVRSB. I hold a permanent elementary position in HRSB. Please contact Vaunda at [vlmacdonald@nstu.ca](mailto:vlmacdonald@nstu.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - A permanent Jr. High Physical Education/Healthy Living/Science Teacher in HRSB is looking to exchange positions with a similar teacher from the CCRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested, please contact [cbarr@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:cbarr@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - An elementary resource teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same with the CBVRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A permanent exchange is also possible. If interested, please email [dj@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:dj@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - A permanent elementary teacher with the CBVRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from the HRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A

permanent exchange is desired. If interested, please contact [knottt@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:knottt@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - Permanent Senior High Phys. Ed and Math teacher with the HRSB is looking for an exchange with a teacher from the CBVRSB for the 2013-14 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested please contact [caper1976@hotmail.com](mailto:caper1976@hotmail.com)

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - I am a Junior High Math and Science teacher with the Halifax Regional School Board who is looking for a possible teacher exchange to the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board for the 2013-2014 school year with a chance for permanent exchange. I am, also, qualified for a Learning Centre or Resource position as I have completed my Master's. If you are interested please contact me asap via email [jfrison@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:jfrison@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - Permanent Junior/senior high learning center/resource teacher with the HRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from CCRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested, please contact me at [burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**JOB SHARE** - I am an experienced teacher who is seeking a job share position in the HRSB. I am finishing my Masters in Literacy in the spring and am qualified to teach P-8. Please contact Pamela for full resume at [pam\\_benigno@hotmail.com](mailto:pam_benigno@hotmail.com) or 902-209-1344.



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Email: [prescottgroup@eastlink.ca](mailto:prescottgroup@eastlink.ca)

## The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2012-2013 school year are  
**November 15, February 15 and April 15.**

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788. The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.

## Nova Scotia Teachers Union