

Professional Development Committee
Year End Report 2016-2017

Mandate:

The mandate of the Professional development Committee is:

- To support and develop strategies and programs to promote professional development for the membership of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union at the individual, school, Local and provincial levels.
- To provide advice to the Provincial Executive on matters relating to professional development and in-service education.
- To monitor the professional development needs of the membership.
- To liaise with the Local Professional Development Committees.
- To meet annually to identify themes and topics for future issues of Aviso
 - to set editorial policy
 - to set advertising policy
 - to evaluate issues of Aviso
- To make recommendations with regard to future directions for the publications; and to prepare recommendations for the Provincial Executive.
- To consider such resolutions as may be referred by Annual Council and make appropriate recommendations for the Provincial Executive.
- To participate as required in the NSTU Policy Review Process by providing recommendations for Provincial Executive consideration.

Activities of the PD Committee include:

- Administering the Out-of-Province Grants
- Administering the Full Time Study Grants
- Administering the NSTU Summer Travel Fellowship Grant Program
- Administering the NSTU Education Research Award Program
- Supporting and assisting Local PD Committees
- Offering professional development opportunities, in cooperation with Local PD Committees, to enhance skills at the Local PD Committee level
- Recommending policy to the Provincial Executive on matters relative to the professional development needs of the membership

The NSTU Professional Development Committee for the 2016-2017 school year was comprised of the following members:

Paul Syme (Kings)
Nick Wilson (Yarmouth),
Robert Lelievre (Inverness),
Mai-Ling Storm (Lunenburg County),
Stephanie George (Colchester-East Hants),
Nathan Orman (Shelburne County),
Keri Butler (PE Representative)
Betty Jean Aucoin (Staff Officer),

Meeting Dates:

The Professional Development Committee met on the following dates during the 2016-2017 school year:

October 14, 2016

January 13, 2017

April 13, 2017

The activities of this year's Professional Development Committee included the following:

- Reviewed the Professional Development Annual Report 2015-2016
- Reviewed the Online Committee for Vetting Grants/Awards Online noting that Members like the new online accessibility. The PD Committee moved to request staff investigate having our PDF application for Out of Province grants placed online.
- The Committee worked on revising the criteria and vetting process for Out of Province Grants.
- Committee members were assigned RRC Zone Contacts to seek concerns, questions and applause.
- The Committee vetted 36 Out-of-Province Conference grant applications recommending twelve recipients of \$475 each with four alternates to the Provincial Executive. In the April meeting, the Committee vetted 10 Out-of-Province Conference grant applications, recommending the PE award seven members \$425 each.
- reviewed the NSTU Curriculum Policy and forward their submissions on or before November 15, 2016.
- In review of the 2016 PD Conference Evaluations, the committee noted comments showcase a need for us to focus on Article 60.
- The Committee received and recommended to the Provincial Executive award the three applicants for the Education Research \$475 each.
- The Committee received three applications for the Full Time Study grants and made the recommended to the Provincial Executive awarding three applicants \$2000 each.
- The Committee received ten applications for the Travel Fellowship grants and recommended 10 members to the Provincial Executive to received \$300 each.
- Charting Your Course article, promotion in The Teacher in October, Promote with VP of PD in October sending out a flyer to go with Rep mailing to mention at local meetings. Committee will look at promotions for the following: PDAF, Full Year Study Leave and Research Awards.

- Discussions took place regarding themes of Provincial Workshops. Our key topic is transitioning to New Normal, re: putting yourself first, how to say no, what is professional, non professional (extra curricular), and volunteer responsibilities.

For the NSTU Professional Development Conference **Mind, Body and Balance – Mental Health for Educators** took place November 3 and 4, 2016, the following topics were brought forward:

- workshops; Article 60 – Regional Agreements,
 - Sharing Session-what works, what doesn't,
 - professional support of mind, body and soul,
 - teacher voice in a neo liberal society.
- Aviso representatives did not meet with the PD Committee.
 - The budget planned for the committee was 6405.00 and they spent 5247.00.

The committee selected meeting dates for the 2017-2018 school year, including the annual PD Conference.

October 13, 2017
November 3 & 4, 2017 PD Conference
January 12, 2018
March 29, 2018

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Syme, Committee Chair