

## **2017-2018 Year End Committee Report – Status of Women Committee**

### **Submitted by Keli Brewer, Chair**

The mandate of the Status of Women Committee pertains to promoting ways of enhancing the status of women in the teaching profession and in society. The Status of Women Committee members for 2017-2018 were: Keli Brewer (Chair), Lori Richard, Mary-Claire MacMillan, Diana Lynn Corkum, Kareen Knox, Lynnette Rankin, Colleen Scott (Provincial Executive), and Pamela Langille (Staff Liaison). The Committee held three meetings, the first meeting on October 13, 2017, the second meeting on January 22, 2018, and the third meeting prior to conference on April 13, 2018.

The budget for the Status of Women Committee was \$6,300 for the 2017-2018 academic year. The committee spent a total of \$3,377. The budget for the 2018 Status of Women Conference was \$12,750. The total amount spent on the conference was \$15,465.

The Committee moved forward in the 2017-2018 academic year with the following priorities:

- To promote International Women’s Day by preparing and sending out an information packet to help Locals and workplaces, including the NSTU office, celebrate International Women’s Day on March 8;
- To organize and host the first biennial provincially-sponsored conference under the Committee.

The Status of Women Committee had great accomplishments this year. The International Women’s Day packet was again made available online on its own designated webpage on the NSTU website. The Committee discussed many issues of concern affecting women members within the Union, the workplace, and generally in society. The engagement of the Committee was very evident in the success of the first conference that took place on April 13 and 14 under the theme, “Empowered Women Empower Women.” The session topics included:

- History on women in teaching and the Union with Pamela Langille
- Poetry with past poet laureate El Jones
- Panel discussion with Deborah Graham, Dr. Nur Zincir-Keywood, and Liane Tessier
- Self-advocacy in work and life with Adela Njie
- Work-life wellness with Fran Reddy Chisholm
- Violence in schools and campuses with Gail Gatchalian

As Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the committee members for their time and valuable contributions.