



## Education funding a top priority for Nova Scotians

According to a Corporate Research Associates (CRA) Omnibus poll with commissioned questions from the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Nova Scotians rank spending more on education as top priority for the Nova Scotia government, second only to spending on health care.

“Education funding has moved up in priorities for Nova Scotians since this time last year,” says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

In February 2010, when Nova Scotians were asked, “Which one of the following options do you think should be the highest priority of the Nova Scotia government?” the top three priorities were spending more on health care (21 per cent), balancing the provincial budget (18 per cent) and spending more on education (16 per cent). In November 2010, it was health care (26 per cent), balancing the provincial budget (18 per cent) and spending more on education (16 per cent). Now, 25 per cent of Nova Scotians rank spending more on health care as the highest priority, 20 per cent believe spending more on education is the highest priority and balancing the provincial budget remains unchanged at 18 per cent. (See graph this page)

The province is tabling its budget this month and cuts are expected to the public education portfolio, but when asked about the overall level of funding of the public school system in Nova Scotia,

23 per cent say it should be increased a lot and 32 per cent say it should be increased a little. Only 10 per cent believe it should be decreased a little and one per cent says it should be decreased a lot. “We’ve polled on this question for years now, and consistently Nova Scotians believe that funding to public education should be increased, not decreased,” continues Allen.

Since the current government came into power in June of 2009, there’s been a focus on reducing the deficit and getting the province “back to balance.” Last November,

Government asked school boards to look at reducing funding of the public education system by \$196 million over three years. “We asked Nova Scotians if they supported or opposed this, and 72 per cent of Nova Scotians completely or mostly opposed a reduction of this magnitude. We had a clear sense that Nova Scotians were not in favour of the government gutting \$196 million from the system, and these results reflect that.”

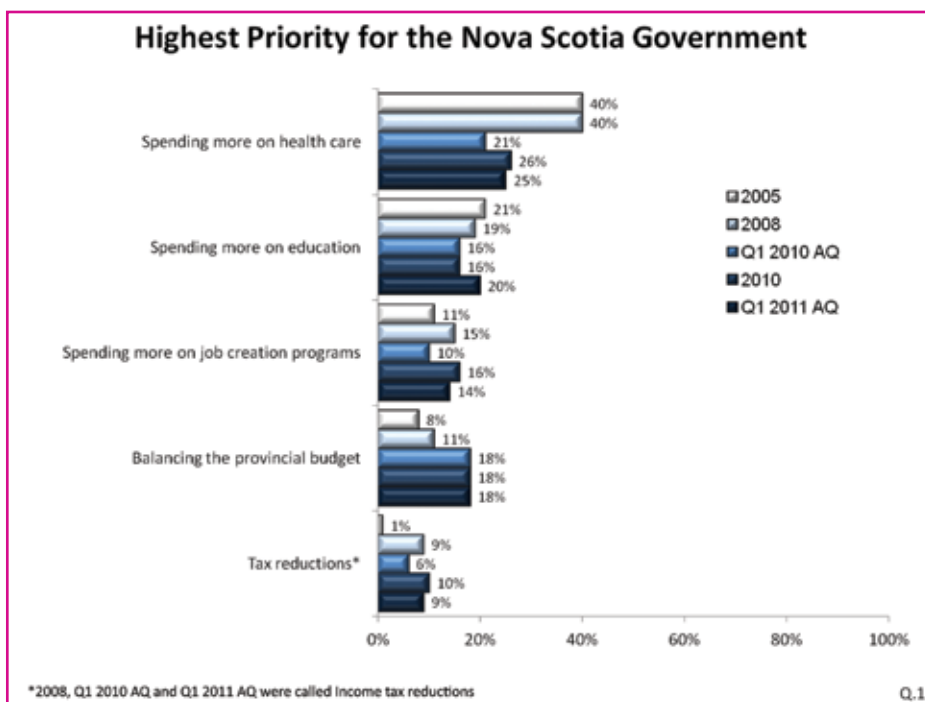
When asked why they oppose public education funding reduction the following

were the top reasons: public education is important (24 per cent), children are our future/need education (18 per cent), need to improve/keep quality of education (17 per cent), should reduce funding for other areas, not public education (9 per cent), reduce class sizes (5 per cent).

Nova Scotians also believe the public education system is important in terms of improving the economy of Nova Scotia. “Seventy-nine per cent of Nova Scotians think it’s critically important for improving the economy of our province, and 78 per cent think it’s critically important in improving the well-being of their communities, by improving literacy levels and the overall standard of living.”

Other good news is that 85 per cent of Nova Scotians have a completely favourable or mostly favourable opinion of school teachers in the province. “Through our Tales out of School campaign we’ve heard many stories about the positive effect teachers have had on their students, and we also know that public opinion is on our side,” concludes Allen.

These results were commissioned by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and were part of the CRA Atlantic Quarterly®, an independent, quarterly survey of Atlantic Canadians. Results are based on a sample of 404 adult Nova Scotians, conducted from February 10 to March 3, 2011, with results accurate to within ± 4.9 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.



## Federal election 2011: Education, children and youth to be key issues for CTF

Canadian teachers and supporters of public education are encouraged to examine each federal party’s position related to education, children and youth, and to vote for candidates who give priority to education and public programs that support the well-being of children and youth.

“Our Canadian public education systems face many challenges. Some of these can be addressed through federal/provincial/territorial partnerships while others through direct action by the federal government,” says Mary-Lou Donnelly, President of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF).

“Although responsibility for education lies with the provinces and territories, programs and services of many government departments directly affect teaching and learning in Canadian classrooms. Some of these departments include Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Aboriginal education), Canadian Heritage (official languages and copyright), Human resources and Skills Development Canada (labour, poverty and homelessness), Finance Canada and Health Canada.

“Teachers have much to offer on the direction of legislation and programs that affect public education in Canada. That is why CTF has prepared a document entitled *Federal Election: Education, Children and Youth* that is being shared widely across Canada. The document highlights CTF’s position and recommendations on the following issues: child poverty, child care, international cooperation, human exploitation and trafficking, status of women and women’s rights, labour rights, copyright and educational use of the Internet, and cyberconduct.

“This federal election campaign will be an opportunity to raise the profile of public education issues and we hope that our document will be a catalyst for dialogue and increased candidate awareness of how federal policies impact on teaching and learning in Canadian schools,” concludes Donnelly.



## executive highlights

### March 3-4, 2011

- Filed table officers report;
- Selected four candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program;
- Approved a recommendation that the NSTU President draft a letter of support to the NEA (National Education Association) of the U.S. in solidarity of their efforts to protect the right of the Collective Bargaining process;
- Approved a recommendation from the finance & property committee regarding the purchasing of gift/prizes for professional association conferences;
- Approved the draft budget to go forward to Annual Council 2011 for 2011-2012 with a recommendation that it be adopted;
- Discussed the Governance Renewal Committee report approving revisions to RRC operational procedures, RRC constitution and NSTU operational procedures;
- Received the nominating committee report: Selected a member to serve on the Sheonorail Board of Directors;
- Approved that three Resolutions be forwarded to Annual Council 2011 regarding provincial executive term of office;
- Approved a recommendation that an ad hoc committee be formed to study APSEA concerns.
- Approved the February 2011 version of the Cumberland Local Constitution;
- Approved an amendment to Operational Procedures 4 (ii) (b) – NSTU Committees;
- Approved an amendment in Regulation 4 (2a) of the Teachers’ Pension Act approving renewal of a Flexible Pension Option;
- Approved one Local Service Award be granted at Annual Council 2011;
- Approved a recommendation that the present Leadership Development Conference be changed to a three-year curriculum-based Leadership Skills Development Institute.



# people

## ViewFinders launches 10<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival for Youth

ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth launched its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on March 3 at Empire Theatres, Dartmouth Crossing. Educators who attended the launch had the opportunity to sign up their classes on the spot for Festival films and workshops, and were also guaranteed access to the Empire Theatres Bus Funding program, which helps subsidize transportation costs for students to travel. This year's ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth runs from April 12 to 16 at Empire Theatres, Dartmouth Crossing. Members of the Atlantic Film Festival Teacher Advisory Committee, who help select the films and programming for the ViewFinders Festival, were also on hand.



Above are some members of the teacher advisory committee and other invited guests: From left to right are: Jean-Claude Bergeron, Department of Education; Sabine Fels, J.L. Ilsley High School; Denise Davidson, HRSB Math Mentor; Stephen Turner, a teacher-participant in this year's NSTU/ViewFinders PSA project from Northumberland High School; Jason Beaudry, ViewFinders Director and Cathy Carreau, Halifax Regional School Board. Teacher Advisory Committee members missing from the photo: Sandy Bergeron, Annemarie MacInnes, Judy McDonald and Alex Wilson.

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



Since 2003, the Teachers *Plus* Credit Union (TPCU) has been the proud sponsor of Education Week. Its support has helped to raise the profile of the Week and further demonstrated its commitment to public education in Nova Scotia. Teachers *Plus* Credit Union assistant manager Angela Boone is shown with Education Week 2011 Chairperson Natalie Aucoin (centre) who is holding this year's Education Week poster. Aucoin is the Executive Director of la Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FPANE) and is the FPANE representative on the provincial Education Week committee. Shown with them is the president of TPCU's board of directors, Jim Kavanaugh. This year's Education Week theme is *Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century/L'enseignement novateur dans le 21e siècle*. Education Week will be celebrated April 10 to 16 and the awards ceremony will take place on Monday, April 11 at the Halifax Regional School Board building in Dartmouth.

## Four more members participate in Huntley Internship

The second installment of the John Huntley Memorial Internship for the 2010-11 school year took place on March 24 and 25. Through the two-day internship, Huntley participants learned more about the programs and services their Union provides for members. They met with the NSTU president and executive director, and with staff from the member services, professional development, communications, and counselling departments as well as with staff from the Early Intervention Program.

They are shown here with manager of the Early Intervention Program, Jennifer Finlayson (seated centre). Seated: Halifax County Local member Kathy Kerr teaches Grades 4 to 6 Core French at Atlantic Memorial-Terrance Bay School; Mary Currie, a member of APSEA (Atlantic Provinces' Special Education Authority) and the DHH (deaf and hard of hearing) bargaining unit teaches children who are deaf and hard of hearing in New Brunswick, covering schools from Woodstock to Minto. This is the first time an APSEA member has had the opportunity to participate in the John Huntley Memorial Internship. Standing: Cape Breton District member Mary MacPherson is a resource teacher at Coxheath Elementary and Yarmouth Local member



Trudy Comeau teaches math at Yarmouth High. The deadline for the next program is April 15, 2011.

## TWAR Committee

The Teachers with Administrative Responsibilities (TWAR) standing committee of the NSTU met Friday, March 25 at Central Office. This committee provides a voice for teachers in administrative positions. It examines and makes recommendations to the provincial executive on communication, PD, recruitment, selection, retention, and other issues and trends affecting administrators. A member of the School Administrators' Association (SAA) also sits on the committee.

Seated: Dawn Smith (Shelburne County), TWAR Committee Chair Terry Doucette (Queens) and Karen Webber (Halifax County). Standing: Mike Landry (SAA representative), Vince Gillis, provincial executive TWAR liaison, Arnold Burke (Cape Breton District) and TWAR NSTU staff liaison Danny Eddy. Missing: Lynn Corkum (Halifax City).



INVOLVING | INFORMING | INSPIRING

# THE teacher

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# Register with Student Vote for the next federal election

*Student Vote* is an election simulation for elementary and secondary school students under the voting age that coincides with official election periods.

It provides young Canadians with the opportunity to practice the habits of informed and engaged citizenship.

Registered schools receive free learning materials and electoral supplies to deliver the program.

During the campaign, students learn about the democratic process and the role of government, and investigate the party platforms and local candidates.

On *Student Vote* Day, students take on the roles of election officials and conduct an authentic vote on local candidates.

The results are collected from schools across Canada and shared with media for broadcast and publication after the polls close on Election Night.

In the 2008 federal election, 500,000 Canadian students cast a ballot in the program.

*Student Vote*, a national non-profit, non-partisan organization coordinated its first parallel municipal election program during the 2008 Nova Scotia local elections. The *Student Vote* Nova Scotia project was offered to elementary and high schools in partnership with Democracy 250. During Nova Scotia's last municipal and school board election, Nova Scotia students cast 13,203 from the 49 participating schools.

Taylor Gunn, Chief Election Officer of *Student Vote*, praised Nova Scotia teachers for their leadership in ensuring students under the voting age experienced the democratic process: "Teaching democracy within any election is a challenge, but this has been especially demanding for Nova Scotia teachers who engaged their students in both the federal and municipal elections. These teachers are the true heroes of our democracy. Without their effort, it is likely that no other adults would be introducing our democratic process to young Nova Scotians."

Join thousands of schools across Canada in the next federal election on May 2, in this nation-wide parallel election.



## Reaching out to Japanese teacher colleagues

In addition to inviting Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) Member organizations to respond to Education International (EI)'s urgent appeal for Japan ([www.ei-ie.org/uas/uaa\\_details/24](http://www.ei-ie.org/uas/uaa_details/24)), CTF also invites individual donations from teachers and Member organization's staff which will be funneled through the CTF International Aid Fund. These funds will supplement the EI appeal to meet the needs of Japanese teachers in these difficult circumstances.

If you wish to make a donation, please send to the CTF Trust Fund and mark it for the International Aid for Japan. Mail to: CTF Trust Fund, 2490 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa ON K1H 1E1.

Tax receipts for any individual donations will be issued.

More Information on the CTF site: [www.ctf-fce.ca/International/Default.aspx?subid=625969](http://www.ctf-fce.ca/International/Default.aspx?subid=625969).





### Where has the Easter Bunny hidden your money?

- service fees-on bank cards and credit cards
- coffee/tea-one large coffee per day equals \$550/year
- cell phone/cable/internet bills could be bundled
- ABM withdrawal fees

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- 2 Get a jump start on your 2012 RRSP with payroll deduction.
- 3 Do you need a 2nd opinion on your finances...We offer free financial advice.
- 4 Our office is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with cash service until 2 p.m.
- 5 We offer Travel Insurance, US Currency and Travelers cheques.
- 6 Need to protect your valuables, we offer 4 different sizes of safety deposit boxes.

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- 4 Go shopping! Make sure to take property a viewing worksheet with you to each showing so that you can compare properties after you have viewed them.
- 5 Buy your dream home.

Teachers Plus can help you take the stress out of buying your home. Call, email, or drop in today to get started.

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# education week

April 10 to 16 2011

## Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century



**Alexis Allen**

**PRESIDENT, NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION**



This year's Education Week recognizes teachers and education partners who pair innovative teaching and 21st Century tools.

We are proud of the work teachers do to create and nurture a learning environment that engages students to reach their full potential and provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to be media literate, digitally

conscious citizens. They strive to create an environment that develops aesthetic expression, communication, citizenship, personal development, problem solving and technological competence.

Our Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) encourages innovative program development in Nova Scotia's public schools. Through it we have many great examples of how innovative teaching meets 21st century needs, whether its using iPod Touches for students with autism, introducing robotics to Grade 5 students or starting a vermicomposting program.

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union I thank all of our members for what they do to promote creativity and innovation in classrooms and schools. I applaud the support and commitment of all our education partners in developing and organizing Education Week. I also thank and acknowledge the Teachers Plus Credit Union, which has been a long time supporter of the week, the Halifax Regional School Board and Chartwell's for their in-kind support.

**Vanda Dow**

**PRESIDENT, NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**



During Education Week we celebrate the successes and accomplishments of those involved in educating children in Nova Scotia, especially those related to this year's theme of teaching students to excel in the 21st Century.

Today's economy not only demands a high-level competence in traditional academic disciplines but also 21st century skills. Our students know more about the world, are global citizens, and they must learn that way. They must be sensitive to foreign cultures, conversant in different languages and keep up with the fast pace of technology.

Teachers build on what a student brings to the classroom. The foundation has been laid in the home, in most cases the groundwork firmly in place. For these students, the teacher can 'go the extra mile' giving them the opportunity to reach their greatest potential and the skills for our students to excel in their future studies and careers. Those that have the talent, and ability to truly connect with students in sharing their knowledge of the digital world, are to be applauded. NSFHSA congratulates the recipients of this year's awards. It's a time to honour not only the Education Week Award recipients, but everyone who influences the education of Nova Scotia's students.

**Vic Fleury**

**PRESIDENT, NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**



Recently Nova Scotia was host to Kenyan educators who are looking at Nova Scotia as a model for educational reform in their country. The Kenyan delegation was interested in everything from curriculum development to our system of education governance. We see evidence on a daily basis of the excellent and innovative curriculum and the impact it

has on our students.

Whether it's a science lab, a music program or a math class, our educators are constantly looking for creative and exciting ways to serve our young people and encourage them to learn. Classroom teachers, consultants, and administrative staff strive to engage all children and help them to learn in ways that meet their individual needs.

The Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA) is particularly pleased with this year's theme *Innovative teaching in the 21st century/L'enseignement novateur dans le 21e siècle*. The NSSBA, in cooperation with the Department of Education, is providing leadership to an initiative to help shape what education in our province should look like in the 21st century. Nova Scotia's education partners combined resources to develop a public awareness campaign to highlight the positive things happening in our schools. Visit [www.nstalesoutofschool.ca](http://www.nstalesoutofschool.ca) to see some powerful testimonials about the innovative things happening in our classrooms. The Education Week Awards Ceremony on April 11 is further testament to this success.

On behalf of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate this year's award recipients, who are representative of the countless educators who embrace innovation in the classroom, and are moving our province forward to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

**Honourable Ramona Jennex**

**MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA**



I can say with the utmost confidence, that Nova Scotia's educators are outstanding professionals. They provide students with opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to become successful in life and to become lifelong learners. Education Week is a way for the province and all of its education partners to thank educators for the work they do.

The theme, *Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century*, recognizes that teachers are on the cutting edge of integrating digital and web-based resources through creative methods. It is important that we ensure our students develop the skills and abilities to be creative, and to act ethically and responsibly. We want our students to not only be technologically competent in the digital environment but to be problem solvers, critical thinkers and effective communicators. Thanks to our teachers, Nova Scotia students are engaged in our changing world in a way that is not only keeping pace but raising the bar.

On behalf of the Department of Education and the province, I congratulate all of the Education Week award recipients. Thanks to educators like you, our province's students are being prepared for the future today.

**Véronique Legault**

**PRÉSIDENTE, FÉDÉRATION DES PARENTS ACADIENS DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE**



Cette année, le thème de la Semaine de l'éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse, «L'enseignement novateur dans le 21<sup>e</sup> siècle», va rejoindre un sujet qui est nouveau et important pour le futur de l'enseignement.

La Semaine de l'éducation permet de souligner le travail exceptionnel des enseignants et des partenaires qui attisent, stimulent et nourrissent l'intérêt de leurs élèves avec des nouveaux outils. Grâce à eux, les élèves se développent et des passions naissent, qui ne s'éteindront jamais.

L'enseignement novateur dans le 21<sup>e</sup> siècle est important pour l'éducation des jeunes aujourd'hui. Elle permet aux étudiants d'être engagés dans leurs études et d'utiliser les technologies pour apprendre d'une façon différente et novatrice. Les enseignants et partenaires vont au-delà des exigences pour assurer que leurs élèves réussissent pour réunion dans le futur.

**Beth MacIsaac**

**PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS**



The theme for this year's Education Week is particularly appropriate considering the present state of education in the province. The creativity and innovative abilities of our ANSEA members will be tested in the coming months as we simultaneously prepare our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

and cope with decreasing resources.

Our students will experience rapid change in their lifetimes and their basic survival skills will be abilities to think critically, solve problems innovatively, collaborate and communicate. Ironically enough, these are the same skills we will need to survive our present fiscal crisis.

Our challenges are many. We will need to be responsive to the needs of our students and adapt delivery of programs to the fiscal challenges we face while ensuring we have adequate resources for learning and an equitable system for their allocation. As the competition for diminishing resources increases, our values for continuing collaboration and open communication will be sorely tested.

Our organization is a learning community in and of itself. Our members maintain a very supportive learning network sharing new concepts and practices in our individual disciplines. The innovative educational leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has successfully mastered the competencies of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner!

Education Week is proudly sponsored by:



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Council 2011 Resolutions

Résolutions destinées à l'AGA 2011 du conseil

Resolutions are also available to members on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

Governance

2011-A      Policy                      Amend                      2/3s  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-Laws Article IV, 5 be amended by adding the words “*Effective as of Annual Council 2012,*” before the words “*The term of office*”, replacing the words “*starting August 1<sup>st</sup> and ending July 31<sup>st</sup>*” with “*beginning immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of Council*” and adding a new b) “*The term of office for all members of the Executive whose term of office expires in 2012 or 2013 shall conclude at the end of Annual Council 2012 or Annual Council 2013 respectively.*” The amended By-Law would read:

(a)      **Effective as of Annual Council 2012**, the term of office of a member of the Executive elected on a regional basis shall be two (2) years **starting August 1<sup>st</sup> and ending July 31<sup>st</sup> beginning immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Council.**

(b)      **The term of office for all members of the Executive whose term of office expires in 2012 or 2013 shall conclude at the end of Annual Council 2012 or Annual Council 2013 respectively.**

(Provincial Executive)

Brief

Several problems have been identified with the current practice whereby the Provincial Executive term of office begins on August 1. With the term beginning on August 1, an Executive meeting must be held after that date in order to select the Second Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the members of the Nominating Committee. The meeting must then adjourn so the Nominating Committee can prepare recommendations for membership on NSTU Standing Committees. The following day, the Provincial Executive reconvenes a meeting to process the recommendations of the Nominating Committee.

This is an unnecessary expense and an inefficient use of Executive Members’ time. It also means an extensive delay between the application deadline for standing committees and the appointments to those committees and frequently presents an organization dilemma for teachers who do not know what commitments they can make for the up-coming school year until late August.

Returning the term of Provincial Executive member to extend two years from Annual Council will allow for the appointment of the Second Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer and the members of the Nominating Committee at a brief meeting following the conclusion of Annual Council. The Nominating Committee would then be able to meet the day before the June Provincial Executive meeting, the Executive could process the recommendations for appointments to standing committees at the June meeting and teachers would know before the end of the school year whether they needed to organize the next school year around committee participation.

There would also be a saving to the Union by not requiring a special Provincial Executive meeting, with its very limited agenda, in August.

2011-B      Policy                      Amend                      2/3s  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** By-Laws Article V – Officers, 2. Elections (b)(ii) be amended by replacing the words “*August 1<sup>st</sup> and ending July 31<sup>st</sup>*” with “*at the conclusion of Annual Council*”. The amended By-Law would read:

The First Vice-President shall hold office for a period of one year or until his/her successor has been elected and shall be eligible for re-election for further periods of one year each. The Term of office for the First Vice-President shall be one (1) year beginning ~~August 1<sup>st</sup> and ending July 31<sup>st</sup>~~ **at the conclusion of Annual Council.**

(Provincial Executive)

Brief

The First Vice-President is elected at Annual Council, but currently the term of office does not begin until August 1. This presents a potential disconnect between a newly elected First Vice-President and an incumbent who may have been defeated in the election at Annual Council. The term of office for the First Vice-President should begin following the election at Annual Council.

2011-C      Policy                      Amend  
**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** effective in 2012, Policy 13 – Provincial Executive Committees, (d)(i) be amended by replacing the words “*after August 1<sup>st</sup>*” with “*following Annual Council*”. The amended policy would read:

Nominating Committee of the NSTU  
At the first meeting of the Provincial Executive ~~after August 1<sup>st</sup>~~ **following Annual Council**, a Nominating Committee of five (5) Executive members is to be appointed to prepare a slate of members to serve on various committees of the NSTU.

(Provincial Executive)

Brief

This policy change is required in order to achieve the benefit of the By-Laws amendment changing the term of Provincial Executive members to begin immediately following the conclusion of Annual Council.

Gouvernance

2011-A      Politique                      Modifiée                      2/3  
**II EST RÉSOLU QUE** l’article IV, paragraphe 5 du Règlement intérieur soit amendé en ajoutant les mots « À partir de l’assemblée générale annuelle 2012 », avant les mots « *Le mandat* », en remplaçant les mots « *il commencera le 1<sup>er</sup> août et se terminera le 31 juillet* » par « *il commencera immédiatement après la clôture de l’assemblée générale annuelle du conseil* » et en ajoutant un nouveau paragraphe b) : « *Le mandat de tous les membres du Comité exécutif dont le mandat expire en 2012 ou en 2013 se terminera à l’issue de l’assemblée générale annuelle 2012 ou de l’assemblée générale annuelle 2013 selon le cas* ». Le règlement amendé se lirait comme suit.

- (a)      **À partir de l’assemblée générale annuelle 2012**, le mandat des membres du Comité exécutif provincial élus sur une base régionale sera de deux (2) ans; il commencera le 1<sup>er</sup> août et se terminera le 31 juillet. **il commencera immédiatement après la clôture de l’assemblée générale annuelle du conseil.**
- (b)      **Le mandat de tous les membres du Comité exécutif dont le mandat expire en 2012 ou en 2013 se terminera à l’issue de l’assemblée générale annuelle 2012 ou de l’assemblée générale annuelle 2013 selon le cas.**

(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif

Plusieurs problèmes se sont posés à cause de la pratique actuelle selon laquelle le mandat des membres du Comité exécutif provincial commence le 1<sup>er</sup> août. À cause des mandats commençant le 1<sup>er</sup> août, il est nécessaire de tenir une réunion du Comité exécutif après cette date afin de choisir le second vice-président, le secrétaire-trésorier et les membres du Comité des candidatures. La réunion doit ensuite être ajournée afin que le Comité des candidatures puisse préparer des recommandations destinées aux membres au sujet des comités permanents du NSTU. Le lendemain, le Comité exécutif provincial se réunit à nouveau pour traiter les recommandations du Comité des candidatures.

Cela constitue une dépense superflue et un usage peu efficace du temps des membres du Comité exécutif. Cela signifie également un délai prolongé entre la date limite des candidatures aux comités permanents et les nominations à ces comités et cela présente souvent un dilemme en matière d’organisation pour les enseignants car ils doivent attendre la fin du mois d’août pour savoir quels engagements ils peuvent prendre pour l’année scolaire à venir.

Le fait de ramener le mandat des membres du Comité exécutif à deux ans à partir de l’assemblée générale annuelle permettra de nommer le second vice-président, le secrétaire-trésorier et les membres du Comité des nominations lors d’une brève réunion suivant la clôture de l’assemblée générale annuelle. Le Comité des nominations serait alors en mesure de se réunir la veille de la réunion du mois de juin du Comité exécutif provincial, qui pourrait traiter les recommandations de candidatures aux comités permanents lors de cette réunion de juin. Les enseignants sauraient avant la fin de l’année scolaire s’ils ont besoin d’organiser leur prochaine année scolaire en fonction de leur participation à des comités.

Cela constituerait également une économie pour le syndicat en éliminant la réunion spéciale du Comité exécutif provincial du mois d’août, dont l’ordre du jour est très restreint.

2011-B      Politique                      Modifiée                      2/3  
**II EST RÉSOLU QUE** l’article V du Règlement intérieur – Bureau du syndicat, 2. Élections (b)(ii) soit amendé en remplaçant les mots « *il commence le 1<sup>er</sup> août et se termine le 31 juillet* » par les mots « *il commence à l’issue de l’assemblée générale annuelle* ». Le règlement modifié se lirait comme suit :

Le premier vice-président occupe son poste pendant une période d’un an ou jusqu’à l’élection de son successeur et il peut être réélu pour des mandats supplémentaires d’une durée d’un an chacun. La durée du mandat du premier vice-président est d’un (1) an; ~~il commence le 1<sup>er</sup> août et se termine le 31 juillet~~ **il commence à l’issue de l’assemblée générale annuelle.**

(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif

Le premier vice-président est élu lors de l’assemblée générale annuelle mais, actuellement, son mandat ne commence que le 1<sup>er</sup> août. Cela peut rendre la transition difficile entre le vice-président nouvellement élu et le vice-président sortant qui a perdu les élections lors de l’assemblée générale annuelle. Le mandat du premier vice-président devrait commencer à la clôture de l’assemblée générale annuelle.

2011-C      Politique                      Modifiée  
**II EST RÉSOLU QU’** à partir de l’année 2012, la politique no 13 – Comités de l’Exécutif provincial – (d)(i) soit amendée en remplaçant les mots « *qui suit le 1<sup>er</sup> août* » par « *qui suit l’assemblée générale annuelle* ». La politique amendée se lirait comme suit.

Comité des candidatures du NSTU  
Lors de la première réunion du Comité exécutif provincial ~~qui suit le 1<sup>er</sup> août~~ **qui suit l’assemblée générale annuelle**, un Comité des candidatures composé de cinq (5) membres du Comité exécutif est nommé pour préparer une liste de membres qui siégeront aux divers comités du NSTU.

(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif

Ce changement de politique est nécessaire afin de refléter l’amendement au Règlement intérieur qui modifie le mandat des membres du Comité exécutif provincial pour le faire commencer immédiatement à l’issue de l’assemblée générale annuelle.

# Insomnia—How do I beat it?

by Maya Fallows, O.T. Reg. (NS)  
CASE COORDINATOR, NSTU EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

## ABOUT INSOMNIA

Most adults have experienced insomnia or sleeplessness at some point in their lives. Approximately 40 per cent of adults report to have experienced this condition. People who have insomnia may have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep, or they may wake up too early in the morning. We are aware of how we feel and perform after one or more sleepless nights, however, few of us seek medical advice and many of us remain unaware of the strategies we can use to deal with insomnia.

You may wonder how much sleep you need each night. Good sleep is not defined as a specific number of hours of sleep, as we all vary in our sleep requirements. Although most adults require seven or eight hours each night, you know you are not getting enough sleep if you feel tired during the day or notice a decrease in your daytime function.

Getting adequate sleep is essential to maintain a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Insomnia can affect you mentally and physically. It can affect your ability to concentrate and perform activities during the daytime. It can make you feel drowsy, depressed and irritable. If your inability to obtain adequate sleep continues over a prolonged period, you are at increased risk of developing high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes.

## CAUSES

Insomnia may be caused by various factors. Short-term insomnia may simply be related to jet lag, noise or an uncomfortable room temperature. Loss of sleep may also be related to stressful life situations such as the loss of a loved one, divorce, increased workload, job insecurity/unemployment or an acute medical condition. Long-term insomnia may be the result of psychological concerns such as anxiety, stress or depression. In fact, insomnia is sometimes an indicator of depression. Medical conditions can also trigger insomnia and include chronic pain and fatigue syndromes, acid reflux disease, certain lung diseases and degenerative conditions such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. Certain medications may also have side effects affecting your sleep pattern.

## WHEN TO SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE

If you are suffering from insomnia, you should consult your doctor if the problem lasts longer than three to four weeks; sooner if it begins to interfere with activities of daily living and your ability to function. Insomnia may be a symptom of another medical or psychological problem or it may be related to your current medication regimen, both of which should be addressed by a physician.



If you are experiencing insomnia, seek the assistance of your family physician. Your doctor may inquire about your sleep habits, medications, intake of caffeine or alcohol, whether you smoke, conditions that may be causing you pain, or events in your life that are causing you emotional turmoil. If the cause of your insomnia is not clear, you may be asked to complete a sleep diary to identify patterns and conditions that may be affecting your sleep. The key is to find out what is causing the insomnia so that the problem can be dealt with directly. Many people can sleep better by making a few changes to their sleep habits.

## PREVENTION

### Tips to help you form good sleep habits:

- Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, including weekends. This will help accustom your body to sleep at night.
- Establish a bedtime routine. Maintain a pattern that your body can connect with sleep, e.g., warm bath, bedtime snack, brush teeth, read for 10 minutes followed by going to bed.
- Use the bedroom for sleeping only. Don't watch television while you are in bed.
- Control your environment. Ensure your bedroom is a quiet and dark environment. If white noise is helpful, you can use a fan to block noise coming from another room. Alternatively, ear plugs will work well. Avoid extreme temperatures.

- Refrain from taking naps during the day if possible as this may make your insomnia worse. If you need to nap, limit your nap to 15 minutes unless directed by your doctor.
- If you are still awake after trying to fall asleep for 30 minutes, try a relaxing activity such as listening to soothing music or reading.

### Tips to help improve sleep:

- Avoid or reduce the use of caffeine, decongestants, alcohol and tobacco.
- Avoid large meals, excessive fluid intake, and strenuous exercise before bedtime.
- Exercise regularly.
- Eat a small snack before bed such as warm milk and toast.
- Find effective ways to manage your stress. Learn relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or meditation.
- Don't lie in bed worrying about problems. Deal with issues during the day whenever possible. If you find your wheels still turning at bedtime, write down the issues and your concerns, and what you can do about them AFTER you have had a good night's sleep.

*For more information about Insomnia, visit The College of Family Physicians of Canada at [www.cfpc.ca](http://www.cfpc.ca) or eMedicine Health at [www.emedicinehealth.com](http://www.emedicinehealth.com). To learn more about good sleep habits and tips to improve your sleep, speak to your doctor, or contact the NSTU Counselling Services or Early Intervention Program for Teachers.*

## After Hours Telephone Intake, Crisis Counselling and Referral Service



4:30 PM AST to 8:30 AM AST  
After Hours, 24-Hour Service  
during Weekends & Holidays



**During these hours, call: 1-800-268-7708**

Provided By: Health Canada's Employee Assistance Services  
Crisis Referral Centre

## The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

*The remaining deadline for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2010-2011 school year is 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**

## did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at **Be\_Well@nstu.ca**.

Please contact Erin at [ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca) to provide her with your NSTU email address. The **Be\_Well@nstu.ca** list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.





# BEA makes presentation to NSTU's provincial executive

The Black Educators Association of Nova Scotia met with the NSTU provincial executive during its March 3 and 4 meeting. They explained their organization's mission and structure and described the programs and services the BEA offers. "We want to explore ways in which the NSTU can work with the BEA," says BEA's executive director Brad Barton.

The BEA came into being in 1971 when the Negro Education Committee (established in 1969 by Gus Wedderburn) changed its name and established the goal of improving the quality of education offered to Black Nova Scotians. In 1988, Gerald Clarke, a vice-principal and member of the Halifax City Local, became the first Executive Director of the Association.

The BEA helps to develop curriculum for the public school system, raises funds for bursaries to African Nova Scotia Students, advocates for students, families and teachers, and delivers anti-racist courses and sensitivity training. "We advocate for Black teachers in collaboration with school boards and the NSTU around issues of employment equity," continues Barton.

The Association works closely with the African Canadian Services Division of the Department



Brad Barton addresses NSTU's provincial executive.



From left to right: BEA executive director Brad Barton, NSTU executive director Bill Redden, BEA executive member George Gray, principal at Ellenvale Junior High School in Dartmouth, BEA member Dolly Williams, NSTU president Alexis Allen, and BEA executive member Martin Morrison, RCH Coordinator at the Tri-County Regional School Board.

of Education. Since Dr. Enid Lee's review of the Department of Education's Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report, Barton says it's important that the BEA continue further collaboration with its partners, including the NSTU. Lee reviewed the effectiveness of the programs and services implemented as a result of the recommendations of BLAC Report, *Redressing Inequity - Empowering Black Learners*.

The BEA also offers summer math camps for African Nova Scotian students and has a network of regional educators around the province that work with the African Nova Scotian community and the education system to monitor and provide supports that encourage a more inclusive environment for learning. The BEA regional educators are as follows: Brenda Clarke (Southwest Region), John Cleveland (Valley Region), Roger Johnson (Halifax Region), Crystal States (Northern Region), Deborah Emmerson (Dartmouth Region), Joanne Reddick (Strait Region) and Janie Webber (Cape Breton Region).

The BEA also organizes a Cultural Academic Enrichment Program (CAEP), an after school program. "The CAEP assists learners in developing their skills and abilities through peer tutors, subject specialists and site coordinators," says Barton.

The NSTU is going to liaise with the BEA through its Professional Associations to offer professional development opportunities for NSTU members that address the issues of African Nova Scotian students.



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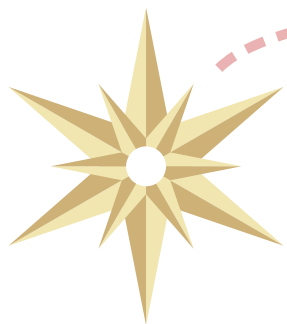
<b>Halifax</b> 6155 North St. 902 455 6771	<b>Dartmouth</b> 375 Pleasant St. 902 434 9933	<b>Tantallon</b> 5209 St. Margaret's Bay. 902 820 3030
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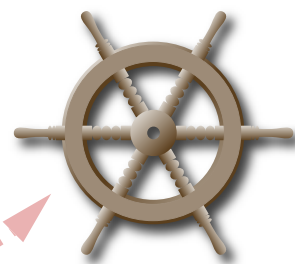
www.cbi.ca







# Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## New NSTU website supports effective and efficient communication

by Simon Wilkin

EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, COORDINATOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS

On March 3, 2011 the Nova Scotia Teachers Union launched a new website, with enhanced features, that will allow us to more effectively and efficiently communicate with our members and the public. This was the first major re-design in almost seven years—since Annual Council 2004.

NSTU staff in collaboration with Bedford-based immediaC Worldwide Incorporated, N.S., designed and developed the new website. For more than 12 years immediaC has focused on client needs, delivering more than 1,000 websites, designs and web applications. ImmediaC's team of website specialists support clients across North America and Europe. They deliver innovative website solutions including website design, search-engine marketing, web database development and social media. Their attention to quality and experience in web design, communications, online creativity and online software design allow them to deliver unparalleled solutions for clients.

The first enhancement that site visitors will see is that the website has moved to a single interface in which all of the content that is on the website is visible to every visitor. The content that is intended for members only is password protected so when it is accessed the visitor must enter valid nstu.ca credentials to

view it. This should facilitate quicker access to relevant information for our members. Members who would like to access the protected content and currently do not have an nstu.ca account can find the information under the Communications menu and NSTU Web Accounts to set one up.

Another added feature of the new website are the video feeds. These will allow the organization to publish an alternate form of communication and add a personal touch in connecting with our members. It is our intent to do regular video posts addressing current issues related to the NSTU and education in general. The video feeds are integrated from our YouTube channel – nstuwebcast. If you are accessing the website from an educational site the lower right hand section under Featured Video may appear blank if YouTube is not accessible at your school or campus.

We have also incorporated Twitter feeds into the new website from our Twitter account: @nstuteachersunion. You will see these Tweets scrolling on the front page of the website in the lower left hand section. The scrolling Tweets will contain the most recent 20 Tweets from the organization. If readers would like to view older Tweets or subscribe to our feeds they can access our account through Twitter and start following. By following us on Twitter, feeds will be automatically directed to a user account eliminating the need to read the website or access our Twitter account directly.

On the front page visitors will be able to view interchanging banners including brief information on current NSTU sponsored events such as education campaigns, upcoming

conferences or meetings. These banners are only visible from the front page of the website and are hidden once a visitor enters a content page of the website. We hope this will keep visitors informed of NSTU activities but not distract from accessing the information.

The new website is designed to reflect the structure of the organization. Under the menu items you will find information pertaining to the departments within the NSTU—Member Services, Professional Development and Communications. Along the top of every page of the website you will find static links to Local, Regional, Provincial, Francophone, Insurance and Financial information. Visitors can also access the NSTU Calendar, Webmail and Search features from the banner section on every page of the website.

We would like to invite members to provide feedback and suggest further enhancements that can be made to the updated look, feel and functionality of the new website.

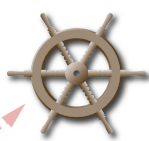


Visitors can access a feedback form under the Communications menu and Online Forms.

The launch of the new website was the first step in a number of improvements the NSTU will be making to our online presence. There will soon be improvements to the NSTU webmail system, which will include increased mailbox sizes and greater compatibility with desktop and mobility applications. Other online systems that will see redesigns are the conference registration system and membership registry system. The goal of updating our online capacity is to further inform and engage the membership. We hope you like the improvements and look forward to hearing from you.



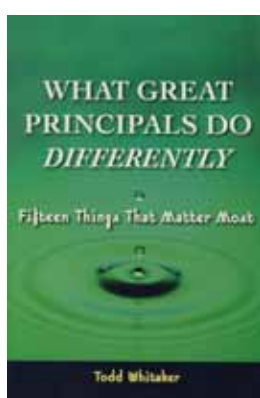
## Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by April 29 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD Book Giveaway is *What Great Principals do Differently Fifteen Things that Matter Most*, by Todd Whitaker.

Published by Eye On Education, author Todd Whitaker blends school-centered studies and experience working with hundreds of administrators and reveals 15 things that the most successful principals do and that other principals do not. *What Great Principals do Differently*, show you why these practices are effective and it also demonstrates how to implement each of them in your school.



## The Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium What's New At The NSEL

### We've moved!

We are now located in the Burnside Industrial Park. Our phone numbers remain the same but our new address is:

395-3 Spectacle Lake Drive  
Dartmouth, NS  
B3B 1W8

### Module 14- Autism Spectrum Disorder:

In this 3-day Module, participants will consolidate their knowledge of the context of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) including the history, diagnostic criteria and associated characteristics of Autism. They will synthesize their knowledge of how to develop a comprehensive program plan which utilizes research-based interventions that are considered "best practices". In addition, they will learn to recognize the roles and responsibilities of the various team members in the implementation of the program plan. Finally, participants will develop an understanding of the role assessment plays in planning effective programs. This module is divided into two sessions; two initial days and one follow-up day a month or so later. Before leaving on the second day, participants will choose a project (from a menu of choices) and return on Day 3 with concrete experiences to share, question and debrief with the group.

For information on any of our programs check the NSEL Website

[www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca) or  
call 422-3270 for more information.



Negotiations Update

During the last set of negotiation sessions on March 9 and 10, 2011 all outstanding issues were examined by both the Nova Scotia Teachers Union negotiating committee and the Department of Education’s negotiating committee. At this point in time no further dates have been scheduled. The Negotiating Committee is concerned with the progress of negotiations and is examining the statutory options available under the Teachers’ Collective Bargaining Act (TCBA). A Summary of collective Bargaining Procedures of the TCBA has been distributed to members of the provincial executive. Updates will be given through Negotiations Bulletins. At this point in time, no further dates have been scheduled.



Changing With The Profession:

Guidelines for School Leaders

Institute Resource Person ANDY HARGREAVES



Andy’s experience includes being a primary school teacher and lecturer.

Mount Allison University Sackville, NB

July 4-7, 2011

An Instructional Leadership Institute

For too many years, educational change has been imposed on teachers through waves of reform that ignore professionals, overtake each other and washover the schools, leaving only superficial changes in narrow areas of the curriculum behind them.

This institute points to and draws on research on leading edge and high performing practice from around the world that produces positive improvement, dynamic innovation and increased results by working with the teaching profession as enthusiastic partners in the change and innovation process. All the research has been conducted directly by Professor Hargreaves on the world’s highest performing countries and systems in education and in other organizations as well.

In this Institute, leaders will understand the key criteria under pinning high performance far beyond expectations through international benchmarking of high performing jurisdictions such as

- Finland – the highest performing non-Asian country on the international PISA assessments;
- Singapore – the highest performing country on PISA of all;
- Canada – that performs just behind Finland and Singapore – particular with reference to Alberta’s innovation strategy and Ontario’s special education reforms.
- England – high performing schools with high-poverty populations within that country.
- Teacher union–driven reforms in the US.
- Leading performers in business and sport.

Through presentation, interaction and engagement with case materials, as well as reflection on and application to their own practice, leaders will come to grips with the living principles of The Fourth Way of educational change as discussed in the Hargreaves’s co-authored book on The Fourth Way and in the upcoming sequel: The Fourth Way in Motion.

Leaders will learn that successful and professionally inclusive change has been and can be achieved when leaders pay attention to:

- developing an inspiring and inclusive dream
- securing public engagement in change at all levels
- ensuring that what is essential for some students with disabilities is good for all students
- promoting innovation as well as improvement
- making judicious rather than capricious use of new technology
- distributing leadership widely and wisely
- building professional learning communities that are evidence in formed not data driven
- creating systems and commitments in which strong schools help weaker neighbours.

Work with the profession, not on it. Move towards resistance, not away from it. Bring about change that is supportable, successful and also sustainable. This institute will introduce you to the world’s leading exemplars of high performance, the common principles that underpin their success, and the practices that can make the same success come alive in your school and high performing practice from around the world that produces positive improvement, dynamic innovation and increased results by working with the teaching profession as enthusiastic partners in the change and innovation process. All the research has been conducted directly by Professor Hargreaves on the world’s highest performing countries and systems in education and in other organizations as well.

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This Institute is intended for School/District and other educational administrators from Atlantic Canada. A total of 60 participants will be accepted.

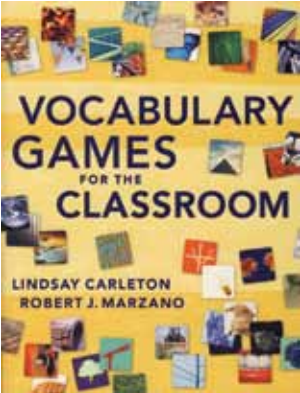
Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations - registration fee is \$300. All others \$400. For registration information, contact Gail Doucette at the NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free in NS).



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 29 to be eligible for the draw.

This month’s FRESH giveaway is Vocabulary Games for the Classroom, by Lindsay Carleton and Robert J. Marzano and published by Marzano Research Laboratory. Vocabulary Games for the Classroom presents 13 games designed to engage students in learning academic vocabulary. The text follows a step-by-step approach explaining the design, set-up, materials and directions for each game. In addition, an extensive appendix is filled with hand-picked vocabulary terms that are considered critical, based on Marzano’s research.



ATTENTION

Family Studies Teachers!

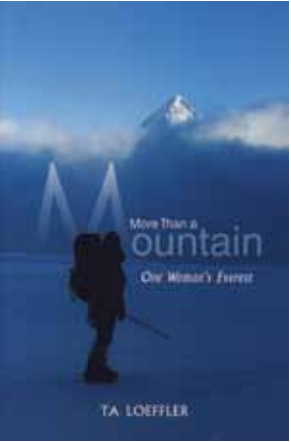


If you have not attended a recent conference your FSTA membership would not be up-to-date. You can become a member of FSTA at anytime by completing our application online and submitting a fee of\$15. That will keep you up-to-date with our quarterly newsletters, requirements for grants and other FSTA announcements.

Please check out our website at http://local.nstu.ca/web/fsta.



Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 29 to be eligible for the draw.



This month’s equity book giveaway is More Than a Mountain, written by Dr. TA Loeffler and published by Creative Publishing. More than a Mountain is a deeply moving account of how one woman overcame adversity to reach out to youth by becoming a testament to the power of having big dreams and big goals. Chronicling years of personal growth and climbing achievements, Loeffler’s intimate narrative explores her evolution as a mountaineer and Buddhist. Writing with openness, humour, and introspection, Loeffler recounts her preparation for and climb of Mount Everest. She invites readers into the extreme world of high altitude climbing, giving them a candid look at places where most only dream to tread.

2011 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS



All regional elections will be conducted by electronic vote.

Region	To be elected	Date of Election
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	1 member	May 3
Cape Breton District	1 member	April 5
Community College	1 member	May 5
Cumberland	Acclaimed — Patricia Hillier	
CSANE	1 member	May 7
Digby-Yarmouth	Acclaimed — Wally Fiander	
Halifax City	1 member	May 5
Halifax County	1 member	April 27
Northside-Victoria	1 member	April 12
Pictou	1 member	April 5
Shelburne-Queens	1 member	May 4





## Page 10, The Teacher, April 2011



## Eric Boutilier

### INTEGRITY. COMMITMENT. LEADERSHIP. EXPERIENCE.

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Married to Janine, a current NSTU member and President of a Professional Association of the NSTU.
- Son, Benn a Grade 12 student at Cobequid Educational Centre.
- Daughter, Abby a Grade 10 student at Cobequid Educational Centre.
- Resides in Brookside, just outside Truro

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Teacher with 26 years of experience
- Elementary, Jr. High and Sr. High experience
- Guidance Counsellor
- Acting Vice-Principal

#### EDUCATION

- MEd Acadia University
- MEd Saint Mary's University
- BEd Acadia University
- AEd Nova Scotia Teachers College

#### NSTU EXPERIENCE

##### Provincial

- 1st Vice-President
- 2nd Vice-President
- Chair of Member Services Committee
- Negotiating Committee
- Provincial Executive Member
- Chair of Personnel Committee
- Chair of Nominating Committee
- Public Affairs Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Summer Leadership Module Level 3 (highest level)
- Provincial Economic Welfare Committee
- Time to Learn-Time to Teach Committee

##### Canadian/International

- CTF Board of Directors
- CTF - Overseas Teachers' Association School Rep



##### Regional

- Chair of Regional Representative Council
- Vice Chair of Regional Representative Council
- Employment Equity Committee
- Economic Welfare Committee
- Marking and Prep Committee
- Rep Retreat
- Negotiating Team
- Teacher-Board Committee
- Grievance Committee

##### Local

- President
- Past President
- VP of Economic Welfare
- VP of Public Affairs Committee
- Annual Council Delegate
- Finance Committee
- Grievance Committee
- Rep Retreat
- Local Summer Leadership
- School Rep

Vote Eric for 1st Vice-President  
For information call 893-8547 or  
email at [eboutilier@nstu.ca](mailto:eboutilier@nstu.ca)

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Public Education affects all of us. Tell us why you're proud of Nova Scotia's public education system.

visit [www.nstalesoutofschool.ca](http://www.nstalesoutofschool.ca)



## Congratulations to our March BOOK WINNERS!!

**FRESH:** Teaching with Fire: Poetry that Sustains the Courage to Teach  
**Heather Rendell** from Seton Elementary in North Sydney

**EQUITY:** Sister to Courage: Stories from the World of Viola Desmond, Canada's Rosa Parks  
**Cheryl LeBlanc** from Malcolm Munroe Junior High in Sydney

## Yoga in Schools

### Summer Teacher Training Intensive



**Summer Institute Yoga Teacher Training Intensive:** empowering educators to teach with inspiration, connection and peace.

This program will provide teachers with module 1 & 2: an introduction to Yoga, Yoga 11, Special Needs and Yoga for Autism, with physical practice and experiential activities. These hours are part of the optional 200hr certification, which is required to teach Yoga 11 in schools (graduates of the 200hr Teacher Training will receive all yoga programs designed by Jenny).

Be one of the growing number of teachers bringing this transformational yoga experience to their students!

*"This program created and lead by Jenny and Blair, has revitalized and prepared an inspired group to deliver the new PSP Yoga 11 curriculum. The joy and gratitude is palpable throughout the journey. This course has and will change many lives, having lasting effects within the education system."* —Sue Stevenson

*"I have felt for quite some time that I have been missing something and through this program, I have come to realize that something was me."* —Megan Grant

**This PD workshop will leave you feeling refreshed, renewed and inspired.**

**Leader(s):** **Jenny Kierstead** is a former Phys. Ed teacher and the founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studios. She was the contributing designer of the Yoga 11, co-author of Yoga for Autism and Special Needs. She created the Yoga Posters for Elementary and Secondary levels published through Thompson Publications and has trained and mentored the many teachers introducing yoga to their schools.

**Blair Abbass** was the first teacher to bring Yoga 11 to the HRSB. He is a contributing designer of the Yoga 11 curriculums in the area of meditation.

Date(s): July 18-21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

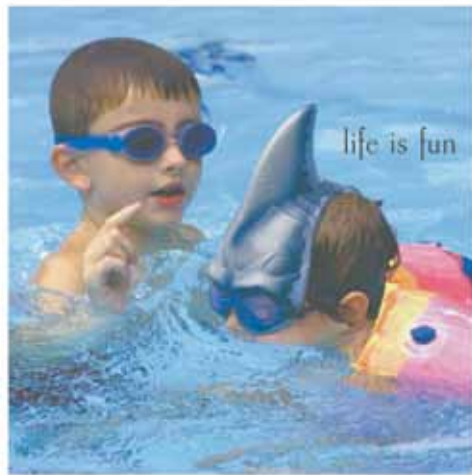
Location: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax

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

Register early to secure your spot!

Contact: **Jenny Kierstead** and **Blair Abbass** 444-YOGA (9642)  
[info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca](mailto:info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca)

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# Department of Education, School Boards and the NSTU organize Summit on Gifted Education & Talent Development

Phase three of the roll out of the Department of Education's new *Gifted Education and Talent Development Guide for Teachers* will culminate in a Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development at Mount Saint Vincent University May 23 to 25, 2012.

"We're very excited to be presenting a Summit of Gifted Education and Talent Development," says Daniel Demers, Special Education Consultant with the Student Services Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Education. "We're also pleased to have internationally known speakers, Dr. Sally Reis, Dr. Rachel McAnallen and Dr. Rebecca Eckert already confirmed for next year's conference."

Reis, a professor in educational psychology at the University of Connecticut (UConn) has gained international recognition as one of the top five experts in the field of gifted and talented education. She directs UConn's Confratute program, the world's largest gifted education training program. McAnallen or "Ms. Math" shares the joy and beauty of mathematics with learners of all ages. A professional educator for 45 years, she travels the globe teaching her subject at every grade level. Eckert, a clinical professor in the Neag School of Education at UConn, works with pre-service teachers. She was the Gifted Resource Specialist for the National Association for Gifted Children, and co-edited the book *Designing Services and Programs for High-Ability Learners*.

Demers, along with NSTUPD staff officer Gérard Cormier and Cindy Tully, Facilitator, Alternative Programming with the Halifax Regional School Board, are chairing the Summit steering committee.

"The Summit is modeled on University of Connecticut's Confratute," says Dr. Meredith Greene Burton, a teacher with the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board and co-chair of the Summit's program committee.

Confratute is a summer conference focused on Enrichment Teaching and Learning that combines the best qualities of a CONference with a summer instiTUTE with a whole lot of FRaternity in between. UConn has been holding Confratute since 1978. Greene Burton completed her Ph.D., specializing in gifted education and talent development at the UConn, where she taught graduate courses in gifted education, worked as a research assistant for The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented, and was the co-organizer and onsite coordinator of Confratute.

The Summit's steering committee encourages teachers to put their request for this conference through their Article 60 committee as soon as possible. Further information about the Summit will be forthcoming in May and June. Information will appear in the May and June issues of *The Teacher*. The other steering committee members are: Caroline Jobin (CSAP), Sue Taylor-Foley (Department of Education), Angela Murray (NSTU), Mary Jane Harkins (MSVU), Ardith Haley (DOE), Sandy Carmichael and Tony Stewart (NSELC), Ray Fernandes (DOE) and Robin Beeler-Denaro (N. S. School Book Bureau).

The first phase of the roll out of the Guide saw 13 NSTU professional associations conduct workshops as part of their offerings at the 2010 Provincial Conference Day on October 22. Teachers were given the opportunity to learn the document's content, implications for the classroom, as well as strategies to support gifted and talented students. Some 600 Nova Scotia teachers received the new guide during the Provincial Conference Day.

As part of the Department's Phase 2 of the roll out, the Student Services division and Learning Resources and Technology Services hosted a video-conference series featuring Dr. Meredith Greene Burton. Recorded in six hour-long conversations, the series examines four key sections of the guide. The Department is planning a French version of the recording and there will be French break-out sessions offered at the summit. An existing series of DVDs, under the *Challenge for Excellence* series (*School-Wide Enrichment; Enrichment Clusters; Total Talent Portfolio; and Program Planning*), are also available for viewing online at [www.dvl.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.dvl.ednet.ns.ca).

The *Gifted Education and Talent Development* video-conference methodology, called VIA, offers the opportunity to participate in professional learning options from the comfort of home or school while reducing travel requirements. In the fall of 2011, the Student Services Division is planning to facilitate a two-week moderated period when Nova Scotia teachers will be able to view the recorded modules and ask questions to a moderator online.

The new resource, is available at [http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/studentsvcs/Gifted\\_Education\\_and\\_Talent\\_Development.pdf](http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/studentsvcs/Gifted_Education_and_Talent_Development.pdf) and also can be acquired from your school board's student services personnel.



*Shown are Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development steering committee chairs. Seated: Cindy Tully, and Gérard Cormier, standing is Daniel Demers.*

## Eddie's Litterless Road Tour

Eddie is a cat with a cause - litter to be exact - and he would love to come to your classroom and talk about litter-prevention.  
**Putting a stop to litter is better than cleaning it up!**

This interactive presentation is available to grades P-3 and booking inquiries can be made to Heather MacIntyre at 1 800-665-5377 or e-mail [macintyre@clean.ns.ca](mailto:macintyre@clean.ns.ca). For all the fun details please visit [www.clean.ns.ca](http://www.clean.ns.ca).

**Hint:** Inviting Eddie to your school is a great compliment to taking part in the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up program.

Register for a free cleanup kit at [www.clean.ns.ca/pmu](http://www.clean.ns.ca/pmu)

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# NOTICES

## New Ross Consolidated School (NRCS) 50th Anniversary Reunion

Former teachers of New Ross Consolidated School (NRCS) are cordially invited to attend the NRCS 50th Anniversary Reunion from July 1 to 3, 2011. For information on planned events, please go to [www.nrns.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.nrns.ednet.ns.ca) or our facebook page at NRCS 50th Anniversary Reunion.

Looking forward to seeing you.

## The Power of Positive Change Award

The Power of Positive Change Award honours Nova Scotia students in Grades Primary to 12, who have demonstrated leadership in promoting safe and positive environments, building social cohesion and cultural diversity in their schools or communities.

Up to 10 students will be awarded a \$2,000 bursary to be used for post-secondary educational opportunities.

To nominate a student, simply see the criteria for the award at the following link: <http://powerofpositivechange.ca/>.

Nominations for the 2010-11 school year will be accepted until April 22, 2011. Completed applications can be mailed or dropped off to Power of Positive Change Awards, C/O Student Services Division, Department of Education, Brunswick Place, 2021 Brunswick Street, P.O. Box 578, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2S9.



## Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato's Cave online Course

Athabasca University and the Media Awareness Network is once again offering Understanding Media Literacy: Inside Plato's Cave July 4 to August 12. This breakthrough online three-credit course was written, tested and endorsed by teachers and is delivered in partnership with Athabasca University. This course provides Grades 7 to 12 teachers with an informed and critical understanding of the nature, impact and techniques of the mass media. It also provides the means to support the development of these skills in their students. The course is highly interactive and will help teachers adapt lessons to their students' needs and their teaching situations. The course is offered as either EDUC or CMNS 315. For more information, please visit the course website.

Registrants can take it as a six-week online summer school session starting July 4 and must register by June 10, 2011 for this option. In this grouped study course, you will have the advantage of working with other students who have the same start and end date.

You can also study at your own pace, when it's more convenient. Choose the month you want to begin and work through the course at your own pace over a six-month period. Sign up by the tenth of any month and begin the course the following month.

Share this information with friends and you could win a copy of the Scanning Television classroom resource worth \$250 donated by Face to Face Media. Just add [info@facetofacemedia.ca](mailto:info@facetofacemedia.ca) to your email and we'll put your name in the hat for the draw.

Visit the website Course brochure Reviews by teachers at [www.athabascau.ca/platoscave](http://www.athabascau.ca/platoscave).

# 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

## Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust

The Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust was established following the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations marking the birth of parliamentary democracy in Canada. The purpose of the trust is to provide assistance to non-profit organizations, teachers or students that support the objectives established by the Democracy 250 Management Committee. All requests for funding must be non-partisan in nature.

Included in the list of eligible organizations are: the Social Studies Teachers Association (SSTA); individual Nova Scotia students, or groups of students, specifically sponsored by the SSTA; and individual Nova Scotia teachers or groups of teachers specifically sponsored by the SSTA.

Disbursements of the Trust will be based on the size, scope, duration of project and relative merits of the application. Notwithstanding, it is generally anticipated that applicants will seek funding of not more than \$10,000.

Applicants may apply to the Trust at any time, with **May 1** being the date upon which all applications will be considered for the following 12-month period. Applicants are required to provide details on when their proposed project will commence and end, following the receipt of any Trust money. Successful applicants may re-apply for funding in subsequent years.

For more information on the Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust, including funding and payment conditions, or to request an application form, please contact Moira MacLeod, Administrative Assistant of the Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust, at [macleoml@hotmail.com](mailto:macleoml@hotmail.com).

# NEW for 2011 CONFERENCE



ATENS recognizes that in the past we have not necessarily offered an even representation of professional development for all levels of English Language Arts teachers in the province.

We have changed this for 2011 and will have an equal number of sessions suited for elementary, junior, and senior classroom teachers.

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# coming events

**April is...** National Poetry Month ([www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca)), Oral Health Month ([www.cda-adc.ca/en/cda/news\\_events/health\\_month/index.asp](http://www.cda-adc.ca/en/cda/news_events/health_month/index.asp)), Cancer Awareness Month ([www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)), Parkinson Awareness Month ([www.pdf.org](http://www.pdf.org)), Earth Day, April 22/Earth Week, April 16-25 ([www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)), National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, April 18-25, ([www.transplant.ca/aware\\_notdaw.htm](http://www.transplant.ca/aware_notdaw.htm))

## APRIL 11

### National Healthy Schools Day

March 12, 2009 was declared the first national Healthy Schools Day in Canada to focus on school indoor environment issues such as air quality. Since then, over 35 organizations have given their support. The purpose of the day is to foster improvements, celebrate successes and create projects that make indoor environments of new and existing schools the best they can be. To join the international effort or for more information on developing a Healthy Schools Day project, please visit: [www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org](http://www.nationalhealthyschoolsday.org). For further information and for Healthy Schools Day ideas, visit: <http://www.casle.ca/Default.aspx?alias=www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay>.

## APRIL 21 TO 22

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Earth Day Signature Event

The Glooscap Heritage centre in Millbrook is holding an all day event to celebrate Earth Day on Thursday, April 21. The event is to feature interactive displays, speakers, children's activities, music, crafts and more. The Glooscap Heritage Centre is located at 65 Treaty Trail, in the Truro Power Centre, Millbrook. For further information, please contact Gordon Pictou at 902-843-3493 or via email: [Gordon@glooscapheritagecentre.com](mailto:Gordon@glooscapheritagecentre.com).

#### Sydney:

The Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) in Sydney will host several events for Earth Day (April 22), including a breakfast for active transportation commuters at their office on the corner of George and Townsend Streets from 7 to 10 a.m. For the second year in a row, ACAP will host a 20-minute makeover throughout

the Cape Breton Regional Municipality beginning at noon. Last year, it took 500 people only 20 minutes to collect 250 bags of garbage, including everything from coffee cups to motor-vehicle parts. Anyone interested in forming a cleanup group is asked to call ACAP, which will provide gloves and garbage bags. In return, the organization asks teams to provide photographs of their selected area before and after the makeover. People are then invited back to the ACAP office for cake. For more information, call ACAP at 902-567-1628 or email: [acapcb@acapcb.ns.ca](mailto:acapcb@acapcb.ns.ca)

## APRIL 28

### NSGA Annual African Dinner

The Nova Scotia-Gambia Association (NSGA) is hosting its Annual African Dinner and Auction on Thursday, April 28, at The Lord Nelson Hotel in Halifax. The NSGA is celebrating the successful collaboration in the areas of education and health in The Gambia, Africa's smiling coast. Since 1986, the NSGA has sent 700 Canadian volunteers to support its programs and staff in West Africa, making our province immediately recognizable to Gambians for our continuing contribution to education in their country. The program for this event will include an African drum and dance performance, a three-course West African meal, presentations from NSGA's most passionate and successful volunteers and silent and live auctions in support of education in The Gambia. Tickets are \$100 for non-members, \$75 for members, and can be purchased through the NSGA office: 902-423-1360 or email: [info@novascotiagambia.ca](mailto:info@novascotiagambia.ca). To find out more about NSGA's programs, please visit: [www.novascotiagambia.ca](http://www.novascotiagambia.ca).

## APRIL 30

### The Will to Achieve - A Day with Dr. Maggie Mamen Ph.D, C Psych

On April 30, the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board will be presenting *The Will to Achieve - A Day with Dr. Maggie Mamen Ph.D, C Psych: Understanding Learning Disabilities Both Inside and Outside the Classroom*. Dr. Mamen is an award-winning psychologist and best-selling author who works



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with children and their families in a multi-disciplinary private practice in Ottawa. She has worked in university, hospital and school board settings and has been interested in the field of learning disabilities and behaviours. She is the author of four books, including *Understanding Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Common-Sense Guide for Parents and Professionals*. The event will take place on April 30 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Atlantic Theatre Festival in Wolfville. For more information, including registration fees and deadlines, visit: [www.avrsb.ca/content/ld-conference-2011](http://www.avrsb.ca/content/ld-conference-2011) or call: 902-538-4638 or toll-free 1-800-850-3887. Please note there is no on-site registration for this event.

## MAY 2 TO 3

### Body Image and Self-Esteem Conference

The National Eating Disorder Information Centre Conference is presenting the conference Body-Image and Self-Esteem: Shades of Grey, May 2-3, in Toronto, Ontario. The registration fee is \$325 and student and one-day rates are available. Topics include: mindfulness and emotional development, weight-focused bullying, male athletes: weight and shape issues, and packaging girlhood: media and marketing influences on girls. See the whole program at [www.nedic.ca](http://www.nedic.ca). This conference is presented in partnership with presenting sponsor, the Dove Self Esteem Fund, the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario and the University of Toronto's Faculty of Physical and Health Education.

## MAY 2 TO 8

### Global Action Week

The Global Campaign for Education ([www.campaignforeducation.org/](http://www.campaignforeducation.org/)) is holding its Global Action Week from May 2 to 8. Millions of campaigners around the world will be taking action, by reading and telling stories. This year's theme is *It's a Right! Make it Right! Education for Women & Girls Now!*

## MAY 7

### Concours d'art oratoire 2011

Canadian Parents for French - Nova Scotia (CPF—N.S.) will be holding the 28<sup>th</sup> provincial Concours d'art oratoire (French public speaking contest) on Saturday, May 7 at Mount Saint Vincent University. The Concours d'art oratoire

motivates students from across the province to express themselves and be recognized for their talents in French public speaking. The Concours d'art oratoire is open to French first and second language students in Grades 5 to 12. Categories include: Core French, Integrated French, Intensive French, Early Immersion, Middle Immersion, Late Immersion and Francophone. Grade 11/12 students advance from the provincial level to the national finals held at the University of Ottawa. If you would like to volunteer at the provincial Concours, please contact the CPF-NS Program Coordinator at 902-453-2048 or [cpfliaison@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:cpfliaison@ns.sympatico.ca).

## MAY 12 TO 13

### Atlantic Conference on Learning Disabilities



*Danny Glover, special guest speaker at the Atlantic Conference on Learning Disabilities*


Bridge-way Academy is organizing a conference focused on supporting the needs of youth living with learning disabilities. The Atlantic Conference on Learning Disabilities will be held May 12 to 13, 2011 at Mount Saint Vincent University. Keynote speakers include Actor and Leading Social Activist Danny Glover in conversation with fellow actor Felix Justice, and author Sheree Fitch.

The conference will focus on three key areas—education, mental health and the impact learning disabilities have in our community. Delegates will be offered a wide variety of information, as well as practical tools they can use to support those living with learning disabilities and ADHD.

This conference is a great opportunity for educators, parents, social workers, child care providers, or anyone who supports individuals with learning disabilities to learn, explore and connect with others from the Atlantic region.

For further information visit: [www.bridgeway-academy.com/Conference2011/Default.asp](http://www.bridgeway-academy.com/Conference2011/Default.asp).

*continued on page 15*



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Ecology Action Centre

NOVA SCOTIA  
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Thanks also to Mountain Equipment Co-op, the Nova Scotia Department of Justice, St. Francis Xavier University, and Skate Patrol for their support of the Making Tracks program.



# Annapolis students compose with Rhapsody Quintet

Last November, students at Annapolis West Education Centre (AWEC) had the opportunity to compose with the pros. “We were fortunate enough to be able to be part of Rhapsody Quintet’s three day residency in the Annapolis Royal area, whereby the quintet members shared their music in a variety of venues in the area,” says AWEC music teacher Anona Siwik.

Halifax-based Rhapsody Quintet is comprised of members David Langstroth (bass), Shimon Walt (cello), Anne Rapson (violin), John Rapson (clarinet), and Diana Torbert (piano) who are all musicians with Symphony Nova Scotia. “The morning began with the quintet treating us to an informal concert of their music, with pieces ranging from a tango, to film soundtracks, to Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen—with lots of singing along from the student audience. The performers were all too happy to talk about their instruments, their careers and musicianship,” continues Siwik.

Grade 9 and 10 music students concluded the morning with an ongoing composition project. Earlier in the school year, the students were asked to come up with an idea for a story or scene for a film. After some brainstorming and idea development the students sent their composition to Langstroth, who arranged some music for the quintet based on the storyline and suggestions. “We received a score and a recording, and together we listened to our piece come alive with sound.”

“The November visit became the meeting of the minds. The quintet began by playing David’s arrangement. Many remarked how the live version sounded so much more vivid compared to the recording. It was a great way to emphasize the inimitable energy of a live performance when so much of what we hear is pre-recorded,” adds Siwik.

The students contributed their ideas by playing with the quintet using wind, string or percussion instruments. “One student impressed us all with a very realistic owl imitation,” she comments. “Our quest to create the atmosphere for a spooky forest scene allowed for some of the students who were comfortable improvising to sit amongst the quintet members and create some musical conversations.”

For the remainder of the morning students added, changed, developed, and tweaked their composition. Cellist Shimon Walt remarked how the sound changed significantly with the change in posture and attention level of the students throughout the process. “This was a wonderful reminder of how participating



Cellist Shimon Walt and bassist David Langstroth.

from page 14

MAY 17

## International Day Against Homophobia

The *International Day Against Homophobia*, held on May 17 every year, is a rallying event offering an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. Fondation Émergence promotes, mainly on a pan-Canadian level, the *International Day Against Homophobia* and encourages organizations and individuals to highlight this event.

Every year, the *International Day Against Homophobia* is the moment to start off an awareness campaign on sexual diversity. The current campaign’s theme is **Same-sex Couple—A Story of Love**. Free posters, pamphlets and other materials can be ordered and are available to download.

Visit [www.homophobiaday.org](http://www.homophobiaday.org) for further information.

JULY 25 TO 29

## Marine Biodiversity Institute and Active Researchers Institute

The Huntsman Marine Science Centre in St. Andrews, New Brunswick is offering the *Marine Biodiversity Institute* from July 25 to 29, designed to assist teachers in delivering science in the classroom in a fun, hands-on way. It is also offering the *Active Researchers Institute* from July 11 to 15, which is open to everyone over the age of 15 (teachers, students, etc.). This institute will provide a firsthand experience collecting data for a variety of Huntsman projects. Both institutes include multiple field excursions to the shore, a boat trip to see whales, and time in the lab to learn about the marine creatures participants collect. Come and learn while having fun by the sea!

For more information visit: [www.huntsmanmarine.ca](http://www.huntsmanmarine.ca), email [tdcan@huntsmanmarine.ca](mailto:tdcan@huntsmanmarine.ca), or call 506-529-1220.



John Rapson works with students.



AWEC students play with the pros.

in music involves the whole human being—the body, mind and heart.”

“Rhapsody Quintet members made sure everyone in the room felt like they could contribute and that we were all equal in this project.” All the musicians collaborated to put what they knew

into practice to create something of which they were proud. “I expect that this experience will be an enduring one for me as I continue to learn as an educator and as a lifelong student of music,” concludes Siwik. “Judging by the responses of the students, I think it has left a lasting impression on them as well.”

Anona Siwik teaches band, music and Grade 9 Social Studies and Grade 7 PDR at Annapolis West Education Centre.

## 2011 PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

April 20 & 21 (Wednesday & Thursday) CBVRSB (Delta Sydney)

Date/location subject to change



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# Innovative teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> century with Robotics

Through the *Robot C for Lego Mindstorms* project, Theresa Atwell has been using interactive Lego Mindstorms NXT 2.0 along with laptop computers to support both science and IT outcomes for Grade 5.

"The Mindstorms kits allow students to work together to plan, design and build a machine to solve a Labyrinth challenge," says Atwell, an upper elementary 18-year teacher with a Masters in Elementary Education and in Curriculum Studies with Technology integration. "This 'hands-on', 'minds-on' project offers an exciting, innovative and unique way for students to construct meaning and to develop critical thinking and teambuilding skills."



*Students prepare their robot.*

Through the Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF), Atwell was able to purchase three Mindstorm Kits and accompanying laptops. "The merging of technology and science to achieve outcomes made learning fun, interactive and memorable for all students," she says. "Using technology-based tools to promote student learning is crucial if we want our children to be successful and productive members of society in the decades to come."

Through the project, Atwell's students built their robots, learned about firmware and how to download it to their robots. They came to understand the fundamentals of the role of the programmer, how the robot sees the world, and what syntax is. Outcomes in science (Machines Unit) and English Language Arts were met, and students used critical listening, problem

solving and communications. "Reflecting on the effectiveness of each design was also an integral part of each lesson with robotics."

Atwell started this project with her Grade 5 class at Brooklyn District School during the 2009-10 school year with the help of a Grade 12 student from Avon View High School in Windsor. This year she continued the program at the school where she now teaches, Falmouth District School, with the help of Bill Doucette, technology mentor with the Annapolis Regional School Board. Doucette was able to track down two more kits, borrowed from North Kings Education Centre (NKEC) to enable Atwell's entire Grade 5 class to work on robotics at the same time.

Working with Doucette, the students created robots and programmed them to perform three different tasks over a period of three and a half days. They first built a robot to move, then a robot

to move and collect marbles, and then a robot to use a colour or a touch sensor to collect marbles. Each step became more difficult and more complicated programming techniques like conditional statements and looping were introduced to students. "In our final session with Mr. Doucette, the students were asked to incorporate either a touch sensor or colour sensor when creating a robot to move throughout the space of a large square and to collect marbles as it moved. I was a little concerned that they would find the programming too challenging but they proved me wrong," adds Atwell.

"Making the robot was my favourite part," says student Devin Bryan. "You had to get the robot sturdy or it would fall apart."

Atwell also remarks on the teamwork and problem solving she witnessed. "Students worked diligently in groups to plan, design and

build their robots," she adds. "As I walked around the room observing my students, I noticed how engaged and enthusiastic they were about their learning. It was exciting to hear their discussions about the effectiveness of their designs and the changes they felt needed to be made to make their robots perform the task more effectively. As they talked and listened to one another's suggestions and worked to overcome the 'glitches', I noticed how comfortable they were becoming working with the technology and Lego software."

Atwell says the project definitely met the outcomes she proposed, and introducing robotics at the elementary level met the innovative aspect of PDAF.

"It was wonderful to see all students including my reluctant learners problem solving and working through trial and error until they successfully achieved the task," adds Atwell.

"It was really fun the way we learned techniques for doing robot programming later on," says student Sarah Sturge. Atwell says Sturge became the star programmer. Whenever the other groups were having problems they would go to her for help. "My favourite part was programming. I was pretty good at it," adds Sturge.

The Falmouth District Grade 5 class was given a chance to showcase their creations at a school-wide presentation enabling them to discuss their work with an audience. "We gathered in the gym and students' program files were projected onto a screen for all to see. As they talked about what their robots were able to do based on the commands they had entered, I thought about how far they had come since our initial session with Mr. Doucette," says Atwell. They next showcased their robots performing the task, and a video camera was used to capture the action so that everyone could see the robots from where they were sitting on the large screen. "I could tell the students were pretty thrilled to hear the giggles, gasps and applause from the audience as their robots moved, talked and bumped into marbles. They felt proud of what they had accomplished."

"It's one of the highlights of my career," says Atwell. "I was thrilled to see how engaged and motivated my students were about the project and how excited they were to learn." So motivated, that it sparked an interest in forming a Robot Club after school. Four of her students asked if they could



*Theresa Atwell*

create a robot club where they would teach younger students. The after school club has been running for just over a month. "I like to help organizing and showing the kids how to build and program the robots," says student Chris Leary.

Atwell is grateful for the opportunity PDAF has brought her students. "It's great that there's funding available for teachers to develop such projects." She has since been successful in obtaining another PDAF grant. This time it's for her project *Enhanced Learning with Elmo*. Elmo TT-02RX is a tool that encourages a new and innovative approach to teaching literacy.

The PDAF program encourages innovative program development in Nova Scotia's public schools. Co-sponsored by the NSTU and the Department of Education, with an annual sum of \$200,000, it provides financial support for projects directly related to the Public School Program. For more information, visit the members-only side of the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) or contact NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin at 1-800-565-6788 or 477-5621 or [bjaucouin@nstu.ca](mailto:bjaucouin@nstu.ca). **The deadline for the next round of project proposals is June 1, 2011.**



*Atwell's Grade 5 class at Falmouth Elementary School.*



*Grade 5 students clockwise: Devin Bryan, Chris Leary and Sarah Sturge.*



# The 2011 Census and Nova Scotia's teachers



Canada's next census will be held in May 2011. Early in May, yellow census packages will be delivered to every dwelling in Canada, providing residents the information they need to complete the census online or on paper. Completed questionnaires will provide valuable information that will be used to make decisions about your neighbourhood and community.

Census information is important for all communities and is vital for planning services such as schools, daycare, police services and fire protection.

Every person, young and old, must be included in the 2011 Census. It's important that all members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union are part of Canada's family portrait.

For more information about the 2011 Census, visit [www.census2011.gc.ca](http://www.census2011.gc.ca).

## National Household Survey

In addition to the 2011 Census, one in three households will be asked to participate in the new National Household Survey (NHS). The information collected in the NHS will provide data needed to plan and support family services, housing, roads and public transportation, and skills training for employment.

Your information will help paint a detailed and comprehensive picture of Canadian society. If you receive the NHS, support your community and complete the survey.

The NHS will collect the same information that was collected by the 2006 Census long-form questionnaire. For information to be available for future planning and decision making, it is important that all members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union who receive the NHS complete the questionnaire. Please encourage your fellow union members to respond to this survey.

- The 2006 long-form questionnaire offers some interesting facts about Nova Scotia's teachers:
- In 2006, there were 3,525 secondary teachers in Nova Scotia, compared to 4,270 in 2001.
  - In 2006, 45% of those secondary teachers were male and 55% were female. In 2001, 47% were male and 53% were female.
  - In 2006, there were 8,240 elementary school teachers in Nova Scotia, compared to 7,260 in 2001.
  - In 2006, 19% of those elementary school teachers were male and 81% were female. In 2001, 21% were male and 79% were female.

For more information about the NHS, visit [www.nhs.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.nhs.statcan.gc.ca).

## CONGRATULATIONS!!

The winner of the four-pack of PEACE books (*How the Cougar Came to be Called the Ghost Cat*, *How to Handle A Bully*, *21st Century Communities: A Youth Inquiry Project* and *A Legacy of Love: Remembering Muriel Duckworth, Her Later Years, 1996-2009*) is: **Nancy Bradley**, an Itinerant Teacher for Students with Visual Impairments with APSEA.



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update

## Paramedical Practitioner Coverage—NSTU Total Care Medical Plan

The coverage available for Paramedical Practitioners through the NSTU Total Care Medical Plan continues to become increasingly popular with both active and retired NSTU members. Among the many reasons for this, include the availability of service providers in the communities in which we live, as well as many members exploring alternative therapies to prescription drug medications.

In an effort to provide additional information with respect to the Paramedical Practitioner coverage available through the NSTU Total Care Medical Plan, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees have provided below a brief summary of the practitioners eligible and the benefit available for coverage.

**Acupuncture coverage** - The general goal of all acupuncturists is the promotion, maintenance and restoration of health and the prevention of illness. Traditional oriental medicine defines a perfect state of health as a state of balance. The key to active treatment is to identify the most important imbalances and do what is possible to shift the patient back towards this balance.

**Benefit** - Acupuncturists are covered at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 visits per calendar year. The acupuncturist must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Chiropractic coverage** - Chiropractors believe the vertebrae of the spine and neck are routinely pulled out of alignment by every day stressors and these misalignments can be the cause of many physical and mental ailments. By physically manipulating individual vertebrae or readjusting the entire spine, chiropractors hope to relieve pressures caused by these misalignments.

**Benefit** - Chiropractic treatment is covered at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 treatments per calendar year. The chiropractor must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Massage Therapy coverage** - A massage therapist is a professional who performs massage treatment. A massage therapist's goal is usually to relax the patient while promoting

general health and well being. Some branches of massage therapy are focused on treating specific health conditions and on addressing muscular problems.

**Benefit** - Massage therapy is covered at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 visits per year (August to July). The massage therapist must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Naturopathy coverage** - Naturopathy is a system of healing that aims to provide holistic or whole body health care by drawing on treatment methods from several traditional systems of medicine. Naturopathy seeks to use the natural healing powers of the body to cure itself and focuses on treating the cause of disease rather than the symptoms.

Good health and wellness is what naturopathy is all about. The main emphasis of naturopathic practice is the belief that the body has an inbuilt ability to strive for health. The role of a naturopath is to work with a person to promote the natural healing of the body. A naturopath will design a treatment plan that meets your body's needs. They may at first advise you on how to remove the underlying causes of the stress that is causing problems in your body. This could involve recommending dietary changes, and encouraging ways of achieving deeper levels of relaxation. The naturopath may then suggest ways to nourish and cleanse the body, by suggesting dietary changes that might involve avoiding certain foods, eating certain foods, taking various vitamins, mineral or food supplements or drinking fruit and vegetable juices.

**Benefit** - Coverage for a naturopath is 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 treatments per calendar year. The naturopath must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Occupational Therapist coverage** - Occupational therapists help patients discover and achieve a balance in work, leisure, and self care that results in a level of independence and competency in all three areas of life. Occupational therapists seek to identify potential habits within each lifestyle component that could result in compromising the health of the individual and have a real potential of leading to injury or possibly a permanent disability. While all areas of life include some degree of risk, the role of the OT is to help the client see those risks clearly and move toward behaviour patterns that help minimize the risk.

**Benefit** - Coverage for occupational therapists is at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 visits per calendar year. The occupational therapist must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Osteopathy coverage** - Osteopathy is a way of detecting and treating inner parts of the body such as muscles, ligaments, nerves, and joints. It assists the body to function as a balanced and efficient system. Once balanced, the body will function with minimum wear and tear which enables it to have better function and more energy. Osteopathic practitioners use specialized skills to identify restrictions and tensions of the tissues in the body. Their specific techniques ease those restrictions which allows for normal physiology to continue.

**Benefit** - Osteopaths are covered at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 visits per calendar year. The osteopath must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Physiotherapist coverage** - A physiotherapist works with patients who have become disabled by injury, illness, or age. The goal of the physiotherapist is to help patients regain their range of movement, or to support patients with permanent disabilities to prevent further damage and increase their functionality. Typically, a physiotherapist establishes a relationship with a patient and he /she is part of a larger care team which is designed to support the patient through the healing process.

**Benefit** - Charges for the services of a registered physiotherapist are covered at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment. The physiotherapist must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

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**Podiatrist coverage** - Podiatry is a field of medicine that focuses on preventing, diagnosing, and treating conditions associated with the foot and ankle by medical, surgical, or other means. Some common issues that are treated by podiatrists are problems of the feet including bunions, corns, ingrown toenails, and plantar warts. Podiatrists prescribe orthotics when needed, treat plantar fasciitis, flat feet, hammer toes and club feet. Circulation problems in the feet due to diabetes can also be treated by a podiatrist.

**Benefit** - Podiatrists are covered at 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 visits per calendar year. The podiatrist must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Speech Therapist coverage** - Speech Therapists work with patients who have a variety of speech related disorders. These disorders can include the ability to produce certain sounds, speech rhythm and fluency problems as well as voice disorders. Speech therapists use written and oral tests, as well as special instruments, to diagnose the extent of impairment and to record and analyze speech, language and swallowing irregularities. Once a patient has been assessed, they develop an individualized plan of care tailored to each patient's needs.

**Benefit** - Coverage for a speech therapist is 80 per cent of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of 20 treatments per calendar year. The speech therapist must be one approved by Medavie Blue Cross.

**Summary** - We hope that the above descriptions have been helpful in providing information on how various paramedical practitioners may fit in to your overall wellness goals. Additional information with respect to the coverage provided through the NSTU Total Care Medical Program is contained within your Group Insurance Profile.

You will note that coverage for Mental Health Practitioners has not been included in this article. Information with respect to Mental Health Practitioners will be included in a future issue of *The Teacher*.

*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).*



# resources

## New Dubbing Titles Available from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Dubbing programs become a part of your school's collection; we charge only for the price of the blank media used. Read the Public Schools Branch newsletter *Branching Out* available online at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>.

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit [http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media\\_library/express/Video\\_Express.shtml](http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml).

**EBSCO Periodical database** (<http://search.epnet.com>) EBSCO provides a series of online bibliographic and full-text databases so that you and your students can find information, pictures and citations on curriculum related topics.

EBSCO offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to a highly specialized collection of over 450 full-text journals, designed for professional educators. EBSCO is available to all students and teachers in Nova Scotia through computers connected to Ednet, or at home with passwords that can be obtained from your school.

**ImagesProject** (<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>) Need a photo to use in a school project? Visit the ImagesProject, a web-based collection of images for Nova Scotia public school program use. Nova Scotia students and teachers who are on Ednet may freely download, use and modify images from the ImagesProject website for curriculum purposes.

### *Changing Phases of Matter* (14 min.) Science 3-6

In this program, students will witness how a substance, such as water, can exist in several dramatically different phases. Easy-to-understand examples illustrate how phase changes occur. Additional concepts and terminology: states of matter, particles, solid, liquid, gas, plasma, melting, freezing, vaporization, boiling, evaporation, condensation and sublimation.

### *Describing Matter and Its Properties* (14 min.) Science 3-6

Matter is everywhere around us. This colourful video uses everyday examples to illustrate how matter is described, observed and measured. Additional concepts and terminology: mass, weight, volume, density, hardness, texture, shape, flammability, size, and physical and chemical properties of matter.

### *Investigating Chemical Reactions* (14 min.) Science 3-6

From cooking food to enjoying the warmth of a fire, we use chemical reactions every day. This exciting video highlights the major characteristics and types of chemical reactions. Additional concepts and terminology: reactants, products, physical and chemical changes, chemical equation, reaction rate and indicators of chemical reactions.

### *Nutrition* (14 min.) Science 3-6

In this program, students will learn why it is important to fuel the body with the right kinds and amounts of food. Emphasizing healthy eating habits, some of the most critical aspects of nutrition are discussed. Using the latest recommendations from the USDA, current nutritional guidelines are explored in easy-to-understand terms.

### *Weather Around Us* (14 min.) Science 3-6

This program introduces students to some of the fundamentals of weather including air pressure, wind and moisture. The basic principles of cloud formation and precipitation are explored. Important terminology includes: heat energy, atmosphere, troposphere, sun, local winds, global winds, humidity, water vapour, evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

### *Weather On The Move* (14 min.) Science 3-6

This video program investigates some of the key elements responsible for weather formation. Different types of air masses and their origins are investigated, as are the formation of weather fronts. Specific weather phenomena including tornados, hurricanes and thunderstorms are illustrated in detail. Other important terminology includes: air mass characteristics, warm front, cold front, low pressure, storm surge, cumulonimbus clouds and lightning.

### *Weathering and Erosion* (14 min.) Science 3-6

This program illustrates the everyday, real-life processes of weathering and erosion. Easy-to-understand examples of weathering help students differentiate between the processes of mechanical and chemical weathering. Vivid footage of processes such as freezing, thawing, condensation and rusting help students grasp how weathering works.

### *Killing Us Softly 4* (60 min.) Media Studies 10-12

In this new, highly anticipated update of her pioneering *Killing Us Softly* series, Jean Kilbourne takes a fresh look at how advertising traffics in distorted and destructive ideals of femininity. The film marshals a range of new print and television advertisements to lay bare a stunning pattern of damaging gender stereotypes—images and messages that too often reinforce unrealistic and unhealthy perceptions of beauty, perfection and sexuality. MATURE CONTENT - TEACHER PREVIEW RECOMMENDED

### *Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up* (67 min.) Health 7-12

With a fearless look at a highly charged subject, *Straightlaced* unearths how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are confining teens. Their stories reflect a diversity of experiences, demonstrating how gender role expectations and homophobia are interwoven, and illustrating the different ways that these expectations connect with culture, race and class. It quickly becomes clear that just about everything teens do requires thinking about gender and sexuality.

**Education Media Library, P.O. Box 578, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2S9; 902-424-2440 (phone); 902-428-3176 (fax); email [mediacir@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:mediacir@ednet.ns.ca) or visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.**

## RESOURCES

### *From Consumer to Citizen: Digital Media and Youth Civic Engagement*

Canada's leading media literacy and digital literacy organization recently launched *From Consumer to Citizen: Digital Media and Youth Civic Engagement*, a discussion paper outlining the important role digital literacy plays in ensuring youth become competent and engaged civic and political actors.

"In today's digital world, civic and political bodies are racing to establish a presence online and a great many political actions now occur in virtual spaces," said Jane Tallim, Co-Executive Director of MNet. "In our report, we encourage educators to examine digital literacy skills development as a means for children and youth to positively and actively engage in civic and political life."

The brief focuses on the impact media, particularly interactive technology, has on children and youth's involvement in civics and politics. It looks at the current state of youth and civic engagement and includes a list of recommendations to help educators foster and support youth civic engagement in a digital world.

"Long term political attitudes which affect adult civic behaviour (in both voting and other forms of engagement) are shaped from a young age, so youth apathy must be addressed years before the age of 18. In our schools, however, civics programs are not keeping pace with the rapidly expanding online opportunities for civic engagement that are available to young people," said Ms. Tallim.

Among the many recommendations, MNet invites educators to consider the potential downsides of limiting access at school to certain online environments such as social networking sites, asking educators to see these sites as effective tools to circulate petitions, display affiliations, join causes, and invite others to get involved.

For a comprehensive list of MNet's recommendations and a complete copy of *From Consumer to Citizen: Digital Media and Youth Civic Engagement* visit the Met website at [www.media-awareness.ca](http://www.media-awareness.ca).

**Media Awareness Network** (MNet) is a Canadian not-for-profit centre for media literacy and digital literacy. Its vision is that young people have the critical thinking skills to engage with media as active and informed digital citizens. MNet's programs are funded by its public and private sector sponsors, donors and partners.

### *The 2011 Census Teacher's Kit*

The 2011 Census Teacher's Kit has been developed for use in elementary, intermediate and secondary classes across the country. All activities are classroom-ready and have been tested to meet curriculum requirements.

The eight activities are appropriate for many subjects including language arts, economics, mathematics, art, social studies, geography, history, family studies, theatre arts, science and English as a second language (ESL). The best time to incorporate the Teacher's Kit into your curriculum is in May 2011.

One census colouring book and activity sheet are included for young students. You may order extra copies for your students using the enclosed form. A separate Adult Education Kit is also available by ordering online at [kit.census2011.gc.ca](http://kit.census2011.gc.ca).

If you have any questions or comments about the Teacher's Kit, please contact:

Census Communications, Statistics Canada, 100 Tunney's Pasture Driveway, 10th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0T6; Fax: 613-951-0930 or 1-877-256-2370; email: [censuskit@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:censuskit@statcan.gc.ca).

An electronic version of the 2011 Census Teacher's Kit is also available on the 2011 Census website at [kit.census2011.gc.ca](http://kit.census2011.gc.ca).

To assist us in improving the Teacher's Kit for 2016, please fill in the evaluation form found in the kit and fax it back to 613-951-0930 or 1-877-256-2370.



The deadline for the May issue of  
*The Teacher* is April 15. Call 1-800-565-6788  
or email [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)

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**PHYSICS Fun and Discovery Days** May 9-13, 2011

**Discover CHEMISTRY Days** May 17-19, 2011

**BIOLOGY Fun Days** June 8, 2011

Stay tuned for additional events being planned for schools to celebrate **Oceans Days** in June 2011!

For more information contact  
Theresa Myra, School Outreach, Faculty of Science  
Tel: (902) 494-6448 Email: [theresa.myra@dal.ca](mailto:theresa.myra@dal.ca)  
Or visit [http://science.dal.ca/FOR\\_P-12\\_EDUCATORS/What's%20New/](http://science.dal.ca/FOR_P-12_EDUCATORS/What's%20New/)  
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**JOB SHARE** - Elementary Teacher looking to job share in HRSB. Any precentage. [c.mckeough@gmail.com](mailto:c.mckeough@gmail.com) 902-293-4695.

**JOB EXCHANGE** - CCRSB elementary teacher (near Halifax) seeking job exchange in AVRSB. Please contact by phone 902-532-0646 or email [fayenvp@gmail.com](mailto:fayenvp@gmail.com).

**JOB SHARE** - 20% Job Share opportunity 2011-12, Gr. 9 math/sci, Southend Halifax. Contact [marianm@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:marianm@staff.ednet.ns.ca). Math degree or math teaching experience is required.

**JOB SHARE** - Elementary teacher looking to job share in the HRSB. Any percentage. Please contact [thayes@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:thayes@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**JOB SHARE** -Mature teacher with several years experience seeks elementary position at any percentage for 2011-2012 in the area of downtown Halifax. Phone Margot 902-471-8301.

**JOB SHARE** - French Immersion Teacher looking for job share 2011/12 in HRSB (Dartmouth area preferred). 15 years experience. Currently in a job share and enjoying the opportunity. Any percentage. Contact [cgillard@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:cgillard@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**JOB-SHARE** - Fifteen year sub looking for elementary share teaching position. Term experience in resource, learning centre and upper elementary. To see full resume, [mlstaple@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:mlstaple@ns.sympatico.ca).

**JOB SHARE** - Experienced elementary term teacher seeking a 40% plus job share opportunity for the 2011/2012 school year. I have had consistent term contracts with ample experience running my own classroom.

If you are a permanent teacher looking to share your class please contact me at [stevensn@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:stevensn@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**JOB-SHARE** -Secondary School Teacher looking for a job share in the metro area. Experience includes Learning Center, Resource, Computer Technology and History. Please contact [pmaceachern@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:pmaceachern@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - Permanent elementary teacher in SRSB looking to exchange positions with a teacher from CBVRSB. Please contact [mkeller@eastlink.ca](mailto:mkeller@eastlink.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - An elementary teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same position with the CCRSB for the next school year (primary to six). If interested, please email [lennev@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:lennev@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - An elementary resource teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same with the CBVRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is also possible. If interested, please email [dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - Special Education (Resource) teacher with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board is looking for a teacher exchange with the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board for the 2011-12 school year. If interested, please contact [teachermove@yahoo.ca](mailto:teachermove@yahoo.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - A Learning Center Teacher with the HRSB is looking for a teacher exchange with the CCRSB for the 2011-12 school year. If interested, please email [burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**HISTORIC HALIFAX ACCOMMODATIONS** - HINS Halifax Heritage House. Experience downtown Halifax; shopping, waterfront trail, and live theatre. Private, family or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-422-3863 to book today.

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**SUMMER RENTAL** - Dartmouth - in Brightwood area, 2-3 bedroom home on quiet cul-de-sac. Available June through September 2011. For details, please contact [hollyj12@gmail.com](mailto:hollyj12@gmail.com).

**FRENCH TEACHERS NEEDED** - Home-based extra income. Online Elementary Reading Program. Evenings and weekends. Flexible hours. [www.teachercertifiedtutoring.com](http://www.teachercertifiedtutoring.com).

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**WANTED** -Teacher for assessing elementary students academic levels. We are investigating the possibility of putting together a "Diagnostic Team" for diagnosing children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Please, contact Maya at 902-461-1761 for further information.

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Fireside Publishing House produces the Leaders & Legacies series on Canada's Prime Ministers—historical fiction adventures about our leaders when they were 12 to 13 years old. The aim is to find a fun way to get kids hooked on Canadian history.

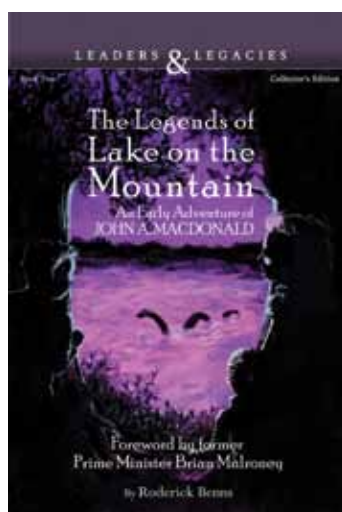
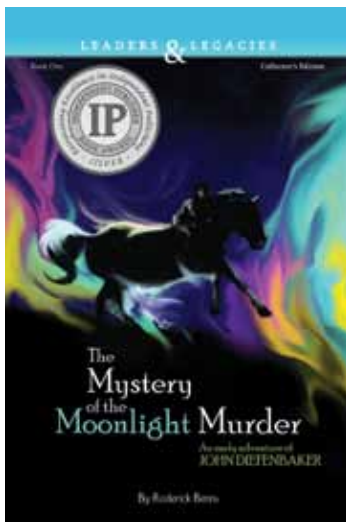
The first book in the series is *The Mystery of the Moonlight Murder: An Early Adventure of John Diefenbaker*.

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**Books in this series are best targeted to Grades 5 through 8, depending on student reading level.**

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