



Teacher Accountability Targeted in Cyberbullying Task Force Report

The March 22 presentation of the 85 recommendations from the Cyberbullying Task Force was overshadowed by the inclusion of this paragraph:

82. *It is recommended that the Department of Education, school boards, and Nova Scotia Teachers Union revise teacher performance appraisals to include performance categories with respect to maintaining school discipline (including bullying issues) and promoting a healthy school climate (including issues of marginalization). Reference may need to be made to the Teachers' Professional Agreement (TPA), Articles 11 and 45.*

"The report says over and over that this is a societal issue and everyone needs to work together on this. So why single out teachers?" asks NSTU president Alexis Allen. "If a police officer works one-on-one and a charge does not result, there are no performance implications. If a mental health practitioner treats a perpetrator who continues to torment a student, the report does not mention an event like that as having an effect on their performance appraisal."

This recommendation did not appear in the confidential preliminary report that the union had a chance to review. Its appearance in the final report came as a complete surprise.

"This is of course something we would never agree to at the bargaining table," continues Allen. "We raised this as an immediate concern with senior officials at the Department of Education."

Other than this, the NSTU is pleased with most of the findings which are now in the hands of the Department of Education. Education Minister Ramona Jennex says she will consult with the union before any final decisions are made on which recommendations will be implemented.

On the positive side, the report acknowledges that cyberbullying is a societal issue, and will need the involvement of people from many sectors, including education, to make any real change. It calls for new legislation that will amend the Education Act to give law enforcement a new tool. It asks Internet service providers to develop protocols to help identify those perpetrating cyberbullying. The report recommends the Department of Education develop age-appropriate, digital citizenship and online safety programs for elementary and junior high students. It also suggests that teachers receive one in-service day per year to learn about the topics of bullying, mental health restorative approaches and marginalized populations.

The report calls for legislative change that will hold parents more accountable for the actions of their children. The

legislation also gives administrators more room to deal with misconduct that happens off school property. This is the exact wording:

A principal shall have jurisdiction to discipline a student if he or she believes that the student has engaged in student misconduct including bullying or cyberbullying activities, while at school, at a school-related activity or in other circumstances away from the school where engaging in the activity will have a detrimental impact on the school climate.

The union believes this is a positive change but will only be effective if there is enough time and resources to allow administrators to deal with the issue. Current and future cuts mean more and more administrators are back in the classroom and unable to devote enough attention to important issues like this.



NSTU president Alexis Allen discusses the Cyberbullying Task Force recommendations with chair Dr. Wayne MacKay.

Administrators are stretched to the limit now and will need more resources to deal with this effectively.

The union will be reminding officials at the department of the responsibility to properly fund all new initiatives.

Please take the time to read the report yourself—you can find a link to it on our website at nstu.ca or go to cyberbullying.novascotia.ca.

Three Vie for NSTU Presidential Election May 23, 2012

Nova Scotia's public school teachers, Community College faculty and professional support staff go to the electronic polls on Wednesday, May 23rd to choose among three candidates for NSTU president.

The three running for president are: NSTU first-vice president Eric

Boutilier, Provincial Executive member (Community College) Damian Hall and Local President (Kings) Shelley Morse.

Official campaigning for the NSTU presidency began on March 19th, 2012.

In this first of two election issues of *The Teacher*, presidential

candidate platforms start on page six. The May issue will also carry campaign statements. Candidate coverage is limited to these two editions.

A candidates' forum will also take place during Annual Council on Saturday, May 19th at 2 p.m. Candidates will be allowed a seven-

minute presentation that will be followed with a 30-minute question-and-answer period. This will be recorded and will be available online for all members to view at nstu.ca.

Under the *Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act* all NSTU members employed on the designated voting day shall be eligible to vote, including members on maternity leave, parental leave, educational leave, deferred leave or sick leave as long as dues are paid for the school/work year. Active reserve members and substitute/auxiliary teachers who are teaching on voting day may also vote.

A run-off vote is scheduled for Wednesday May 30th, if necessary. To become president of the NSTU you must win with a majority of votes (50 per cent plus one).



Eric Boutilier



Damian Hall



Shelley Morse

Petition-Signing Blitzes Underway Around the Province

Close to 600 Halifax market-goers signed NSTU’s kidsnotcuts.ca petition during a blitz Saturday, March 24.

“People were extremely eager to sign their names,” said Halifax City president Keri Butler who helped organize the event. “They said things like ‘of course I’ll sign this, I need to sign this, this is so important, I can’t believe the government is cutting education.’”



Halifax County Local President Tim MacLeod gathers signatures.

said Provincial Executive member John Helle. “The public was happy we were holding the event and the response was very positive.”

“This is a sign that the public is behind us on this,” said NSTU president Alexis Allen. “Cutting education hurts our kids. Class sizes are getting bigger and the excellent public education system we have is in jeopardy.”

At press time, the petition had nearly 12,000 names between online and the hard copies gathered on the weekend.

The Kings Local has rented a sign directing the public to the kidsnotcuts.ca website and placed it next to Education Minister Ramona Jennex’s constituency office. That Local has met with area MLAs as have Locals in Pictou, Shelburne, the Strait and other areas.

“Some people even spotted the Cut to the Core logo on our T-shirts and drove up to the sidewalk and jumped out so they could have their say.”

The Halifax blitz was one of many planned around the province. Cape Breton District members held a blitz at the Downtown Sydney Farmers Market the same day and even though it is about one-tenth the size of the Halifax market, members managed to gather 220 signatures.

“We were very well received,” said Provincial Executive member John Helle.



NSTU member Peter Day at the Sydney Farmers Market.

“We are getting the message out there in a number of ways and MLAs are feeling the pressure to take another look at education funding,” said Allen.

School board budgets have been reduced by an average of 1.3 per cent. With inflation, this will mean a total reduction of more than 4 per cent. In the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board this will mean the loss of 125 positions but it is not known how many of those will be teachers. Board chairperson Trudy Thompson has told media that a reduction of \$6.7 million in the CCRSB budget will “translate into fewer services, supports, programs and interventions for our students... will erode our comprehensive education system, and will greatly impact the lives of our students and staff.”

The Strait Regional School Board is still determining the effect but Superintendent Jack Beaton has said, “I get concerned when we look at having to have very large high school classes.”

The South Shore Regional School Board has announced plans to cut the equivalent of 20 teachers in 2012-13.

Five of the positions being eliminated were reduced due to the widespread decline in student enrollments. The rest were attributed to budget cutbacks by the Department of Education, which the board estimates could be as high as \$2.7 million (South Shore Now).



Left to Right: Cheryl Walker (Rockingham), Eric Boutilier (NSTU 1st VP), Ainslie MacLeod (daughter of Tim MacLeod), Tim MacLeod (Halifax County Local President), Keri Butler (Halifax City Local President), Paul Betuik (Halifax City Provincial Executive), Tracey Cochrane (Beaverbank-Kinsac), Damian Hall (NSCC Provincial Executive), Shelley Morse (Kings Local president), Ernestine Oakley (Halifax County Executive Member) and Angela Gillis (Halifax City Provincial Executive).



This sign is across the street from the Minister of Education’s office in New Minas.



On March 7, 2012, the Kings Local hosted a meeting for MLAs and teachers. This event was a great opportunity for members to express their concerns and discuss the effects of cuts in relation to their classrooms. (Left to right) Jim Morton, Kings North MLA; Leo Glavine, Kings West MLA; Shelley Morse, Kings Local President; and Ramona Jennex, Minister of Education and Kings South MLA.

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kidsnotcuts.ca

St. FX B.Ed. Students say Mock Council a Valuable Experience

Pre-service teachers got a rare glimpse into how the NSTU conducts its annual general meeting through a “mock council” March 2 at St. Francis Xavier University. This was another feature of a unique collaboration between the NSTU and St. Francis Xavier University’s School of Education that has been ongoing since the fall of 2004.

The tradition began as a way to teach unionism and the role teacher organizations play in developing the teaching profession. Student participants organized themselves into 12 Locals, then researched, wrote, presented, debated and voted upon resolutions.

“I thought that the mock council did an excellent job teaching us how to have a professional debate and support our resolution and arguments with solid evidence and research,” said Anthony Jackson, a second year pre-service teacher, and the executive vice-president of the Bachelor of Education student society. “This experience will certainly help me as I too would like to become an active member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.”

Another student said the experience sets St. FX grads apart thanks to the real-world experience this gives them.

“It gives us the opportunity to research the need for changes in public education, provide a relevant rationale, and support our resolutions with qualified reasoning and evidence for improvement to the current policy or circumstance,” said Courtnay Malcolm, executive president of the Bachelor of Education student society.

“All of the resolutions presented at this year’s mock council were in support of teacher and student rights and opportunities; the prerequisites for a healthy working and learning environment in any school or classroom. I believe the teachers in our program are now better equipped with the tools and experiences to effect positive change in the future of public education no matter where they may find themselves teaching.”

Here are a few examples of the resolutions that were passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU seek to negotiate that all school boards shall offer the Early Retirement Incentive Program to all eligible teachers as per the requirements laid out in the program (Appendix A, Teachers’ Provincial Agreement, 2011).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU urge all school boards to mandate differentiation within the senior physical education program to include multiple options to be offered based on student demand.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU call upon the Minister of Education to implement a provincial policy of assessment so that teachers have the discretion to set and enforce due dates for summative assessments.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU strongly urge school boards to employ qualified bilingual resource teachers in schools providing French immersion curriculum.

“The passion and dedication demonstrated by the students in this exercise speaks very well for the future of our profession,” said NSTU president Alexis Allen. “They were all strong advocates for public education and clearly want all students to reach their full potential.”



Shown left to right are Garnet Patterson, St. FX B.Ed. Program Manager; NSTU member and PhD student Rob Carreau; Professional Development Staff Officer Betty-Jean Aucoin; Jeff Orr, St. FX Dean of Education; Courtnay Malcolm, B.Ed. student; Anthony Jackson, B.Ed. student; David Young, Professor Adjunct; Technology and Communications Staff Officer Simon Wilkin and NSTU president Alexis Allen.



www.teachersplus.ca

TEACHERS PLUS INFO CENTRE

1

Our office will be closed Friday, April 6, 2012 and re-open Monday, April 9, 2012 .

2

Teachers Plus Credit Union is excited to announce that we will be offering our patronage rebate to our members. More information to follow in the next issue of The Teacher.

3

Post Secondary Awards deadline is April 30, 2012. Please check out our web site for details.

4

We have in-vault safety deposit boxes to provide secure and safe storage for your important documents, valuables and keepsakes. Contact us today for our special offer!!

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Education Week 2012



Alexis Allen

President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union

This year's Education Week recognizes teachers and partners who make a significant contribution to the student's overall development as a person.

The 2012 theme, *Educating Students for Life*, celebrates those who go above and beyond to focus on their students' mental, physical, and social well-being.

As teachers, we have instinctively done this since we first stepped in front of a classroom. Often we are one of the strongest adult figures in a child's life and have proudly accepted this position as mentor and role model. We provide students with important life skills they will need to be successful. Every day, Nova Scotia educators are teaching students how to live healthier lives, learn and develop to their fullest potential and establish positive relationships.

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union I thank all of our members for what they do to enhance their students' growth 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 longtime supporter of the week, and the Halifax Regional Library which is hosting this year's event.



Vanda Dow

President, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations

During Education Week we will celebrate the successes and accomplishments of those involved in educating our children in Nova Scotia schools. As we recognize the outstanding individuals receiving awards for 2012 Education Week, *Educating Students for Life*, we must also remember the many people in our school communities

who give time to support our schools and students. We are always trying to find the balance in our schools, with the many changes in technology; recognizing and supporting our diverse learners and the struggle that financial cuts put on our educational system. It has never been so important to have the combination of educators and parents playing such a vital role in Nova Scotia students' overall development and helping them along their way to becoming happy, productive and responsible individuals within our communities and around the globe.

Congratulations to the recipients of Education Week awards 2012 and thank you to all who provide students with the important life skills they will need to be successful for life.



Vic Fleury

President, Nova Scotia School Boards Association

On behalf of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), it is with pleasure that I congratulate the Education Week 2012 award recipients.

The NSSBA is particularly pleased with this year's theme, *Educating Students for Life*, as it provides an opportunity to recognize teachers and education partners who go above and beyond to ensure students receive the knowledge and skills they need for a healthy and prosperous future.

Our society is changing faster than any of us can comprehend. With instant information sharing, and an even larger focus on social justice issues than ever before, it's important that our students are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to be critical thinkers and engaged citizens.

We see evidence on a daily basis of inspirational teaching and volunteerism that contributes to the physical and mental health of our students and to the social well-being of our society.

Whether it is a community garden program that teaches the importance of sustainability or a youth running program that promotes physical fitness, students are being taught the importance of living a healthy and well-rounded lifestyle.

From pen pal programs with students around the world, to fundraising for local charities,

educators in Nova Scotia inspire our students to be global-minded and to make a positive impact on their world.

Congratulations again to all of the award recipients on being recognized for your outstanding commitment to the students of Nova Scotia.



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 the skills and knowledge required to become lifelong learners. Putting kids and learning first means helping every student succeed in all aspects of life. Education Week is a way for the province and its education partners to show our appreciation for the outstanding work

educators do every day.

The theme, *Educating Students for Life*, recognizes that teachers go above and beyond to focus on their students' mental, physical, and social well-being. It is important that we work together to ensure our students develop the important life skills they will need to be successful. 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 the Education Week 2012 award recipients. Your outstanding dedication and commitment makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our children.



Véronique Legault

Présidente, Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Cette année, le thème de la Semaine de l'éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse, Une éducation pour la vie, souligne le travail exceptionnel des éducateurs néo-écossais qui vont au delà de leurs obligations pour favoriser le bien-être mental, physique et social de leurs élèves.

Les éducateurs et les parents jouent un rôle essentiel dans le développement global des élèves afin que ces derniers deviennent des membres responsables de la société. Ils leur transmettent d'importantes connaissances dont ils auront besoin pour réussir tout au long de leur vie. Chaque jour, les éducateurs néo-écossais enseignent aux élèves comment vivre une vie plus saine, apprendre, développer

tout leur potentiel et établir des relations positives.

En cette semaine de l'éducation je lève mon chapeau à tous les éducateurs et parents qui œuvrent sans cesse pour le bien-être de nos enfants, malgré les défis qui se présentent chaque jour. La Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse reconnaît l'effort et le temps dévoué pour le bien-être mental, physique et social de nos enfants pour que ceux-ci deviennent des membres de la société éduqués ainsi que responsables et engagés.



Gary Clarke

President, Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators

As educators, it is our privilege to play a vital role in helping to shape and prepare our students for life—within and beyond the classroom. The Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators is proud to celebrate our fellow educators today, who so deservedly received recognition for their dedication, commitment and meaningful work, for going above and beyond, to educate students for life.

On behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, please accept my congratulations and my appreciation for everything you do to help ensure that all Nova Scotia students achieve success. You should be proud of the opportunities, supports and services that you provide on a daily basis for the benefit of your students. Not only are you an inspiration to them, but you have inspired your peers and community as well.



MULTIZONE

What is Multizone?

Multizone is an educational activity that engages children as they work together in teams to solve nutrition questions while participating in fun physical challenges. The constant movement of this game keeps children excited and interested in the learning experience. At the same time, the team component motivates everyone to do their best!



Get in the "Zones"!

Multizone brings to the table an impressive fusion of fun, nutrition knowledge and activity that children of all ages will enjoy.



Get in the "Zones"!

There are six energizing zones to this game. Each zone is tailored specifically for kindergarten to grade 6 students, providing age appropriate questions and activities that keep children motivated and entertained.



What Do I Need?

A member from our nutrition team brings everything required for the game. All you need is a gymnasium, approximately 45 minutes of time per classroom, and a teacher or coordinator to help assist with the game.



Who Can Apply?

Multizone is now available to all elementary schools throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

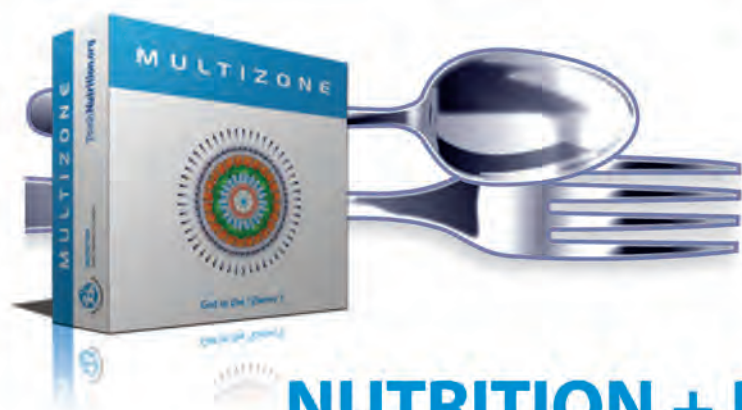


What is the Cost?

This program is free of charge. Schools will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

How Can I Register my School?

Don't delay! Contact our dietitians today at 1-800-465-2697 (ext. 4) or e-mail us at infonutrition@dfc-plc.ca.



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PERSONAL INFORMATION

- * Married to Janine (also an NSTU member) President of professional association SPAA;
- * 2 Children, Benn, student at NSAC and Abby a gr. 11 student at CEC.
- * Resides in Brookside, just outside Truro.
- * Eric is the Guidance Counsellor at Bible Hill Junior High and a gr. 9 Healthy Living Teacher.

EDUCATION

- * Acadia University
M. Ed 1999
- * Saint Mary's University
M. Ed 1995
- * Acadia University
B. Ed 1984
- * Nova Scotia Teachers College
A. Ed 1983

NSTU ACTIVITIES

NSTU COMMITTEES

Local

Annual Council Delegate
Economic Welfare Committee
Professional Development Committee
Public Affairs Committee
Public Relations Committee
Grievance Committee
Finance Committee
School Representative

Provincial

Member Services Committee
Negotiating Committee
Personnel Committee
Nominating Committee
Public Affairs Committee
Public Relations Committee
Provincial Economic Welfare Committee

OFFICES HELD

Local

President
Past President
Vice-President of Economic Welfare
Vice-President of Public Affairs
Local Returning Officer
School Representative

Regional

Chair of Chignecto-Central Regional Representative Council
Vice-Chair of Chignecto-Central Regional Representative Council
Co-Chair Teacher/Board Committee
Negotiating Committee

Provincial

First Vice-President
Second Vice-President
Chair of Member Services
Chair of Personnel Committee
Chair of Nominating Committee
Chair of Provincial Economic Welfare Committee

National

Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors

International

Education International – 2011 World Congress Delegate
Canadian Teachers' Federation Overseas Teachers Association School Rep (Germany)

Elect
ERIC
BOUTILIER



NSTU
PRESIDENT

Regional

Teacher/Board Committee
Economic Welfare Committee
Negotiating Committee
Asking Package Committee
Equity Committee
Excellence in Teaching Committee
Time to Learn/Time to Teach Committee



Issues

TEACHER WORKLOAD

For too many years now, the Department of Education and local school boards have been downloading initiatives and new tasks to schools and teachers. As teachers, we have worked hard to do all that has been asked of us, and often more. However, bottom line is, most teachers are left feeling frustrated, feeling like they just want to be “left alone” so they can do what they are paid to do: teach! It's time to let teachers do what they do well (and what parents of our students want as well) and that is: teach our students, and not have to deal with unnecessary paperwork and unnecessary initiatives like accreditation.

CLASS SIZE AND COMPOSITION

Currently we have a soft cap at the early elementary. We need to expand these caps to include **all grade levels** in Nova Scotia. Obviously there needs to be some flexibility where a teacher(s) in schools could expand the cap by a few students for the best interest of all. Teachers should have a major role in determining this flexibility.

Composition of a class is just as important in determining what will work for the teacher (this would include the number of adaptations, IPPs, behavior plans and other service plans that might be put in place for the students in a class). We all know of situations where teachers can manage quite well with 25 or more students in the room, without special needs or additional responsibilities. A more challenging situation might arise in a class with many fewer students but may include several students with special needs (as indicated above). Obviously, class size and composition are linked together.

MARKING AND PREP TIME

One of the things that perhaps has been forgotten is that we used to have adequate marking and prep time. Teachers used to get 40-50 minutes prep time per day or more. We lost this very necessary time to prepare for teaching. We need a return to adequate marking and preparation time. We need to have a **strong voice** at the negotiation table to drive home the point that teachers need this time back. I will be your strong voice at the table to regain this important part of effective teaching.

NEW TEACHERS

New teachers and teachers coming into our profession need to know they can **count on support** from the NSTU. Too many new teachers are feeling the burden of expectation in today's classroom. New teachers must be supported on many levels for the good of our profession.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Nova Scotia has the second lowest funding, per pupil, in Canada. This is unacceptable. We should be at least funded to the national average. This would mean an increase of a few thousand dollars per student to our system. Increased funding would have a major impact on the number of teachers we could have in schools around the province.

CONTRACT

As we seek a new contract; it is time for the government to recognize the increased workload and contributions of teachers, administrators, faculty and professional support staff.

OPPORTUNITY

The government of Nova Scotia is missing a major opportunity in dealing with the chronic funding issue in our province. While student enrollment is declining, the government should maintain funding at current levels so that the education system could deal with chronic issues.

My experience as a positive NSTU leader has never wavered. That approach has helped me gain success for our members at the local, regional and provincial level. I commit to you in carrying forward as your President, this same approach. As your new President,

I will bring a different leadership style,
one that speaks forcefully and effectively in defense of
Teachers and Public Education!

Contact ERIC at:

emboutilier@nstu.ca

I ask for your support on May 23rd.
Je demande pour votre appui le 23 mai.

DAMIAN HALL:

candidate for
PRESIDENT - NSTU
vote May 23
for a fresh perspective

The President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union has great responsibility. The President represents all of the members of the Union, and shares the challenges, successes and obstacles that those members face each day.

I had the opportunity to become involved in the Union at a very early point in my teaching career. Like many reps, it fell to the new kid, as there were not enough amongst the staff who were interested or able. At the time I didn't ask the question "Why was this available to me?" "My questions – "What is the Union; What am I getting for my dues".

The curiosity about what formed the foundation of the NSTU, along with my core values of fairness and decency pushed me forward and allowed me to develop within this organization.

The NSTU has changed a great deal in the 23 years that I have been involved. One of the biggest changes is what allows me to be campaigning through "*The Teacher*" and visiting your educational sites—Universal Suffrage. This was a radical change at the time, allowing each member to have a vote in the choice of President. One of the hopes was that each member would feel a greater connection with the Union if they had a say in who was to lead that Union.

While there have been several presidents elected by the members, it seems to me that these same members feel no closer to the Union. Too often I hear comments such as the Tower or the Bunker. We need to address this disconnect as one of the first orders of business.

There are many concerns for members of the Union. Questions specifically around workload - ever increasing; pensions—that great dark cloud overhead; job security—is there any? All of these points need to be addressed. Before we can more effectively organize and fight, however, we have to address the more immediate issues within the organization.

I have been so pleased, as a so-called veteran, to see so many young and new members attending Annual Council and August Leadership.

They bring a vitality, enthusiasm and new ideas to the Union. Their involvement is a great indication of the potential we have. Unfortunately, there are far too many members who feel that the Union does not represent them at all. Their question – "I pay my money, what do I get?" They feel overworked, drowning in Board and Department administria. "This is not what I trained for – I want to teach – I'm being paid to teach and a huge portion of each day is being taken up by other duties".

Too often they feel put upon, pressured to do things that they really don't have the time for. There has been great talk of dealing with BULLYING in the Schools amongst students. What of BULLYING amongst the Members? Other Unions have policies in place to deal with this scourge of WORKPLACE BULLYING, and we as Union members are working to deal with it too. We have to do BETTER.

Without the engagement of the membership; unless we can convince the members that they can come to the Union and be effectively heard and represented, then nothing can change.

As President, one of my fundamental and key goals for the Nova Scotia Teachers Union is to properly reconnect with all of its members. Every member in the province, whether they teach in primary, elementary, or senior high; whether they teach at the Community College, or whether they support learning and learners, as guidance, librarians, counsellors, registrars and all of the other positions that make good education possible, has to feel a part of the Union. I want us to reach a point where every single member is PROUD to say "I AM A MEMBER of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union". If the members are PROUD, they will feel connected, and if we are connected, each to all, then we will be STRONG. And we will need to be strong as we continue to deal with Ministers and Governments who say one thing and do something else.

We constantly hear comments and complaints from members saying that they don't feel safe to bring complaints forward. That should never be the case. They are the Union, We are the Union. It must NEVER be a case of "You the Union" - Members must be guided to feel "We the Union".

I am proud to be a member of the NSTU and am especially proud that I can put myself forward as a candidate for the position of President.

As a local leader, I am currently in my fourth round of negotiation, all since 2001. In this time we have made many gains and have come somewhat to addressing many of the losses that occurred as the result of the first Community College agreement of 1998. At that time, there was a terrible injustice that was allowed to occur at negotiations. The Union effectively negotiated a second class of employee and to date, there are still bad feelings.

Through the last three rounds of negotiations, with me acting as Chair of the Economic Welfare Committee, we have been able to recover much of what was lost. All employees hired after August 1, 1998 were affected. We are still trying to make gains and have had two successful strike votes - that most recent time coming as close as we ever have to a legal strike. No one ever wants to strike but as a Union, this is a hard won right – One that we work hard to keep in these difficult anti-Union times.

As your President, I know that I would have the commitment and fortitude to stand up when necessary. I also know that I will do all that I can to ensure that the Union is embraced and valued by all members. To be strong we need the commitment and confidence from each and every member.



Provincial Level: NSTU

• Executive Member	2012-2008, 2004-2000
• Chair, Community College Economic Welfare Committee	2012-2011, 2009-2008, 2003-2000
• Member Services Committee	2011-2008, 2004-2000
• Governance Committee	2012-2011
• Community College Negotiating Committee	2012-2011, 2009-2008, 2006-2005, 2003-2001
• Nominating Committee	2004-2002
• Professional Development Committee	1999-1996
• Ad hoc Committee on Substitute Teachers	1996-1995

Local Level: NSTU

• President	2008-2006, 2006-2004
• Nominating Committee	2004-2002
• Delegate to NSTU Annual Council	2012-1991
• Finance Committee	2001-2000
• VP Professional Development	2000-1998, 1997-1992
• School/building Representative	2000-1997, 1996-1989
• PD Committee	1998-1997, 1992-1990

Leadership development:

NSTU leadership development	2011-2000
NSTU Executive planning	2011-2008, 2004-2000

Other relevant information:

- Faculty, Pictou Campus, NSCC since 1988
- Charter member of AAE (Association of Adult Educators)
- Nova Scotia Teachers College A.Ed 1987
- Vocational Education diploma 1990
- Canadian Institute of Management modules Foundations, Organizational Behaviour, Business Law



Contact:



DAMIAN HALL

jdhall@nstu.ca

damian.hall.nstu@gmail.com

902.485.1302

**I believe that working together;
WE CAN make the Union stronger.**

**I encourage you to vote on May 23, 2012.
EVERY VOICE COUNTS.**

Élisez



Nova Scotia
Teachers Union

Shelley Morse
for

NSTU President 2012

Elect



Nova Scotia
Teachers Union

United We Are Strong!

As a team we will be pro-active to:

- ✓ Defend and advance contract benefits
- ✓ Attain reasonable salary increases, reflective of the cost of living
- ✓ Protect members' rights
- ✓ Fight for improved working conditions
- ✓ Reinforce our stance on inclusion, assessment, standardized tests; outcomes based teaching and learning; class size; and accreditation
- ✓ Take action on issues
- ✓ Showcase our profession and expertise
- ✓ Rally for adequate funding for education
- ✓ Encourage participation by members



L'union fait de la force!

Comme équipe, nous serons proactifs de:

- ✓ Défendre et d'avancer les bénéfices du contrat
- ✓ Atteindre des augmentations de salaire qui reflètent le coût de la vie
- ✓ Protéger les droits des membres
- ✓ Lutter pour des conditions de travail améliorées
- ✓ Renforcer notre position sur l'inclusion; les évaluations; les tests standardisés; l'enseignement seulement pour les résultats d'apprentissages, la grandeur de classe; et l'accréditation
- ✓ Prendre action sur des problèmes et des inquiétudes
- ✓ Démontrer notre profession et nos compétences
- ✓ Ressembler pour une éducation suffisamment financée
- ✓ Encourager la participation de nos membres

**Elect Shelley Morse – experienced, dedicated, passionate, and knowledgeable.
A voice to support ALL members!**

Challenges:

Salaries and Benefits – even though the cost of living continues to rise, recent salary increases have been dismal; especially in light of the advances achieved by other unions. Members are highly trained individuals who work countless hours; therefore, monetary compensation should reflect workload, qualifications and experience.

Workload and Working Conditions – outcomes, marking, preparation, absenteeism, suspensions, PLCs, adaptations, IPPs, behaviour plans, inclusion, semestering, initiatives... members are working far beyond the “school day” to try to complete tasks, often doubling the hours worked per week. Advances in technology (PowerSchool, email, course websites, etc.) have also increased workload significantly. These demands are unrealistic and taxing members' health and personal lives. This burden only continues to get worse year after year. Lip service from our employers simply adds insult to injury. Results are needed to restore balance to members' lives and well-being.

Class Size and Diverse Learning Needs – class sizes are on the rise again and class caps are being increased. Such measures increase workload and reduce the number of NSTU members required at schools and campuses. Larger class sizes lessen teacher-student interactions. CTF reports that one in every six students has an identified learning exceptionality. We continue to serve a more diverse population with dwindling support. This must stop.

Violence against Members – cyberbullying, threats, abuse from parents and students, harassment, and violent students, are stressors interfering with our work day. We need to feel safe in our workplaces.

Job Security – cuts to education funding mean fewer jobs and more movement across the province. It is more difficult for members to retain work in their hometowns. Constant cutting of the workforce engenders insecurity.

Funding for Progressive, Innovative Education – the face of education has rapidly changed over the past decade. The complexity of student needs is much different now. Funding formulas must reflect the new culture of learners. We can no longer accept being second from the bottom in provincial per capita funding! We need to be more proactive.

Strengths

Locals – The NSTU is the voice for educators in this province and through the work of its many dedicated, competent members has created many opportunities for educators, both professionally and contractually. NSTU leaders throughout the province are the “keepers of our contracts”, both regionally and provincially; making our Locals of utmost importance to the viability of this organization. NSTU reps in schools, campuses and other worksites across the province work diligently to update members and constantly disseminate information. The 23 Locals, including CSANE, the Community College, APSEA, and affiliated RRCs, are equally significant. They are the mainstay of this union and integral to our success.

Provincial negotiations for Public School members will begin again in the coming months. The NSTU needs a strong leader to ensure workload issues; marking and prep time; salary increases; and class size and class climate challenges are addressed. Let me represent you at the table to achieve our goals together!

NSTU Experience

Provincial Positions

NSTU 1st Vice-President (08; 09)

Provincial Table Officer

Chair, Provincial Economic Welfare (09-10)

Chair, Member Services Committee (08-10)

Provincial (TPA) Bargaining Team (08-09)

TWAR Committee

CAPTO member

Provincial Executive Member (02-06)

Personnel Committee

Legal Services ad hoc Committee

Public Relations Committee

Structure Review ad hoc Committee

Nominating Committee

New Member Committee

Discipline Committee

Finance and Property Committee

Regional Positions – Annapolis Valley Regional Representative Council

Chair, AVRRC

Time to Learn, Time to Teach Committee

Chair, AVRRC Grievance Committee

Regional Elections Convener

Co-chair, Management – Teacher Committee

Regional Elections Committee

Time to Learn, Time to Teach Coordinator

Regional PA/PR Committee

Regional Economic Welfare Committee

Constitutional Review

Regional Asking Package Committees (5)

Finance Committee

Regional Collective Agreement Negotiating Teams (3)

Kings Local rep – AVRRC

Regional Returning Officer – NSTU Presidential Election

Local Positions – Kings

Local President

Economic Welfare Committee

VP – Professional Development

Secretary, PD; PA/PR; and Finance Committees

VP – Economic Welfare

PA/PR Committee

Local Table Officer

Constitutional Review Committee

Past President

Finance Committee

Chair, Resolutions Committee

PD Committee

Chair, Nominating Committee

Communications Committee

Chair, Substitute Teacher Committee

Staffing/Term Teacher Committee

Chair, New Teacher Committee

NSTU/KCDSB Joint Budget Committee

Chair, NSTU/AVRSB Joint Education Committee

School Representative (10-11; 85-92)

Chair, Local Annual Retirement Banquet (7 yrs)

Annual Council Delegate (17 years)

National Involvement

CTF Teachers' Aspirations Focus Group (regional meetings in NS)

CTF Global Action Week activities 2010

Seventh Annual CTF “Hill Day” 2010 (Meeting with MPs across Canada regarding diversity & human rights issues)

CTF Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights (09-11)

Canadian Teachers' Federation Delegate (05; 06; 07; 09; 10)

I have experience at all levels, proven negotiating skills, a strong work ethic and a results-oriented leadership style.

Moving Forward Together! Supporting members at the grassroots level!

**VOTE for Shelley
on May 23rd**

PUTTING MEMBERS FIRST AND GETTING RESULTS

**VOTEZ pour Shelley
le 23 mai**



www.facebook.com/people/Shelley-Morse/663741776



<https://twitter.com/#!/shelleymorse1>



www.electshelley.com



slmorse@nstu.ca



902-542-3629

Candidate for NSTU First Vice-President 2012

Marlene Boyd

Experience, Commitment, Leadership

NSTU POSITIONS (PROVINCIAL)

- Provincial Executive Member
- Personnel Committee
- Chair, Resolutions Committee
- Sheonorail Foundation Board of Directors
- Chair, Nominating Committee
- Insurance Trustees
- First Vice-President NSTU
- Chair, Provincial Economic Welfare Committee
- Provincial Negotiating Committee
- Chair, Member Services Committee
- Pension Committee
- Chair, Public Affairs Committee
- Professional Development Committee
- Public Relations Committee



- Chair, Constitution Committee
- Occupational Health & Safety Committee
- Regional Class Size Committee

NATIONAL/ATLANTIC

- Past Member Canadian Teachers' Federation Board of Directors
- Past Member of the Council of Atlantic Provinces Teacher Organizations (CAPTO)

REGIONAL

- Chair, Strait Regional Representative Council
- Regional Negotiating Committee
- Regional Asking Package Committee
- Regional Grievance Committee
- Co-chair Teacher-Management
- Co-chair Teacher-Board
- Co-chair Strait Regional Institute for Staff Development
- Co-chair Time to Learn-Time to Teach

LOCAL

- President, Richmond Local
- VP Economic Welfare
- Grievance Committee
- Negotiations Committee
- Asking Package Committee
- VP Professional Development
- VP Public Affairs
- VP Public Relations/Communications
- School Rep
- Annual Council Delegate

As an organization we are facing extremely challenging times. The rights and benefits that unions have worked so hard to achieve are under attack and being threatened.

At the same time identified concerns and necessary supports to address the increasing workload of our members continue to be ignored by government. In this upcoming round of negotiations teachers want and desperately need to see some significant gains in this area.

The membership wants and deserves a meaningful wage increase. The reality is that adequate wage gains have been almost nonexistent for several years and certainly not consistent with the cost of living increases.

Wage increases should reflex the professionalism and work ethic of our members. I believe our membership is mindful of the current economic conditions however should not be expected to subsidize education nor have to balance the budget with their salaries.

Rarely is there recognition of what teachers do beyond the instructional day or of the instructional day versus the teachers' day. More and more is added to our day yet nothing is taken away. There appears to be a growing belief that it's ok to tap into teachers' personal time. When was the last time you called your doctor at home in the evening to ask for a prescription refill or showed up at your dentists' office without an appointment, demanding to see her. It seems when it comes to teachers this is an acceptable practice. It is not! We too are professionals and should be treated as such!

A must in addressing workload issues is to achieve an increase in prep time. We have not seen any increase in over a decade, however members are continually being asked to take on new and additional responsibilities.

Mandated initiatives such as, but not limited to PowerSchool should have targeted funding attached. Funding to provide adequate release time for our members during the instructional day for necessary training and professional development.

We need to address the issues of our NSCC members and the unique challenges they face. We must also show strong support to them as they go through the negotiations process.

Acquiring funding to accompany our existing Article 63 on Class Climate in our Teachers' Provincial Agreement could prove vital in addressing class composition and class size. Achieving language in Article 64, on IPPs that would allow the fund to be used not only for meetings but for the development of IPPs would be another important step toward addressing the workload of teachers.

Minister Jennex continues to state publicly that the impending cuts to education will not impact the classroom while Premier Dexter publicly states less money for school boards is not a cut to education. Perhaps it is time for both to go back to school as it is very apparent they have much to learn! As First Vice-President I would make it my goal to dispel such myths and speak to the realities of our underfunded education system as it exists today.

Il faut que notre organisation identifie et se prépare pour les défis qui suivent. Un des défis est d'améliorer la qualité d'emplois et la vie des enseignants pendant le prochain tour de négociation.

I believe I have the necessary experience, commitment and leadership to serve as First Vice-President of this organization. I ask for this opportunity, this challenge!



GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

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

If you, your class, or your colleagues have ideas to share with other teachers, classrooms and campuses in Nova Scotia, get a Sheonorail Project Application today from your NSTU Representative!



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

Our mandate

is simple. The Sheonorail Foundation will extend financial resources to any active or retired member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, to any group of active or retired NSTU members, or to any group of public school or Community College students working in cooperation with a teacher advisor(s) faculty member.

Our purpose

is to support research, inquiry, reflection, writing, distribution of information and interventions which focus on all forms of violence in the public (Primary to Grade 12) and Community College education system.

Our pledge

is to award funding grants for anti-violence programs that have a direct and immediate impact on public school and Community College classrooms, students, teachers, staff, administration and community.

Deadline—April 13, 2012

Reach for hope and change



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Yoga is for every body—How to enjoy the benefits of yoga regardless of shape, size, age or ability

by Jen Saunders, BScOT, MBA, O.T. Reg. (N.S.)

A few years ago, Yoga Journal magazine did a study that estimated the number of Americans practicing yoga was 15 million. That number is now likely higher. That statistic highlights the popularity of yoga across North America, including Canada. If you are one of the millions of people who have discovered the joy of yoga, you understand how a regular practice helps you feel better – physically and mentally.

If you have yet to discover the benefits of yoga, maybe you've been hesitant to give it a try. Perhaps you think yoga is only for the thin, young, flexible and graceful – you wouldn't be alone in that thought. But this is not true. Yoga is available and accessible to all of us. Regardless of age, ability, or shape, yoga is truly for *every* body. When practiced regularly, yoga builds strength and stamina in our physical body, helps us with our emotional health, improves mental ability and connects us with our spirit.

There are different types of yoga you can practice—from a vigorous, high energy class to hot yoga to gentle, restorative yoga. You may hear different names for these different types: Iyengar, Hatha, Yin, Kripalu, etc...

If you are contemplating trying yoga try not to let these different types and names put you off.

I practice and teach Kripalu yoga which is the yoga of compassion. My life, relationships and writing are all influenced by my practice. I believe Kripalu yoga is a great yoga practice for *every* body – young, old, fat, thin, able-bodied and less able-bodied.

Some of the benefits of Kripalu yoga include:

- Stress relief
- Improvement of muscular and cardiovascular health
- The practice of patience
- Strengthening of the mind-body connection
- Learning to let things go
- Connecting with your breath
- Enjoying better sleep

To fully appreciate the benefits of a regular yoga practice, you actually have to step on a mat and practice. This can be a scary thought if you are overweight, think you are too old, think you are inflexible (flexibility has nothing to do with it) and

are afraid of embarrassing yourself.

I can remember my first yoga class. Having struggled with my weight my entire adult life, I had just come off of another unsuccessful diet. I decided that I was going to stop putting off things I wanted to try just because of my weight. So I googled yoga teachers in my community and emailed the first one who came up. She described herself as having a round body and encouraged women of all shapes and sizes to try yoga. Bingo!

So I bought a cheap mat from Costco (nothing fancy, \$20) and off I went to my first yoga class. My teacher was warm and welcoming – this made a huge difference. Once we started practicing it became clear to me how much I was struggling with some of the poses and also with getting on/off the floor. My teacher helped me find ways to make the postures work for me and I slowly learned how to get on/off the floor more easily. But something happened in that class that changed me – I felt like I was coming home to myself.

I went back week after week, eventually two or three nights a week and after a few years I pursued yoga teacher training. Yoga has literally changed my life – from my relationship to food, to my relationships with others, to my physical and mental health. I am so grateful I was able to move past my fear and gave yoga a try.

As a plus-sized woman (or anyone who does not fit society's stereotype of someone who does yoga) it takes a lot of courage to go to a yoga class. You can do it! Here are five tips to help get you on the mat and give yoga a try:

1. Sign up for a beginner series. These are typically in four or six week series and allow you to receive the benefits of a regular yoga practice. If you are new to yoga, I strongly recommend beginner classes. They are designed to help meet students where they are.
2. Find the right teacher for you. You should feel warmly welcomed when you are at yoga. Yoga is for everybody. You should feel included and connected regardless of your age, ability or size. If



you do not feel good when you are with your teacher, find a new teacher. This may take time. Do not give up!

3. Less is more. Try a gentle class. Start off with a gentle style of yoga and see where your practice takes you. You may really enjoy more vigorous styles of yoga, but starting with gentle classes allows our mind and body to open up to new experiences.
4. Ask your friends and coworkers if they have a teacher or studio they enjoy going to – this helps sort through all of the different options out there for you. There are a lot of teachers and a lot of yoga styles. Asking friends about their experiences helps sort through all of the information and offerings that are out there.
5. Do it. Show up. Get on your mat. Even when you've had a long day and the dog needs a walk and your house is a mess, practice. Stick with it for at least a month – even if you really didn't enjoy your first class! Get on your mat. In all of my years practicing yoga, I have never regretted stepping on my mat for practice.

Jen is a certified Kripalu yoga teacher. She teaches women of all shapes and sizes in her home studio in Dartmouth. Connect with her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hellojensauanders

*Yoga teaches us to cure what need not be endured
and endure what cannot be cured.*

~ B.K.S. Iyengar



Yoga in Schools

5th Annual Summer Institute Teacher Training

Four days that can transform your life and your teaching career!

Be one of the growing number of teachers bringing this transformational yoga experience to their students; a course that inspires growth, connection and inner 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 certification program will receive all yoga programs designed by Jenny.

"My husband has undergone a transformation in this program. His experience has been extremely positive, physically, mentally and emotionally. Yoga has given him new strategies to handle stress and a new approach to life." —Teacher Training Applicant 2012

"Joy and gratitude is palpable throughout the journey. This course is changing many lives, having lasting effects within the education system." —Sue Stevenson, Phys. Ed Consultant

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 has been teaching meditation within his classroom for 25 years and 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 23-26th, 2012

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

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 to provide your NSTU email address. The **Be_Well@nstu.ca** list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



For an up-to-date copy of
DEALS & DISCOUNTS
for NSTU members, please contact
theteacher@nstu.ca or ph 1-800-565-6788
or visit **www.nstu.ca**

NDP Moving Too Fast on Balanced Budget

The Canadian Council for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) presented a Nova Scotia Alternative Budget (NSAB) on March 22 and experts say there is no need for the NDP government’s urgency with its “back to balance” plan.

Every year since 2000, the CCPA has brought together academics and community partners to assemble its own version of the provincial budget based on actual figures. The document shows that minor changes in government spending could have a major impact on the health and wellness of its population.

“Our budget protects programs while increasing revenues, primarily through increased upper-end income taxes,” said Christine Saulnier, CCPA’s Nova Scotia director. “This budget does not pose a risk to the province’s delicate recovery by imposing austerity measures that will result in job losses. Rather, it continues to build our social and physical infrastructure and invest in our communities and our people where it is most needed.”

In CCPA’s alternative budget, there is increased education spending of \$22 million as opposed to the Nova Scotia government’s budget which already includes an average cut of 1.3 per cent to school boards. Once inflation is added, this cut is over 4 per cent. This will lead to the loss of more teaching positions.

“This alternative budget shows that losing any unionized jobs hurts the entire economy,” said NSTU president Alexis Allen who attended the NSAB presentation along with other union leaders.

The alternative budget also calls for \$45 million in new spending on early childhood education.

The NSAB says one of the best ways to fight unemployment is to support secondary education, and one of the best places to do that is the Nova Scotia Community College. The NSAB would cut tuition by 50 per cent and condemns the NDP for freezing the College’s budget.

“NSCC instructors are exceptionally well-trained and ready to deliver a practical education that will lead to well-paid jobs,” said Allen. “With the shipbuilding contract on the horizon, we need to increase enrollment at NSCC, not look at cuts.”

The NSAB also says the NDP is moving too quickly to balance the budget because “the electoral cycle should not determine economic policy.” Economists recommend delaying balancing the budget until 2015-16 instead of 2013-14 because that is when economic growth should accelerate with the coming shipbuilding contract.

Nova Scotia’s current debt is comparatively small as a share of the Gross Domestic Product and can be addressed without aggressive cuts to public spending and public services.

One economist who worked on the alternative budget says the Nova Scotia scenario is equivalent to a person who makes \$50,000 per year paying only \$1,000 in debt repayment, a number which is manageable.

The report goes on to say increases in public spending actually increase the rate at which the deficit is paid down. Instead, governments are tackling debt through cuts to public spending and the public sector – a choice driven by ideology, not economic necessity.



Master of Education in Literacy Education

Where? All courses will be offered in Annapolis Valley/Brooklyn School

How long? Three year period of part-time study (Note: the program is not designed for full-time study). We like the off-campus groups to remain as one group throughout their program. This is how the program of study will look, the sequencing of courses is subject to change; you will be notified via email for any changes

Year 1

GLIT 6756 S.T.: Process Drama I (0.5 unit) 2012/Fall
GEDU 6170 S.T.: Literacy, the Arts and Inquiry (0.5) 2013/Winter
GLIT 6756 S.T.: Process Drama II (0.5 unit) 2013/SII

Year 2

GLIT 6727 Literacy Learning I (0.5 unit) 2013/Fall
GLIT 6728 Literacy Learning II (0.5 unit) 2014/Winter
GLIT 6756 S.T.: Creative Movement (0.5 unit) 2014/SII
GLIT 6757 S.T.: Teacher as Inquirer I (0.5 unit) 2014/SII

Year 3

GLIT 6756 S.T.: Enhancing Reading and Writing Through Drama (0.5 unit) 2014/Fall
GLIT 6757 S.T.: Teacher as Inquirer II (0.5 unit) 2015/Winter
GLIT 6756 S.T.: Visual Literacy (0.5 unit) 2015/SII

Admission requirements At least one year of teaching experience and an academic average of at least B.

Applications To apply on line click on the following link.
<https://forms.msvu.ca/applynow/Admissions/graduate.aspx>

Application Deadline: April 15, 2012

Tuition Costs: Currently the tuition fee per half unit is \$1,011.00 which includes course materials. This fee is based upon 2011-2012 academic term’s fees. **Tuition is subject to increase for 2012-2013.**

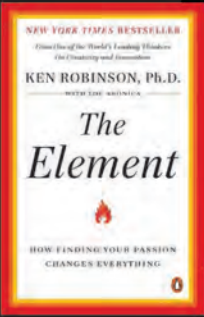


For information please contact:
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Keynote Speaker
Sir Ken Robinson



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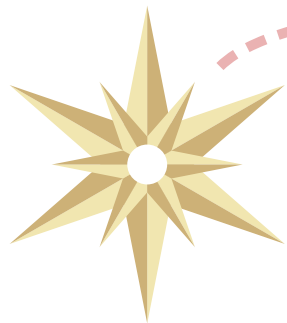


Keynote Speaker
Bill Strickland

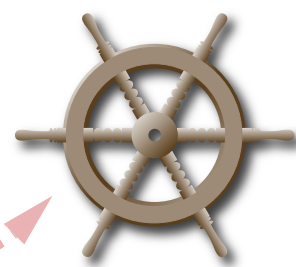
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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Teaching our Digital Citizens

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

We need to teach our children, youth and public to think critically and act ethically when using technology. Nova Scotia has an excellent public school program encompassing six essential graduation learning outcomes: aesthetic expression, citizenship, communication, personal development, problem solving and technology development. This allows teachers to follow a curriculum that teaches children from Primary to Grade 12 how to be contributing respectful citizens.

Teaching these important outcomes is not new. What *is* new is the explosion of technology, social media and online communication in the past 20 years. For the first time in history we have students surpassing parents and teachers in their understanding and use of a tool. Our children and youth are digital natives while we are the digital immigrants. We did not grow up with Google, social media and blogs. Texting, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are first nature to our children. So, we play catch up as our children drive technology without having the guidance of their parents and lessons taught at school.

Many educators, public partners and others are trying to change that. As parents and educators, we cannot take a back seat to our children and youth. We must teach them appropriate online conduct or digital citizenship along with our continued efforts to teach them how to be respectful to others and live by the Golden Rule.

One Nova Scotia school that is actively pursuing this goal is the Strait Area Education and Recreation Centre (SAERC) in Port Hawkesbury. I was honoured to present the keynote address *Appropriate Online Conduct and Digital Citizenship* at SAERC's recent conference on digital citizenship for Grades 9 to 12 students. Speakers and workshops brought awareness to the topics of cyberbullying and online responsibility. Staff, students and community members embarked on an educational journey to ensure all staff and students have the knowledge and

understanding of how to use technology to advance their learning and success and to act as thoughtful, considerate digital/school citizens.

During my workshops, I provide educators with resources and sites to support them in teaching appropriate online conduct. As Canadians, we do not have to look far to find relevant and supportive resources to assist us in teaching our students how to be thoughtful, considerate online citizens.

One resource that I provide to educators is a place mat on the six tenets of being a proactive digital citizen as described in Ian Jukes, *Digital Diet*. These tenets are: respect yourself, respect others, protect yourself, protect others, respect your intellectual property and protect the intellectual property of others. This is a great springboard activity, along with the digital citizenship contract created by the *21st Century Fluency* project, in beginning the discussions and actions of positive digital citizens. Teachers will find fluency21.com a great site to advance teaching in the 21st century.

As a participant on Nova Scotia's Task Force on Cyberbullying, I was afforded the opportunity to meet and hear from many experts and partner associations who have developed resources to support digital citizenship and address cyberbullying.

In Canada, the Media Awareness Network, media-awareness.ca, supports parents and educators with many relevant lessons and resources in teaching and parenting in a digital age.

Dr. Shaheem Shariff and her McGill University team have developed a site, definetheline.ca, to support policy makers, children, youth, parents and educators to engage, learn, network and share resources on promoting positive, thoughtful and considerate digital citizens. Educators can find useful video and media on this site to launch students into discussion on appropriate online conduct, sexting, bystander effect, safety online and much more.



Shaun MacDonald, Principal, SAERC; Betty-Jean Aucoin, Executive Staff Officer, NSTU; Monica Williams, Director of Programs and Student Services, SRSB; Lesley Bland, SAERC Grade 12 Student and Student Council President; Cst. Deepak Prasad, Chairperson SAERC School Advisory Council and RCMP, Port Hawkesbury Detachment, following the keynote address.

PREVNet.ca is another excellent Canadian site providing resources to youth, teachers and parents on how to stop bullying and cyberbullying.

In the United States, Parry Aftab has created the website wiredsafety.org to provide students, parents and educators with insights and resources to address cyberbullying and Internet safety.

In addition to these websites, one of the best resources we have is our students. We need to look to them to assist us in using technology in our schools to support learning, communication and relationships. Our students can and should be part of the solution.

INFORMATION SESSION

Master of Education

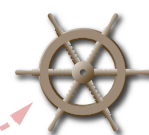
Master of Arts in Education
Curriculum Studies
Educational Foundations
Lifelong Learning
School Psychology

Date: Tuesday, April 24, 2012
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Location: Seton Academic Centre, Room 430

Presented by the Mount's Faculty of Education
For more information, visit msvu.ca/education



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

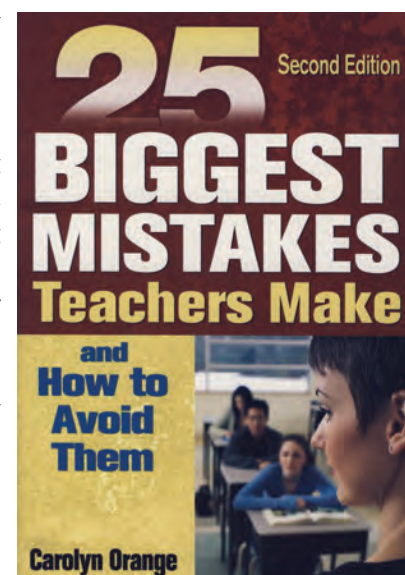


Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 27 to be eligible for the draw.

25 Biggest Mistakes Teachers Make and How to Avoid Them by Carolyn Orange

This second edition of the bestseller by Carolyn Orange offers reflective scenarios and insights to help teachers learn from examples of undesirable teaching techniques and find better ways to address challenging or stressful classroom situations. This edition includes newly updated scenarios containing real student voices and teacher vignettes, as well as the author's prescriptions for better solutions. Drawn from many years of teaching experience, each prescription is aligned with sound educational theory and provides a dash of humour to help the solution stick. The book is organized into six sections, covering:

- Discipline
- Teacher-student relations
- Classroom policy and practices
- Classroom management and instruction
- Personality and professionalism
- Teaching style and behaviour



Nova Scotia Teachers College Annual Reunion

The 42nd annual reunion of the Nova Scotia Teachers College will take place August 17-19.

Graduates of all years from the old Normal School, the Nova Scotia Normal College or the Nova Scotia Teachers College are invited to attend. Special attention will be given to classes with graduation years ending in the number "2", but everyone is welcome.

The reunion will be held on the campus of the Community College (the former Nova Scotia Teachers College), in Truro. Rooms and meals will be available at the residence. In addition, a block of rooms has been booked at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel. You must book before mid-July to get the special rate. As usual, on Friday evening there will be a guest speaker, followed by a pub night.

For registration forms or more information, please contact either Rosella MacDonald at 902-736-6315 or rosellamacdonald@yahoo.ca, or Robert Jordan, rwjordan@ca.inter.net.

To check out the website,
visit: <http://www.nsteacherscollege.ca>.

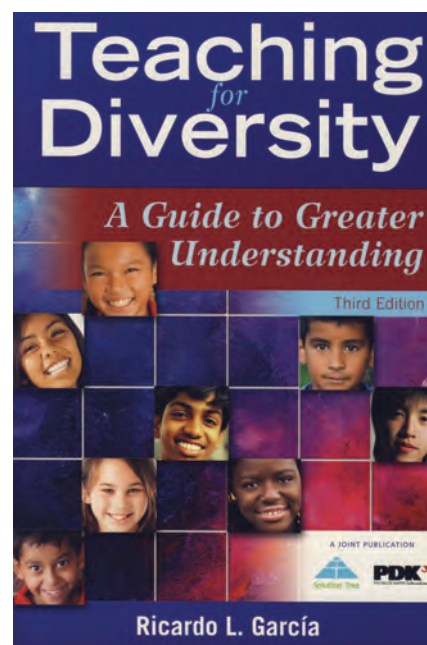
EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 27 to be eligible for the draw.

Teaching for Diversity: A Guide to Greater Understanding by Ricardo Garcia

In *Teaching for Diversity* (third edition), Ricardo Garcia argues that increasing student diversity in classrooms across North America places two imperatives on educators: they must learn effective strategies for teaching diverse groups of students, and they must integrate skills for accepting and thriving in diverse groups into their teaching. He moves from a broad overview of the history of schooling and attitudes toward diversity in education to a specific treatment of today's schools needs and objectives.

This resource employs both theory and concrete examples to construct a vision of schools as the foundation for an inclusive, democratic society.



Congratulations to our March Book Winners!

FRESH: *Becoming a Legendary Teacher - To Instruct and Inspire*
ADAM BOYD of
Avon View High School, Windsor

EQUITY: *Successful Inclusion Strategies for Early Childhood Teachers*
JANIQUE CASELEY of
Sunnyside Elementary School - Waverley Road Site

PD: *Making Thinking Visible: How to Promote Engagement, Understanding, and Independence for All Learners*
LORNA FRASER of
Glance Bay Elementary, Glance Bay



Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education & Talent Development

May 23-25, 2012
Mount Saint Vincent University

Think this gifted education conference is not for you? Think again! All classroom teachers can develop their students' gifts and talents once they know what to look for and what to do next.

Differentiation, enrichment and creativity are some of the most tried and true educational practices to engage all learners. Join internationally renowned speakers Joseph Renzulli, Sally Reis, Rachel McAnallan and Rebecca D. Eckert in Halifax this May to find out more.

The Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development is a great opportunity to:

Learn practical differentiation techniques that will benefit ALL students

Find out how to recognize and nurture students' gifts and talents

Discover how focussing on students' strengths and interests can allow you to build more meaningful and challenging learning environments

Choose topics that you would like to learn more about (with over 14 sessions being offered, everyone can find something directly related to their teaching) rediscover your joy and passion for teaching!

Don't miss this local, once in a lifetime chance to be inspired by some of the greatest minds in the field of education today!

Accommodation on campus available starting at \$36 per night.

Registration fee is \$399.00 (plus HST)

Full Time University Student Rate \$125 (includes HST)

Registration information and a comprehensive overview of the Summit is available on the NSEL website at www.nselc.ca



fresh

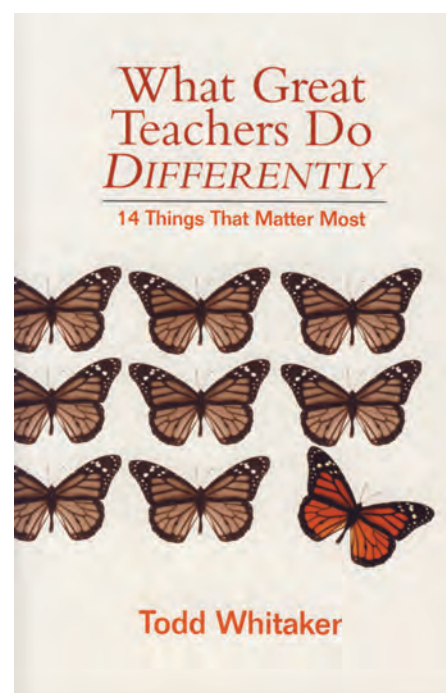
Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 27 to be eligible for the draw.

What Great Teachers Do Differently: 14 Things That Matter Most by Todd Whitaker

In his book, *What Great Teachers Do Differently: 14 Things That Matter Most*, author Todd Whitaker describes the beliefs, behaviours, attitudes, and interactions that form the fabric of life in our best classrooms and schools. The book focuses on the specific things that great teachers do; things that others do not. It answers these essential questions:

- Is it high expectations for students that matter?
- How do great teachers respond when students misbehave?
- Do great teachers filter differently than their peers?
- How do the best teachers approach standardized testing?
- How can your teachers gain the same advantages?



MLAs go Back to School

On Friday March 2 more than half of Nova Scotia's elected officials traded in their briefcases for backpacks when they participated in NSTU's Take an MLA to School Day.

"The experience of being in a classroom for a day highlighted the many successes, and also revealed the special challenges facing our public education system," said NSTU president Alexis Allen.

The goal of this initiative was to give political leaders some firsthand experience and to make the event as authentic as possible. Along with classroom work, if a teacher had supervision duty the MLA was expected to be out on the bus line or in the cafeteria with them. The MLAs also had some time to meet with principals and vice-principals to receive an overview of the participating schools.

She made particular note of the work being accomplished by staff in the learning centre.

"I was impressed with her interest in our challenges," said New Germany Elementary School principal Bill Bruhm. "We did not change our routine for her one bit – she saw a very typical and busy day in our school. She stayed until after 5 p.m. listening to the effect of budget cuts and really seemed to understand how difficult things are."

Another administrator said the MLA at his school appreciated the fact that every school is different and that the right resources need to be put in the right places by insightful people. He also learned a lot about the extra resources special needs students require.

PC Leader Jamie Baillie said he instantly accepted the invitation to take

The experience of being in a classroom for a day highlighted the many successes, and also revealed the special challenges facing our public education system."

on the 10 per cent so that they can contribute to the well-being and future prosperity of our province."



PC Leader Jamie Baillie shadowing Shannon Black at Springhill Junior and Senior High School on Take an MLA to School Day, March 2.

on the 10 per cent so that they can contribute to the well-being and future prosperity of our province."

Liberal MLA Andrew Younger said he was particularly surprised by the views of the students at Eric Graves Memorial Junior High in Dartmouth.

"Those students know that their futures, and the economic and social success of Nova Scotia are reliant on having a well-educated population. NDP cuts to education

have already hurt classroom learning. Additional cuts will further risk the educational and future employment success of our young people. It's unfortunate that the government priority is spending thousands of dollars on television ads to justify the cuts to education, when that money could be put into the classrooms to minimize cuts."

The Inverness Education Centre Academy newsletter featured an article about MLA Allan MacMaster's visit.

"Mr. MacMaster found himself participating in a variety of activities including: playing badminton with the Grade 7 class, learning about venn diagrams in Grade Primary, and participating in Book Walks in Grade 1. By 12:40

p.m., Mr. MacMaster found he had only 20 minutes left for lunch!"

"The feedback from both teachers and MLAs is encouraging and it was a positive learning experience for everyone," said Allen.



Lunenburg NDP MLA Pam Birdsall discusses her day in the classroom with New Germany Elementary School principal Bill Bruhm.

Both Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil and PC Leader Jamie Baillie took part. However key members of the NDP government refused, including Premier Darrell Dexter, Finance Minister Graham Steele and Education Minister Ramona Jennex.

"It is disappointing that members of this government did not participate as they are the ones cutting the education budget," said Allen. "But we want the focus to be on those who did attend and the things they learned."

Lunenburg NDP MLA Pam Birdsall started her day with a student-led tour of West Northfield Elementary School. She checked out a book sale and related activities and later read to a Primary class and watched more students learn the hands of a clock with the aid of an interactive whiteboard. Ms. Birdsall was intrigued by the Smart Board technology.

She also attended a music class before heading to the New Germany Elementary School where she took in a learning session designed for students who need one-on-one or small-group support with one or more staff members.

part in the day at Springhill Junior and Senior High School

"If you want to be premier and you want to be in charge of the education system, you should actually understand what's going on in the classroom," he said. "I believe this experience is part of building an alternative to the current policy of cuts in the classrooms. It's important people know that we have some practical experience to guide us and Take Your MLA to School Day is an example of that."

Liberal MLA Leo Glavine said his day was insightful and impacting even though he has experience as a former high school teacher.

"Meeting the challenge of a very diverse school population is complex and costly. We can pay now or we can pay later. Spend some time in our youth correctional centre and you will discover a common denominator – most have only a Grade 8, 9, or 10 education. To move our education system from 70 per cent completing high school to over 90 per cent took considerable investment. In my view, government should be focused



Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil works on the Smart Board in Liz Cox's Grade 2/3 class at Lawrencetown Consolidated School.



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of The Teacher is April 20th.

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or email theteacher@nstu.ca



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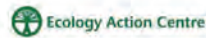
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Literacy Summer Institute

Two-day Workshop

July 5–6, 2012,
9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
The Old Orchard Inn & Spa, Wolfville, NS



**Lori Jamison (Rog) – Guiding Our
Youngest Learners to Read, Write,
Play, Learn! (Grades Primary–3)**

This two-day interactive workshop has a dual focus; Day 1 delves into organizational structures and learning routines for small group reading instruction. Day 2 will focus on literacy learning through exploration, inquiry, and content area studies. Participants will look at what the research says about the importance of play in Primary–3, and how this can be applied to how Primary classrooms function, as it relates to curriculum.

Lori is a teacher, consultant, and author of *The Write Genre*, *Marvelous Mini Lessons for Teaching Beginning Writing*, *Read, Write, Play, Learn: Literacy Instruction in Today's Kindergarten*, and *Guiding Readers: Making the Most of the 18-Minute Guided Reading Lesson*.

Registration fee: \$100.00

50% discount for student teachers and substitute teachers.

Lunch is NOT provided but there will be light refreshments.

Register at <https://eapps.ednet.ns.ca/summersession> or call Leigh Daniels at 424-7454. Registration will begin May 1, 2012.

For more information please contact Daniel Gervais at 424-5996.



Literacy Summer Institutes

Two-day Workshops

July 19–20, 2012, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
The Old Orchard Inn & Spa, Wolfville, NS



**Ellin Oliver Keene – Focus on What's Essential for Comprehension:
Spotlight on Talk! (Grades Primary–6)**

The first day the author will look at the broad picture of what is essential in literacy across all grades, with a particular focus on the grapho-phonetic structure and how it fits contextually within the larger literacy picture. The second day will focus on oral language and the importance of talk in Primary – 6 classrooms. This session will spotlight encouraging student talk that reflects their understanding of texts and concepts more accurately.

Ellin Oliver Keene is the author of *Mosaic of Thought: The Power of Comprehension Strategy Instruction 2nd edition*, *To Understand: New Horizons in Reading Comprehension*, and most recently *Talk About Understanding: Rethinking Classroom Talk to Enhance Comprehension*.



**Cris Tovani – Finding Out What Adolescents REALLY Know in
Reading and Writing! (Grades 7–12)**

Cris will spend one day on reading and writing workshops as frameworks for instruction and the other day will focus on assessment. She describes systems and structures she uses in her own classroom, shows teachers how to use assessments to monitor student growth and provide targeted feedback that enables students to get content goals under control, and shares ways to bring students into the assessment cycle so they can monitor their own learning.

Cris Tovani is the author of *I Read It But I Don't Get It: Comprehension Strategies for Adolescent Readers*, *Do I Really Have To Teach Reading?: Content Comprehension Grades 6-12*, and most recently *So What Do They Really Know?: Assessment That Informs Teaching and Learning*.

Registration fee for each two-day workshop: \$100.00

50% discount for student teachers and substitute teachers.

Lunch is NOT provided but there will be light refreshments.

Register at <https://eapps.ednet.ns.ca/summersession> or call Leigh Daniels at 424-7454. Registration will begin May 1, 2012.

For more information please contact Daniel Gervais at 424-5996.



2012 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	Acclaimed—Kim Frank	
Antigonish-Guysborough	April 2	May 2
Cape Breton District	March 23	April 24
Colchester East Hants	March 26	April 26
Community College	Acclaimed—Louis Robitaille	
Dartmouth	March 9	April 25
Halifax City	March 9	April 25
Halifax County	March 22	April 24
Inverness-Richmond	Acclaimed—Sheila Hawley	
Lunenburg	March 30	April 18

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



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or Email pr@nstu.ca



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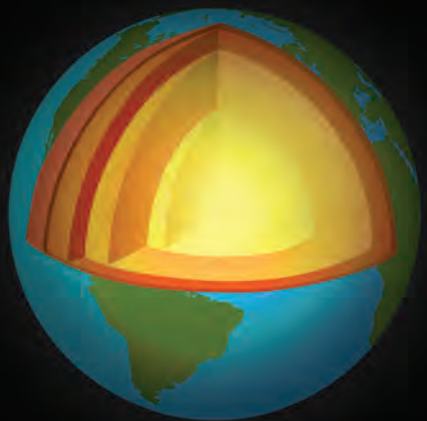



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Made in Nova Scotia

Creative Teaching Leads to a Student's Trip of a Lifetime

by Clare MacIntyre

Games of “Jeopardy” and rap songs – those are just a couple of the ways an innovative teacher in Sheet Harbour engaged her students in a citizenship competition about Canada’s heritage and history. It turned out to be a winning strategy, with her students feeling proud and excited about their home and native land – and 15-year-old Lena McDermott being awarded the grand prize trip to Ottawa for her perfect score.

Laura Slaunwhite teaches mathematics, social studies and family studies at Duncan MacMillan High School. When a package arrived from the Historica-Dominion Institute’s 2011-2012 Canadian Citizenship Challenge, she recognized an opportunity to get students enthusiastic about their country.

“They should be proud of where they come from, and how fortunate we all are to be Canadian citizens,” she says.

The challenge originated from the idea that new Canadians have to pass a citizenship exam with at least 75 per cent in order to become Canadian citizens. With the belief that all Canadians, including students, should be ready to answer questions about their country, the institute prepared an online mock citizenship test with prizes for students and classrooms that scored the highest.

“I registered my Grades 7, 8 and 9 students for the contest and received all materials to prepare for the citizenship test,” Slaunwhite explains.

Each student received a study book and every day Slaunwhite prepared a different activity for her classes to help prepare for the test.

“I made a “Jeopardy” game to review the information, practice tests and relevant activities,” she says. “For the Grade 9 classes specifically, I made a project for the students to create citizenship rap songs. The students performed them for their classmates. So while preparing and singing their songs they were actually studying the Canadian facts.”

Slaunwhite says the students were always engaged because it was meaningful.

“It was about Canada and it was current information and facts. If students can relate to the material, they are always engaged and interested to learn more,” she says.

Twenty-six thousand students entered the competition from 600 French and English classrooms across the country.

Grade 9 student Lena McDermott says she couldn’t believe it at first when she learned she was one of two students across Canada who had earned a perfect score and was awarded a grand prize trip to Ottawa as “Student Citizen of the Year.”

“I was completely amazed,” she says. “At first, I was speechless and it took me a moment to completely comprehend that I had won a trip to Ottawa; our country’s capital! I was so excited; it would be my first time on an airplane and my first time ever leaving the Maritimes!”

McDermott’s trip to Ottawa was everything she had hoped for—and more.

“I got to see the Parliament buildings, the Supreme Court of Canada, Rideau Hall, Canada’s war museum, a production of West Side Story at the National Art Centre, and I got to stay at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier!” she says. “I also got to learn a lot about Canada’s history and a lot about Canada itself. This was a great learning experience for me.”

Slaunwhite is proud of all her students who took part in the competition and she is thrilled about Lena’s award. She says as a teacher, this kind of recognition is important.

“Within our schools we all work so hard each day,” she says. “As professionals we are always encouraging our students, but this kind of recognition shows our students that even though sometimes they feel they can’t do anything more than what they may already be doing, they are already doing amazing things; they just need some encouragement to believe it.”

The Historica-Dominion Institute is the largest charitable organization in Canada dedicated to history, citizenship and identity. For more information on the institute and its school resources and competitions, visit <http://www.historica-dominion.ca/content/education>.



(L-R): Miguel Martins (student winner) of Etobicoke, Ont.; Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Jason Kenney; Lena McDermott of Tangier, N.S.



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The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The remaining deadline for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2011-2012 school year is April 15.

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.

The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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Acadia's new specialized Music Education program provides teachers with opportunities to learn and share experiences with colleagues in courses that offer both theoretical grounding and practical application.

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- Further your professional development and open up new career opportunities.

Application deadline: April 20

Master of Education in Curriculum Studies with a Focus in **Creativity**

Acadia's new Creativity program is designed to engage teachers and other educators in thinking that positions creativity at the centre of the curriculum. To foster a creative learning environment for today's students, teachers need to think creatively in planning, classroom design, and how they navigate and coordinate provincial standards.

- This program offers teachers of all disciplines an opportunity to focus, reflect, and build on creative capacity in their practice.
- Courses are sequenced to provide a balanced approach and to follow the developing interests of the enrolled participants.

Application deadline: April 16



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NOTICES

Earth Day 2012 - Activities for Kids

Join **Earth Day Canada** in the month-long, kid-friendly campaign *Act for the Planet!* The EcoKids program is offering kids a chance to do fun things that will lessen their impact on the environment! Specific actions include: Save the birds; Bring your own bottle; Upcycle your recycling; Plant a pop bottle garden and Make your own Earth Day pledge.

Visit earthday.ca, register your commitment(s) and learn about the environmental benefits of each action. You'll find downloadable step-by-step guides that kids, teachers/ group leaders can use and have a chance to win great prizes from Sony Canada. For more information, please contact ecokids@earthday.ca.

National Media Arts Contest

The Canadian Hunger Foundation (CHF) is encouraging students between the ages of 10 and 22 to enter its *Show What You Know* Media Arts contest. Students are invited to enter a short video, design a poster or write a short letter to show Canadians everywhere why it's important to be a global citizen.

This contest is an opportunity to have your students' creativity and hard work viewed by thousands of people across Canada. Their message of hope and inspiration could give them a chance to win an iPad 2, or Kobo ereader, or iPod. Their work will also be shared with teachers and students across Canada during school presentations.

Final Submission: May 4, 2012 by midnight. Announcement of winners: Week of May 28-31, 2012. Distribution of Prizes: Early June.

For more information about this contest, visit www.chf-partners.ca/mediacontest. There is also a voting component that your schools can use to give your students a better chance to win and be recognized.

National Teacher Survey on 21st Century Learning & Technology

The MindShare Learning Team is seeking your participation in a national survey on 21st century learning and technology in the classroom. Educators may qualify to win an iPad 3.

The goal of this national technology survey is to better understand the needs of classroom educators across Canada. By taking 10 minutes, teachers and principals can do their part in supporting vital research on 21st Century learning and innovation in the classroom.

Mindshare also encourages educators to consider subscribing to the monthly MindShare Learning report, a learning and technology e-magazine at www.mindsharelearning.ca.

To qualify to win the iPad 3, add your name and email at the end of the survey. Please be assured your personal information will be kept confidential should you choose to enter.

To access the survey: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e5ml9u2ugyx-3voqy/start>

We want your News and Pictures!

We love getting content from NSTU members across Nova Scotia so please keep your cameras handy anytime your Local has a meeting or an event.

We also love to celebrate accomplishments in the classroom, PD events, awards and retirements. So send along your write-ups and photos (and tell us who is in the photo as well as who took it!)



Send your photos to:

The Teacher

**ATTENTION: Mary Jane Webber and/or Sonia Matheson
3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7
or email: theteacher@nstu.ca**

All pictures must be in jpeg format with a high resolution (300 dpi). Please do not use Blackberries, iPhones or other smart devices to take photographs for *The Teacher*. The quality is not sufficient for our printing process. Any questions? Call Mary Jane Webber anytime at 479-4708. **The deadline for the May issue is April 20th.**

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Page 20, *The Teacher*, April 2012

coming events

April is...

National Poetry Month (www.poets.ca), Oral Health Month (<http://www.cda-adc.ca/>), Daffodil Month (www.cancer.ca), Parkinson's Awareness Month (www.parkinson.ca), Earth Day, April 22 (www.earthday.ca), Homeopathy Awareness Month (http://www.csoh.ca/HAW_2012.htm)

APRIL 22

Earth Day

Celebrated every April 22, Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. More than six million Canadians join one billion people in over 170 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity. Environmental challenges abound as our daily actions pollute and degrade the fragile environment that humans and wildlife depend on to survive. For loads of ideas and free downloadable resources to help make Earth Day meaningful in your classroom, visit www.earthday.ca/pub/

Here are some events taking place across Nova Scotia to mark Earth Day 2012:

Lunenburg Earth Day Litter Challenge 2012

April 18 (and the rest of Earth Week)

Each year more than 2000 Lunenburg County residents participate in the Earth Day Litter Challenge. Groups collect litter along roadways, parks and playgrounds. Litter bag collection can be organized if your group participates on April 18. Litter kits will be supplied to groups that do their litter challenge during the rest of Earth Week. For more information, contact Stephanie Smits at the Lunenburg Regional Community Recycling Centre at 902-543-2913 or email ssmits@modl.ca

*April 20
Glooscap Heritage Centre
Earth Day Celebration*

The Glooscap Heritage Centre's annual Earth Day Celebration will be held on Friday, April 20. Admission is free and food bank and/or goodwill clothing donations will be appreciated and accepted. There will be guest speakers, special performances and plenty of interactive displays. Participate in a variety of games with environmental outcomes, hear Mi'kmaw legends, and make Earth Day themed art. Schools please book in advance! Call Gordon Pictou at (902) 843-3493 or email at gordon@glooscapheritagecentre.com. The Glooscap Heritage Centre is located at 65 Treaty Trail, in the Truro Power Centre, Millbrook.

*April 21
Earth Day Art for Kids*

On April 21, the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library at 283 Main Street in Antigonish will be hosting an afternoon of eco-friendly and fun activities for children ages six to 10. The event is being organized by the Nova Scotia Energy and Emissions Challenge and will include tie-dyeing T-shirts, "earthy" crafts and games. Space is limited, so please pre-register at the Antigonish Library (902) 863-4276 by

Friday, April 20. For more information, visit www.nse2challenge.ca.

APRIL 24

National Healthy Schools Day

Canadians for A Safe Learning Environment (CASLE) is marking its fourth national Healthy Schools Day. It's a time for Canadians to focus on school indoor environment issues such as air quality in order to benefit the health and learning ability of our country's school children, and protect the health of workers in Canadian schools. 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. Visit <http://www.casle.ca/Default.aspx?alias=www.casle.ca/healthyschoolsday> for further information and for Healthy Schools Day ideas.

APRIL 24

Concours d'art oratoire 2012

Canadian Parents for French - Nova Scotia (CPF-NS) will be holding their 29th Annual Concours d'art oratoire (French public speaking contest) on Saturday, April 28th at Mount Saint Vincent University. Each year CPF-NS provides over 150 regional winners from across the province with this exciting opportunity to be recognized for their efforts and talents in French public speaking. Students at the Grades 5/6, 7/8, 9/10 and 11/12 levels will compete in the categories of Core French, Integrated French, Intensive French, Early Immersion, Middle Immersion, Late Immersion and Francophone. In order to participate at the provincial level, students must advance from a regional competition hosted by their school board.

For more information, visit <http://www.cpfns.ednet.ns.ca/>

APRIL 24

MSVU Grad Info Session

Mount Saint Vincent University: Master of Education and Master of Arts in Education - The Faculty of Education at Mount Saint Vincent University will be holding an information session for those interested in the Master of Education and Master of Arts in Education. Subjects to be covered include curriculum studies, educational foundations, lifelong learning and school psychology. The information session will be held on Tuesday, April 24 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 430 of the Seton Academic Centre.

MAY 31 TO JUNE 2

Faculty & Professional Support Staff Conference

NSCC Locals' annual Faculty and Professional Support Staff Conference (FAPSC) will be held at NSCC Truro Campus, May 31-June 2. This year's theme is *A World of Change*. For more information on this year's conference, please contact Ernie Parkes at geparkes@nstu.ca.

JUNE 1

Family History Projects - South Shore Genealogical Society

For the past year, the South Shore Genealogical Society (SSGS) has been working on a project that partners youth (ages six to 18) with seniors (age 65 and older) to do family history projects. With more than 55 inter-generational family history sleuth teams, it is time to celebrate with a conference and presentation of their work. Anyone interested in genealogy and family history is invited to attend this two-day conference featuring speakers, displays and music.

The conference will take place Friday, June 1 from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and

Saturday, June 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Lunenburg Community Centre. Admission is \$20, with project team members and children under 12 admitted free. Participants can either bring their own lunches or purchase them at the conference.

In addition, a fundraiser will be held on Friday, June 1 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. featuring music and storytelling in the theme of family history with the Ernst Family singers, Joanne Jefferson and more. Admission is \$20.

For more details, visit the SSGS website at www.ssgs.ca. To register, call: 902-640-2471 or email ssgsconference@gmail.com. You can mail your registration cheque to: SSGS, Box 901, Lunenburg, NS, B0J 2C0.

This event is supported by a grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors' Positive Aging Fund.

Have you heard about the 2012 Dalhousie University's Faculty of Science DISCOVERY DAYS?



FREE Science & Math events for Nova Scotia schools

Over 2000 students and teachers from across the province joined us last May and June for fun, hands-on, and educational science and math activities.

Morning or afternoon sessions available:

May 1-3 Discover **CHEMISTRY** Days — For grades 7-9
May 2-3 Discover **PSYCHOLOGY** and **NEUROSCIENCE** Days — For grades 10-12
May 8-9 Discover **EARTH SCIENCE** Days — For grades 7-12 **NEW!**
May 14-18 Discover **PHYSICS** and **ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE** Days — For grades 6-12
May 16-18 Discover **MATH** Days — For grades 10-12
June 12-13 Discover **BIOLOGY** Days — For grades 9-12

For more information and registration, contact:
Theresa Myra
School Outreach-Faculty of Science
Tel: (902) 494.6448
Email: theresa.myra@dal.ca



Visit our website: science.dal.ca/p12



Inter-University Doctoral Program in Educational Studies

The Inter-University Doctoral Program in Educational Studies (a collaborative partnership between Acadia, Mount Saint Vincent, and St. Francis Xavier universities) is continuing to accept applications. The program can support students in preparation for assuming the role of educational researcher in one or more of six themes: curriculum studies, educational foundation and leadership, inclusive education, lifelong learning (adult education), literacies, and psychological aspects of education.

An information session will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the Seton Academic Centre, Room 403 at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Any enquiries about the program can be directed to:

Dr. Lynn Aylward
Doctoral Program Coordinator
Acadia University
Lynn.Aylward@acadiau.ca
(902) 585-1751

Dr. Jeff Orr
Doctoral Program Coordinator
StFX University
Jeff.Orr@stfx.ca
(902) 867-2214

Dr. Jim Sharpe
Chair, Doctoral Program
Administration Committee (IDAC)
Mount Saint Vincent University
Jim.Sharpe@msvu.ca
(902) 457-6736

Ruth Ann Brown
Doctoral Program Assistant
Mount Saint Vincent University
Ruthann.Brown@msvu.ca
(902) 457-6564

Apply for the July, 2013 intake by November 15, 2012.

<http://educationphd.ns.ca>



What Happens to My Benefits when I Retire?

It is approaching the time of year when many teachers will begin to consider or may have already decided to retire from the teaching profession at the end of this school year.

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to ensure that you are aware of exactly what occurs at your retirement with respect to your NSTU Group Insurance Program coverages.

Listed below is a summary of the coverages that are available to Retired Teachers under the age of 65 and any cost sharing that may be available to you. Also, we have listed a few important items to remember as you consider the coverage you will have at retirement.

PLAN - RETIRING UNDER AGE 65

Total Care Medical

Total Care Medical continues. Premium paid 100% by Province of Nova Scotia for Single or Family Plan for Retired Teachers in receipt of a N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque.

Must apply for coverage within 60 days of receipt of first pension cheque. Form included in package from Nova Scotia Pension Agency.

Total Care Dental

Total Care Dental continues if enrolled at date of retirement. **Premium paid 100% by teacher.** Deducted monthly from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque.

Provincial Master Life & Accidental Death & Dismemberment

\$50,000 Life; \$50,000 AD&D; \$2,000 Critical Illness for member; \$3,000 Dependent Life - Spouse; \$1,500 Dependent Life - Children; \$3,000 Funeral Expense

Coverage may be continued. **Premium paid 100% by teacher.** Deducted from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque. Funeral Expense Benefit is provided by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund, however, you must continue to be insured under the Provincial Master Life. Funeral Expense coverage is ending in July 2014.

Optional Life Insurance \$30,000 to \$300,000.

Spousal Life Insurance Premium paid 100% by teacher. Deducted from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque. **Can only continue the coverage in effect prior to retirement.**

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment

\$5,000 to \$300,000.

Premium paid 100% by teacher. Deducted from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque.

Can only continue the coverage in effect prior to retirement.

NSTU MEDOC® Group Travel Plan

Available to all Members. Premium based on age. Deducted monthly from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque. Pre-existing conditions apply.

NSTU MEDOC® Trip Cancellation / Interruption Plan

Available to all Members. Premium based on age. Deducted monthly from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque. Pre-existing conditions apply.

Voluntary Critical Illness

Available to all members under age 75. Up to \$300,000 of coverage. Coverage also available for spouse and eligible dependent children. Premium paid 100% by teacher. Premium based on age. May apply at anytime. Pre-existing conditions apply.

Home / Auto

Coverage continues. Deducted monthly from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque.

Nova Scotia Teachers *Plus* Credit Union

Requested amount will be deducted from N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

Provincial Master Life:

Coverage reduces to \$10,000 at age 65, however, you can convert the terminated coverage to an individual policy of insurance. The Funeral Expense benefit ceases at age 65. As mentioned previously, the Funeral Expense benefit will end in July 2014.

Optional Life:

Members can enroll or increase coverage only while you are actively teaching. Optional Life coverage cannot be increased after you retire. Coverage ceases at age 65. Terminated coverage prior to age 65 is eligible for conversion. If you wish to enroll or increase your coverage before retirement, make sure you start the process well before you retire as medical evidence of insurability is required. This will allow sufficient time for the underwriter to assess your application as you must be actively at work on the effective date.

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment:

Members can enroll or increase coverage only while you are actively teaching. Coverage ceases at age 75. If you wish to enroll or increase coverage before retirement, make sure you start process before the end of May, as you must be actively at work on the effective date. Coverage decreases at age 70 to \$100,000 and there is no Permanent Total Disability, Home-Maker Weekly Indemnity or Hospital Indemnity coverage.

Total Care Medical:

Members must remember to enroll within 60 days of the receipt of your first pension cheque if you are currently enrolled. Prescription drug coverage under the Total Care Medical Program ceases the end of the month prior to you turning age 65. Coverage under the Nova Scotia Seniors' Pharmacare Program commences the first of the month that you become age 65. Therefore, there will be no lapse in prescription drug coverage.

Total Care Dental:

Total Care Dental coverage may be continued into retirement and there is no termination age. Members must be enrolled in the Total Care Dental Program prior to retiring.

For members who have deferred their pension and have not continued their Group Insurance coverage, they have 60 days from receipt of their first N.S. Teacher's Pension cheque to enroll in the Total Care Medical and Dental Plans.

Summary: There are many issues to consider as you move toward retirement. As well, there are many benefits available to you to continue through retirement to make your life a bit easier.

The Trustees encourage members to ensure that you consider your insurance needs prior to retirement to avoid any surprises after having finished your teaching career.

If you have any questions with respect to your NSTU Group Insurance coverage at retirement, please do not hesitate to contact the Administrator, Johnson Inc. at (902) 453-9543 or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

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J.D. Power and Associates ranked Johnson Insurance "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Home Insurers in the Ontario/Atlantic Region".

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Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance intermediary, also operating as "Johnson Insurance" in Ontario/Atlantic Region (NB, NL, NS, ON, PE). Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Eligibility requirements, limitations and exclusions may apply. AIR MILES® reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund. At the time the premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium (including taxes). AIR MILES reward miles not available in SK, MB or QC. ®™ Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund). Johnson Insurance received the highest numerical score among home insurance providers in the Ontario/Atlantic Region in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2011 Canadian Home Insurance Study®. Study based on 11,286 total responses measuring 20 providers in the Ontario/Atlantic Region and measures consumer satisfaction with home insurance providers. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers in July-August 2011. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. CAT.02.2012

resources

Health 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

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.

Alcohol Facts (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.

Caution: Teenager Under Construction (20 min) Health 6-8

This program introduces students in middle school to the many changes that accompany adolescence including the physical manifestations of puberty and the emotional, social and developmental changes that occur. Likeable teen hosts reassure students of many normal aspects of early adolescence: changing relationships with friends, a new sense of independence from parents, unpredictable moments of emotional upheaval and distraction, and more. What matters most is acceptance of self and others.

Huffing (20 min) Health 5-9

This gripping program shares unforgettable real stories of teens fighting their abuse of inhalants, as well as two families who have lost children to inhalant abuse. Several first-hand accounts illustrate that huffing inhalants is not only perilous, but can quickly lead to other types of drug abuse. In between the real stories, a group of teens talk directly to viewers addressing the addictive nature of inhalants and clearly outlining the damage these toxic chemicals cause to the brain, heart and lungs.

No Safe Amount: Women, Alcohol and FAS (20 min.) Healthy Living 7-9

Interweaving interviews with real teens who have experimented with alcohol, animated sequences demonstrating how a growing fetus is affected by alcohol use inside the womb, plus an up-close and personal look at a young woman growing up afflicted with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), this program clearly demonstrates the unique risks that alcohol poses to women.

Sex Smart for Teens (88 min) Health 7-9

This series of three videos will help you add impact and accuracy to your sex education program. Using a respectful, positive and humorous tone, this series helps you get through to today's teens, inspiring them to make healthy choices. The first video, *Abstinence*, effectively covers sensitive subjects like saying no and having "the talk" with parents. The second, *Birth Control*, clearly presents the facts, including information on all the new methods, without encouraging sexual activity. The third, *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, emphasizes prevention and shows teens how an "it won't happen to me" attitude is too risky today. Includes guide. Teacher preview recommended.

Shredded (22 min.) Healthy Living 9

By the time boys hit puberty, they've been bombarded with thousands of images showing the male body as muscled and devoid of fat. And as their own bodies change, boys realize that muscles don't just pop off their frames naturally. For some boys, this leads to anxiety and an obsessive desire to change their image. This film reveals the risks some teenage boys are willing to take to achieve the ideal male shape, exploring supplement use and the temptation of steroids. With complete frankness, the boys relate their own experiences, desires and motivations to the audience, who must draw their own conclusions

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.

Teen Safety Series (51 min.) Healthy Living 9

Teens, as well as adults, harbor misinformation regarding personal safety. Prevention is the key to stopping abuse, sexual violence or abduction. Knowledge is the key to keeping teens safe with friends, dates, strangers, and others. Titles in this series: *Myths vs. reality*, *When you are alone*, and, *Dating and relationships*.

RESOURCES

MyHealth Magazine

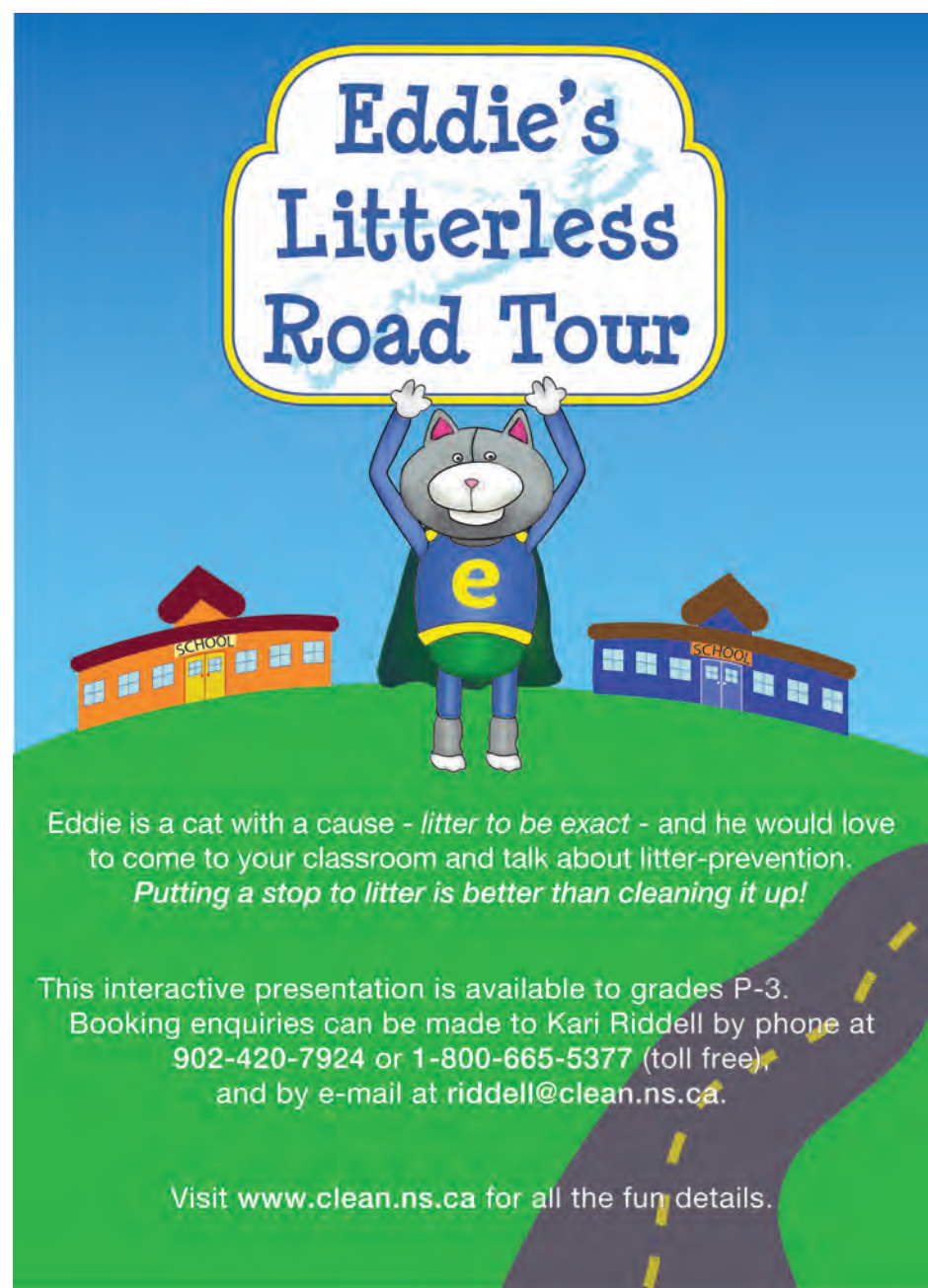
MyHealth Magazine is an online health and wellness program for young people, educators, parents, and allied health professionals. The program is delivered through a series of interactive online resources that were designed:

- To improve the health and wellness of young people by providing access to innovative and engaging literacy resources on health, mental health and development.
- To facilitate help seeking among young people who are dealing with or who are at risk for mental health difficulties.
- To provide educators, allied health professionals, and parents with resources to assist in recognizing and supporting students experiencing mental health difficulties.
- To enhance learning beyond the classroom through interactive eLearning modules.
- To help educators and administrators better understand and monitor the physical and mental health needs of students in their own schools through a series of anonymous online surveys.

The program is comprised of high quality health information presented in a variety of interactive formats, such as quizzes, surveys and polls. Magazine issues, information and how-to sheets address a range of topics, such as nutrition, mental illness, bullying, self-harm, and children's rights; which was developed in partnership with UNICEF Canada, PREVNet, and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

MyHealth Magazine functions as a teaching and learning tool. The eLearning modules cover a range of physical, mental, social and emotional health topics, and work to increase student engagement, extend learning beyond the classroom and promote independent learning. When completed annually, our surveys also provide an overview of student physical and mental health needs, currently existing stigmas and school safety related issues.

For more information, visit www.myhealthmagazine.net or email info@myhealthmagazine.net.



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.
Booking enquiries can be made to Kari Riddell by phone at 902-420-7924 or 1-800-665-5377 (toll free), and by e-mail at riddell@clean.ns.ca.

Visit www.clean.ns.ca for all the fun details.

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Environment

Totally Disgusting Tobacco Gross Out (18 min) Health 5-9

As the title suggests, this video goes for the gross-out factor, presenting students with a graphic look at all things vile and disgusting (and there are many!) about using tobacco products including: hairy tongues, yellow teeth, dripping phlegm, oozing tar, diseased lungs, laryngectomies (neck breathers), cancerous tumors and much much more! Not for the fainthearted, this video's imagery will linger long in students' minds and remind them to never consider using tobacco products.

Education Media Library, PO Box 578, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2S9; 902-424-2440 (phone); 428-3176 (fax), email mediacir@ednet.ns.ca / website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

classifieds

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

To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email smatheson@staff.nstu.ca.

AVAILABLE - Teaching Art with no Artroom, no Budget and lots of Kids. Book and Inservicing now available. www.SusanCarterComic.com

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BUYING A NEW CAR? Save time, money and stress. Bunin's Auto Assist will work for you to ensure a positive, money-saving vehicle purchase. www.buninsautoassist.com, email: abunin@eastlink.ca, or 902-792-1777. ***NSTU members are offered a 10% discount on all services.**

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.

WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL - Experience nature; bird watching, hiking trails, snow shoeing, star gazing, and open space. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-548-2379 or email wentworthhostel@ns.sympatico.ca to book today.

FORRENT - Dartmouth - Summer Rental in Brightwood area, 2 bedroom home on quiet cul-de-sac available June through October 2012 - for details please email hollyj12@gmail.com

JOB SHARE - Grade 6 French Immersion Teacher in HRSB seeking a job share partner for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. Contact me at egrandy@staff.ednet.ns.ca

JOB SHARE - Experienced guidance counsellor looking for a job share in HRSB. Please reply to bckathryn809@gmail.com

JOB SHARE - Still looking for a teaching partner? Recent mature graduate looking to job share. Please email Donna Ainslie at ainsliedonna@gmail.com

COUNSELLOR EXCHANGE? Guidance Counsellor in Cape Breton is looking to exchange positions with a counsellor in HRM for the 2012 -2013 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. Counsellor must be French-speaking. If interested, please contact me at dcb222@hotmail.com.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - A Permanent junior/ senior high Social Studies, English and Core French teacher with the HRSB is looking to exchange a position with a teacher from CBVRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. Interested in a permanent exchange. If interested please contact me at eraucoin@staff.ednet.ns.ca

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent junior/senior high learning center/resource teacher with the HRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from CCRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. If interested, please contact me at burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - An elementary resource teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same with the CBVRSB for the 2013-2014 school year. A permanent exchange is also possible. If interested, please email dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY - ALLURE, 115 Portland St., Dartmouth, just up the street from Alderney Landing. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year per family member with Blue Cross, no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension, fibromyalgia, improving sleep. Chris Bagnell RMT, 10-years experience. To contact Chris for an appointment, call 902-464-0606.

ViewFinders Film Camp a Success

The six NSTU members who participated in the ViewFinders March break film camp have nothing but rave reviews.

This is the third year the NSTU has partnered with the Atlantic Film Festival. For five days the teachers and 13 students worked together to create three broadcast-quality public service announcements (PSAs). This year's theme was *Teachers Make a Difference*.

"This is one of the top professional development experiences I've had," said Rollie Hannem from Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School who got to try out his acting skills. "I learned about filmmaking but I also learned so many other skills that I can take back and use in the classroom right away."

"As teachers we are lifelong learners and this was a perfect chance to try something new and recharge our batteries," added Sally Capstick who teaches visual arts at Riverview Rural High School. "I do a lot of group work in my class but this was such a diverse group I learned different ways to handle the dynamics."

Myla Borden, a New Glasgow Junior High ELA and healthy living teacher said she wanted to learn what happened behind the scenes.

"I got to try so many things, but the greatest thing was the opportunity for students to see teachers in an informal role," said Borden. "We all got to learn together, at the same time, and that was a great experience."

Robert White, a teacher from Breton Education Centre had an extra bonus. One of the expert filmmakers taking part in the workshop was former student Ashley MacKenzie, who says White is one of the best teachers she ever had.

"She reiterated how it was not only serendipitous to work together on the project but also how ironic it was to film a PSA about how a good teacher stays with you," said White.

The other NSTU members who attended were Janine MacAulay and Rima Majaess.

The three PSAs are now being edited and will debut at ViewFinders' gala red-carpet event on April 20. They may also appear as part of an NSTU public relations campaign in 2012-13.



Teachers Sally Capstick (Riverview Rural High), Myla Borden (New Glasgow Junior High) and Rollie Hannem (Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High) celebrate at the ViewFinders wrap party.



The Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

Principals at Work in the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

The Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy is off to a successful start. Thirty-three principals from across the province have completed the first of six courses that make up the Instructional Leadership Program.



Principals from the Annapolis Valley, Tri-County, CSAP, South Shore and Halifax regional school boards discuss evidence of best practices in instruction, gleaned from their school-based practicum experiences.



Principals from Chignecto-Central, Strait, and Cape Breton-Victoria regional school boards engage in an activity on brain-compatible instruction.

Principals speak about their experiences in the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

"I can't imagine a more beneficial learning experience for today's school administrators. The Instructional Leadership Academy focuses on what I need to be doing in my school to support my staff in their goal of meeting the needs of all diverse learners."

"I have been a school administrator for six years. This program has changed my practice."

"Teaching and learning is an inter-related discipline that requires time for observation, analysis, feedback, collaboration and reflective practice...this course offers principals the very essence of what is involved in this process."

"I cannot say enough about how great it has been so far. The instructors have challenged me to reflect on my beliefs about teaching and learning."

"The ILA program provides a practical, insightful approach to Educational Leadership; each session presents valuable information, networking experiences and an opportunity to reflect on my practice as an instructional leader."

"The NS Instructional Leadership Academy is the blueprint for my work as instructional leader in my school. It is a rubric to guide my practice so that my focus and work identify and support powerful instructional practices that improve student learning."

Don't Miss Out on Being Part of This Exciting Professional Learning Opportunity

Online applications for Cohort II, beginning September 2012, are now being accepted. All interested principals and vice-principals are invited to apply.

For more information, and to access the online registration form, visit the NSELc webpage at www.nselc.ca, or contact Sue LeBel, Program Coordinator, at slebel@nselc.ca.

NSTU WEB ACCOUNT ACTIVATION AUTOMATED

All NSTU members, and retired members, have access to a free NSTU webmail account. NSTU webmail is the preferred means of communicating with our membership and provides a secure, encrypted, private web account accessible anywhere.



OPENING AN ACCOUNT

Opening an NSTU web account is automated. To open an account simply follow the link on the "NSTU Web Accounts" page (under the "Communications" menu) on the NSTU website.

Please note that you must be entered in the Membership Registry in order to open an account and you cannot open more than one account. Once an account has been activated in your name the system will not process a second account for you.

The system will allow you to select your own username and request that you assign a password to your account. You should note the policies relevant to usernames and passwords listed on the website page before you follow the link to process an account request.