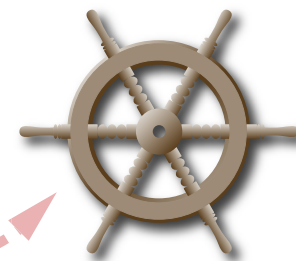


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Ready, Set and Go — Annual Conference 2011

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

As I sit on my deck enjoying the view of the lake and the warmth of the sunshine, I get the opportunity to be one of the first to read the Annual Conference 2011 Booklet. I am charged with the duty of making any last minute additions to the outlines of 22 conferences hosted by our Professional Associations. While reading, I am so impressed by the diversity of themes, workshops and presenters. I am aglow with the feelings a teacher has when students showcase excellent work and have gone above and beyond expectations.

It is amazing that these conferences are the result of volunteers whose first job is to teach and support 136,000 public school and NSCC students across our province. The booklet reflects hours of meetings; networking to seek out diverse speakers; securing venues and exhibitors; and preparing schedules, outlines and application forms. This 136-page document comes to you, our members, through the hard work and dedication of our Professional Association members, executives and conference committees.

To this end, I wanted to ensure that our first Charting Your Course for Professional Development article honoured our Professional Associations in encouraging all of our members to attend Annual Conference 2011. Many of you may not know, but our NSTU can boast that we have one of the largest, most diverse and worthwhile professional development conference put on anywhere in our country and beyond. We are also fortunate to have within our contract a day set aside for professional learning and Article 60 ensures that we receive funding support to attend these conferences. When I meet with my colleagues across Atlantic Canada and other provinces, they are in awe of what we have and the opportunity afforded us each year.

So, I encourage all members to look online and in your staff rooms for information on conferences that may be of interest to you. We have a number of associations offering conferences outside the metro area and I encourage teachers within the host area and beyond to what is available for you.



Alexis Allen, NSTU president and Betty-Jean Aucoin, keynote presenter join the Association of Adult Educators Conference Organizers at AAE's Annual Conference 2010.

While reading and subsequently applying for a conference, please note that registration opens September 1st and the registration deadline is October 14th. There will be no late registration. Also, associations differ on the registration process. Some only have online registration, some only email or mail in and some both. Be sure to read the fine print to ensure that your registration is received and processed.

This year, we will be offering online payment for registrants who apply online. We added pay pal for those of you who requested this service. Other changes this year include a completely revamped registration system developed by our new online development company. We believe members will find the process of registering with this new system much more user-friendly and streamlined. Examples of improvements include: modifications to the login screen so it is very clear where you can login if you do not have an NSTU account; workshop titles listed on a page with descriptions available by clicking

on the title; and the ability to pay with PayPal.

So, the sun begins to set, the editing of the booklet is done and it is now readied to be mailed out for processing. I would be remiss not to thank my colleagues at Central Office who work throughout the summer in preparing this document. This year to honour many of you who prefer to do business online and to honour those who still want to read a booklet, we have sent out one booklet for every two members. Please encourage your fellow colleagues to join you in attending a conference with you as the experience is about learning and connecting.

All the best to you as you begin a new school year. Be sure to put "Register for Annual Conference 2011" on your to do list. Secondly, I ask that you all join me in thanking the 22 Professional Associations for their hard work and dedication in preparing this valuable learning opportunity. They assist all of us in remaining current in our teaching and supportive roles and in sustaining lifelong learning. See you at Conference 2011.

Provincial Professional Development Day

October 28, 2011



NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 14, 2011



Complete listings of the conference offerings are accessible on the NSTU website through the following means:

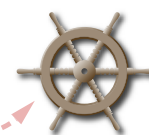
- clicking on the Provincial Professional Development Day banner
- through the Professional Association Conference Day portal on the homepage, or
- on the "NSTU PA Conferences" page, located under the "Professional Development" menu

While we encourage all members to have an NSTU web account, please be advised that access to the online registration is **NOT** dependent on having one. **ANY** email address will gain you access to the registration forms. The advantage to accessing the form with an NSTU username and password, plus confirmation of your identity with either your professional or NSCC employee number, is that your personal information will be automatically entered into the registration form.

If you do not already have an account and would like to take advantage of this feature, please email webaccounts@nstu.ca (the email should include your full name, including middle name, and your professional or NSCC employee number) or phone NSTU Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.



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 October 7 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD give away is *Everyday Teacher Leadership: Taking Action Where You Are* by Michelle Collay, a Wiley publication. From the publisher's website: "From an education expert comes a much-needed resource that gives teacher leaders the strategies and tools they need to improve their practice and assume new leadership roles in their schools. The author outlines the everyday acts of teacher leadership and shows how to lead effectively through collaboration. The book also contains suggestions for leading change beyond the classroom. This important resource offers school leaders a much-needed guide for learning how to lead and implement school change."

