



Council condemns cuts to public education

Some 274 delegates to the 90th Annual Council of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union unanimously condemned the Dexter government's cuts to public education, which have resulted in the loss of more than 200 teaching positions across the province.



First vice-president Eric Boutilier, addresses Council delegates.

"The cuts imposed on public education demonstrate the government's failure to recognize that education is the underlying and critical foundation of a healthy, sustainable and successful provincial economy," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "These cuts will hurt students, and will curtail and even

reverse the progress we have been making at addressing the diverse learning needs of all students."

The 90th Annual Council took place May 20 to 22 at the Marriott Harbourfront Hotel in Halifax. Over two-and-a-half days, 102 resolutions were debated dealing with issues including teacher workload, providing adequate professional training for the introduction of new technologies, updating curriculum documents in all subject and all grade levels, securing class caps for Grade Primary at 20 and 25 for Grades 1 to 3 and ensuring that alternative programming is available to all students in the province.

The need for more guidance counsellors was another focus. "Children deserve the very best services, and having every school in the province staffed with a full-time guidance counsellor is vital in allowing them to reach their full potential," continues Allen.

The NSTU launched its *Kids Not Cuts* (kidsnotcuts.ca) campaign on Friday, May 20, coinciding with the opening of the 90th Annual Council.

On Friday night, Eric Boutilier, a guidance counsellor at Bible Hill Junior High School, was elected by



Alexis Allen cuts the 90th Annual Council cake.

acclamation as first vice-president of the Union for a one-year term. He was NSTU's first vice-president during the 2010-11 school year.

Boutilier also served as second vice-president, and has been a member of the NSTU provincial executive since 2006. Before that he was president of the Colchester-East Hants Local. Boutilier served as the chair of both the personnel and nominating committees and has been a member of the public affairs, public relations and provincial economic welfare committees.

A pre-taped version of *O Canada* was presented by the Cumberland County Singers, the elementary school choir from Cumberland North Academy. Under the direction of Nancy Tucker, the Grade 3 to 6 students also provided a special salute to the NSTU in celebration of the 90th Annual Council, taking a tune from their musical this year and changing the words for the celebration.

Mary-Lou Donnelly, president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and former NSTU president addressed delegates on Saturday, May 21. "Teacher organizations across the country are coming up against cuts,"

she says. She complimented the NSTU on its *Kids Not Cuts* campaign and encouraged delegates to remain strong in the face of cuts. "Education has somehow become synonymous with economics. It's time we view education as a human right and not a spending burden."

Alison MacPherson (Pictou provincial executive rep 2007-11) was elected CTF delegate. Stanley Cameron (Inverness Local) and Kyle Marryatt (Dartmouth Local) were elected to serve on the Discipline Committee. Tanya DeViller (Yarmouth Local) and Jeff Wambolt (Dartmouth Local) were elected to serve on the Professional Committee, and Jed Corbett (Cape Breton District Local) and Leon Swinkels (Halifax County Local) were elected to serve on the Resolutions Committee.

For the second year in a row, Council used an audience response system to vote on resolutions and during Council committee elections. NSTU member Glen Pulley served as parliamentarian and for the second year in a row, the independent chair residing over Annual Council 2011 was former NSTU president Brian Forbes (2000-2004).



Council delegates vote unanimously to condemn cuts to public education.

New members elected to provincial executive

Six new regional members have been elected to the NSTU provincial executive. John Helle is replacing Jed Corbett for one of the Cape Breton seats. Kathy Kerr was elected for one of the Halifax County seats, replacing Brenda Butler. Tri-County RRC Chair Bobbie Archer. Pictou Local president Cindy MacKinnon replacing Alison MacPherson for the Pictou seat. Jacinta Gracie replaces Milton Bonnar for the Northside-Victoria seat. John Driscoll was elected in the second seat for the Community College. This is a new position on the provincial executive, passed at last year's Council. He will represent the CC professional support staff bargaining unit joining colleague Damian Hall, who represents the faculty bargaining unit.

Their terms begin on August 1. They will attend the annual provincial executive planning conference in July and their first executive meeting prior to the NSTU's Leadership Conference in mid-August. Allister Wadden (Annapolis-Hants West-Kings), Patricia Hillier (Cumberland), Ian Comeau (CSANE), and John MacKay (Queens-Shelburne) were acclaimed for a second term.

NSTU Summer Hours

The NSTU Central Office will be closed for the afternoon of June 24 for Staff Development.

NSTU Summer Hours will be Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. inclusive. These hours will be in effect from Monday, July 4 through to and including Friday, August 26, inclusive. Regular hours will resume on Monday, August 29.

The NSTU office summer shutdown will be July 25-29 inclusive.

people

Six more join Huntley Internship



Another group of NSTU members participated in the John Huntley Memorial Internship on May 26 and 27. This two-day internship provides NSTU members with an opportunity to learn more about NSTU programs and services. They are shown with intermediate staff officer (Public Relations and Communications) Angela Murray (third from left) and executive staff officer (Technology and Communications) Simon Wilkin (second from right). From left to right: Barbara Fralick (Lunenburg County Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Lunenburg Academy; Brenda Knapp (Queens Local), a Grade 3 teacher at Wickwire Elementary; Peter Murphy (Northside-Victoria Local president), a Grade 7 & 8 French social studies teacher at Thompson Junior High School; Debbie Davis-Maybee (Colchester-East Hants Local), the principal of Tatamagouche Elementary; Krissy Brewer (Dartmouth Local), a resource teacher at Dartmouth High; and Lana Pothier (Annapolis Local), a Grade 7 ELA and social studies teacher at Middleton High.

NSTU Ghana World Teachers' Day Project

During the 90th Annual Council on May 22, NSTU president Alexis Allen presented CTF president Mary-Lou Donnelly with a cheque for \$4,000 from last fall's Ghana World Teachers' Day project. Since it began, the project has supported over 170 Ghanaian students in receiving an education. Details for next fall's project will be included in the September 2011 issue of *The Teacher* and information will be made available through NSTU reps. World Teachers' Day takes place each year on October 5.



Council delegates donned *Kids Not Cuts* armbands during the 90th Annual Council of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union May 20 to 22. From left to right: Garland Standing (Northside-Victoria Local); Meg Ferguson (Halifax County Local); Lorna Tretheway (Halifax County Local); Tanya DeViller (Yarmouth Local); and Dayna Enguehard (Cape Breton District Local).



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Relax and Enjoy your Summer!

Thirty members receive Local Service Awards at the 90th Annual Council

At the 90th Annual Council of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, 30 NSTU members were presented with Local Service Awards. This year's Local Service Award recipients received their awards during the Annual Council dinner on Saturday, May 21.

These Local leaders have a wealth of experience of service to education, their students and colleagues. Whether serving as NSTU representatives at their worksites, as members of their Local Executives, on provincial and national committees or internationally, these members have left their mark on education in Nova Scotia.



Seated (l-r): Brenda Zwicker and Glynda Wimmer (Lunenburg County Local); Cynthia McCarthy (Cumberland Local); Cathy Reimer and Pam Shelton (Kings Local); Brenda Butler (Halifax County Local); Bobbie Archer (Digby Local) and Sue Hannem (Halifax County Local); Deborah Mitchell (Lunenburg County Local); Deborah McVeigh (Community College Local); Redmond MacDougall (Cape Breton District Local); and Scott McKellar (Community College Local). Standing: Marlene MacDonald (Inverness Local); Ray Boudreau (Colchester-East Hants Local); Jerry Berthiaume (Antigonish Local); Edward Avery (Guysborough County Local); Chris MacInnis (Northside-Victoria Local); Andrew Pye and his son who accepted the posthumous award for Marnie Pye (Cumberland Local); Sam and Jaye Jacquard children of Janet Smith (Yarmouth Local), who accepted the posthumous award on their mother's behalf; Jeffrey Norman (Shelburne Local); John Markotich (Shelburne Local); Tony Kelly (Digby Local); Joel Pratt (Pictou Local); Glen Pulley (Annapolis Local); William (Bill) Sidney (Cape Breton District Local); Mike Dunphy (Northside-Victoria Local) and Clifford Maillet (CSANE). Missing: Linda Samson (CSANE), Patricia Schrader (Queens Local), and Becky Anthony (Yarmouth Local).

Over 2,200 people sign Kids Not Cuts petition

The NSTU started a campaign protesting the government's cuts to public education and at press time on May 31, 2,220 people had signed an online petition. The campaign is called *Kids Not Cuts*. You can find the petition at kidsnotcuts.ca and on Facebook. You can also send a letter to your MLA through the site.



"We believe the Dexter government is planning more cuts in the next two years and we want to give Nova Scotians a way to speak up now and have their voices heard," explains NSTU president Alexis Allen. "This is an easy way to send a strong message that any cuts to education are unacceptable. We want full funding restored."

The Dexter government's \$35-million cut to public education is resulting in the loss of more than 200 teaching positions across Nova Scotia including the layoff of 14 permanent teachers in Cape Breton, and 32 probationary teachers in Halifax. This will mean larger class sizes, fewer resources for struggling students and lost programs.

This is the first campaign the NSTU has launched of this magnitude in more than a decade. The NSTU provincial executive passed a motion endorsing the campaign at its April meeting.

"The loss of these positions is not only a setback for students—but a blow to our economy. In terms of salary and economic spin-offs these cuts will cost businesses in our communities millions of dollars per year," says Allen.

The *Kids not Cuts...It's our future too* campaign has appeared in print, on radio and on television along with the online component.

"We know what the priorities in education are even if Premier Darrell Dexter and his government do not," says Allen. "We will not allow the government to balance the province's books on the backs of the children of Nova Scotia."

Anyone not online can write a letter or make a call to Premier Darrell Dexter or their MLA.

"We are rallying teachers to have a voice against these cuts," adds Allen. "We know that children are the future, our students today need more supports not less, and our campaign reminds everyone, especially the government that the priority must be on kids, not cuts."

Allen is urging everyone to share the website and the Facebook page with their friends, family and networks.



Above is the youngest observer during NSTU's 90th Annual Council. Daphne is the daughter of Annapolis Valley RRC Chair Kim Frank, and was exactly one-week-old at the opening of Council on May 20. She is shown with Krista Wright (Annapolis Local).



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Friday, July 1, 2011

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from the nstu president

Moving forward united

(excerpt from Alexis Allen's address to Council 2011)

It's wonderful to come together for our 90th Annual Council.

The first council meeting on November 4, 1921 was much smaller than this year's event. Nineteen people got together at the Colchester Academy in Truro. Eleven of those delegates were women. A teachers' organization had existed in Nova Scotia since 1895 but it wasn't until 1921 that we started the tradition we continue today.

Those 19 people made four main decisions at the first council: they adopted a constitution; they voted to publish a bulletin, which is now known as *The Teacher*; they voted to pay the general secretary \$200 and they elected a president.

By 1926 the delegates had nearly doubled to 37, and there were "tidings of great joy" with a report of the growth of the union. It may be interesting to note that even back in 1926 Nova Scotia teachers were talking about class size. One of the resolutions from that year was about "maximum classroom enrollment."

Ninety years later life may be much different technologically but we still face many struggles in the classroom most recently here in Nova Scotia with budget cuts. Despite having a \$400-million surplus, the Dexter government is still determined to cut education. Thirty-five million dollars is coming out of the education budget this year alone.

Despite ongoing pressure from the NSTU, the government has not restored funding to the education budget. Boards across the province had to make difficult decisions to stretch their dollars to cover next year. And that has led to layoffs.

In Cape Breton 63.2 full-time positions are gone. Had declining enrollment been the only factor 22 positions would be eliminated but now an additional 41.2 positions are gone directly because of the cuts. Of these teaching positions lost, 14 of our colleagues had permanent status.

In all well over 200 positions are eliminated from our school system in Nova Scotia at a time when more and more students are coming to school with individual challenges and when we actually need more teachers not fewer.

Cuts this size will mean larger classes, more combined classes and fewer programs for struggling students.

We will not sit by and let these cuts go unnoticed which is why your provincial executive passed a resolution to start a campaign. It is a call to action for Nova Scotians to send a message to Ramona Jennex and Darrell Dexter that these cuts are unacceptable.

Our students must come first and that is what the campaign is called *Kids Not Cuts*. You can find it online at kidsnotcuts.ca, on Facebook, or you can link to it from our home page at nstu.ca. Once you are on the page you can sign an online petition, send a letter to your MLA and share the campaign with your other friends.

But Annual Council is also a time to celebrate our successes.

We had a tremendous professional conference day in October. Our NSTU professional associations offered more than 520 workshops.

The union took action when absenteeism became an issue. In November 2010, the former Minister of Education Marilyn More responded to the report from the Working Committee on Absenteeism and Classroom Climate. Hopefully this fall, school boards will choose to implement the recommendations included within the report.

We teamed up with our education partners this year to celebrate successes of our public school system. In early 2011 we launched *Tales out of School*. We compiled a collection of powerful testaments from people with personal stories about teachers and the positive effect the public school system has had on their successful lives.

We revamped our website and launched a new site March 3. It has a whole new look and it's full of easily accessible important information for all union members. We now Tweet, are on Facebook, and have a video feed as well to help communicate with all our members more effectively. I hope you've all had a chance to take a look around our new website.

This April the NSTU hosted a wonderful provincial conference, *Peace...ing it Together*. More than 150 people attended the conference. It couldn't have come at a better time after recent reports about cyber bullying. We hosted workshops including, *How to Tame a Bully*, and *Appropriate Behaviour Online*. We had a very inspirational keynote speaker: Dr. Samantha Nutt, Founder and Executive Director of War Child Canada.

In the coming months we have a lot of hard work ahead of us. Our public school negotiations are still underway. As you know, our contract expired August 1, 2010.

We have begun putting together an asking package for Community College negotiations as these contracts both expire August 31, 2011.

The Governance Renewal committee will continue to meet and provide us with possible recommendations and guidance as we look at the bigger picture for our organization.

And we will continue to fight an ongoing issue—workload.

No matter what challenges we face, I have incredible hope for the future of education in this province thanks to the incredible group of professionals who I have the honour of representing.

Our 11,000 members continue to do so much to support students in Nova Scotia whether they are in our public school system or our community colleges.

Now more than ever, we must be united as a group and as a union and we must stay strong together; united to protect what we have and united to continue to fight for an education system in Nova Scotia that supports all students.

Hold your head up high and be proud as we move forward together united!

Allons ensemble de l'avant

Nous sommes ravis d'être réunis ici pour notre 90^e assemblée générale annuelle.

La toute première assemblée générale annuelle de notre syndicat, qui a eu lieu le 4 novembre 1921, était beaucoup plus réduite que celle de cette année. Dix-neuf personnes s'étaient réunies à la Colchester Academy à Truro. Onze de ces délégués étaient des femmes. Une organisation d'enseignants existait en Nouvelle-Écosse depuis 1895 mais c'est seulement en 1921 qu'a débuté cette tradition qui se poursuit encore aujourd'hui.

Ces dix-neuf personnes ont pris quatre décisions capitales lors de la première assemblée générale : elles ont adopté une constitution, elles ont voté la publication d'un bulletin, qui est connu aujourd'hui sous le nom de *The Teacher*; elles ont voté un paiement de 200 \$ au secrétaire général et elles ont élu un président.

En 1926, le nombre des délégués avait presque doublé et s'élevait à 37, et il y avait « de très joyeuses nouvelles » dans un rapport sur la croissance du syndicat. Il peut être intéressant de noter que, même en 1926, les enseignants néo-écossais parlaient déjà de la taille des classes. L'une des résolutions de cette année-là concernait « le nombre d'inscriptions maximum par classe ».

Quatre-vingt-dix ans plus tard, la vie est bien différente à cause de la technologie mais nous restons confrontés à de nombreux défis dans nos classes, comme tout récemment ici en Nouvelle-Écosse à cause des coupures budgétaires. En dépit d'un surplus de 400 millions de \$, le gouvernement Dexter reste déterminé à réduire le budget de l'éducation. Trente-cinq millions de dollars ont été soustraits du budget de l'éducation cette année.

En dépit de la pression constante du NSTU, le gouvernement n'a pas rétabli le financement du budget de l'éducation. Les conseils scolaires partout dans la province ont dû prendre des décisions difficiles afin de faire durer leurs dollars de manière à couvrir l'année prochaine. Et cela a entraîné des licenciements.

Au Cap-Breton, 63,2 postes à plein temps ont été supprimés. Si le déclin des effectifs avait été le seul facteur en cause, 22 postes auraient été éliminées mais, à présent, 41,2 postes de plus ont été éliminés directement à cause de ces coupures budgétaires. Parmi les postes d'enseignement supprimés, 14 étaient des postes permanents.

Au total, plus de 200 postes ont été éliminés du système scolaire de la Nouvelle-Écosse à une époque où de plus en plus d'élèves scolarisés présentent des difficultés personnelles et où nous avons besoin de plus d'enseignants et non pas de moins!

Des coupures de cette ampleur vont signifier des classes plus chargées, davantage de classes combinées et moins de programmes pour les élèves en difficulté.

Nous n'allons pas rester inactifs et laisser ces coupures budgétaires passer inaperçues et c'est pourquoi votre Comité exécutif provincial a adopté une résolution en vue du lancement d'une campagne médiatique. Il s'agit d'un appel à l'action qui incite les Néo-Écossais à envoyer un message à Ramona Jennex et à Darrell Dexter pour leur dire que ces coupures sont inacceptables.

Ce sont nos élèves qui comptent et c'est pour cela que la campagne s'appelle « *Kids Not Cuts* ». Cette campagne est accessible en ligne à kidsnotcuts.ca, sur Facebook, ou bien vous pouvez utiliser le lien se trouvant sur la page d'accueil à NSTU.ca. Une fois que vous êtes sur la page de la campagne, vous pouvez signer une pétition en ligne, envoyer une lettre à votre député et faire connaître la campagne à vos amis.

Mais l'assemblée générale annuelle est également l'occasion de célébrer nos réussites. Nous avons eu une fantastique journée de conférence en octobre et les associations professionnelles du NSTU ont proposé plus de 520 ateliers.

Le syndicat est également intervenu lorsque l'absentéisme est devenu problématique. En novembre 2010, Marilyn More, ancienne ministre de l'Éducation, a répondu au rapport du Comité de travail sur l'absentéisme et le climat dans la salle de classe. Nous espérons qu'à l'automne, les conseils scolaires mettront en œuvre les recommandations faites dans ce rapport.

Nous nous sommes associés avec nos partenaires de l'éducation cette année pour célébrer les réussites de notre système d'enseignement public. Au début de l'année 2011, nous avons lancé la campagne *Récits d'école*. Nous avons compilé un ensemble de témoignages mémorables de personnes qui ont raconté leur expérience personnelle avec des enseignants et expliqué l'impact positif que le système d'enseignement public avait eu sur leur vie.

Nous avons remanié notre site Web et lancé un tout nouveau site Web le 3 mars. Son aspect a totalement changé et il présente de nombreux renseignements importants facilement accessibles à tous les membres de notre syndicat. Et maintenant nous nous servons de « tweet », nous sommes sur Facebook et nous avons également un flux de nouvelles vidéos pour nous aider à communiquer plus efficacement avec tous nos membres. J'espère que vous avez tous eu la chance de jeter un coup d'œil sur notre nouveau site Web.

En avril, le NSTU a tenu une excellente conférence provinciale intitulée *Peace...ing it Together*. Plus de 150 personnes ont assisté à cette conférence. Elle tombait à point nommé vu les récents rapports concernant la cyber-intimidation. Nous avons présenté des ateliers comme : *How to Tame a Bully* (Comment apprivoiser les intimidateurs), et *Appropriate Behaviour Online* (Comportement convenable en ligne). La conférencière principale, Samantha Nutt (Ph. D.), fondatrice et directrice exécutive de War Child Canada, nous a beaucoup inspirés.

Dans les prochains mois, beaucoup de travail nous attend. Les négociations pour les écoles publiques sont toujours en cours. Comme vous le savez, notre convention est arrivée à terme le 1^{er} août 2010.

Nous avons commencé à préparer un cahier de revendications pour les négociations du Collège communautaire car les deux contrats du collège arrivent à terme le 31 août 2011.

Le Comité de renouveau de la gouvernance continuera à se réunir et à nous fournir des recommandations et des conseils en vue d'envisager un remaniement global de notre organisation.

Et nous continuerons la lutte au sujet de l'enjeu permanent de la charge de travail !

Mais quels que soient les défis auxquels nous sommes confrontés, nous avons de grands espoirs pour l'avenir de l'éducation dans cette province, grâce aux professionnels remarquables que j'ai l'honneur de représenter.

Nos 11 000 membres continuent à faire le maximum pour soutenir les élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse, que ce soit au sein de nos écoles publiques ou de notre Collège communautaire.

Maintenant plus que jamais, nous devons rester unis en tant que groupe et en tant que syndicat et nous devons consolider notre puissance collective; unis pour protéger ce que nous avons et unis pour continuer la lutte en faveur d'un système d'éducation qui soutient tous les élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

Gardez la tête haute, soyez fiers de vous et allons ensemble de l'avant!

2011 Disposition of Resolutions

Economic Welfare resolutions are accessible to members only on the NSTU website.

Governance

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

- a) **Effective as of Annual Council 2012,** the term of office of a member of the Executive elected on a regional basis shall be two (2) years *starting August 1st and ending July 31st* **beginning immediately upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Council.**
- b) **The term of office for all members of the Executive whose term of office expires in 2012 or 2013 shall conclude at the end of Annual Council 2012 or Annual Council 2013 respectively.**

(Provincial Executive)

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

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

(Provincial Executive)

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

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

(Provincial Executive)

2011-1 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Laws, Article II - Local Unions, 5. Governance (b) be amended by deleting the following sentence:
...*It may, however, on behalf of the Union, deal directly with the urban and municipal bodies, that employ its members and with other local organizations.*
(Provincial Executive)

2011-2 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Laws, Article II - Local Unions, 5. Governance (e) be deleted:
(e) *A Local may act as a committee of and on behalf of the NSTU in negotiating the provisions of the Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act.*
(Provincial Executive)

2011-3 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Laws, Article IX – Regional Governance, 3 (c) be amended by deleting the current text and replaced with the following:

Membership of the Regional Representative Council shall include:

Local Representation
Local membership shall be determined with equal representation by participating Locals **and shall include:**

- **Local** Presidents
- **Local First** Vice-Presidents
- Additional **Local** Members

From the Local Representation, the RRC shall select a Secretary and/or Treasurer and the Chair of the REWC.

Regional Representation

- Chairperson
- Provincial Executive Member(s)

(Provincial Executive)

2011-4 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Laws, Article IX – Regional Governance, 5 (a) be amended to read:
*The Regional Representative Council shall establish a Standing Committee called the Regional Economic Welfare Committee with membership consisting of Vice-Presidents of Economic Welfare **Local First Vice-Presidents** from each Local...*
(Provincial Executive)

2011-5 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 6(b) (i) be amended by renaming the *Council Nominating Committee* to the *Annual Council Elections Committee*.
(Provincial Executive)

2011-6 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 5, Resolution Procedures, section (b) be amended by deleting the words “not prior to the presentation of the resolution for consideration.”
The amended Standing Order would then read:
All resolutions submitted for consideration by Annual Council shall be studied beforehand by the appropriate committee and/or the Provincial Executive. The findings and recommendations, if any, from such study shall be available to the delegates at Annual Council.
(Provincial Executive)

2011-7 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 6 (c) be amended by replacing the words “*Union’s Discipline Committee*” with “*Chair of Council*” and adding the words “*The Chair of Council, after consultation with the Committee, shall attempt to resolve any concerns in an informal manner. If he/she is unable to resolve the matter informally, the Chair of Council shall make a ruling and may announce the ruling at the next session of Council.*”
The amended Standing Order would then read:

The Committee shall monitor Council election guidelines and report any suspected violations to the Union’s Discipline Committee **Chair of Council,** for consideration and possible action. **The Chair of Council, after consultation with the Committee, shall attempt to resolve any concerns in an informal manner. If he/she is unable to resolve the matter informally, the Chair of Council shall make a ruling and may announce the ruling at the next session of Council.**

(Provincial Executive)

2011-8 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 7(c) be amended by adding the words “*All promotional items including prizes sponsored by the candidate shall be included in the determination of the amount spent and shall be supported by receipts or assessed at fair market value.*”

The amended Standing Order would then read:
*Campaign spending, excluding travel, by or behalf of each candidate may not exceed \$1 500.00. Such expenses are the sole responsibility of the candidate. **All promotional items including prizes sponsored by the candidate shall be included in the determination of the amount spent and shall be supported by receipts or assessed at fair market value.***
(Provincial Executive)

2011-9 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 8 (i) be amended by adding the word “*A campaign poster shall include any poster, banner or sign posted by or for a member running for an elected position that makes a reference to the candidate and/or the position being sought.*”

The amended Standing Order would then read:
*The number of campaign posters and/or banners on display in the hotel at Annual Council may not exceed a total of twenty-five (25) for each candidate. When Annual Council is held at a facility where Local delegates are divided between two facilities, the number of posters will be increased to thirty-five (35). **A campaign poster shall include any poster, banner or sign posted by or for a member running for an elected position that makes a reference to the candidate and/or the position being sought.***
(Provincial Executive)

2011-10 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 9 (a) be amended by adding a new section New 9(c).
A candidate or representative of the candidate is permitted to place up to one (1) item per delegate per session at the tables in Council chambers prior to the start of the session. This would replace campaign material distribution at other times. A candidate would still be permitted to greet delegates as they enter Council chambers.

– renumber accordingly
(Provincial Executive)

2011-11 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #19 (b)(i) – *Anti-homophobia and Anti-heterosexism* be amended by striking out “parents” insert “families” and in (d)(v) replacing the acronym “GSA” with “Gay-Straight Alliance.”
(Provincial Executive)

2011-12 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 9 (b) be amended by replacing the words “*buttons while not addressing Council*” with the words “*clothing, buttons or ornaments*”.

The amended section would read:
(a) *Passive campaigning shall be considered any display or action that is observable only by people in the immediate vicinity of the campaign material and involves no explicit action to promote or advance those materials at the time at which the material is seen or heard. Examples of such passive campaigning include the use of writing materials containing references to a candidate, the wearing of campaign ~~buttons while not addressing Council~~ **clothing, buttons or ornaments,** and the presence of a single copy of a candidate’s campaign literature at the delegate’s seat and table spot.*
(Provincial Executive)

2011-13 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 9 (a) be amended by deleting the words “*the wearing of campaign clothing or ornaments when in view of the majority of delegates*”.

The amended section would then read:
With respect to all elections, the following definitions shall apply:
(a) *Active campaigning shall be considered any display or action that involves the presentation of partisan information in a manner that is difficult for a group of delegates to avoid. Examples of such active campaigning include the display of campaign posters, the wearing of campaign clothing or ornaments when in view of the majority of delegates, the shouting of campaign slogans, shouting out in support of a candidate other than during the normal address to delegates, distributing materials throughout Council chambers including the placing of campaign materials anywhere within Council chambers prior to, during or following a Council session, and demonstrations in support of a given candidate.*
(Provincial Executive)

2011-14 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 6, Committees of Council, section (c)(iii)(b) be amended by replacing the words “**published in both of Canada’s official languages in the Council Workbook**” with the words “**available to members and to delegates to Annual Council in both official languages**”.
(Provincial Executive)

2011-15	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT Standing Order 6, Committees of Council, section (c) Resolutions Committee (iii)(n) and (iii)(o)(ii) be deleted. (Provincial Executive)	2011-28	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #43 – <i>Technology Integration Principles</i> be amended by inserting in (c)“and NSTU members.” (Provincial Executive)
2011-16	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #20 – Assessment Policy be amended by: - adding “The NSTU firmly believes that provincial standardized tests are not intended, nor should they be used, for the purpose of teacher evaluations”; - in 20(a) by striking out “is opposed to” and inserting “does not support the administration of”; - by deleting (b), (d), (e), (i); - in (c) striking out “endorse the” and “of Atlantic Provinces Education Foundation” and inserting “Provincial” and striking out “curriculum assessment” and “and not for any other purpose”; and inserting “to inform instruction and support student learning”; - in (f) by striking out “endorse the reporting of” and inserting “report”; - in (h) by striking out “member” and inserting “teacher”; - by adding a new (c) “Regional school boards should use assessment exclusively as a tool to inform instruction and support student learning”, and; - new (d) “The NSTU believes classroom teachers from across the province should be involved in a primary way with the design, implementation and marking of all provincial assessments.” (Provincial Executive)	Costed		
2011-17	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #21 – Assessment – Large Scale (Provincial Exams) be rescinded. (Provincial Executive)	2011-29	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU study the Bully-Free workplace initiative developed by the NSGEU and its benefits. (Halifax City)
2011-18	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #22 – <i>Censorship</i> be amended in (c) by inserting “/guardians” after parents. In (d)(i) by inserting “/guardian” after parent. (Provincial Executive)	2011-30	<i>Defeated</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU provide funding for an additional occupational therapist for the Early Intervention Program. (Halifax County)
2011-19	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #24 – <i>Counsellors</i> be amended in (b) by inserting “school in the” and inserting “public education system in Nova Scotia”; and striking out “school.” (Provincial Executive)	2011-31	<i>Defeated</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU provide funding and support for a biennial Equity Conference. (Kings)
2011-20	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #25 – <i>Curriculum Policy</i> be amended in 25(a) (i) by striking out the word “objectives” and inserting “outcomes”; in (a)(iv) by striking out “Member” and inserting “Teacher”; in (d) by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers”; in (f) by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers”; in (g) by striking out “Members” and inserting “Teachers.” (Provincial Executive)	Professional Development		
2011-21	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #26 – <i>Curriculum Standards And Guidelines</i> be amended in (a) by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers.” (Provincial Executive)	2011-32	<i>Adopted as Amended</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU lobby the Department of Education to provide professional development on Sexual Minority sensitivity to teachers, necessary to advance and enhance the inclusive schools movement. (Colchester-East Hants)
2011-22	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #27 – <i>Distance Education</i> be amended by striking out “The members of the Nova Scotia deem that the”. In (a) by striking out “the NSTU lobby the Department of Education to insure that” and inserting “Adequate” and striking out “members” and inserting “teachers”. In (b) by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers”. In (c) by striking out “the NSTU attempt to establish” and inserting “Support of”, and by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers”. By adding a new (c) “NSTU members holding valid teacher certification exclusively are engaged in providing public P-12 distance education.” (Provincial Executive)	2011-33	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU lobby the Department of Education to provide the necessary training and additional support for classroom teachers to write Individual Program Plans. (Colchester East Hants)
2011-23	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #29 – <i>Integration and Inclusion</i> be amended in (f) by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers”. In (h) by striking out “special needs students” and inserting “students with special needs” and by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers.” (Provincial Executive)	2011-34	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU encourage the Department of Education to provide sufficient funding to ensure that whenever new technologies are introduced, members should have proper, adequate, professional training. (Richmond)
2011-24	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #34 – <i>Multiculturalism</i> be amended in (e) by striking out “a better sense of self” and inserting “positive self-identities.” In (i) by striking out “members” and inserting “teachers.” In (n) by striking out “actively” and inserting “anti-homophobic, anti-heterosexist.” (Provincial Executive)	2011-35	<i>Adopted as Amended</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU urge the Department of Education to work closely with regional school boards to provide immediate and necessary training and equipment to teachers hired or assigned to fill specialty positions. (Digby)
2011-25	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #37 – (a) <i>Outcomes – based Resources</i> , (b) <i>Outcomes – based Education – NSTU Opposed</i> be amended by deleting (b). (Provincial Executive)	2011-36	<i>Defeated</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU investigate narrowing the range of fees for October Conference Day and explore other ways of collecting those fees. (Halifax City)
2011-26	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #39 – <i>Quality Education Principles</i> be amended in <i>Program</i> by striking out “special needs students” and inserting “students with special needs”; by striking out “Career” and inserting “Life”. In <i>Participants</i> by inserting “/Guardian” after “The Parent”. (Provincial Executive)	General		
2011-27	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT NSTU Policy #42 – <i>School Book Bureau Funding Allocation</i> be amended by replacing the current text with “The NSTU believes that the School Book Bureau allotment should be flexible enough to allow schools to use up to 25% of their allotment for purchasing teaching resources outside of the School Book Bureau offerings.” (Provincial Executive)	2011-37	<i>Adopted as Amended</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU work with the Department of Education to ensure that new evaluation initiatives are initially piloted in no more than ten per cent of schools in each regional school board before bringing them forward for larger groups of schools to adopt. (Halifax County)
			2011-38	<i>Adopted as Amended</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU urge the Department of Education to convene a multi-partner committee to study effective reporting to parents/guardians by examining the consistency of the frequency of reporting, grade-level appropriateness, technological access to information, effective and meaningful assessment and workload, and report back to all stakeholders within the year. (Cumberland)
			2011-39	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU recommend to the Department of Education that the first reporting period in elementary schools be a comments-only reporting period, and not a marks-based reporting period. (Lunenburg County)
			2011-40	<i>Withdrawn</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU urge the Department of Education to reduce the number of terms and reporting periods at the elementary level from three (3) to two (2). (Halifax County)
			2011-41	<i>Withdrawn</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU urge the Department of Education to update curriculum documents within a reasonable time period. (Digby)
			2011-42	<i>Adopted</i>	BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the NSTU strongly encourage Department of Education to ensure that the curriculum documents be updated in all courses within a three to five year period. (Richmond)

2011-43 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU seek to ensure that the Department of Education provide French versions of all provincial rollouts, resources, and curriculum documents that are available and/or sent out to support English Programs to French Programs or that a reasonable equivalent be provided.
(Halifax County)

2011-44 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU strongly urge the Department of Education to complete all curriculum documents for all subjects (P-12).
(Halifax County)

2011-45 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU insist that the Department of Education provide complete curriculum documents in all PSP subject areas for all grade levels.
(Kings)

2011-46 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU demand the Department of Education and school boards to provide additional funds for classroom materials yearly. These items include: art supplies, science materials and daily consumables that are essential to students achieving success with curriculum outcomes.
(Kings)

2011-47 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU encourage the Department of Education to develop a plan for the purchase of software, electronics and resource support for the education of the students of Nova Scotia.
(Richmond)

2011-48 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU encourage the Department of Education to offer foundation courses for Alternative Programming.
(Richmond)

2011-49 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU ask the Department of Education to intervene in any case where regional school boards either introduce large scale assessments not based on the Nova Scotia curriculum and/or not used in a manner that supports student learning or in cases where provincial large scale assessments are used to either rank schools or judge teachers.
(Halifax County)

2011-50 *Adopted as Amended*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU promote the adherence by the Department of Education to their own Comprehensive Guidance Counselling Curriculum by providing adequate resources to schools that are implementing this program.
(Halifax County)

Government

2011-100 *Adopted*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU seek agreement with the Department of Education to have all schools in Nova Scotia constructed prior to 1985 undergo a structural analysis.
(Halifax County)

2011-101 *Adopted as Amended*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU seek to achieve a two year moratorium on all new initiatives that are determined to increase teacher workload. After the two year moratorium ends, all further initiatives are to be examined prior to their implementation, by a joint committee of the NSTU and Department of Education for their impact on teacher workload.
(Halifax County)

New Business Resolution and Brief

2011-NB1 *Adopted Unanimously*
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NSTU condemn the Nova Scotia government in the strongest possible manner for the cuts it has imposed on public education and its failure to recognize that education is the underlying and critical foundation of a healthy, sustainable and successful provincial economy.
(Provincial Executive)

Brief
During the fall and winter of this year regional school boards were asked to conduct an “exercise” to determine the impact of reducing board funding by 22% over the next three fiscal years. Despite the loud protest from the public, the provincial budget imposed an explicit 2% cut to the funds available to school boards and has forced boards to absorb all additional costs that will occur as a result of increases in the cost of oil, electricity, external labour and the settlement of all employee contracts. The result is a real shortfall in board revenue that is closer to 4-5%. Boards have also been told to expect similar cuts to funding for the next two years. Despite the assurance by the Minister of Education that the cuts will have only a “minimal” impact on the classroom and that she promised to “put children and learning first”, the truth is exactly the opposite. These cuts hurt students! The impact on public education has been to curtail and even reverse the progress we have been making at addressing the diverse learning needs of all students, increasing the support for diverse and frequently disadvantaged students, of at risk students, and despite the new task force on bullying, the ability of the system to ensure a safe learning environment for all students. This resolution meets the criteria established for “New Business” because the extent was only “real” when the budget was tabled in the Legislature in March 2011. Until that time, the NSTU was not able to know whether the proposed cuts were indeed an exercise for the boards or whether the Minister’s assertions concerning the minimal nature of the cuts would be demonstrated in practice.

Résolutions destinées à l’AGA 2011 du conseil

Les résolutions relatives au bien-être économique sont disponibles sur notre site Web, seulement dans la section réservée aux membres.

Gouvernance

2011-A *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'article IV, paragraphe 5 du Règlement intérieur soit amendé en ajoutant les mots « *À partir de l'assemblée générale annuelle 2012* », avant les mots « *Le mandat* », en remplaçant les mots « *il commencera le 1^{er} août et se terminera le 31 juillet* » par « *il commencera immédiatement après la clôture de l'assemblée générale annuelle du conseil* » et en ajoutant un nouveau paragraphe b) : « *Le mandat de tous les membres du Comité exécutif dont le mandat expire en 2012 ou en 2013 se terminera à l'issue de l'assemblée générale annuelle 2012 ou de l'assemblée générale annuelle 2013 selon le cas* ». Le règlement amendé se lirait comme suit.
(a) **À partir de l'assemblée générale annuelle 2012**, le mandat des membres du Comité exécutif provincial élus sur une base régionale sera de deux (2) ans; il commencera le 1^{er} août et se terminera le 31 juillet. **il commencera immédiatement après la clôture de l'assemblée générale annuelle du conseil.**
(b) **Le mandat de tous les membres du Comité exécutif dont le mandat expire en 2012 ou en 2013 se terminera à l'issue de l'assemblée générale annuelle 2012 ou de l'assemblée générale annuelle 2013 selon le cas.**

(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-B *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'article V du Règlement intérieur – Bureau du syndicat, 2. Élections (b)(ii) soit amendé en remplaçant les mots « *il commence le 1^{er} août et se termine le 31 juillet* » par les mots « *il commence à l'issue de l'assemblée générale annuelle* ». Le règlement modifié se lirait comme suit :
Le premier vice-président occupe son poste pendant une période d'un an ou jusqu'à l'élection de son successeur et il peut être réélu pour des mandats supplémentaires d'une durée d'un an chacun. La durée du mandat du premier vice-président est d'un (1) an; ~~il commence le 1^{er} août et se termine le 31 juillet~~**il commence à l'issue de l'assemblée générale annuelle.**

(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-C *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QU' à partir de l'année 2012, la politique no 13 – Comités de l'Exécutif provincial – (d)(i) soit amendée en remplaçant les mots « *qui suit le 1^{er} août* » par « *qui suit l'assemblée générale annuelle* ». La politique amendée se lirait comme suit.
Comité des candidatures du NSTU

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

(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-1 *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le Règlement intérieur, article II, Sections locales du syndicat, section 5, Gouvernance, paragraphe (b), soit modifié en supprimant la phrase suivante : « *Elle peut, toutefois, au nom du syndicat, traiter directement avec les organismes urbains ou municipaux qui emploient ses membres ou avec d'autres organismes locaux* ». (Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-2 *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE, dans le Règlement intérieur, article II, Sections locales du syndicat, section 5, Gouvernance, le paragraphe (e) soit supprimé :
(e) *Une section locale peut agir en qualité de comité du NSTU et au nom du NSTU pour la négociation des dispositions de la Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act (Loi sur les négociations collectives des enseignants).*
(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-3 *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE, dans le Règlement intérieur, article IX, Gestion régionale, le paragraphe 3 (c) soit modifié en remplaçant le texte actuel par ce qui suit :
La composition du Conseil des représentants régionaux est la suivante :
Représentation des sections locales
Les sections locales participantes ont droit à un nombre égal de représentants qui comprendront :

- **Les présidents des sections locales**
- **Les premiers vice-présidents des sections locales**
- **D'autres membres des sections locales**

Parmi les représentants des sections locales, le CRR doit choisir un secrétaire et/ou un trésorier et le président du CRBE.
Représentation régionale

- **Président**
- **Membre(s) du Comité exécutif provincial**

(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-4 *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE, dans le Règlement intérieur, article IX – Gestion régionale, le paragraphe 5 (a) soit modifié pour se lire comme suit :
*Le Conseil des représentants régionaux établit un comité permanent appelé le Comité régional du bien-être économique et composé des vice-présidents du bien-être économique **premiers vice-présidents** de chaque section locale...*
(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-5 *Adoptée*
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 6(b) (i) soit modifié en changeant le nom du *Comité des candidatures à l'AGA du Conseil afin de l'appeler Comité des élections à l'AGA du Conseil.*
(Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-6	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 5, Procédures pour les résolutions, section (b), soit modifié en supprimant les mots « pas avant la présentation de la résolution pour examen. » L'ordre permanent modifié se lirait donc: Toutes les résolutions soumises à l'examen de l'AGA du Conseil font l'objet d'une étude préalable par le comité approprié et/ou par le Comité exécutif provincial. Les conclusions et les recommandations éventuelles issues de cette étude sont mises à la disposition des délégués à l'AGA du Conseil. (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-14	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 6, Comités de l'AGA du Conseil, section (c)(iii)(b), soit modifié en remplaçant les mots « sont publiées dans les deux langues officielles du Canada dans le cahier des résolutions de l'assemblée générale » par les mots « sont à la disposition des membres et des délégués à l'AGA du Conseil dans les deux langues officielles ». (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-7	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 6 (c) soit modifié en remplaçant les mots « <i>Comité de discipline du syndicat</i> » par les mots « <i>président du conseil</i> » et en ajoutant la phrase « <i>Le président du conseil, après consultation du comité, tentera de résoudre tout problème de manière informelle. S'il n'est pas en mesure de résoudre le problème de manière informelle, le président du conseil rendra une décision et pourra annoncer cette décision lors de la prochaine séance du conseil</i> ».	2011-15	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE , dans l'ordre permanent 6, Comités de l'AGA du Conseil, section (c) Comité des résolutions, les paragraphes (iii)(n) et (iii)(o)(ii) soient supprimés. (Comité exécutif provincial)
		L'ordre permanent modifié se lirait donc: Le comité surveille l'application des directives en matière d'élection au Conseil et signale toute violation présumée au Comité de discipline du syndicat président du conseil en vue d'un examen et d'une suite éventuelle à donner. <u>Le président du conseil, après consultation du comité, tentera de résoudre tout problème de manière informelle. S'il n'est pas en mesure de résoudre le problème de manière informelle, le président du conseil rendra une décision et pourra annoncer cette décision lors de la prochaine séance du conseil</u> . (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-16	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 20 – Politique d'évaluation – soit modifiée de la manière suivante : - En ajoutant « Le NSTU est fermement convaincu que les tests provinciaux standardisés ne sont pas destinés, et ne devraient pas être utilisés, aux fins de l'évaluation des enseignants »; - Dans le paragraphe 20(a) en remplaçant « est opposé aux » par « n'appuie pas l'administration d' »; - En supprimant les paragraphes (b), (d), (e), (i); - Dans le paragraphe (c), en remplaçant « appuyer l'utilisation des évaluations de la Fondation d'éducation des provinces atlantiques » par « utiliser les évaluations provinciales » et en remplaçant « outils d'évaluation du programme d'études et non pas à d'autres fins » par « outil pour contribuer à l'enseignement et soutenir l'apprentissage des élèves »; - Dans le paragraphe (f), remplacer remplacez « appuyer la communication des notes d'examen » par « communiquer les notes d'examen »; - Dans le paragraphe (h) en remplaçant « du membre » par « de l'enseignant »; - En ajoutant un nouveau paragraphe (c) : « Les conseils scolaires régionaux devraient utiliser l'évaluation exclusivement comme un outil pour contribuer à l'enseignement et soutenir l'apprentissage des élèves »; et - Un nouveau paragraphe (d) : « Le NSTU est convaincu que les enseignants de toute la province devraient participer dans une large mesure à la conception, à la mise en œuvre, et la notation de toutes les évaluations provinciales ». (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-8	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 7(C) soit modifié en ajoutant les mots « <i>Tous les articles de propagande y compris les prix offerts par le candidat seront compris dans le calcul du montant dépensé et seront justifiés par des reçus ou évalués à leur juste valeur marchande</i> ».	2011-17	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 21 – Évaluation à grande échelle (examens provinciaux) – soit abrogée. (Comité exécutif provincial)
		L'ordre permanent modifié se lirait alors: <i>Les dépenses encourues dans le cadre de la campagne électorale, sans compter les frais de déplacement, par un candidat ou en son nom, ne doivent pas dépasser 1 500 \$. Ces dépenses sont entièrement à la charge du candidat. Tous les articles de propagande y compris les prix offerts par le candidat seront compris dans le calcul du montant dépensé et seront justifiés par des reçus ou évalués à leur juste valeur marchande.</i> (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-18	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 22 – Censure – soit modifiée en insérant « /tuteurs » après le mot « parents » dans le paragraphe (c) et en insérant «/tuteur » après le mot « parent » dans le paragraphe (d)(i). (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-9	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 8 (i) soit modifié en ajoutant la phrase « <i>Par affiche électorale, on entend toute affiche, toute banderole ou tout panneau qui est placé par ou pour un membre candidat à un poste élu et qui fait référence au candidat ou au poste brigué</i> ».	2011-19	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 24 – Conseillers – soit modifiée en remplaçant dans le paragraphe (b) : « P-12 » par « du système d'enseignement public P-12 de la Nouvelle-Écosse ». (Comité exécutif provincial)
		L'ordre permanent modifié se lirait donc : <i>Le nombre total des affiches et des banderoles électorales placées dans l'hôtel où se déroule l'AGA du Conseil ne peut dépasser un total de vingt-cinq (25) par candidat. Lorsque l'AGA du Conseil se tient dans un endroit où les délégués des sections locales sont logés dans deux bâtiments différents, le nombre d'affiches peut aller jusqu'à trente-cinq (35). Par affiche électorale, on entend toute affiche, toute banderole ou tout panneau qui est placé par ou pour un membre candidat à un poste élu et qui fait référence au candidat ou au poste brigué.</i> (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-20	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 25 – Politique des programmes d'études – soit modifiée en remplaçant « objectifs » par « résultats d'apprentissage » dans le paragraphe 25(a)(i); en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (d); en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (f) et en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (g). (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-10	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 9 (a) soit modifié en ajoutant un nouveau paragraphe 9(c) : <i>Un candidat ou un représentant du candidat a l'autorisation de placer jusqu'à un (1) article par délégué et par séance aux tables de la salle des délibérations avant le début de la séance. Cela remplacerait la distribution de matériel de propagande électorale à d'autres moments. Un candidat serait toujours autorisé à saluer les délégués lors de leur entrée dans la salle des délibérations.</i> – renumérotez en conséquence (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-21	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 26 – Normes et directives en matière de programmes d'études – soit modifiée en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (a). (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-11	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 19, paragraphe (b)(i) – <i>Lutte contre l'homophobie et l'hétérosexisme</i> – soit modifiée en remplaçant le mot « parents » par le mot « famille ». (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-22	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 27 – Enseignement à distance – soit modifiée en supprimant « Les membres de la Nouvelle-Écosse estiment que ». Dans le paragraphe (a), en supprimant « le NSTU fasse pression sur le ministère de l'Éducation afin d'assurer que » et en insérant « adéquates » et en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants ». Dans le paragraphe (b) en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants ». Dans le paragraphe (c), en remplaçant « tente d'établir » par « appuie » and en remplaçant « de membres » par « d'enseignants » et en ajoutant un nouveau paragraphe (c) « seuls les membres du NSTU qui détiennent un certificat d'enseignement valide participent à la prestation d'enseignement à distance P-12 ». (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-12	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 9 (b) soit modifié en remplaçant les mots « badges électoraux en dehors des discours à l'AGA du Conseil » par les mots « vêtements, badges ou ornements électoraux ».	2011-23	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 29 – Intégration et inclusion – soit modifiée en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (f) et en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (h). (Comité exécutif provincial)
		Le paragraphe modifié se lirait comme suit: (b) <i>Faire passivement campagne consiste à mener des activités qui sont observables uniquement par les personnes se trouvant à proximité immédiate du matériel publicitaire et qui ne cherchent pas à promouvoir ou à mettre en valeur ce matériel publicitaire lorsqu'il est vu ou entendu. Les exemples de campagne passive sont les suivants : utiliser des documents écrits faisant mention d'un candidat, porter des badges électoraux en dehors des discours à l'AGA du Conseil vêtements, badges ou ornements électoraux et placer un seul exemplaire de la documentation électorale du candidat sur la table et la chaise d'un délégué.</i> (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-24	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 34 – Multiculturalisme – soit modifiée en remplaçant « un meilleur sens d'identité » par « une identité personnelle positive » dans le paragraphe (e), en remplaçant « membres » par « enseignants » dans le paragraphe (i) et en supprimant « activement » et en remplaçant «une approche antisexiste et antiraciste » par « une approche combattant l'homophobie, l'hétérosexisme, le sexisme et le racisme » dans le paragraphe (n). (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-13	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 9 (a) soit modifié en supprimant les mots « porter des vêtements ou des ornements de campagne à la vue de la majorité des délégués ».	2011-25	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 37 – (a) Ressources axées sur les résultats (b) Enseignement axé sur les résultats – opposition du NSTU – soit modifiée en supprimant le paragraphe (b). (Comité exécutif provincial)
		Le paragraphe modifié se lirait donc comme suit : Les définitions suivantes s'appliquent à toutes les élections : (a) <i>Faire activement campagne consiste à mener des activités qui comportent la présentation d'information partisane d'une manière difficile à éviter pour un groupe de délégués. Les exemples de campagne active sont les suivants : poser des affiches électorales, porter des vêtements ou des ornements de campagne à la vue de la majorité des délégués, scander des slogans électoraux, proclamer le nom d'un candidat en dehors du discours habituel aux délégués, distribuer du matériel publicitaire dans les salles de délibérations ainsi que placer du matériel publicitaire dans les salles de délibérations avant, durant ou après une séance du conseil et organiser des manifestations en faveur d'un candidat donné.</i> (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-26	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 39 – Enseignement de qualité – soit modifiée en remplaçant « carrière » par « vie » dans la section Programmes et en insérant « /tuteur » après le mot « parent » dans la section Participants. (Comité exécutif provincial)

2011-27	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 42 – Allocations du School Book Bureau – soit modifiée en remplaçant le texte actuel par ce qui suit : « Le NSTU est d’avis que l’allocation du School Book Bureau devrait être suffisamment flexible pour permettre aux écoles d’utiliser jusqu’à 25 % de leur allocation pour l’achat de ressources d’enseignement autres que celles offertes par le School Book Bureau ». (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-43	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU s’efforce d’assurer que le ministère de l’Éducation fournit aux programmes en français une version française de tous les nouveaux déploiements de programme, de toutes les ressources et de tous les documents de programmation provinciaux qui sont disponibles et distribués pour soutenir les programmes en anglais ou bien qu’un équivalent raisonnable soit fourni. (Comté d’Halifax)
2011-28	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE la politique du NSTU no 43 – Principes pour l’intégration de la technologie – soit modifiée en ajoutant au paragraphe (c) : « et les membres du NSTU ». (Comité exécutif provincial)	2011-44	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU incite vivement le ministère de l’Éducation à finaliser tous les documents de programmation pour toutes les matières (M-12). (Comté d’Halifax)
2011-29	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU étudie l’initiative concernant les lieux de travail exempts d’intimidation qui a été lancée par le NSGEU et ses avantages. (Ville d’Halifax)	2011-45	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU insiste auprès du ministère de l’Éducation pour qu’il fournisse des documents de programmation complets dans toutes les matières du PÉP et à tous les niveaux scolaires. (Kings)
2011-30	<i>Rejetée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU fournisse des fonds pour ajouter un ergothérapeute supplémentaire au Programme d’intervention précoce. (Comté d’Halifax)	2011-46	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU exige du ministère de l’Éducation et des conseils scolaires qu’ils fournissent des fonds supplémentaires chaque année pour le matériel pédagogique. Ce matériel comprend : les fournitures artistiques, le matériel scientifique et les produits de consommation courante qui sont essentiels pour permettre aux élèves de réaliser les résultats du programme d’études. (Kings)
2011-31	<i>Rejetée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU apporte un financement et un soutien en faveur d’une conférence biennale sur l’équité. (Kings)	2011-47	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU encourage the ministère de l’Éducation à élaborer un plan pour l’achat de logiciels, de matériel électronique et de matériel ressource pour l’éducation des élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse. (Richmond)
2011-32	<i>Adoptée telle qu’amendée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU fasse pression sur le ministère de l’Éducation afin qu’il offre une formation professionnelle sur la sensibilisation aux minorités sexuelles aux enseignants, mesure nécessaire pour faire progresser et améliorer le mouvement des écoles intégratrices. (Colchester-East Hants)	2011-48	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU encourage the ministère de l’Éducation à offrir des cours de base dans le domaine de la programmation alternative. (Richmond)
2011-33	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU fasse pression sur le ministère de l’Éducation afin qu’il fournisse la formation et le soutien supplémentaire nécessaires pour permettre aux enseignants titulaires de classe de rédiger les plans de programme individualisé. (Colchester East Hants)	2011-49	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU demande au ministère de l’Éducation d’intervenir dans tous les cas où les conseils scolaires régionaux introduisent soit des évaluations à grande échelle qui ne sont pas basées sur le curriculum de la Nouvelle-Écosse ou qui ne sont pas utilisées de manière à appuyer l’apprentissage des élèves ainsi que dans les cas où des évaluations provinciales à grande échelle sont utilisées soit pour classer les écoles soit pour juger les enseignants. (Comté d’Halifax)
2011-34	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU encourage le ministère de l’Éducation à fournir un financement suffisant pour assurer que, lors de l’introduction de nouvelles technologies, les membres reçoivent une formation professionnelle convenable et appropriée. (Richmond)	2011-50	<i>Adoptée telle qu’amendée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU encourage le ministère de l’Éducation à se conformer à son propre programme global en orientation scolaire et en counselling en fournissant des ressources adéquates aux écoles qui mettent en œuvre ce programme. (Comté d’Halifax)
2011-35	<i>Adoptée telle qu’amendée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU incite le ministère de l’Éducation à travailler en étroite collaboration avec les conseils scolaires régionaux en vue de fournir immédiatement la formation et le matériel nécessaires aux enseignants qui sont embauchés ou affectés à des postes de spécialité. (Digby)	Gouvernement		
2011-36	<i>Rejetée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU envisage de réduire la fourchette des droits d’inscription pour la Journée de conférence d’octobre et explore d’autres moyens de percevoir ces droits. (Ville d’Halifax)	2011-100	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU cherche à conclure un accord avec le ministère de l’Éducation pour que toutes les écoles construites en Nouvelle-Écosse avant 1985 fassent l’objet d’une analyse structurelle. (Comté d’Halifax)
2011-37	<i>Adoptée telle qu’amendée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU travaille en collaboration avec le ministère de l’Éducation pour faire en sorte que les nouvelles initiatives en matière d’évaluation soient initialement mises à l’essai dans dix pour cent des écoles au maximum dans chaque conseil scolaire régional, avant de les imposer à des groupes d’école plus importants. (Comté d’Halifax)	2011-101	<i>Adoptée telle qu’amendée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU cherche à obtenir un moratoire de deux ans sur toutes les nouvelles initiatives susceptibles d’augmenter la charge de travail des enseignants. À l’issue de ce moratoire de deux ans, toutes les nouvelles initiatives devront être examinées, préalablement à leur mise en œuvre, par un comité conjoint du NSTU et du ministère de l’Éducation, en vue de déterminer leur impact sur la charge de travail des enseignants. (Comté d’Halifax)
2011-38	<i>Adoptée telle qu’amendée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU incite le ministère de l’Éducation à convoquer un comité multipartenaires pour étudier l’efficacité du système de rapport aux parents/tuteurs en examinant la régularité de la fréquence des bulletins, leur pertinence au niveau scolaire, l’accès technologique aux renseignements, les évaluations efficaces et censées et la charge de travail et pour faire un rapport à toutes les personnes intéressées dans l’année qui suit. (Cumberland)	New Business Resolution et Brief		
2011-39	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU recommande au ministère de l’Éducation que, pour la première période de rapport dans les écoles élémentaires, les bulletins scolaires portent uniquement des commentaires et ne soient pas basés sur des notes. (Comté de Lunenburg)	2011-NB1	<i>Adoptée l’unanimité</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU condamne le plus vigoureusement possible le gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Écosse pour les coupures budgétaires qu’il a imposées à l’éducation publique et pour son refus de reconnaître que l’éducation est le fondement crucial d’une économie provinciale saine, prospère et durable. (Comité exécutif provincial)
2011-40	<i>Retirée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU incite le ministère de l’Éducation à réduire le nombre de périodes scolaires et de périodes de rapport au niveau élémentaire de trois (3) périodes à deux (2) périodes. (Comté d’Halifax)	<u>Exposé explicatif</u> Au cours de l’automne et de l’hiver de cette année, les conseils scolaires régionaux se sont vus demander de se livrer à un « exercice » pour déterminer l’impact d’une réduction du financement des conseils scolaires de 22 % au cours des trois prochains exercices financiers. En dépit des vigoureuses protestations du public, le budget provincial a imposé une réduction claire de 2 % des fonds mis à la disposition des conseils scolaires et a forcé les conseils à absorber tous les coûts supplémentaires associés aux augmentations du prix du pétrole, de l’électricité, de la main-d’œuvre externe et du règlement des contrats de tous les employés. Le résultat est une diminution réelle des revenus des conseils scolaires de l’ordre de 4 à 5 %. Les conseils ont été prévenus qu’ils devraient s’attendre à des réductions de financement similaires pour les deux prochaines années. En dépit de l’assurance de la ministre de l’Éducation que ces coupures budgétaires auraient un impact « minime » sur les classes et en dépit de sa promesse de « mettre les enfants et l’apprentissage au premier plan », la vérité est exactement le contraire. Ces réductions nuisent aux élèves! L’impact sur l’enseignement public a été d’entraver et même de renverser les progrès que nous avions réalisés en vue d’adresser les besoins d’apprentissages divers de tous les élèves, d’augmenter le soutien apporté aux élèves différents et désavantagés ou aux élèves vulnérables et, en dépit du nouveau groupe de travail sur l’intimidation, de réduire la capacité du système à garantir un environnement d’apprentissage sécuritaire pour tous les élèves.		
2011-41	<i>Retirée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU incite le ministère de l’Éducation à mettre à jour les documents de programmation dans un délai raisonnable. (Digby)	Cette résolution répond aux critères établis pour les « affaires nouvelles » car sa portée est devenue réelle uniquement lorsque le budget a été déposé à la législature en mars 2011. Jusqu’à ce moment-là, le NSTU ne pouvait pas savoir si les coupures budgétaires proposées étaient effectivement un simple exercice destiné aux conseils scolaires ou si les assertions de la ministre concernant la nature minime de ces coupures seraient démontrées dans la pratique.		
2011-42	<i>Adoptée</i>	IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le NSTU encourage vivement le ministère de l’Éducation à faire en sorte que les documents de programmation soient mis à jour pour tous les cours dans un délai de trois à cinq ans. (Richmond)			



from the nstu executive director

Address to Council 2011

(excerpt from Bill Redden's address to Council 2011)

Over the past 50 years we have learned much about what makes a great society and a great education system, yet society seems totally incapable to use that knowledge to do what is right. I am left with many unanswered questions. For example, why is it that the first hand experiences and understanding of front-line educators are ignored, yet governments are willing to pay large sums for the opinions of come-from-away consultants who have never set foot inside a classroom in Nova Scotia? And why does the media continue to pander to self-declared experts, who are usually non-practicing educators, just because they may have written an article or a book about education? Which – by the way – is usually based on the American experience – a system in total chaos!

Why has education become a political football where reasoned discourse is delivered up in 30-second sound bites? And why is it that we have tons of empirical data to show that education is the way out of poverty and the way to a better quality of life for people, yet our politicians refuse to adequately fund education?

We know, for instance, that unemployment rates decrease as educational attainment rises. In fact, the unemployment rate in Nova Scotia among university graduates is far less than the national rate of unemployment. We know as well that the primary factors that shape the health of Canadians are not medical treatments or lifestyle choices, but rather the living conditions they experience.

Our health is shaped by how income and wealth is distributed, whether or not we are employed, and the working conditions we experience. So why do we go on pumping an ever-growing percentage of our provincial budget into health care treatments when the only long term solution to curbing health care costs is to better educate our citizens so they can become and remain employed? It is also a well-documented fact that student success in school is also highly correlated with how socially advantaged or disadvantaged a child may be.

Education can lift people out of poverty but a good education costs money. But money has to come from taxes and our problem is that our taxes continue to shrink in real dollars, not because our tax base has declined, but rather, because taxes for the very rich and for large corporations continue to be reduced.

We are badly in need of a true public discourse about what kind of society we want to live in. We cannot define what kind of education we need without defining this. But when was the last time you heard the Premier of this Province or the Ministers of Education or Finance talk about anything but debt, deficit and declining enrolments. They are living in a 3D world while all of our members have to live in the real world of too few resources, too little time and too many useless initiatives that do not contribute to student learning.

My role as your Executive Director brings me into contact with many teachers. And after a lifetime in education, it greatly saddens me to hear many voices saying things like: “The fun has gone out of teaching. No matter what we do, it is never enough. Why can't they just leave me alone to do, what I love to do best—teach. I'm tired of doing all the things that don't help my students—there is just too much expected of us.” I hear these comments over and over again. These are heartfelt matters that strike at the very essence of professionalism and caring about kids. I marvel at your ability and your perseverance to go on doing all the wonderful things that you do for students every day despite all of this. Our challenge is to make that happen in a world where all information must be reduced to 140 characters, and where the media focus on sound bites, or news stories created by spin doctors. George Bernard Shaw once said that: “Newspapers are unable, seemingly,

to discriminate between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilization.”

Fortunately, there will be an opportunity next year to engage in some of that debate. The NSTU has joined with the other educational partners to help shape a vision for the 21st Century. There will be broad public consultations and this is an opportunity for educators to play a significant role in the public debate about what is good for society and our future educational system. I hope all of you will join in adding your voices to take back the profession.

A well known Nova Scotian writer and philosopher, Silver Donald Cameron, once wrote that: “Education happens in the classroom, but the climate for teaching and learning is set in the legislature.” One has to wonder whether those in the governing party in the Nova Scotia Legislature have any awareness of the climate that they have created this year for educators and students. The school year was barely underway when they announced massive cuts to education funding. The funding for education is in the hands of those who, by-and-large, have no idea what is happening in classrooms. They don't or can't know the challenges teachers face because it is not in their field of experience. Even those politicians who are educators seem to quickly forget, or become so entrenched in the party line, that they seem incapable of defending the cause of an adequately funded education.

All of this talk about funding cuts, and the actual layoffs and displacements of teachers, has caused frustration, turmoil, confusion, and pain. Do the politicians ever stop to think what this is doing to the lives of educators and what it does to the confidence that our public and our students have in the quality of education being delivered? Unfortunately, I think you know the answer to that question.

So this climate set by the legislature has dominated the work of your Union this year. It has been a year where the old adage: “expect the unexpected and anticipate the unanticipated” has been in full play.

Before closing, please allow me to recognize the accomplishments of two former staff members who passed away this year from cancer. I am speaking, of course, about Mary Jane Cadegan who retired in 2004 and Earl Rutledge who retired in 2007. Both will be sadly missed as they both helped to enrich the lives of teachers and left their mark on this Union. We thank them.

Also I want to recognize the hard work and dedication of **all** our NSTU staff. They never cease to impress me with their tireless efforts to get the job done, and they always do it so well!

To say we live in difficult times sounds terribly trite and cliché but in all my years of involvement with the Union spanning over three decades and 33 Councils, I don't think we have had to face greater challenges. While declining enrolments actually began in the mid 1970s, and so did teacher layoffs, we did not face the fiscal pressures of today, mainly because health care costs were a fraction of what they are now. There was also a great deal more optimism about the economic future of the province and many more parents had kids in school. They had a greater vested interest.

We sure have our work cut out for us if we are to defend and preserve what is a great educational system that delivers impressive results. It requires the collective actions of all of our 11,000 plus members and their families and friends. All of us need to speak to our MLAs and/or people who influence our politicians.

Together we can make a real difference. We need to stay focussed and united. I leave you with a quote from the Roman poet and philosopher, Lucretius, who wrote: “The fall of dropping water wears away the stone.” Perhaps we can wear away at the entrenched position of our government to stop cuts to educational funding.

Remarques à l'assemblée générale annuelle 2011

Au cours des 50 dernières années, nous avons beaucoup appris sur ce qui constitue une bonne société et un bon système d'éducation et pourtant la société semble totalement incapable d'utiliser ces connaissances pour faire le nécessaire. Pour moi, cela laisse beaucoup de questions sans réponse. Par exemple, comment se fait-il que l'on ignore les expériences et les connaissances de première main des éducateurs alors que les gouvernements sont prêts à dépenser des sommes considérables pour connaître l'opinion de consultants externes qui n'ont jamais mis les pieds dans une salle de classe en Nouvelle-Écosse? Et pourquoi les médias continuent-ils à glorifier de soi-disant experts, qui ne sont généralement pas des éducateurs en exercice, simplement parce qu'ils ont écrit un article ou un livre sur l'éducation? Ouvrage qui, soit dit en passant, est généralement basé sur l'expérience américaine – or le système américain est en état de chaos total!

Pourquoi l'éducation est-elle devenue un match politique où les propos rationnels sont livrés en clips sonores de 30 secondes? Et pourquoi, alors que nous avons une abondance de données empiriques montrant que l'éducation est le moyen d'échapper à la pauvreté et la voie vers une meilleure qualité de vie, nos politiciens refusent-ils de la financer convenablement?

Nous savons, par exemple, que le taux de chômage est inversement proportionnel au niveau d'éducation. En effet, le taux de chômage en Nouvelle-Écosse parmi les diplômés universitaires est très inférieur au taux de chômage national. Nous savons également que les facteurs primordiaux qui déterminent la santé des Canadiens ne sont pas les traitements médicaux ni les choix de style de vie mais plutôt les conditions de vie.

Notre santé est conditionnée par la répartition des revenus et de la fortune, par le statut d'emploi et par les conditions de travail. Alors pourquoi continuons-nous à drainer un pourcentage sans cesse croissant de notre budget provincial vers les soins de santé alors la seule solution à long terme pour réduire les dépenses de santé est de mieux éduquer les citoyens afin qu'ils puissent trouver et conserver un emploi? C'est également un fait solidement documenté que la réussite scolaire des élèves est étroitement corrélée au statut social (favorisé ou défavorisé).

L'éducation peut sortir les gens de la pauvreté mais une bonne éducation coûte cher. L'argent doit venir des impôts et notre problème est que les recettes d'impôts continuent à s'amenuiser en dollars réels, non pas parce que notre assiette fiscale a diminué mais plutôt parce que l'on continue à réduire les impôts pour les très riches et pour les grandes sociétés.

Nous avons sérieusement besoin d'un véritable dialogue public au sujet du type de société dans laquelle nous voulons vivre. Nous ne pouvons pas définir le type d'éducation dont nous avons besoin sans définir cela d'abord. Mais quand était la dernière fois que vous avez entendu le Premier ministre, le ministre de l'Éducation ou le ministre des Finances de cette province parler d'autres choses que de la dette, du déficit et du déclin des inscriptions scolaires. Ils vivent dans un monde en trois dimensions alors que nos membres doivent vivre avec la réalité

du manque de ressources, du manque de temps et d'une pléthore d'initiatives inutiles qui ne contribuent en rien à l'apprentissage.

Mon rôle de directeur exécutif me met en contact avec de nombreux enseignants. Et après toute une carrière en éducation, cela m'attriste beaucoup d'entendre tant de personnes faire les commentaires suivants : « Il n'y a plus aucun plaisir dans l'enseignement. Peu importe ce que nous faisons, ce n'est jamais suffisant. Pourquoi ne peuvent-ils pas me laisser faire tranquillement ce que je fais le mieux : enseigner. J'en ai assez de faire toutes ces choses qui n'aident en rien mes élèves – on attend simplement trop de nous ». J'entends constamment ce genre de commentaires. Il s'agit de problèmes sincères qui touchent à l'essence même de notre professionnalisme et de nos préoccupations à l'égard de nos enfants. Je suis émerveillé par votre capacité et votre persévérance à continuer à faire chaque jour toutes ces choses merveilleuses que vous faites pour vos élèves en dépit de tout cela. Notre défi est de réaliser cela dans un monde où toute l'information doit se réduire à 140 caractères et où les médias s'intéressent surtout aux clips sonores et aux reportages des propagandistes. George Bernard Shaw a dit un jour : « Les journaux sont semble-t-il incapables de faire la distinction entre un accident de bicyclette et l'effondrement de la civilisation ».

Heureusement, nous aurons la possibilité l'an prochain de participer à ce débat. Le NSTU s'est associé aux autres partenaires de l'éducation pour tenter de forger une vision pour le 21^e siècle. Il y aura de vastes consultations publiques et ce sera l'occasion pour les éducateurs de jouer un rôle significatif dans le débat public au sujet de ce qui est bon pour notre société et notre futur système d'éducation. J'espère que vous vous joindrez tous à ce débat pour faire entendre votre voix et défendre la profession.

Un célèbre écrivain et philosophe néo-écossais, Silver Donald Cameron, a écrit un jour : « L'éducation a lieu dans la salle de classe mais le climat de l'enseignement et de l'apprentissage est établi dans la législature ». On peut se demander si les représentants du parti au pouvoir à la législature de la Nouvelle-Écosse ont conscience du climat qu'ils ont créé cette année pour les éducateurs et les élèves. L'année scolaire venait à peine de démarrer lorsqu'ils ont annoncé des coupures massives au budget de l'éducation. Le financement de l'éducation est entre les mains de ceux qui, en général, n'ont aucune idée de ce qui se passe dans les salles de classe. Ils ne peuvent pas savoir à quels défis sont confrontés les enseignants car ce n'est pas leur domaine d'expérience. Même les politiciens qui sont aussi éducateurs semblent vite l'oublier, ou bien ils sont si profondément retranchés dans la ligne de leur parti qu'ils semblent incapables de défendre la cause d'une éducation convenablement financée.

Tous ces propos sur les coupures budgétaires, ajoutés aux licenciements et aux transferts d'enseignants, ont causé frustration, désarroi, confusion et tourment. Les politiciens se demandent-ils jamais quelles sont les conséquences de leurs actes sur la vie des éducateurs et sur la confiance de notre public et de nos élèves à l'égard de la

[continued on page 11]

qualité de l'éducation qui est offerte? Malheureusement, je pense que vous connaissez la réponse à cette question.

Et c'est ce climat établi par la législature qui a dominé les travaux de notre syndicat cette année et l'expression : « Attendre l'inattendu et prévoir l'imprévisible » a pris tout son sens.

Avant de conclure, permettez-moi de rendre hommage aux réalisations de deux anciens membres du personnel qui sont décédés cette année du cancer. Je parle, bien entendu, de Mary Jane Cadegan qui a pris sa retraite en 2004 et d'Earl Rutledge qui a pris sa retraite en 2007. Leur disparition nous a fortement attristés car ils ont beaucoup contribué à enrichir la vie des enseignants et laissé une marque indélébile sur notre syndicat. Nous les en remercions.

Je veux également rendre hommage à l'excellent travail et au dévouement de **tout** le personnel du NSTU. Leurs efforts infatigables pour faire ce qui doit être fait ne cessent de m'impressionner et le travail est toujours si bien fait!

Dire que nous vivons des temps difficiles semble terriblement banal et cliché mais, durant toutes mes années de participation au syndicat, qui couvrent plus de trois décennies et 33 assemblées générales annuelles,

je doute que nous ayons jamais eu à relever de plus grands défis. Bien que le déclin des inscriptions scolaires ait en fait commencé au milieu des années 70, ainsi que les licenciements d'enseignants, nous n'étions pas confrontés aux pressions financières actuelles, principalement parce que les coûts des soins de santé étaient une fraction de ce qu'ils sont aujourd'hui. Il y avait également beaucoup plus d'optimisme au sujet de l'avenir économique de la province et beaucoup plus de parents avaient des enfants à l'école. Ils étaient donc personnellement intéressés.

Nous avons indéniablement du pain sur la planche si nous voulons défendre et préserver un fantastique système d'éducation qui donne des résultats impressionnants. Cela exige l'action collective de nos plus de 11 000 membres et de leurs familles et amis. Nous devons tous parler à nos députés et aux personnes qui influencent nos politiciens.

Ensemble, nous pouvons faire toute la différence. Nous devons garder le cap et rester unis. Je vous quitte sur une citation du poète et philosophe romain, Lucrèce, qui a écrit : « L'eau qui tombe goutte-à-goutte creuse la pierre ». Nous pouvons peut-être éroder la position inflexible de notre gouvernement afin qu'il cesse les coupures budgétaires en éducation.

The deadline for the September issue of The Teacher is August 12th.

Call 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca

International Day Against Homophobia

Several students at Clayton Park Junior High School in Halifax marked the *International Day Against Homophobia*, May 17. They held a bake sale and sold rainbow-coloured friendship bracelets to stand up against homophobic bullying. The bracelets represented friendship extended to students who may identify as gay or lesbian. More than two hundred students proudly wore the friendship bracelets showing a strong message of support. The bake sale raised \$100 which will be donated to the Youth Project - an organization that offers counselling/education services for gay/lesbian youth. The *International Day Against Homophobia* is a rallying event offering an opportunity for people to get together and reach out to one another. The 2011 campaign's theme was **Same-sex Couple—A Story of Love**. Visit www.homophobiaday.org for further information.



Photo: Rita Van Tassel



Photo: Rita Van Tassel

Pictured above left to right are: Sarah Pazelt, Roslyn Hunyh, Paighton Arsenaault, Nikki Burd, and Leah Jessop.

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July 4–15, 2011

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June is ALS awareness month

by Maya Fallows, O.T. Reg. (N.S.)
EIP Case Coordinator

ALS stands for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a rapidly progressive and invariably fatal neurological disease that attacks the nerve cells (neurons) responsible for controlling voluntary muscles. Voluntary muscles are those muscles which are under control of the will, and are usually attached to the skeleton. The degeneration caused by ALS leads to progressive paralysis of these muscles. Eventually, all muscles under voluntary control are affected and individuals lose their strength and ability to move their arms, legs and body. Breathing is controlled by voluntary chest muscles. Death usually occurs when the chest muscles can no longer assist the lungs to adequately expel carbon dioxide. Most people with ALS die from respiratory failure.

With approximately 2,500 to 3,000 Canadians currently diagnosed with ALS, this is not considered a rare disease. ALS most commonly strikes individuals between the ages 40 and 60 years of age. Men are affected more often than women. About 5 to 10 per cent of all ALS cases are inherited.

The cause is still unknown but research is continuous in areas related to genetic predisposition, viral or infectious agents, environmental toxins, and immunological changes related to the disease. For most people, the battle with ALS is short with 80 per cent losing their lives within two to five years of diagnosis. Approximately

10 per cent of ALS patients survive for 10 years or more.

Signs and Symptoms

The onset of ALS can be very subtle and the symptoms overlooked. The earliest symptoms may include twitching, cramping, or stiffness of muscles; muscle weakness affecting an arm or a leg; slurred and nasal speech; or difficulty chewing or swallowing. These general complaints then develop into more obvious weakness or muscle wasting that may cause a physician to consider ALS.

The parts of the body affected by early symptoms of ALS depend on which muscles in the body are damaged first. If symptoms initially affect one of the legs, patients experience difficulty walking or running or they may trip or stumble more often. Some patients notice the effects of the disease in a hand or arm and encounter difficulty with activities that require fine dexterity such as buttoning a shirt, writing, or turning a key in a lock. Other patients notice speech problems and may start slurring their words.

Regardless of the part of the body first affected by ALS, muscle weakness and degeneration spread to other parts of the body as the disease progresses. Patients have increasing problems with moving, swallowing, and speaking or forming words.

Disease progression varies from person to person. Eventually however, those affected will not be able to stand

or walk, get in or out of bed on their own, or use their hands and arms. Difficulty swallowing and chewing impair the patient's ability to eat normally and increase the risk of choking. Maintaining a healthy weight and getting adequate nutrition then become a problem. Because the disease usually does not affect cognitive abilities, patients are aware of their progressive loss of function and may experience anxiety and depression. In advanced stages of the disease, patients have difficulty breathing as the muscles of the respiratory system weaken. Patients eventually lose the ability to breathe independently and must depend on ventilator support for survival.

Diagnosis

ALS is very difficult to diagnose. No one test can provide a definitive diagnosis of ALS. Diagnosis is based on signs and symptoms and a series of tests to rule out other diseases with similar symptoms such as stroke, multiple sclerosis or Lyme disease. If a person tests negative for all these tests but symptoms continue to get worse, then a diagnosis of ALS is often made.

Hope for the future

At this time there is no known cure for the disease and limited treatment

options. With continued education, Nova Scotians can help support and improve the quality of life of those affected by ALS and their families. Communication and regular visits with a doctor, physiotherapist and occupational therapist can help sufferers cope with the declining function and life changes related to this disease.

For more information about ALS, contact the ALS Society of Nova Scotia, the ALS Society of Canada (www.als.ca), or the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at www.ninds.nih.gov. If you are looking for assistance in managing this or other medical conditions, and are uncertain where to turn, feel free to contact the NSTU's Early Intervention Program for Teachers for support and guidance.



Yoga in Schools Summer Teacher Training Intensive



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

This program will provide teachers with module 1 & 2: an introduction to Yoga, Yoga II, 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 II in schools (graduates of the 200hr Teacher Training will receive all yoga programs designed by Jenny).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date(s): July 18-21st, 2011

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

Location: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax

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

Register early to secure your spot!

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

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



NOTICE

The Teacher: Change in frequency

Continuing in the fall of 2011, *The Teacher* will be published **eight (8)** times a year from September to June.

The **November/December** and **January/February** issues will be combined. This change will help streamline *The Teacher* publication and reduce costs and paper.

Next school year's publication will be posted to the NSTU website when it becomes available. The publication schedule, rates and deadlines will also be available on the website.

For further information contact Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Two-day Academy in School Mental Health this summer in Halifax

Wondering if the pills Billy takes each day are helping or hurting him? Thinking a few of the girls in gym class are looking thin? Debating how to talk to Michael's mother about the mental health care you think he needs? Teachers find themselves in these delicate situations every day, and often feel unprepared for what to do next.



This summer, attend the *Academy in School Mental Health* and get the answers to these questions, your questions and many more. Educators can play a very important and supportive ongoing role in the lives of students struggling with mental health problems.

This two-day workshop is focused on providing educators with a variety of tools and techniques that make sense. Engage in discussions such as: Separating Fact from Fiction: Mental Disorders and the Media; Eating Disorders Harm vs Help; Finding Zen: Anxiety Strategies for the Classroom and many more. The more than 10 sessions will be interwoven with activities to build your network and your understanding of mental health in our community.

This summer workshop is designed for **junior high and high school educators. You will leave with:**

- a practical understanding of the most prevalent adolescent mental health disorders;
- discussion of strategies for learning and social success;
- in-classroom applications of effective tools and techniques;
- an understanding of how to talk to youth and parents about mental health.

Hosted at Dalhousie University by Dr. Stan Kutcher, the workshop includes sessions conducted by leading child and adolescent psychiatrists, educators and mental health professionals.

Two sessions will be offered this summer, **July 11-12, 2011 or July 14-15, 2011**. Attendees will receive a certificate of completion, as well as a host of electronic resources including live meeting notes complete with strategies for success. The early bird fee is \$200/educator, after June 1 the price increases to \$250/educator.

Please visit our academy webpage for complete workshop information and registration details: <http://teenmentalhealth.org/index.php/educators/academy-in-school-mental-health/>.



As another school year winds down, my time with the Curriculum Committee comes to an end. It's hard to believe that two years have gone by and my term is over. This last year I had the pleasure of being the Chair for the Committee. The duties were not too taxing as Ron Brunton organized and prepared the agendas for the meetings. Thanks to all

committee members for their patience and to Ron for his efforts.

The May 13 meeting began with a review of the Department of Education memo from March 2011 that described the adoption of the Western and Northern Protocol Mathematics program. An implementation schedule is still yet to be decided, but, the program is already underway in a number of provinces and territories. We had the opportunity to examine an overview of the Nova Scotia Virtual School Online Learning Centre. I was surprised and impressed with the list of resources, guides and materials available. Users can connect easily at the following website; <http://nsvs.ednet.ns.ca>. The committee encourages members to take a look at the site; there is a lot of resource material available.

Committee members expressed their colleagues' frustration with the iNSchool implementation. The implementation should have been slower, involved more teacher in-service and been piloted in fewer schools. One member mentioned that staff were finding it time consuming to enter individual student assessment information for each outcome. The committee received a report from our liaison with the Comité representative.

The committee also examined the Minister's response to the Black Learners Advisory Committee (BLAC) Report & Review. We discussed the progress on the recommendations and how it would be reviewed. The report had 63 recommendations that require a vision and plan for implementation. We also looked at Dr. Ben Levin's *Steps to Effective and Sustainable Public Education in Nova Scotia*, which raised a number of points in the ensuing discussion. Although the report was not focused on education funding, there was an undercurrent of cost reduction throughout the report.

Sylvia Paris and Paul Ashe from the African Services Division of the Department of Education presented during the afternoon session. Their presentation highlighted the recommendations of the BLAC Report and the TRIPOD Survey data. The TRIPOD Survey was done with a number of schools in November of 2009. It surveyed students on a variety of topics from school safety and academic achievement, to teacher-student interactions and students' perceptions of school in general. The report was broken down by questions, responses and then by student cultural background. It raises a number of interesting points regarding education for African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq students.

Thanks again to all who served on the committee over the last two years. I enjoyed my work with the committee, and especially enjoyed having the opportunities to meet and have conversation with personnel from the Department of Education.

—Grant Dunn, Chair (outgoing)

REMINDER!

The deadline for applications for NSTU committees is **June 25!** Please go to www.nstu.ca for information and application forms or call 1-800-565-6788.

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

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

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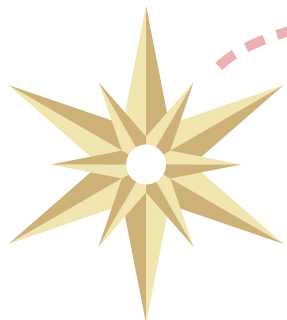
Teaching and Administrative opportunities are available immediately in

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- United Arab Emirates (Primary - High School)

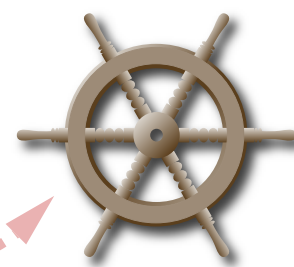
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- Fully furnished apartment
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- Work Visa

For further information contact
internationalprograms@gov.ns.ca



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The NSTU responds to the Ben Levin Report

by Ron Brunton, Executive Staff Officer, Research & Professional Initiatives

There are many positive aspects to the Ben Levin Report – *Steps to Effective and Sustainable Public Education in Nova Scotia*. The report's overall approach does not suggest the province move away from the paths we have been advocating, and in many instances actively advancing, for many years. The report acknowledges the high quality of public education in Nova Scotia and that our system is not broken or in need of a major overhaul.

Dr. Levin calls for a major limitation on the number of initiatives and priorities established by the Department of Education and for there to be provincial coherence concerning those initiatives and priorities. We wholeheartedly support this. Teachers have been arguing for years that they are being swamped by new demands and expectations, both concerning the expectations for program delivery and the paperwork to be "accountable." Teachers and administrators have front-line experience that when the department calls for a reduction in one area, regional school boards may take that as license to either go forward with their own version of the same thing or to embark on another project that maintains or even adds to the workload of teachers. The Literacy Development Records (LDR) and Math Development Records (MDR) situation in some boards serves as a case in point.

Dr. Levin emphasizes "trust and leadership" as critical and catalytic to building an effective education system to meet the needs of all students. The NSTU has been consistently engaged with the education partners, formally and informally, on how to promote both. We were partners in the Education Professional Development Committee that looked to find the most effective approaches to professional learning and professional development. We have worked to establish the Instructional Leadership Program for Principals that will help administrators gain the detailed expertise to provide instructional leadership and to build the trust and collegial framework among their staffs so crucial to effectively applying that expertise. We work with the Student Services Branch of

the Department of Education to improve our ability to address the needs of all students in an inclusive framework. Our joint efforts with the boards and department have produced a number of actions to recognize and support diversity throughout the system.

We have also been working with the education partners to establish clear meaning and process to professional learning communities (PLCs) so that all three words are valid. These PLCs must recognize the **professional** capacity of teachers and administrators to understand the needs in their own schools and classrooms and with their own students. They must be collaborative and that requires a fundamental level of trust and collective efficacy. Teachers and administrators must be able to **learn** from each other to help support student learning. And there must be **community** in which the views of all are respected and heard.

We fundamentally disagree with the proposals to prohibit students from repeating courses and to recognize external credentials for graduation credits. Both proposals favour families who can afford to enrol children in private educational experiences and disadvantage families who cannot. In addition, both proposals reduce public education to a checklist of the minimum required. By analogy, if a teacher were to take students to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia she might indicate that because of the limited time for the trip, each student should be sure to study five paintings very closely. We would not think it reasonable for a student to say that he had seen two paintings at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and therefore he should only have to look at three paintings. Similarly, we would not discourage the student who wanted to pay close attention to seven.

Dr. Levin calls for a rethinking of how we treat students with special needs, but in what is the greatest failure of the report, misses the fact that what he suggests we do is what we have been determinedly working on for more than a decade. In spite of the constant struggle for resources and the



Dr. Ben Levin

mountain of paperwork often required, Nova Scotia has one of the best school retention rates in the country, one of the smallest gaps between students of different economic means and one of the smallest differences between the achievement of boys and girls.

Many of the ideas promoted by Dr. Levin are presented within a context of saving money by making the system more efficient. Unfortunately, if his suggestions are properly implemented in a way that supports student learning, there is often no cost saving and there may actually be a need for more resources. This would be the case if we were to require every student to complete an independent study as a graduation requirement. Independent study requires an intensive relationship between the student and teacher (or teachers) with planning, progress and evaluation meetings throughout the process as well as teaching most students how to engage in independent study.

Finally, Dr. Levin calls for the system to reduce failure at all levels. We certainly

support this and again it comes not as something new, but as something we have been striving toward for most of our history. We welcome all the approaches that can be provided that give teachers and administrators additional tools, time and resources to address students' learning needs. We believe "all children can learn." This has been the evolving focus of our system since the late 1980s.

We look forward to the public conversation concerning the implementation of the report's recommendation and the development of a clear vision for public education.

The full report can be found on the department's website at the following link: http://www.ednet.ns.ca/events/levin_report/index.shtml.

The Minister of Education is seeking input from students, parents, teachers, principals, school boards, elected officials, and the general public. We encourage you to try and take the time to read the report and provide your input. **The deadline for input is July 8, 2011.**



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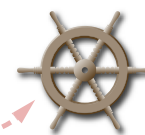
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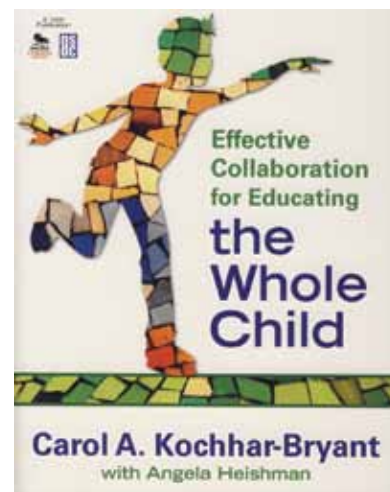


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by June 25, 2011 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD giveaway is *Effective Collaboration for Educating the Whole Child* by Carol A. Kochhar-Bryant. This book examines collaboration between teachers, administrators, student support specialists, community agencies, and service providers to improve outcomes for students with complex learning needs. It takes a team of professionals working together to support a child's emotional, physical, and academic development. This book for K-12 general and special education teachers, administrators, and student support specialists explores how to make collaboration and coordination work, who takes responsibility for the process, and why collaboration is central to improving outcomes for students considered at risk. Developmentally responsive school environments depend on constructive relationships between the adults in a student's life, making this a vital resource for anyone who interacts with children.



NOTICES

Holocaust Education Week is being marked in Sydney, November 1 and 2, 2011. This year's theme is *Remembering the Past, Working for Peace*. A banquet November 1 will feature a keynote speech by U.S. middle school principal Linda Hooper. In 1998 she asked her students to collect six million paper clips as a way to visualize the magnitude of the Holocaust. A firm believer in the power of education as a vehicle to tolerance, she speaks movingly about teaching to change the world. There will also be a seminar for teachers. Both events are at the Temple Sons of Israel and you can email for more information educationholocaust@gmail.com.

Trees of Knowledge competition - Tree Canada, the country's largest charitable tree organization, is teaming up with Majesta and Focus on Forests to present the Trees of Knowledge competition to Canadian schools.

A prize of \$20,000 will be awarded to a winning school to design and implement a customized outdoor classroom. The Outdoor Classroom prize will include things like topsoil, loam materials, boulders/furniture (large rocks, logs/stumps), coniferous trees, deciduous trees, shrubs, or planters depending on the winner's proposal.

Educational partner, Focus on Forests, will provide the winning school with teaching resources for outdoor learning. Tree Canada will provide the technical advice to help transform your school property.

Deadline for submissions is August 12. For more information please visit www.treecanada.ca.

Congratulations to our book winners for May!

**FRESH: *The Essential 55*
Stephanie Conway of KCA**

**EQUITY: *GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for Queer & Questioning Teens*
Kim Wilson of A.J. Smeltzer**

**PD: *realfriends: stop cliquing, start connecting*
Eva Churchill of Gold River - Western Shore Elementary**



Inter-University Committee on Teacher Education (ICTE)

May 15, 2011

To all co-operating teachers and school administrators in the Province of Nova Scotia

The Inter-University Council on Teacher Education (ICTE) would like to send a sincere thank you to all the teachers and school administrators who supported our B.Ed. pre-service teachers this academic year, in the following school boards:

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board
Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board
Chignecto-Central Regional School Board
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
Halifax Regional School Board
Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey
South Shore Regional School Board
Strait Regional School Board
Tri-County Regional School Board

We do appreciate the time, expertise, and direction you have offered our future educators. Your professional contributions have provided those new to teaching with a solid introduction to the complexities, joys, and challenges this profession offers.

Merci! We'lalin! Thank You! Tapadh Leibh!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Orr
Dean, Faculty of Education (St Francis Xavier University)
Chair, ICTE

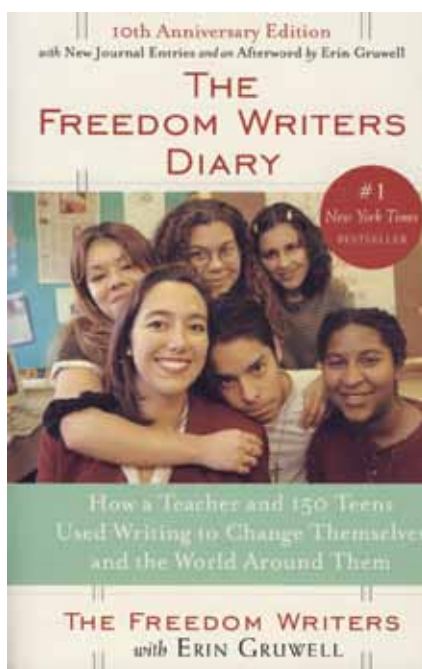
ICTE Members:

Dr. Robert Bailey; Dean, School of Graduate and Professional Studies (Cape Breton University)
Dr. David Reid; Acting Director, School of Education (Acadia University)
Dr. Barry Rowe, Professor, Département des sciences de l'éducation (Université Sainte-Anne)
Dr. Jim Sharpe; Dean, Faculty of Education (Mount St. Vincent University)



Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by June 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's equity book giveaway is the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* by teacher Erin Gruwell. When Gruwell was a first-year high school teacher in Long Beach, California, teaching the "unteachables" (kids that no other teacher wanted to deal with), she discovered that most of her students had not heard of the Holocaust. Shocked, she introduced them to books about tolerance which inspired them to start keeping diaries of their lives that showed the violence, homelessness, racism, illness, and abuse that surrounded them. These student diaries form the basis of this book. Most readers will be proud to see how these students have succeeded; at the end of their four-year experience they all graduated. This book was the inspiration for the movie of the same name. Gruwell now works at the college level, instructing teachers on how to provide more interactive classes for their students.

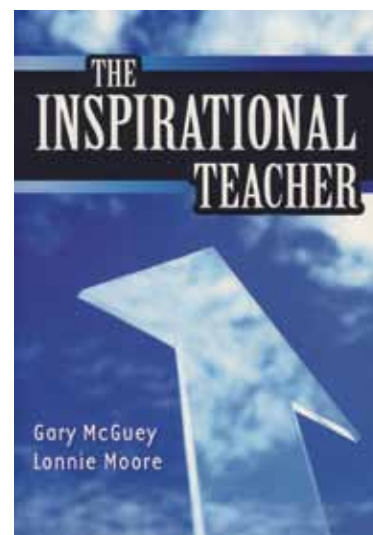


Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by June 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's FRESH giveaway is *The Inspirational Teacher* by Gary McGuey and Lonnie Moore.

With memorable quotes, poems, and exercises, this book provides a practical step-by-step process to help you become an inspirational teacher. *The Inspirational Teacher* will help you create a personal mission statement and a classroom mission statement. It will also help you learn to respect, listen and build relationships. Gary McGuey is a former educator and athletic director who has visited thousands of schools and created the first curriculum related to *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Lonnie Moore is a former middle school and high school math teacher and his experience working with groups of diverse backgrounds has given him a unique and clear vision of what it takes to create impactful programs within schools.



2011 NSTU Professional Associations Conferences



Association of Adult Educators (AAE)

Theme: The World in Our Classrooms . . . When Learners are Our Teachers
Location: NSCC Strait Area Campus, 226 Reeves Street, Port Hawkesbury
Date: October 28
Keynote: Kevin Penny; Coordinator of Disability Services; Post-Secondary Disability Services Division of the Department of Labor and Advanced Education
Fee: \$75
Contact: Patricia Twast
Address: 455 Hwy 19, Newtown, N.S. B9A 1J2
Numbers: (H) 902-625-1174 (W) 902-625-4018
Emails: patwast@nstu.ca / pat.twast@nscc.ca

Association des Enseignants Acadiens (AEA)

Theme: “J’apprends à ma façon. Et toi?”
Locations: École du Carrefour, Dartmouth (Des ateliers seront aussi offerts au Centre Scolaire Étoile de l’Acadie à Sydney et à l’École secondaire de Clare)
Date: October 28
Keynote: Martine Daudelin, auteure du livre “Apprendre à sa façon”
Fee: \$50
Contact: Annick Godin Thériault
Address: 3435, route 206, C.P. 100, Petit-de-Grat, N.-É. B0E 2L0
Numbers: (H) 902-226-9854 (W) 902-226-5241
Emails: gtannick@csap.ednet.ns.ca
agodin-theriault@nstu.ca

Association of Science Teachers (AST)

Theme: Time for Science
Location: Halifax West High School, Halifax
Date: October 28
Contact: Chris West
Address: 27 Green Street, Guysborough N.S. B0H 1N0
Numbers: (W) 902-533-4006 (F) 902-533-3554
Email: cawest@nstu.ca

Art Teachers Association (ATA)

Theme: Come Out to Play
Location: Dartmouth High School, 95 Victoria Road, Dartmouth, NS B3A 1V2; 902-464-2457; <http://www.dhs.ednet.ns.ca/> <http://maps.google.ca/maps?q=95>
Date: October 28
Dramatic Presentation: “The Show - Four Actors in Search of a Nation”
Fee: \$85 (lunch included)
Contacts: Sabine Fels, President - ATA
Mary Beth Osburn, Chair
Addresses: (Sabine - Work) J.L. Ilsley High School, 38 Sylvia Ave., Halifax, N.S. B3R 1J9 (Mary Beth - Work) Madeline Symonds Middle School, 290 White Hills Run, Hammonds Plains, N.S. B4B 1W6
Numbers: Sabine - (W) 902-479-4612 (ext 570-1008) (F) 902-479-4635
Mary Beth - (W) 902-832-2300 (ext 108) (F) 902-832-2302
Emails: sfels@staff.ednet.ns.ca / smfels@nstu.ca
mosburn@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Association of Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC)

Theme: Brainstorming Education
Location: Empire Theatres, Dartmouth Crossing
Date: October 28
Keynotes: Mary Bigler- *Reading for the Love of It*; Dr. Leonard Sax- *Why Gender Matters*; Tom Hierk- *Pyramid of Behaviour Interventions*; Erin Walsh- *Internet Safety to Digital Citizenship*; Stan Kutcher- *Teen Mental Health*
Fee: \$100
Contact: Cathy Cotton
Address: 59 Colin Drive, Little Judique, N.S. B0E 1P0
Number: (H) 902-787-2356
Email: Cathy.cotton@srsb.ca

Association of Teachers of English of Nova Scotia (ATENS)

Theme: Engaging the Future
Location: Ramada Plaza Park Place Hotel, Dartmouth
Date: October 28
Keynotes: Juanita and Des Peters

Fee: \$95 (includes membership)
Contact: Krystle-Rae Peckford
Address: ATENS, 21 Mic Mac Blvd., P.O. Box 24091, Dartmouth, N.S. B3A 4K0
Email: krpeckford@nstu.ca

Association of Teachers of Young Adolescents (ATYA)

Theme: Change. LOL Leading Our Learners
Location: Riverside Education Centre, Milford
Date: October 28
Keynote: Michael Ungar
Fee: \$80
Contact: Anne Henderson
Address: P.O. Box 1005, Westville, N.S. B0K 2A0
Numbers: (H) 902-396-3604 (W) 902-922-3820 (F) 902-922-3828
Email: amhenderson@nstu.ca

Business Education Teachers Association (BETA)

Theme: Business on the Move: Being Green in the 21st Century
Location: Meet at Westin; tours of various businesses around HRM
Date: October 28
Contact: Dan Sider
Number: (W) 902-864-7535 ext7751230
Email: dsider@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Educational Drama Association of Nova Scotia (EDANS)

Theme: Come Out to Play! Get in touch with you inner child and rediscover the joy of play! This conference will feature offerings for elementary drama, drama to enhance course content in other subject areas, dance, and curricular drama at the high school level.
Location: Dartmouth High School, Dartmouth
Dates: October 28 & 29
Keynote: DaPoPo Theatre presents The Show Four Actors in Search of a Nation
Fees: \$85 (one day) / \$110 (two day)
Contact: Melanie Kennedy
Address: 79 Hardisty Court, Dartmouth
Numbers: (H) 902-466-0037 (W) 902-462-6900 /902-462-6950
Email: mkennedy@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Family Studies Teachers Association (FSTA)

Theme: Removing the Stress from Stressful
Location: Sherwood Park Education Centre 500 Terrace Street, Sydney N.S. B1P 6N1
Date: October 28
Special Event: Breakfast Annual General Meeting (Continental Breakfast provided to those who attend. Pre-registration recommended.)
Fees: NSTU members \$85; Substitutes/Retired teachers \$50; Students \$35; Hot Lunch (optional & onsite) \$11
Contact: Denise Forgeron
Address: 1254 Brickyard Road, Mira Gut, N.S. B1K 2V5
Numbers: (H) 902-737-1105 (W) 902-563-7732 (F) 902-562-6834
Emails: dforgeron@staff.ednet.ns.ca
conference registrar: Karen DesRoches
krdesroches@nstu.ca

Mathematics Teachers Association (MTA)

Theme: 21st Century Learning
Location: Cole Harbour District High, Cole Harbour
Date: October 28
Fees: Teachers \$65; Retired teachers \$40; Student teachers \$20
Contacts: Joe MacDonald and Robin Harris
Addresses: Joe – Site 4, Box 2, Comp. 29, R.R.#2, Mahone Bay, NS B0J 2E0; Robin – 33 Spectacle Lake Dr., Dartmouth, NS, B3B 1X7
Numbers: Joe – (W) 902-275-2700 (F) 902-275-2710
Robin – (W) 902-464-2000 ext. 6991 (F) 902-464-2015
Emails: jamacdonald@nstu.ca / rlharris@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Language Teachers Association/ Association des enseignant(e)s de Langues de la Nouvelle Écosse (NSLTA/AELNE)

Theme: Learning With Languages: promoting an inclusive education : Apprendre par les langues: promouvoir une éducation inclusive
Location: Ridgedcliff Middle School, Beechville
Date: October 28
Keynotes: FLS : Michael Salvatori
ESL: Elizabeth Noseworthy

Fee: \$80
Contact: Colin Landry
Address: 43 Argyle Street, Sydney, N.S.
Numbers: (H) 902-567-6843 (W) 902-562-0768 (F) 902-563-4560
Emails: candb.landry@ns.sympatico.ca
clandry@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Music Educators’ Association (NSMEA)

Theme: Celebrating Music Education in Nova Scotia
Location: Antigonish Education Centre, 30 Appleseed Drive, Antigonish, N.S. B2G 3B6
Dates: October 27 & 28
Keynote: Jeffrey Agrell
Fee: \$90
Contact: Tammy Landry
Address: 171 Meadow Green Road, St. Andrews, N.S. B0H 1X0
Numbers: (H) 902-863-6325 (W) 902-867-8800 (C) 902-870-2268
Email: tammylandry@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia School Counsellors Association (NSSCA)

Theme: Sea the View – Gaining Perspective through the Eyes of our Youth
Location: Liverpool Regional High School, Liverpool, October 27th (evening) – “Social with Live Music” at Best Western, Liverpool; October 28th – Conference
Keynote: Terry Kelly (speaker, singer/songwriter, entertainer)
Fee: \$85 (includes NSSCA Membership & Social)
Contacts: Sonja Cook
Address: c/o South Queens Junior High, 178 Waterloo Street, P.O. Box 1288, Liverpool, N.S. B0T 1K0
Numbers: (H) 902-354-7640 (F) 902-354-7650
Email: scook@staff.ednet.ns.ca
OR
Julie Lohnes
c/o Bridgewater Jr./Sr. High School, 100 York Street, Bridgewater, N.S. B4V 1R3
Numbers: (H) 902-541-8263 (F) 902-541-8270
Email: julohnes@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Nova Scotia Teachers Association for Literacy and Learning (NSTALL)

Theme: Guiding Students through Literacy
Location: Northumberland Regional High School, Alma
Date: October 28
Fees: \$85 Teachers; \$65 Substitutes; \$25 Students
Contact: Sonya Purdy
Address: 218 Glen Forest Drive, R.R. #2, Pictou, N.S. B0K 1H0
Number: (H) 902-485-6410
Email: sonyapurdy@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Technology Education Association (NSTEA)

Theme: Learning by Doing! Teachers will engage in activities that can be brought back to the classroom
Location: Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) - Truro
Dates: October 27-28
Keynote: NSAC Technology Teacher Upgrade Program
Fee: \$80
Contact: Joe Bellefontaine - NSTEA President and Conference Chair
Address: 126 Paradise Road, Albert Bridge, NS, B1K 2V1
Numbers: (H) 902-539-9104 (W) 902-564-5621
Email: bellej@staff.ednet.ns.ca

Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA)

Theme: Educating the Whole Child
Location: Auburn Drive High School, Cole Harbour
Date: October 28
Keynote: Sharon Taberski
Fee: \$90 (includes lunch, newsletters, grant opportunities, door prizes, books)
Contact: Brenda Newcombe
Address: 481 Dyke Road, RR#2 Falmouth, N.S.
Numbers: (H) 902-798-8892 (W) 902-757-4121
Email: Brenda.newcombe@avrsb.ca

Psychologists in Schools Association (PISA)

Theme: “Smart But Scattered” — Supporting Students with Executive Function Difficulties
Location: Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax
Date: October 28
Keynote: Dr. Peg Dawson, PhD - author of Smart But Scattered and Executive Skills in Children and Adolescents
Fees: \$110.00* (NSTU); \$80.00* (Student)
*Includes lunch and parking
Contact: Margie Nelson
Address: c/o AVRSB, PO Box 340, Berwick, N.S. B0P 1E0
Numbers: (H) 902-538-5860 (W) 902-670-1729
Email: margie.nelson@avrsb.ca

School Administrators Association (SAA)

Theme: From Candles to Torch: The Power of Many
Locations: Old Orchard Inn (27th) and Northeast Kings Education Centre (28th), Canning
** (subject to change)
Dates: October 27 & 28
Keynotes: (AM) Betty Jean Aucoin
(PM) Bill Carr Acting Up: Overcoming Change Fatigue
Fee: \$120 (Includes membership)
Contacts: Registration Debbie Graves, Pat Murphy, both from Coldbrook and District School Co-Chairs Mike Landry, West Hants Middle School Heather Harris, Kingston and District School
Emails: heather.harris@avrsb.ca
michael.landry@avrsb.ca

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)

Theme: Classroom-based Intervention
Location: St. Mary’s University, Halifax
Date: October 28
Keynote: Michael Towey, S-LP
Fees: \$95 / Students, EA, Substitutes \$40
Contact: Stephanie Brushett
Address: 1382 Hwy. 395, R.R. #1, Whycocomagh, N.S. B0E 3M0
Numbers: (H) 902-756-3180 (HF) 902-756-3013 (W) 902-756-3347
Email: sebrushett@nstu.ca

Social Studies Teachers Association (SSTA)

Theme: “Back to Basics”
Exploring resources and strategies that you can use in your classroom
Location: Lockview High School, Fall River
Date: October 28
Fee: \$90 (all inclusive)
Contact: Ken Langille
Address: 31 Carleton Street, Yarmouth, N.S. B5A 2C5
Numbers: (H) 902-742-8700 (W) 902-749-3300
Email: kenlangille@eastlink.ca

Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education (TAPHE)

Theme: Get Balanced in Bridgewater
Locations: Bridgewater Jr. & Sr. High & Bridgewater Elementary, Bridgewater
Date: October 28
Keynote: Ann Dodge
Fee: \$90
Contacts: Selena Davidson, Conference Chair
Steve Ranni, Conference Registrar
Address: (for Steve) 15 Church Street, Sydney, N.S. B1N 2R3
Numbers: (for Steve) (W) 902-563-4520 (F) 902-563-4523 (C) 902-577-0137
Emails: sdavidson@staff.ednet.ns.ca
shranni@nstu.ca

There will be
**NO ON-SITE
Registration**
at the
Professional Associations
Conferences.

coming events

June is

ALS Month (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis - Lou Gehrig's Disease, www.als.ca); Stroke Awareness Month (www.heartandstroke.ns.ca); Brain Injury Awareness Month (www3.ns.sympatico.ca/bians1); Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness - (www.sbhac.ca)

JUNE 1 TO 30

Recreation Month

If you are planning to host an event in June, become a *June is Recreation Month* supporter. All supporters can get great giveaways including frisbees, boomerangs, posters and bookmarks. Kids age 5 to 12 can take part in the *Live it Everyday!* art contest. All they have to do is draw or sketch a picture about what recreation means to them. A random draw will take place on July 29, 2011. The winner receives a \$150 gift certificate, generously donated by Canadian Tire Jumpstart. For more information on *June is Recreation Month* - please visit www.recreationns.ns.ca/june.

JUNE 1 TO NOV. 27

Hello Sailor exhibit, Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

This is the first museum in North America to explore the lives of gay and lesbian mariners and the unique sub-culture created by gay men working as stewards on British ocean liners in the 1950s and 60s. Visit <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mmanew/en/home/whattoseed/hellosailor.aspx> for more information.

JUNE 19

Discovery Centre Programs

Celebrate Dad this Father's Day at the Discovery Centre with *Dad is Cool!* liquid nitrogen ice cream demonstrations. It's fun for the whole family! Registration is open for Summer Science Camps. The Discovery Centre has the most entertaining, productive and educational way to occupy your children this summer! Book now for our new Science Camps for children 6 to 12: *When I Grow Up*, *Paint With Music* and *Eco-City (2021)*.

Call 902.492-4422 or visit www.thediscoverycentre.ca.

JUNE 21

National Aboriginal Day

On June 21, *National Aboriginal Day* celebrates the rich heritage of the Canadian First Nation peoples. The Glooscap Heritage Centre in Truro (glooscapheritagecentre.com) is hosting an array of events that convey the history of the Mi'kmaq nation in Atlantic Canada beginning with a smudging ceremony at 11:30 a.m. followed by Mi'kmaq drummers, dancers and artisans, who will be on hand to showcase and demonstrate their art forms. At the Musée acadien & Centre de recherche, West Pubnico (www.museeacadien.ca) you can experience Mi'kmaq and Metis traditions with displays of furs, nature walks, music, history and artifacts. *National Aboriginal Day* promotional products may be ordered by visiting the Indian and Northern Affairs website (www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ach/ev/nad/index-eng.asp) or by phoning (toll-free) 1-800-567-9604.

JUNE 30 TO JULY 3

Multicultural Festival

Join more than 20,000 visitors and over 500 performers June 30 - July 3 for the 27th annual multicultural festival. Enjoy world music and dance shows, a delectable assortment of ethnic foods, the always-popular Children's Pavilion, arts, crafts, workshops and cultural displays. The festival takes place in Halifax in an open area near Pier 21 at the Halifax Seaport.

JULY 17 TO 24

Halifax Pride Week

Pride Week celebrates our diverse sexual and gender identities, histories, cultures, creativities, families, friends and lives. The Halifax Pride Committee, a not-for-profit organization of volunteers produces a Pride Week that is: accessible to all; fiscally responsible; rewarding for all who participate, and reflective and celebratory of the best of the LGBTQ community and culture in Halifax and throughout Nova Scotia. The Halifax Pride Parade & Community Fair will take

place on **July 23** and NSTU encourages members to march in this year's parade. To find out more about Halifax Pride Week visit www.halifaxpride.org.

JULY 24

Acadian Day, Grand Pré National Historic Site, Grande Pré

Opening ceremonies at 10:45 a.m. followed by mass celebrated in French (under the big top) by Father Maurice LeBlanc, with the choir of Sacré-Coeur Church of Saulnierville. 1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. - performances by the Cajun group BALFA TOUJOURS. The celebration will also feature food, kiosks activities for children, the construction of a salt hay barge.

SEPTEMBER 25 TO 30

Diversity and Equity Leadership Institute

Integrating Anti-Racism with Emotional Intelligence and Conflict Transformation - Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia.

Neuroscience research reveals that behaviour is dictated by how we feel. Developing greater emotional intelligence - self-awareness, empathy and relationship-building - is recognized as foundational for leaders, especially regarding diversity issues. This cutting-edge, experiential program explores the unconscious mind and bias management, anti-racism strategies, conflict resolution and emotional intelligence, providing a deeply holistic approach to equity. Cost: \$785 (\$545 tuition + \$240 meals/accommodation) Info@AnimaLeadership.com or 416-644-1024.



Offering over sixty leadership and educational programs each year.

Courage to Lead®: Professional Development Program November 10-12, 2011

Based on Parker Palmer's "Courage to Teach" and "Courage to Lead". Reconnect who you are with what you do! Approach your life and profession with renewed passion, commitment and integrity.

Cost: \$395 (\$235 tuition + \$160 meals/accommodation)

www.tatacentre.ca

1.800.218.2220



Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development

Mount Saint Vincent University
May 23 - 25, 2012

NSEL along with the Department of Education, NSTU and school boards around the province are organizing a Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development at Mount Saint Vincent University May 23 to 25, 2012.

Internationally known speakers, Dr. Sally Reis, Dr. Rachel McAnallen, and Dr. Rebecca Eckert are already confirmed for this Summit.

Dr. Reis is a professor in educational psychology at the University of Connecticut and has gained international recognition as one of the top five experts in the field of gifted and talented education.

Dr. McAnallen or "Ms. Math" shares the joy and beauty of mathematics with learners of all ages. A professional educator for 45 years, she travels the globe teaching her subject at every grade level.

Dr. Eckert is a clinical professor in the Neag School of Education at UConn. She was the Gifted Resource Specialist for the National Association for Gifted Children, and co-edited the book *Designing Services and Programs for High-Ability Learners*.

The Summit's steering committee encourages teachers to put their request for this conference through their Article 60 committee as soon as possible.

More information will be available on the NSEL website at www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca



Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance Program

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees launched a Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance Program for active and retired members in February of 2011. Over the past couple of months there has been some very positive feedback regarding the introduction of this coverage. However, the “pre-existing conditions” clause has caused some confusion with members.

This clause states that *“no benefit is payable for an illness or pre-existing condition for which the participant has received care, treatment or services, consulted a physician or taken medication that was prescribed to him/her, in the 24 month prior to the effective date of coverage, unless the illness in question was diagnosed at least 24 months after the effective date of the insurance of the participant, subject to other applicable provisions of this policy”*.

In an attempt to simplify the intent of this clause, an example may help. Assume you have been diagnosed with a heart condition and have been treated by a physician for the past 24 months prior to your effective date of coverage. If you suffered a heart attack within the first 24 months of coverage, a claim would not be payable. However, if you were diagnosed with a heart attack 25 months after your effective date of coverage, then a claim would be payable.

Additionally, some members have made the assumption that if you have one pre-existing condition that they would not be eligible to be insured for any of the other critical illnesses listed. It should be noted that a pre-existing condition for one illness does not exclude you, your spouse and/or dependent children from any other unrelated illnesses. **Of course, at the time of claim, the underwriter will adjudicate the claim based on the terms of the contract before a payment is made.**

One other question that has been asked is the tax status of a Critical Illness payment and what the money can be used for. Critical Illness insurance provides a lump sum payment based on the amount of insurance you have selected. The lump sum is paid tax free and can be used any way that you wish. This may include travel and accommodation for medical treatment, home renovations, paying bills, a family holiday, medical costs for medical treatment outside of Canada, the cost to obtain a second opinion or something else that is important to you.

Plan Highlights include:

- 29 covered illnesses
- Spousal and dependent coverage available
- Coverage amounts to \$300,000 in units of \$10,000
- \$50,000 guarantee issue amount available for members and spouses (this means you can have up to \$50,000 of coverage without the requirement of submitting medical evidence)
- Coverage to age 75

We hope that the information above helps clarify the “pre-existing conditions” clause and other questions that have been raised by members and encourage you to read or re-read the information that was sent to you in February.

If you have any questions, please call Johnson Inc. at 902-453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).



Nova Scotia Orff recently presented their 2nd Annual Children's Day Workshop at Westmount School with over 20 music teachers and 50 elementary students in attendance. Several teachers led student sessions in Basic Orff, Choral, Recorder, and Movement. A mini concert was presented at the end of the day for parents and friends. Here we see music teacher Allison Roe-Smith of the Halifax Regional School Board working with students playing recorder.

Exclusively for Active and Retired NSTU Members

What would you do with \$1,000?



Would you finish off some home renovations?
Buy yourself that new TV? Plan a little getaway?

Simply request a home or auto insurance quote between March 1st and December 1st and you could WIN 1 of 5 \$1,000 Gift Cards for a retail store of your choice.

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www.johnson.ca/nstu



Johnson Inc. Insurance
Proud to be One of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2011.

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Contest runs from March 1st to December 1st, 2011. No purchase necessary. Existing policyholders are automatically entered in the contest. The contest is open to active and retired NSTU Members. One (1) \$1000 gift card will be awarded to each winner. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Certain conditions may apply. Visit www.johnson.ca/nstu for full contest details. LRP:01.11



After Hours Telephone Intake, Crisis Counselling and Referral Service

4:30 PM AST to 8:30 AM AST
After Hours, 24 Hour Service During Weekends and Holidays

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

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



Graduate Programs in Education

Looking for a Masters-level Education program that will increase knowledge in teaching children with sensory challenges, and that can lead to positions including an itinerant teacher or consultant? The Mount offers Graduate Programs in Educational Psychology with concentrations in:

Education of Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Education of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired

New cohorts beginning in April 2012 - Deadline: December 15, 2011

msvu.ca/education

902.457.6341

resources

Last Chance !! 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.

Share.EDnet (<http://Share.EDnet.ns.ca> [English] <http://Ensemble.Ednet.ns.ca> [French]) Launched February 6, 2011, Share.EDnet is positioned as the key resource-sharing arm of the Nova Scotia Virtual School. It hosts 21st Century learning resources and professional materials designed and created by the Nova Scotia education community and mapped to Nova Scotia learning outcomes. Join us!

Talespinners. Series 1 (2-disc set) (56 min.) Social Studies P-2; Multiculturalism This series of short films, each based on an acclaimed cross-cultural children's story, explores a range of multicultural themes - identity, diversity, belonging, traditions and ceremonies, learning to fit in, the value of principles and convictions.

Glasses (23 min.) *Social Studies P-3*

This animated program explores how difficult it can be when you don't see things the same way everyone else does.

Circles (58 min.) Mi'kmaq Studies 10; Canadian History 11; Law 12; Sociology 12 This program is about justice and community healing, hope and transformation. Circles is an innovative program used in the Yukon, brings together a traditional form of aboriginal justice, circle sentencing, and the Canadian justice system. Sentencing circles bring together the perpetrator of a crime, victims, peers, and family in an effort to bring healing to the community. The program explains the foundations of circle sentencing as a restorative justice measure that is intended to unravel the dysfunctional relationships that have led to a life of crime. The program explores the healing elements found in sentencing circles.

El Contrato (51 min.) Social Studies 7; Law 12; Sociology 12; Human Rights This film looks at migrant workers from Mexico as they make their annual journey to pick tomatoes in Ontario. The labourers talk about farm work in Ontario and, despite a fear of repercussions, they voice their desire for dignity, respect and better working conditions.

Law and Disorder (16 min.) Law 12; Sociology 12

With different styles and techniques, this compilation of five animated films uses humour to explore complex subjects, such as citizen's freedoms, rights and responsibilities, as well as consumer protection, advertising standards, prejudice and racism.

If the Weather Permits (28 min.) Sociology 12; Global Geography 12; Canadian History 12; Inuit Culture

Elisapie Isaac, a young filmmaker born in Nunavik, decides to return to her roots on this breathtaking land and as the fundamental question: Can Inuit culture survive in the modern world? To bridge the gap between the young and old, she lets Naalak, an elder, and Danny, a young policeman from Kangirsujuaq, tell us what they think.

O Canada (3 min.) Canadian Geography; National Identity

This video comes alive as the use of contemporary and archival footage combines with a stunning rendition of the national anthem performed by a 57-piece orchestra. Appropriate for all grade levels.

Suzuki Speaks (45 min.) Sociology 12; Economics 12; Global Geography 12; Environmentalism

Suzuki Speaks captures the passion and vision of world-renowned scientist and environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki, who delivers the most important message of his career: humans and our place in the universe.

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



Nova Scotia Orff recently presented their 2nd Annual Children's Day Workshop at Westmount School with over 20 music teachers and 50 elementary students in attendance. Several teachers led student sessions in Basic Orff, Choral, Recorder, and Movement. A mini concert was presented at the end of the day for parents and friends. Here we see music teacher Marlene Nolet of the Halifax Regional School Board working with the choir.



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



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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 theteacher@nstu.ca.**

JOB-SHARE - Experience HRSB elementary substitute looking for a job share for 2011-2012. Any percentage. I have experience in teaching P-6 classrooms, physical education, and many different types of learning disabilities. Please email alandry@nstu.ca.

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

JOB-SHARE - I would like to share a teaching position (20% or less) starting in Sept. 2011 or later. I have 28 years experience teaching in French Immersion (P-6) and am looking for a school within reasonable distance from Fall River (exit 5 Hwy 102). Veuillez me contacter a losierdt@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

JOB-SHARE - Elementary Teacher looking to job share in HRSB. Any percentage. c.mckeough@gmail.com or 902-293-4695.

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

JOB-SHARE -Mature teacher with several years experience seeks elementary position at any

percentage for 2011-2012 in the area of downtown Halifax. Phone Margot 902-471-8301.

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

JOB-SHARE - Experienced sub looking for elementary share teaching position. Term experience in resource, learning centre and upper elementary. To see full resume, mlstaple@ns.sympatico.ca.

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

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. It interested, please contact me at burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Permanent elementary teacher in SRSB looking to exchange positions with a teacher from CBVRSB. Please contact mkeller@eastlink.ca.

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

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

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

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, 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.

FOR RENT - Bachelor apt available for summer and/or fall. Furnished, eight-minute walk to bus terminal to downtown Halifax, \$640. per month, all inclusive. anorton@ns.sympatico.ca / 902-423-5663.

FOR RENT - Small 2 bedroom apt available for summer and/or fall. Furnished, eight-minute walk to bus terminal to downtown Halifax, \$750. for 1 and \$850. for 2 persons. All inclusive. anorton@ns.sympatico.ca / 902-423-5663.

FOR RENT - Stanley Bridge Rental - 2 bedroom Apartment in PEI. Overlooks the Stanley River. Minutes to Cavendish Beach, shopping, restaurants, golf courses, etc. \$600 weekly or \$1500 monthly. Contact Elva at 902-886-2194 or aws.eks@pei.sympatico.ca.

FOR RENT - Private Cottage on PEI - near Cavendish, for weekly rental. Wheelchair accessible. No smoking, no pets please. Contact joansinclair@pei.sympatico.ca for photos, rates.

BEACH RENTAL - Newly renovated 3-bedroom beach front cottage on warm Northumberland Strait, NS. Weekly/Monthly rentals available. \$825 weekly. Panoramic views of PEI, Pictou and Big Island Contact Joanie 902-758-1414 or woodjm@ccrsb.ca The stunning sunsets are waiting for you.

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

SUMMER FRENCH READING PROGRAM - Certified French Teachers read **one-on-one** online with P-5 students - letter-sound relationships, word recognition skills and reading comprehension strategies with plenty of opportunities to apply and practice these skills. www.teachercertifiedtutoring.com.

BUYING A NEW CAR? Contact us before you do anything else! www.buninsautoassist.com, abunin@eastlink.ca, or 902-792-1777. ***NSTU members are offered a 10% discount on all services.**

TEACHER EUROPEAN TRIP—JULY 2012 - Teachers, relatives and friends are invited to join an AMAZING trip of a lifetime! In July 2012, travel to London, Paris, Switzerland, Italy, Greece (with Island cruise) Turkey. For more information please email Sarah/Wally Fiander (TCRSB teachers) at sffiander@nstu.ca. See www.eftours.ca/eLiterature/DBD/12/EUS.pdf for itinerary.

TRAVEL SERVICES FOR TEACHERS - We help you create incredible memories & experiences through Independent Travel, Escorted Tours, Group Trips, Educational/Eco-Touring or Sun Vacations & Cruising. Get the best value & personal service! "Go with those who know!" Karen Giffen-Balcom & Don Balcom - Travel Professionals International. Email dbalcom@tpi.ca; call 902-825-3286 or visit www.dbalcomtravel.ca.

AVAILABLE - "The Bully And The Purple Pants - A Dynamic School Assembly" Award-Winning songs are combined with motivational speaking to provide students with effective strategies for dealing with bullies. Hundreds of schools across Canada have experienced this fabulous presentation! For bookings call 519-655-2379 or visit www.paulbehne.on.ca for complete details.

AVAILABLE - For Professional Development sessions on HUMOUR and/or ART go to www.SusanCarterComic.com for more information.

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, abunin@eastlink.ca, or 902-792-1777. ***NSTU members are offered a 10% discount on all services.**

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY AT 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.

Attention NSTU Reps: The Teacher distribution information required

The print run of *The Teacher* was reduced a number of years ago, and your site has been receiving a copy of *The Teacher* for every other member unless otherwise specified.

Please complete the form below, fax to 902-477-3517, mail to NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, B3L 4L7, email the info to theteacher@nstu.ca or better yet, visit the website at www.nstu.ca and complete the online form.

The number of copies of *The Teacher* you require will be used for distribution purposes for the 2011-2012 school year.

Please let us know by June 30, 2011. If we do not receive the information by then, we will assume that your site requires the current amount being distributed.

For further information, contact circulation coordinator Sonia Matheson at smatheson@staff.nstu.ca or theteacher@nstu.ca

Note: Continuing in the fall of 2011 *The Teacher* will be published **eight (8)** times a year, instead of 10. The **November/December** and **January/February** issues are combined.

Name of NSTU Rep: _____

Name of School/Campus: _____

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IMPORTANT NOTICE RE: ONLINE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

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.