



Teachers vote in favour of tentative agreement

Nova Scotia's 10,000 public school teachers have endorsed a tentative agreement reached between the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the provincial government on September 23. Seventy-eight per cent of teachers voted 63.3 per cent in favour of the tentative deal in a province-wide online vote held Thursday, October 6 and Friday, October 7.

The negotiating team presented the settlement to Provincial Executive and Provincial Executive recommended it to teachers, feeling it was the best possible deal to be achieved at this time.

"This is not a ringing endorsement of the contract," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "Teachers were very outspoken on the issue of workload and clearly do not feel that it was adequately addressed in this agreement. Teachers spend too much time on non-teaching activities."

The contract will see teachers receiving a one per cent salary increase in each of the two years of the agreement. The contract will expire on July 31, 2012.

Allen also says that many teachers expressed concerns about the salary increase, feeling that the small increase did not reflect current inflationary rates.

Highlights of this agreement in-

clude:

Letter of understanding from the DOE to agree to the formation of a joint committee to review relevance and redundancy of assessment, necessity of Accreditation, implementation of DOE and Board initiatives, implementation of technology, and examination of the necessity of administrative tasks and data collection.

Letter of commitment from the Department of Education (DOE) to work with school boards and the NSTU to eliminate duplication of student assessments.

Article 62 - Clarification of Article 62, which has narrowed the types of meetings teachers are required to attend outside of the instructional day.

Article 43 - Salary increase of one per cent per contract year (same as other public sector employees) retroactive to August 1, 2010.

Article 32 - Substitute rate of pay is now a formula rather than a flat rate; when teachers get an increase, substitutes will now automatically get an increase.

Article 33 - New category of term teacher to replace a teacher on unpaid leave following an absence of a minimum of two school years (previously categorized as a substitute teacher).



Assistant Executive Director Bruce Kelloway explains the details of the agreement during a meeting at the NSTU building.

Article 27 - More flexibility for adoptive parents taking leave in the first year after a child comes into their care (now in line with biological parents).

Article 59 - Marking and preparation time will now be scheduled in blocks of no less than 15 minutes.

The previous teachers' contract expired

on July 31, 2010. There were 10 bargaining sessions held since September 21, 2010. The NSTU anticipates that the new agreement will be officially signed in early November 2011.

The NSTU is also negotiating a new contract for Community College faculty and professional support members.

Poll Results by Local for Teachers' Provincial Agreement Ratification Vote

Local	Region	Accept	Reject	Total	Eligible Voters	% of Voter Turnout
Annapolis	Valley	102	17	119	180	66.11%
Antigonish	Strait	109	35	144	214	67.29%
Cape Breton	CB-Victoria	272	378	650	809	80.35%
Colchester-East Hants	Chignecto	483	132	615	794	77.46%
CSANE	CSANE	226	103	329	404	81.44%
Cumberland	Chignecto	153	84	237	324	73.15%
Dartmouth	Halifax	225	255	480	662	72.51%
Digby	Tri-County	103	14	117	125	93.60%
Guysborough	Strait	68	12	80	96	83.33%
Halifax City	Halifax	300	407	707	983	71.92%
Halifax County	Halifax	901	799	1700	2092	81.26%
Hants West	Valley	138	19	157	188	83.51%
Inverness	Strait	116	40	156	192	81.25%
Kings	Valley	341	162	503	632	79.59%
Lunenburg County	South Shore	311	32	343	460	74.57%
Northside-Victoria	CB-Victoria	176	89	265	311	85.21%
Pictou	Chignecto	286	55	341	466	73.18%
Queens	South Shore	70	31	101	119	84.87%
Richmond	Strait	41	35	76	84	90.48%
Shelburne	Tri-County	119	12	131	146	89.73%
Yarmouth	Tri-County	167	19	186	264	70.45%



Community College Bargaining Committee

Members of the Community College Bargaining Committee take a break after opening the Asking Package with the provincial government.

Standing, left to right are: Assistant Executive Director Bruce Kelloway, Fern MacLennan, Executive Staff Officer Danny Eddy, Executive Director Bill Redden and Joe Salah. Seated, left to right are: Ann Windsor-Hall, Louis Robitaille, NSTU president Alexis Allen, Damian Hall and Seana Blanchard.

executive highlights

September 23, 2011

- The Tentative Agreement on the Provincial Contract was reviewed with a recommendation to the membership to accept;
- Ratification vote to be held Thursday, October 6, 2011;
- Authorize the President to appoint the Provincial Returning Officer;
- Filed the Table Officers Report;
- Selected six candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program, along with two alternates;
- Appointed a candidate to the Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc. Board of Directors;
- Agreed to forward the names of candidates to CTF for possible selection on CTF Committees;
- Selected three members to serve on the Community College Negotiating Team;
- Approved the asking packages for the Faculty Collective Agreement and the Professional Support Collective Agreement;
- Filed the Annual Reports from NSTU Standing Committees; to be posted to the Members' Only website;
- Approved the Inverary Inn to be the site of the July 2012 Executive Planning Conference.

people

Canadian Parents for French Award

Importance of Education



NSTU President Alexis Allen has a quiet moment with the Honourable Mayann E. Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, following the presentation of the *Ready to Write! Prêt à écrire!* award August 24. They spoke at length about the importance of a strong public education system.



Photo: Shawn Jeffrey

NSTU President Alexis Allen was among the guests at The Lieutenant Governor's Award, *Ready to Write! Prêt à écrire!* on August 24. The award is presented in partnership with Canadian Parents for French and celebrates the ability of young Nova Scotians to communicate in both official languages. This year's winner, pictured centre, is Taylor Samson and she comes from a family of NSTU members. Pictured left to right are: Stéphane Colin, President, Canadian Parents for French; Taylor's cousin, Robert Goyetche, retired Port Hawksbury French immersion teacher; Lisa MacNamara, Taylor's French teacher; Taylor; mother, Marcia Samson, Grade 1 Immersion teacher at East Richmond Education Centre; Taylor's uncle, Ron Martell who teaches French at Sackville High; and Alexis Allen.



Long Service Awards at NSTU

Five NSTU staff members were recognized September 23 for their years of service. Erin Keefe has spent 10 years at the union working in just about every department. She now provides support for the Early Intervention Program. Executive Director Bill Redden received a 20-year pin for his service. Executive Staff Officer Allan MacLean, Researcher and Communications Assistant Maggie McFarlane and Custodian Robert Laushaway all received five-year pins.



CONTACT 2011



The NSTU had strong representation at the 2011 Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching (CONTACT). It is a regional conference organized by the NSTU, the New Brunswick Teachers' Association, the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association. The conference provides teachers with the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with their colleagues from the Atlantic region. The 2011 CONTACT was held in Saint John, New Brunswick and 2012 will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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The teacher

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NSTU SUPPORTS LABOUR DAY

More than a dozen NSTU members walked in the Halifax Labour Day parade. Pictured left to right are: Danielle Theriault; Provincial Executive member Paul Betuik; Deb Mitchell; APSEA co-president Jim Parsons; Mike Stewart, Lunenburg County Local president; Provincial Executive member Bill Bruhm; Cindy Bruhm; Sandy Mitchell; NSTU president Alexis Allen; NSTU first vice-president Eric Boutilier; Frances Abbass; Alex Oickle and Provincial Executive member Gerry Alley.

EDUCATION WEEK April 15-21, 2012

Members of the NSTU showed support for the Strait Area District Labour Council on Labour Day, September 5. Shown left to right are: Provincial Executive members Damian Hall and Marlene Boyd; Wilfridine Crowdis from the Labour Council; Provincial Executive member Tammy Landry and Ann Windsor-Hall.



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- 3 We will be supporting the Food Drive for Feed Nova Scotia from October 10, 2011 to October 21, 2011. Feel free to drop off a donation.
- 4 Fall Skip-a-Payment, is running for the months of November and December. Watch your mailbox.
- 5 Direct Play and Win will begin October 31, 2011 to November 25, 2011. Check our web site for more details.
- 6 We will be presenting our Pre-Retirement seminar over the coming months.
- 7 Planning on upgrading your Teaching License this fall? Contact our office for information on our Master's Plus Incentive Program.
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THANK YOU!

To: NSTU Colchester-East Hants Local

Thank you for inviting us to speak to your group about budgeting and retirement at the Pictou Lodge.

If your local would like our presentation on Budgeting & Pre-Retirement we would be happy to accommodate.

Contact our office.

The office will be closed Friday, November 11th for Remembrance Day



Alex from the nstu president

The steps to the new provincial agreement

Dear colleague,

We have a new provincial agreement. Seventy eight per cent of our members turned out to vote. Of those that voted, 63.3 per cent approved the agreement. This acceptance allows us to move on with the important work we do in the classroom each day. And it sets the stage for the next round of negotiations which your union will now begin to focus on.

Your asking package is developed by the Provincial Economic Welfare Committee, which examines submissions from individual members, Locals, Professional Associations, Provincial Executive, educational site staffs, Standing Committees of the NSTU, ad hoc committees of the NSTU, Regional Economic Welfare Committees, and Regional Representative Councils. In the development of the salary component of the asking package, it was felt that refraining from submitting a concrete figure would provide the negotiating team with the best opportunity and the most flexibility to present its arguments for salary increase. One per cent in each of two years was all that was offered and the government would not budge from this position.

The Provincial Executive chooses the negotiating team and agrees to the asking package. You may remember that when the union finalizes an asking package, we present it to you, our members. Everyone receives a copy.

The negotiation process is strategic. We make a list of the things we want. The government makes a list of things it wants. It goes back and forth, often several times. Trust and respect is essential between these two sides, as is confidentiality.

Did we want more? Yes. Do teachers deserve more? Absolutely. We knew, however, that you wanted us to reach an equitable agreement, and that other issues needed to be brought to the table. Many of these other issues revolve around workload.

I get emails weekly from teachers telling me about workload and meetings, and how it is getting harder and harder to balance it all. In fact, a few pages ahead in *The Teacher* you will read an excellent letter from an experienced teacher who lays out the many and varied tasks she must complete every single day, AFTER she finishes the work of teaching.

We have commitments from the Department of Education by way of Letter of Understanding and a Letter of Commitment to form a joint committee to review the relevance and redundancy of assessment, the necessity of Accreditation, the implementation of DOE and Board initiatives and the implementation of technology, and to reexamine the necessity of non-teaching tasks such as data collection.

For those reasons, the negotiating team advised that the Provincial Executive recommend acceptance of this deal. They didn't do it quickly, or without passionate debate. Ultimately, our leaders felt that this was the best possible deal that could be achieved at this time.

From the time the first asking package was put together until the tentative agreement was sent out to you, a year had gone by. The union sent out 14 negotiation bulletins, keeping you informed of the various stages of the negotiation process.

Our staff members held regional meetings all over the province. A copy of the tentative agreement was given to each of our members. Our membership is comprised of educated, professional individuals who are able to make informed decisions for themselves after attending information sessions and reading the tentative agreement. Ultimately it is up to you.

We hold regional meetings regarding the tentative agreement in facilities large enough to accommodate all of our members. If you did not attend one of these regional meetings, I encourage you to attend in the future. It is always better to receive information firsthand.

Our guidelines state that there is a media blackout during negotiations and until the **vote is held**. Questions have been asked about **why** the union did not respond to the questions from the media **prior** to the vote. It is the **union's policy not to discuss** negotiations, the tentative agreement, **or any other aspect of negotiations** before or during the vote.

If the tentative agreement had been rejected by the membership, the dispute resolution options available to the NSTU pursuant to the *Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act* are limited. Teachers would expect that with a vote to reject the tentative agreement the Provincial Executive would request that the membership vote to give the NSTU a strike mandate. The procedures and time lines for a possible strike are set out in the *Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act*.

We have settled for a two-year agreement, which will enable us to revisit our salary and working conditions very soon. In fact, we will be preparing another package for your consideration this school year. Soon we will be calling for submissions from members like you who want a voice at the table for the next round of these essential talks. We want your participation and input.

Once again, just as in the asking package for this agreement, we will base our next package upon the issues identified by resolutions passed at Annual Council and by submissions. The Provincial Economic Welfare Committee will draw upon these to develop our 2012 package.

At this time I want to thank the members, the Provincial Economic Welfare Committee, the negotiating team, Provincial Executive, Local Presidents, school reps and NSTU staff members. All of these groups and individuals play a vital role in the process leading up to the provincial vote – from putting the asking package together, to negotiating, to setting up regional meetings, to disseminating information, and, on voting day, to sitting down in front of a computer and voting!

This is your union and this is your contract. I encourage you to continue taking an interest in the negotiation process and becoming an active participant in your union. Thank You.

Les étapes qui ont mené à la nouvelle convention provinciale

Cher collègue,

Nous avons une nouvelle convention provinciale. Soixante-dix-huit pour cent de nos membres ont participé au vote. Parmi ceux qui ont voté, 63,3 % ont approuvé l'accord. Cette approbation nous permet d'aller de l'avant en vue de réaliser le travail important qui nous occupe chaque jour dans nos classes. Et cela prépare le terrain pour la prochaine série de négociations que votre syndicat va maintenant commencer à envisager.

Votre cahier de revendications est élaboré par le Comité provincial du bien-être économique, qui étudie les soumissions faites par les membres, les sections locales, les associations professionnelles, le Comité exécutif provincial, le personnel des établissements d'enseignement, les comités permanents et les comités spéciaux du NSTU, les comités régionaux du bien-être économique et les conseils des représentants régionaux. Lors de l'élaboration de la composante salariale du cahier de revendications, nous avons eu le sentiment qu'il était préférable de ne pas proposer de chiffres précis afin de donner à l'équipe de négociations la meilleure chance et la plus grande flexibilité pour présenter ses arguments en faveur d'une augmentation des salaires. Un pour cent pour chacune des deux années est tout ce qui nous a été offert et le gouvernement est resté fermement sur cette position.

Le Comité exécutif provincial choisit l'équipe de négociations et accepte le cahier de revendications. Vous vous souvenez probablement que lorsque le syndicat met la dernière main au cahier de revendications, nous le montrons à tous nos membres. Chacun en reçoit une copie.

Les négociations sont un processus stratégique. Nous faisons une liste de ce que nous voulons. Le gouvernement établit une liste de ce qu'il veut. Ces listes vont de l'un à l'autre, souvent plusieurs fois. La confiance et le respect entre les deux parties sont essentiels, tout comme la confidentialité.

Est-ce que nous voulions davantage? Oui. Est-ce que les enseignants méritent davantage? Absolument. Nous savions toutefois que vous vouliez que l'accord conclu soit équitable et que les autres questions devaient également faire l'objet de négociations. La plupart de ces autres questions portent sur la charge de travail.

Je reçois chaque semaine des courriels d'enseignants qui me parlent de la charge de travail, des réunions et de la difficulté de plus en plus grande de trouver un juste équilibre entre tout cela. D'ailleurs, dans les premières pages de *The Teacher*, vous pourrez lire une excellente lettre écrite par une enseignante expérimentée qui décrit les tâches nombreuses et diverses qu'elle doit accomplir chaque jour, APRÈS avoir terminé son travail d'enseignement.

Le ministère de l'Éducation s'est engagé par le biais d'une lettre d'entente et d'une lettre d'engagement à établir un comité conjoint pour examiner la pertinence et la redondance des évaluations, la nécessité de l'accréditation, la mise en œuvre des initiatives du ministère de l'Éducation et des conseils scolaires et l'implémentation de la technologie et pour réexaminer la nécessité des tâches non liées à l'enseignement comme la collection des données.

Pour ces raisons, l'équipe de négociations a conseillé au Comité exécutif provincial de recommander que cette offre soit acceptée. Les membres du comité n'ont pas agi précipitamment et les débats ont été passionnés. En fin de compte, nos dirigeants ont eu le sentiment qu'il s'agissait de la meilleure offre que nous puissions obtenir pour le moment.

Entre le moment où le premier cahier de revendications a été établi et le moment où l'accord préliminaire vous a été envoyé, une année s'est écoulée. Le syndicat a envoyé 14 bulletins relatifs aux négociations, pour vous tenir au courant des différentes étapes du processus de négociation.

Nos cadres de direction ont tenu des réunions régionales partout dans la province. Une copie de l'accord préliminaire a été distribuée à chacun de nos membres. Nos membres sont composés d'individus professionnels et instruits qui sont capables de prendre leurs propres décisions en toute connaissance de cause après avoir assisté aux sessions d'information et avoir lu l'accord préliminaire. En fin de compte, c'est vous qui décidez.

Nous avons tenu les réunions régionales concernant l'accord préliminaire dans des salles suffisamment spacieuses pour réunir tous nos membres. Si vous n'avez pas assisté à l'une de ces réunions régionales, je vous encourage à le faire à l'avenir. Il est toujours préférable de recevoir l'information de première main.

Nos directives stipulent qu'un embargo médiatique doit être respecté durant les négociations et jusqu'à **la tenue du vote**. On nous a demandé **pourquoi** le syndicat n'avait pas répondu aux questions des médias **avant** le vote. **La politique du syndicat est de ne pas discuter** des négociations, de l'accord préliminaire **ou de tout autre aspect des négociations** avant et pendant le vote.

Si l'accord préliminaire avait été rejeté par les membres, les options de résolution de conflit dont aurait disposé NSTU en vertu de la *Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act* (loi sur les négociations collectives des enseignants) auraient été limitées. Dans le cas d'un vote rejetant l'accord préliminaire, les enseignants se seraient attendus à ce que le Comité exécutif provincial demande aux membres de voter pour donner au NSTU un mandat de grève. Les procédures et les échéances pour une grève éventuelle sont stipulées dans la *Teachers' Collective Bargaining Act* (loi sur les négociations collectives des enseignants).

Nous avons accepté une entente pour deux ans, ce qui nous permettra de revoir nos salaires et nos conditions de travail très bientôt. D'ailleurs, nous allons préparer un nouveau cahier de revendications à vous soumettre au cours de la présente année scolaire. Nous allons bientôt solliciter des soumissions de membres comme vous qui veulent faire entendre leur voix lors de la prochaine série de ces négociations essentielles. Nous avons besoin de votre participation et de vos suggestions.

Une fois encore, tout comme pour le cahier de revendications utilisé aux fins de la présente entente, nous allons baser notre prochain cahier de revendications sur les questions cernées dans les résolutions adoptées à l'assemblée générale annuelle et dans les soumissions. Le Comité provincial du bien-être économique s'appuiera sur cela pour mettre au point notre cahier de revendications 2012.

Dans la mesure où il s'agit d'un cycle continu, je voudrais prendre le temps de remercier les membres, le Comité provincial du bien-être économique, l'équipe de négociations, le Comité exécutif provincial, les présidents de section locale, les représentants d'école et les cadres de direction du NSTU. Tous ces groupes et tous ces individus jouent un rôle crucial dans le processus menant au vote provincial – à partir de l'élaboration du cahier de revendications, en passant par les négociations, l'organisation des réunions régionales et la diffusion de l'information, jusqu'au jour du vote où ils s'assoient devant un ordinateur pour voter.

C'est votre syndicat et c'est votre convention. Je vous encourage à continuer à vous intéresser au processus de négociation et à participer activement au sein de votre syndicat. Merci.

Anti-bullying Day in Nova Scotia



Students from Bible Hill Junior High formed the word “PINK” to mark the day.

Since 2007, when it was proclaimed by Nova Scotia’s Province House, the second Thursday of each school year is known as Stand Up Against Bullying Day—or affectionately as “Pink Day” by many.

On September 8, for the fourth year, students, teachers and Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) leaders marked the day by donning pink shirts and participating in anti-bullying celebrations. NSTU president Alexis Allen joined students and teachers at the birthplace of Stand Up Against Bullying Day—Central Kings Rural High School—to march in an anti-bullying inspired parade.

“Teachers, students, parents and community members all need to get involved in preventing and addressing bullying. It is a huge issue and we’re seeing it more and more in terms of cyberbullying,” Allen says. “Fortunately, there seems to be a heightened public awareness of this issue. We’re pleased to see the government formally addressing bullying through the Cyberbullying Task Force and are looking forward to its findings.”



Pictured above: Robyne MacKenzie, teacher (sunglasses in front row), Jo-Leigh MacPhee, teacher (centre back row) and students from Central Kings Rural High with NSTU president Alexis Allen and Kings Local president Shelley Morse (far right back row).

Stand Up Against Bullying Day was a result of a campaign by two Grade 12 students – David Shepherd and Travis Price – at Central Kings Rural High School in Cambridge, N.S. in 2007. A Grade 9 student at the school had been bullied, harassed and threatened for wearing pink. When Shepherd and Price heard about the incident they immediately took action, heading to a local thrift store and buying 50 pink shirts to hand out to fellow students to wear to school the next day. Students showed up wearing the 50 pink shirts, and many hundreds more wore their own pink clothes in support of the “sea of pink” campaign started by the young activists. The boys’ campaign received attention and media coverage from all over North America, even getting a mention on the popular Ellen DeGeneres show. As their idea spread, countless schools, organizations, businesses, and even government offices began to take part in the “sea of pink.” A few weeks later on September 25, 2007, then Premier Rodney MacDonald proclaimed Stand Up Against Bullying Day in Province House, with both Shepherd and Price signing the proclamation.

Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU professional development officer and member of the Cyberbullying Task Force, reminds NSTU members that the “NSTU provides workshops on appropriate online behaviour and cyberbullying.” One workshop specifically addresses appropriate online conduct for educators, while the other deals with educating members on how to teach their students proper cyberconduct and protecting personal information online. Visit the NSTU website (www.nstu.ca) or contact NSTU Central Office (902-477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788) for further information.



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Students and staff at Whycocomagh Education Centre formed a huge human peace sign, wore pink and made the Anti-Bullying pledge.



Kings Pink Day: (l-r): Jo-Leigh MacPhee (teacher), NSTU president Alexis Allen, Kings Local president Shelley Morse, Parker Eye (teacher), and Central Kings Rural High School principal Janice Foote march in the Stand Up Against Bullying Day parade hosted by Central Kings Rural High School in Cambridge, N.S.





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Presented by Faculty of Education
Mount Saint Vincent University



Influenza and Pneumonia

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

What is Influenza?

Influenza or the “flu” is a potentially life threatening viral infection affecting the nose, throat, airways and lungs. It is contagious and is easily spread by having contact with the saliva of an infected person through coughing and sneezing. Influenza can cause mild to severe illness. At times, influenza can be so severe that it can result in death. The mortality rate caused by influenza has increased over the past 20 years. Older adults, young children and people with certain heart conditions are at a higher risk for developing severe complications from flu, including pneumonia.

Symptoms of influenza include sudden fever, dry cough, chills, sore muscles, sore throat, fatigue, headache, weakness and loss of appetite. Some older people may experience confusion when they have the flu. In many cases these symptoms are overlooked as non-threatening, leading many individuals to ignore them. The peak of symptoms is usually at day three to four, with the recovery period usually taking around seven to 10 days. If you develop persistent headaches and congestion, ongoing coughing, difficulty swallowing, vomiting and difficulties in breathing, seek consultation from a doctor for testing to determine if a more serious condition has developed (such as pneumonia).

What is Pneumonia?

Complication of influenza often leads to pneumonia, either by the influenza virus itself or from a bacterial infection that starts because the individual is weakened from influenza. Pneumonia is an inflammation of the lungs that can be quite serious. The air sacs become filled with liquid (such as pus), making it difficult to breathe. Poor breathing results in a blockage of oxygen reaching the bloodstream which leads to the compromised ability of the cells in your body to work properly. Without enough oxygen in our blood, the cells do not function properly and this can lead to death. The risk of death from pneumonia is higher for people with heart disease, diabetes and weakened immune systems.

Symptoms of pneumonia can vary depending on the cause of the pneumonia (whether bacterial or viral) and the overall health of the person who has pneumonia.

Usually pneumonia causes a cough which produces sputum. With bacterial pneumonia, all or part of the lungs slowly fills with a liquid; this process is called consolidation. Some bacterial lung infections develop within a few hours and usually results in a high fever—sometimes going up to 39°C. Other symptoms can include shortness of breath, shivering, chills, headache, delirium (confusion), severe bad breath, muscle pain, weakness, chest pain—especially when breathing deeply—and blue lips and nail beds from lack of oxygen in the blood.

Viral pneumonias do not actually cause the lungs to fill with liquid. Instead, the lung tissue itself becomes inflamed. Viral pneumonias are usually milder than bacterial infections with the exception of the influenza virus, which can be very serious. Usually viral pneumonia results in symptoms such as dry cough, minimal sputum, headache, muscle pain, weakness and fatigue, moderate fever up to about 39°C, chills, shortness of breath, blue lips and nail beds.

What can you do to prevent Influenza and Pneumonia?

Trying to prevent these illnesses is better than any cure. Once these conditions are contracted, medication and rest can only assist so much.

Influenza and pneumonia vaccines offer the best protection. Receiving an influenza vaccination once a year is the best way to prevent or minimize the flu. Because the influenza virus changes from year to year depending on the variability of the virus strain, you should receive the vaccination each year, usually in the fall before the flu season begins.

To dispel a common myth, you cannot get the flu from the influenza shot because the influenza vaccine is made from inactivated viruses. However, those with any allergy to eggs should contact their doctor before taking the vaccine. The vaccine is especially recommended for those considered “high risk.” This list includes any child between the ages of six to 23 months, anyone with a chronic condition in their lungs or heart, diabetes or kidney disease, people 65 years or older, pregnant women, and health care and household personnel that provide direct contact and care.



You only need the pneumococcal vaccine once and it is usually recommended for those older than 65 and for younger adults who smoke or who have asthma, diabetes, kidney problems or heart failure. Talk to your doctor to see if you would benefit from this vaccine. Pneumonia immunization can be given throughout the year at any time.

Prescribed medications that fight influenza virus may help prevent influenza in the event of an outbreak.

Avoid close contact with people infected by influenza and pneumonia. Stay at home when you are sick. Keeping your distance from others will prevent them from getting sick.

Frequent hand washing, particularly when you are around people who have colds and good hygiene can prevent spreading of bacteria that cause illness.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are frequently spread when you touch something that is contaminated with germs and then touch your eyes, nose or mouth.

Cover your nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

Thoroughly clean surfaces in the house, since viruses can survive on

them and infect others who come in contact with them. Sanitize utensils, toys, equipment and furniture. This can help reduce the spread of germs in your house that can lead to serious illness.

Proper nutrition is very important such as eating a well balanced diet. Get plenty of rest, exercise and learn how to manage your stress. If you are generally in good health your immune system is in a better position to fight off illnesses.

When to contact a doctor?

If despite all your efforts you become ill with influenza or pneumonia, take good care of yourself. Get plenty of rest and drink lots of fluids. Pay careful attention to your symptoms. If your treatment at home does not improve symptoms within a few days or if symptoms worsen, you should contact your doctor. It is better to confront the illness early on rather than waiting for it to progress resulting in you becoming very sick. Contact your doctor immediately if you have shaking chills, trouble breathing or fast breathing or if you feel confused.

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.



Spark Interest in Voting: We Provide the Tools!

As educators, your role is more crucial than ever in showing the relevance of our parliamentary and democratic institutions to students—the voters of tomorrow.

Elections Canada offers elementary, high school and ESL teachers free educational resources, tools, activities, information and links, all designed to make your work a little easier.

<http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=yth/tea&document=index&lang=e>

Suscitez l'intérêt pour le vote : Nous offrons les outils!

Votre rôle éducatif sur le bien-fondé de nos institutions parlementaires et démocratiques est plus important que jamais pour les électeurs de demain.

Élections Canada offre aux enseignants du primaire, du secondaire et de français langue seconde des ressources, des outils des activités, des renseignements et des liens pédagogiques conçus pour faciliter leur travail.

<http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=vot&dir=yth/tea&document=index&lang=f>

Teach Nutrition.org

Created exclusively for teachers who educate children about, healthy eating. Rated by teachers such as you as one of THE best sites for nutrition education support!

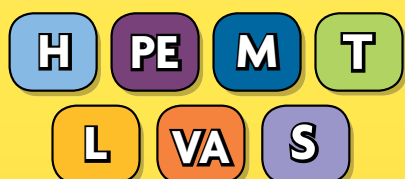


- ✓ Explore our new tips, tools and strategies to help take your nutrition teaching to the next level
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- ✓ Submit an entry to our Teach Nutrition Award and win \$100! View past winners' innovative teaching ideas



Power4Bones is a **FREE** cross-curricular **GRADE 5** program.

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"It's probably the best laid out program I have seen in 30 years. The interactive components allow kids to apply the concepts to their own lives. Tasks integrate language, arts, science, health and computer skills. That demonstrates what an incredible program it is!"

– Grade 5 teacher, Ottawa (ON)



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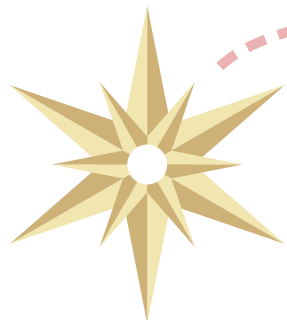


Osteoporosis Canada
Ostéoporose Canada

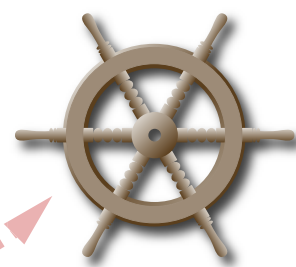


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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Staff Relationships and Student Learning

by Danny Eddy, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development & Community College

The March 2006 issue of Educational Leadership contains an article by Roland Barth titled “*Improving Relationships Within The Schoolhouse*.” This is not a new area for Barth as he has researched and written a number of books and papers on the topic of the importance of the relationships adults in a school have with each other and how these relationships relate to school climate and student accomplishment. Barth indicates that this one factor – the nature of the relationships among the adults within a school – “has a greater influence on the character and quality of that school and/or student accomplishment than anything else.”

As an educational researcher and writer, Barth is not alone in this belief. Michael Fullan notes that “Collegiality among teachers, as measured by the frequency of communication, mutual support, help, etc, was a strong indicator of implementation success. Virtually every research study on this topic has found this to be the case.” David and Roger Johnson also concluded that the benefits of teacher collaboration include: “greater student achievement, more positive interpersonal relationships and cohesion as a staff, increased social support within the staff and enhanced self-esteem for teachers.” Patrick Lencioni who works with various organizations to improve their leadership, organizational health, teamwork and culture offers the following reflection: “When it comes to helping people find fulfillment in their work, there is nothing more important than teamwork.”

If we accept the premise that positive adult relationships and teamwork are effective ways to improve schools, then how do we get there? What are the types of adult relationships in schools and what do they look like?

Barth categorizes the relationships in four ways: Parallel Play, Adversarial Relationships, Congenial Relationships and Collegial Relationships.

Barth describes Parallel Play as basically everyone doing their own thing without knowing or caring about what the other staff members are doing. There is little or no connection among the adults and their efforts.

Adversarial Relationships would be described as intentional actions intended to make a peer or peers look inferior, incompetent or lacking in certain skills. Barth indicates it is this type of relationship that will actually drive teachers into “Parallel Play.”

Congenial Relationships: Barth describes these relationships as personal and friendly. He states that congenial relationships are a “pre-condition” for the fourth category, Collegial Relationships.

Collegial Relationships: This type of relationship is “highly prized by school reformers yet highly elusive.” Barth

contends that schools are full of good players (teachers). Collegiality is about getting them to work effectively together as a team. The words of Vince Lombardi, respected football coach of the Green Bay Packers, seem fitting: “The challenge for every organization is to build a feeling of oneness, of dependence upon one another ... because the question is usually not how well each person works, but how well they work together.”

Barth states that when visiting schools, he looks for evidence of collegiality among teachers and administrators. He sees this as reflected in four areas:

1. Educators talking with one another about practice.
2. Educators sharing their “teaching” craft knowledge.
3. Educators observing one another while they are engaged in practice.
4. Educators rooting for one another’s success.

As educators, our task is to consider the relationships in our school(s). Are we working in a collegial atmosphere? Do we actively discuss our teaching pedagogy with our peers? Do we share our acquired knowledge with our peers – especially the numerous younger teachers joining our ranks? Do we actively encourage others to observe us when we teach and vice versa, and then reflect together on the observations? Do we hope for the success of our peers and celebrate these events when they occur?

Working together as an effective school team is demanding work. It challenges us to be responsible for more than just our “courses” or teaching assignments. It requires that we become knowledgeable about our colleagues and their areas of strength and their needs. It requires that we accept our responsibility as a member of the team and the common goals we are collectively working to achieve.

Patrick Lencioni writes, “Like so many other aspects of life, teamwork comes down to mastering a set of behaviours that are uncomplicated, but extremely difficult to put into practice day after day. Success comes only for those groups that overcome the all-too-human behavioural tendencies that corrupt teams and breed dysfunctional politics with them.”

The NSTU Professional Development staff officers are available to assist school staff by providing workshops that assist in creating effective school teams. These workshops are listed below.

Five Functions of Effective Teams: This interactive and engaging workshop focuses on the ultimate goal of your team and the five functions that will support your team’s success. The NSTU offers this workshop in both French and English.

Death by Meeting: Based upon the work of Patrick Lencioni, this interactive



and engaging workshop supports your team in establishing effective meetings to support your team’s ultimate goal.

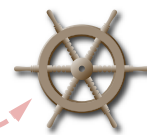
Effective School Teams: This interactive activity based workshop is designed to assist staffs in understanding

the importance of effective school teams as it relates to student learning.

To book a session, please contact Gail Doucette at gdoucette@staff.nstu.ca or 1-800-565-6788 / 477-5621 locally.

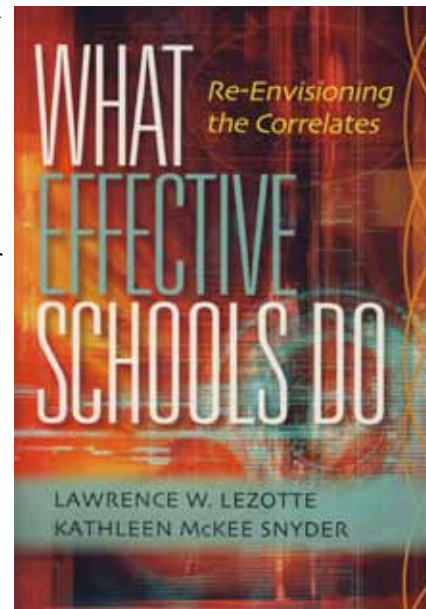


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 11 to be eligible for the draw.

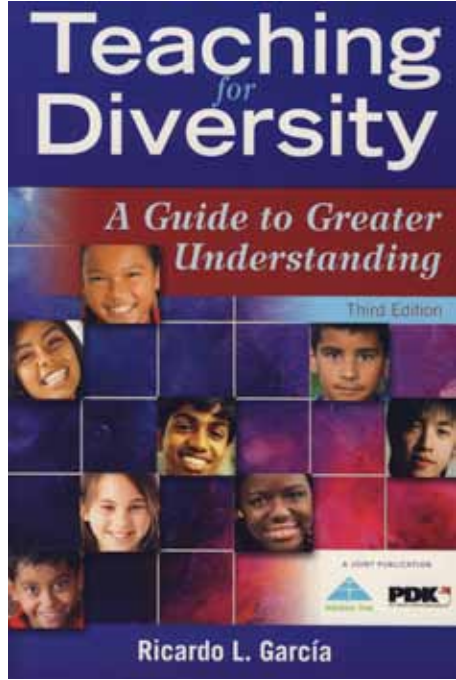
This month’s PD give away is *What Effective Schools Do: Re-envisioning the Correlates* by Lawrence W. Lezotte and Kathleen McKee Snyder, a Solution Tree Press publication. From the publisher’s website: “Developed from groundbreaking research, the seven correlates of effective schools remain powerful indicators of successful places where all children learn, regardless of socioeconomic status or ethnicity. *What Effective Schools Do* is designed as a guide to assist educators with activities for implementing a continuous school-improvement system through application of the correlates. The 10 chapters provide a comprehensive description of practices that enable educators to build and sustain a school culture that accommodates the learning expectations and needs of all students. The authors build on previous works by Lawrence Lezotte, expanding the discussion around each correlate, updating the knowledge base, and incorporating practical ideas from practitioners in the field.”



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

EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 11 to be eligible for the draw.



This month's equity book giveaway is *Teaching for Diversity: A Guide to Greater Understanding (Third Edition)* by Ricardo L. Garcia, a joint publication of Solution Tree and Phi Delta Kappa International. According to the Solution Tree website, "In *Teaching for Diversity* (third edition), the author argues that increasing student diversity in classrooms across North America places two imperatives on educators: They must learn effective strategies for teaching diverse groups of students, and they must integrate skills for accepting and thriving in diverse groups into their teaching. The book incorporates a broad overview of the history of schooling and historic attitudes toward diversity in education to a specific treatment of the needs and objectives of today's schools. Utilizing a combination of theory and concrete examples, the book

constructs a vision of schools as the foundation for an inclusive, democratic society. This essential and accessible resource is for educators working in all subject areas and grade levels."

Congratulations to our September book winners!

FRESH: *Teaching Digital Natives — Partnering for Real Learning*
DWAYNE LAFFIN of Dr. W.A. MacLeod Elementary

EQUITY: *No More Bystanders = No More Bullies — Activating Action in Educational Professionals*
ROSE ELLEN DUNPHY of Eastern Passage Education Centre

PD: *Everyday Teacher Leadership — Taking Action Where You Are*
RON SMITH of Cobequid Educational Centre

Viewfinders Film Camp to Focus on Teachers

Teachers and high school students are now invited to apply for the 2012 ViewFinders NSTU PSA Video Project. It is designed to create opportunities for youth ages 18 and under with an interest in learning about the film industry.

The 2012 participants will take part in a five-day workshop during March Break (March 12-16) where they will be mentored by top Nova Scotia film industry professionals. They will create a 30-second public service announcement (PSA).

This year's theme is once again *Teachers Make a Difference* and celebrates the hard work teachers do every day.

As a participant, you will have a chance to:

- Gain hands-on experience in various film industry professions.
- Develop skills in the principles of filmmaking through story development, lighting, acting, sound and editing.
- See your completed project screened at the 11th ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth, one of the premier youth film festivals in North America.
- Potentially see your finished project used in NSTU's back-to-school television campaign, airing on the three major local networks next fall.

No previous experience necessary but you must have a keen interest in filmmaking. Space is limited, so apply today! **The application deadline is January 20, 2012.**

Teachers only need to fill out the application form. Students will need to submit either an essay or a video telling us why they should be chosen to take part.

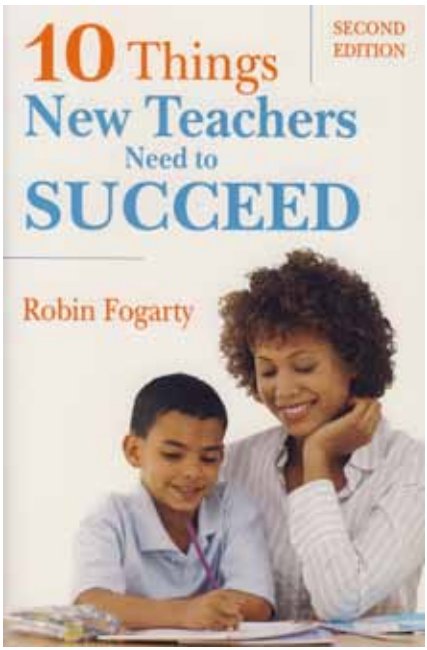
For rules, regulations and application forms go to <http://www.atlanticfilm.com/festivals/viewfinders>.

fresh

Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 11 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's FRESH giveaway is *10 Things New Teachers Need to Succeed (Second Edition)* by Robin Fogarty, published by Corwin. From the publisher's website: "What kind of professional support is most critical for getting new teachers off to a good start in the classroom? How can veteran teachers elevate and energize their instructional techniques? In this second edition of *Ten Things Teachers Need to Succeed*, international educator Robin Fogarty distils a wealth of teaching and consulting experience into ten high-impact strategies to help novice and experienced instructors succeed and thrive. Updated throughout, this easy-to-use resource recommends ways to connect with a mentor and offers readings, related film clips, discussion questions, and action steps for successful: curriculum and lesson design; assessment and rubrics construction; discipline and classroom management; communication with parents; and more. This guidebook's unique format also makes it an ideal professional development tool to help teams of new and experienced teachers grow together by discussing and applying one chapter each month."



Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development

May 23-25, 2012
Mount St. Vincent University campus

The Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium, The Department of Education, and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union are pleased to announce an exciting professional learning event for all educators. The Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development will be more than a conference. It will be an opportunity for participants to actively engage in learning how to create and sustain a culture of enrichment in our schools by exploring challenging programs and examining a wide variety of innovative ideas and practices.

Special focus will be on The Schoolwide Enrichment Model and its many components as recommended in the new provincial guide: *Gifted Education and Talent Development*. The extensive Summit program will feature highly respected internationally known keynote speakers, large group sessions and small group breakout workshops that will be repeated each day so delegates can "do everything." During the 3-day Summit, participants will also enjoy browsing the publisher and vendor displays, being entertained by gifted and talented students, gathering informally for professional discussion, and interacting with the workshop presenters and keynote speakers. The comprehensive program promises to keep participants engaged from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.

Delegates to the Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development are encouraged to stay in the MSVU condo-like residences to maximize their learning, networking, and socializing opportunities. Daily rates for these apartment style units (4 bedrooms and a common area) are \$36.21 per room or \$144.83 for the entire unit. Single dorm rooms are also available for \$40.60 per day. These prices include parking, taxes and a full breakfast. As these are 2011 prices they may change slightly in 2012. For reservations go to: reservations@MSVU.ca.

Further information about the first-ever Maritime Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development, is available at www.nselc.ca

Registration fee is \$399.00 (plus HST)
Registration is available on the NSELC website - www.nselc.ca

395 - 3 Spectacle Lake Drive
Dartmouth NS
B3B 1W8
Phone: (902) 422-3270
Email: nselc@nselc.ca

Sandi Carmichael, Executive Co-Director
E-mail : scarmichael@nselc.ca
Tony Stewart, Executive Co-Director
E-mail : tstewart@nselc.ca

Making Tracks

Gets Them Moving Safely!

Looking for a fun, hands-on way to teach your students to walk, cycle, in-line skate or skateboard safely and confidently?

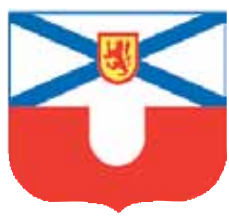
Elementary and Jr. High: learn how to teach active transportation safety skills to your students!

Sr. High: engage students in teaching active transportation safety skills to younger students!

Making Tracks is approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Education and connects with multiple physical education and leadership cross-curricular outcomes. Its flexible modular design can easily fit your needs.

Learn more about Making Tracks at:
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Thanks also to St. Francis Xavier University and Skate Pass® for their support of Making Tracks.



A Message from Member Services

The worst nightmare for any NSTU member is when a criminal complaint, especially a criminal complaint of assault and/or sexual misconduct, has been made against him or her.

The **first step** a member should take is to contact an executive staff officer in the member services department of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union for advice. The staff officer assigned to your case will direct the procedures that will be followed to minimize the damage that such allegations can and do create. The staff officer will advise a member of the processes to be followed and will provide access to legal counsel. Do NOT DO anything until you have talked to legal counsel. Exercise your constitutional right to remain silent.

There are a number of things that an accused member should NOT do:

1. **Do not** discuss or supply a written report on the matter with anyone other than legal counsel. This would include staff members and/or Board/Employer officials.
2. **Do not** discuss the matter or give a written statement to police or child protection investigators until you have had the opportunity to discuss and receive advice from legal counsel.
3. **Do not** attempt to resolve the matter personally.
4. **Do not** make any contact with the accuser or his/her family.
5. **Do not** talk to the media. There are very good reasons for each of these instructions. If a criminal charge results from the allegation, the member's right of due process could well have been compromised because of an inadvertent comment made to someone. Anyone, except legal counsel retained on behalf of an accused person, can be called to testify in a trial in regard to anything said by an accused person.

The right to consult with legal counsel before making a statement to the police or child-care workers is an absolute right in law. Members who have suffered such allegations have often been contacted by police authorities beyond school hours and in some cases in very unorthodox ways. Members are advised that there are a number of things you need NOT do by law.

1. You **need not** go with the police upon request, unless you are arrested and if you are informed of the reasons for being arrested.
2. You **need not** give a written or verbal statement, even if arrested.
3. You **need not** give a written or verbal statement at any time unless advised by legal counsel.
4. You **need not** talk to police at any time under any circumstances, other than give your name and address
5. You **need not** sign a document of any kind unless it is appearance notice stating the date you are to be in court.
6. You **need not** report to the police station to answer any questions unless accompanied by legal counsel.
7. You **need not** allow police to enter your residence without a search warrant.
8. You **need not** submit to a polygraph. A serious allegation can have impact on employment status. The Employer may feel that it is necessary to remove a member from the work environment during the investigation process. In those situations, the NSTU will work with the Employer to protect the employment rights and the financial **well being** of members. Often, a member will be placed on a paid leave during the period of investigation. We must also recognize and address the normal emotions and reactions of anyone who faces the trauma of being accused of a serious offence. Most members who have been accused want to immediately resolve the situation. The key is to avoid saying anything to anybody until contact with the NSTU has been established and legal counsel has been retained on your behalf.

Usually, the resolution of the problem is a time-consuming process. Great care is taken to protect the rights of the member involved. These cases are always taken very seriously by the NSTU staff, and members should be assured that advice and support will be forthcoming. Once a resolution has been reached, whatever it might be, you should be aware of the long-term emotional effects of such an experience not only for you, but also for your family members, friends and co-workers. Counselling is available through NSTU's Counselling Services.

(This is a variation of an article originally published in *The Teacher*, in April, 1994. It was re-printed in the December 2008 edition of *The Teacher*)

[From The Teacher, November/December 2010, Volume 49 Number 3, page 17 © NSTU]

NSTU SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

Secondment application forms are available on the NSTU "Members-Only" website.

To obtain the secondment application form:

- Enter the NSTU members-only website
- Select "Union Affairs" from the menu
- Select "Secondments" from the drop-down menu

Literacies as Ways of Knowing Series

Mount Saint Vincent University is proud to present *Literacies as Ways of Knowing*: A series of speakers, workshops and public events that will examine the question, "How do we read the world?" The series has been planned in partnership with a number of university and community organizations with a goal of fostering diverse understandings of "literacy". Each session will welcome participation from practitioners, policy makers and members of the broader community with special interest in literacy.

All sessions are open to educators, students, community partners and those with a specific interest in literacy and will be provided free of charge.



LITERACIES AS WAYS OF KNOWING
series

Transliteracy: Information Literacy, Digital Fluencies and Pedagogical Strategies
October 27, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seton Academic Centre, Room 404-405 Faculty Lounge

Panelists will consider what falls under the information literacy umbrella, what competencies are being added as digital fluencies, what expectations faculty have of their students in this area, what they share with their students in class, and what the role of the Library can play in enabling transliteracy development for all digital citizens.

Towards Literacy on Contemporary Aboriginal Issues

October 27, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Seton Academic Centre, Room 404-405 Faculty Lounge

The Mount and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation launch Cultivating Canada: Reconciliation through the Lens of Cultural Diversity featuring book contributors and editors.

Arts in the Schools: Making the Case

November 1, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Seton Academic Centre, Room 404-405 Faculty Lounge

Robyn Ewing will lead this session with a presentation of existing research on the uses of the arts for learning, inclusion and social justice, followed by breakout discussions and responses to the session.

Arts in the Schools: Making Way

November 3, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Reception to follow in Mount Art Gallery)

Seton Academic Centre, Room 404-405 Faculty Lounge

Panelists will explore impediments to and possibilities for integrating the arts into pedagogies across and within disciplines, and ways to assess for learning through the arts.

Open Mic in Many Languages

November 24, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Orange Zone (the Fireplace Room), Mount Library

Open Mic in Many Languages will give international students at the Mount and new Canadians in the community the opportunity to share the written works, from fiction to poetry, of their favourite home-country authors.



NSELC Scheduled Programs

Fall 2011 and Winter 2012

Module 2

"Strategies for Teaching and Learning"

SSRSB - November 3, 4 & 5, 2011

Module 14

"Autism Spectrum Disorder"

TCRSB - November 2, 3, and December 9, 2011

Module 14

"Autism Spectrum Disorder"

SSRSB - November 8, 9 and December 2, 2011

Module 9

"Programming for Students with Special Needs"

AVRSB - December 1, 2 & 3, 2011

Module 4

"The School Leader and The Law"

AVRSB - February 23, 24, 25, 2012

For more information about our professional learning programs and to register check the NSELC website

www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca

or call

(902) 422-3270 for more information.

Bridgetown High Teacher wins *French Second Language Educator of the Year Award*

Glen Melanson, a French teacher at Bridgetown Regional High School in the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, is the 2011 recipient of the *French Second Language Educator of the Year* award.

“When a teacher loves to teach, kids love to learn,” wrote one student about Melanson, who is known at his school as “Mr. Motivation.” He teaches Core French, Français Intensif, Film & Video Production (French and English classes) and Histoire Planétaire.

Mr. Melanson loves using technology in his classes. The students credit his innovative teaching methods for broadening their horizons, keeping them engaged, increasing productivity, and preparing them for the future. “He turned everything that could have been boring into a dynamically stimulating adventure!” said one student.

Mr. Melanson not only invites students to “join him on a voyage through the French language,” but he was praised by students for encouraging their academic studies and taking an interest in their lives and well-being. He volunteers his time coaching volleyball, cross-country running, soccer and hockey. He is a member of the Graduation Committee, each year organizing Safe Grad, the graduation ceremony, and school spirit activities. He pioneered the Bridgetown High Film Club and has led students in their filmmaking activities.

Born and raised in Clare, Mr. Melanson is a second generation teacher. He completed his Bachelor of Arts at Acadia and then received his Bachelor’s degree in Education from Université Saint-Anne. He recently completed his Masters in Education at Mount Saint Vincent University. Glen began his teaching career at Bridgetown Regional High School in 1995 where he remains today.

The CPF-Nova Scotia *French Second Language Educator of the Year Award* recognizes French Second Language educators in this province and rewards them for their dedication and continued efforts as educators. This award acknowledges excellence in French second language teaching and rewards teachers’ initiative and innovation. The winning French second language teacher must also make a significant contribution to their profession, school and community. Melanson received a MimioTeach Interactive System donated by Dymo/Mimio. Mimio-Teach is an easy-to-use technology that turns any whiteboard into an interactive classroom technology.

Submitted by Canadian Parents for French, the national network of volunteers which values French as an integral part of Canada and which is dedicated to the promotion and creation of French-second-language learning opportunities for young Canadians. There are currently more than 25,000 members across Canada.



Glen Melanson receives the Nova Scotia French Second Language Educator of the Year Award from Vic Fleury, president of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association and Board Member of the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board.



Committee Corrections 2011-2012

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE
Wade VanSnick (NSSCA) Chair; **Anne Henderson** (ATYA); **Jo-Ann Mumford** (NSTALL); **Steve Ranni** (TAPHE); **Rob Wigle** (EDANS); **Janine Boutilier** (SPAA); **Paul Betuik**, Executive Member Liaison; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

PENSION COMMITTEE
Kevin Farrell, Colchester-East Hants (2013); **Donalda Westcott**, Cape Breton District (2012); **Jackie Rankin**, Inverness (2012); **Calvin Peters**, Halifax County (2013); **Gary Schmidt**, Hants West, (2014); **Elizabeth Thomas**, Digby (2014); **Albert Johnson**, RTO Representative; **Paul Betuik**, Executive Member liaison; **Dave Jones**, Secretary-Treasurer; **Joan Ling** and **Allan MacLean**, NSTU staff liaisons



Former executive secretary Norm Ferguson paid a visit to the NSTU as part of research into his next book. Ferguson has already penned The Story of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and is now working on the history of Margaret Graham, one of the organization’s key founders. She was a teacher in the 1890s, went on to become a writer and was instrumental in forming the Canadian Women’s Press Club. The NSTU’s large meeting room is named in her honour. Ferguson is collaborating on the book with Graham’s granddaughter, also named Margaret. The two are shown here in a photo with Executive Director Bill Redden and NSTU president Alexis Allen.



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

MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT StFX



INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP

Instructional leadership is about the pivotal role of leaders in improving the quality of education. StFX is currently accepting applications from our program in Educational Administration and Leadership with a focus in Instructional Leadership. This part-time course-based program will commence with an intensive summer institute in July at the StFX campus followed by two-and-a-half years of online learning.

OTHER PART-TIME PROGRAMS

Students may also elect to complete Master of Education programs in *Educational Administration and Leadership* or a variety of *Curriculum and Instruction* areas. These part-time programs require one month of study on campus in July, and the remainder of the program is completed online or at one of our regional centers in Halifax, Yarmouth, Truro or Sydney over a two and a half year time span. This program may be completed by either the course-based, project, or thesis route.

FULL-TIME GRADUATE STUDIES

StFX admits up to 12 full-time graduate students annually who wish to develop capacity in teaching/leadership or applied research. Students are paired with faculty who help them experience the richness of university teaching and/or research. Students who choose the research-based option will participate in funded research programs in collaboration with full-time faculty. Students admitted to the full-time program will receive a graduate scholarship.

For more information or to receive an information package,
contact Continuing and Distance Education
1-877-867-3906 or (902) 867-3906
or email: med@stfx.ca.
Application deadline: February 15



Two New Cape Breton Schools



NSTU president Alexis Allen was on hand for the official opening of Ferrisview Elementary School in North Sydney on September 26. Here she is joined by Northside Victoria Local president Peter Murphy, Ferrisview principal Barb Reid, and Cape Breton District Local president Ron MacIntosh.



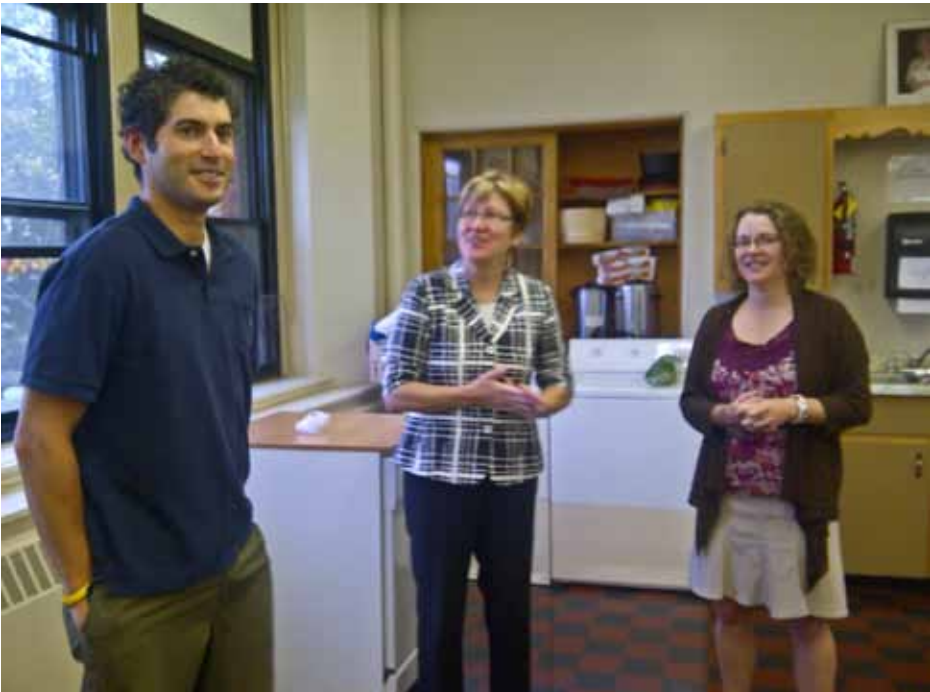
September 26 was also the official opening of the Oceanview Education Centre in Glace Bay. The school's band presented a memorable rendition of O Canada during the opening ceremonies. Pictured left to right are Northside Victoria Local president Peter Murphy, NSTU president Alexis Allen, soloist Megan Weyman, band teacher Sean McLennon, and Cape Breton District Local president Ron MacIntosh.



South Shore Media Tour



Mid-September saw NSTU president Alexis Allen spend three days in Digby, Yarmouth and Shelburne visiting schools and meeting with Locals. In this photo she joins Digby Local president Krista Oswald (left) and Digby Elementary principal Jane Chisholm.



New teacher Luke Woodworth has a chat with NSTU president Alexis Allen during breakfast at Yarmouth Central School. The pair is joined by Yarmouth Local president Lori MacKinnon.

Calling for Your Ideas on Preventing Childhood Obesity

The NSTU is working with the Department of Education and other government departments to develop and implement a Childhood Obesity Prevention Strategy. President Alexis Allen and staff officer Ron Brunton met with a committee tasked with finding ways to make it easier for children and families to eat better and move more every day.

"This is a societal problem and it's everyone's concern," explains Allen. "It's far too complex to expect the solution to be achieved just through education and the things teachers and schools can do. But we are part of the solution and our input is essential."

Childhood obesity rates have nearly tripled in the last three decades. In Nova

Scotia, one in three children and youth ages 2 to 17 are now overweight or obese and even more are missing out on an active healthy lifestyle.

The problem encompasses a wide range of things including an environment that encourages a sedentary lifestyle, processed food, transportation, the nature of work for many and a culture of fast food. Research and experience tell us what we need to do. Some of these things are simple changes, but others are complicated and require time and resources. Public input, conversations with partners, and guidance from a scientific advisory panel will help us determine the best next steps.

There are two ways you can provide input:

- ▶ Complete a short survey (<http://www.gov.ns.ca/grow-inguphealthy/>) and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

- ▶ Send us your success stories! We want to know about the efforts you make in your school, campus or community to get children and youth to be more active and live healthier lives.

We'll be happy to publish your stories in the next edition of The Teacher!

We appreciate your help getting the word out and promoting this approach to developing healthy living throughout Nova Scotia.

Email: theteacher@nstu.ca

NOTICES

ATENS' Bursary

The Brickenden Bursary for New Teachers is an initiative of ATENS to give assistance to individuals in their first five years of the profession. This bursary of \$495 is for English teachers who show initiative, creativity, and school involvement. Teachers may nominate colleagues, or motivated individuals may nominate themselves. Preference is given to non-permanent teachers. **Application deadline: December 1, 2011.** Please email ctemberley@nstu.ca for an application or pick one up at our conference on October 28.

Information Sessions for Teacher Exchanges

The Canadian Education Exchange Foundation is a registered, charitable, not-for-profit foundation mandated by the Nova Scotia Department of Education to facilitate teacher exchanges. There will be an information session in Charlottetown October 21 and Moncton October 22. If there is enough interest there will be a Halifax session October 23. For information visit www.ceef.ca, email Carol Wilkins at cwilk@ceef.ca or call 705-739-7596.

GREEN High Schools Program

In partnership with the SEEDS Foundation, ECO Canada has launched a new GREEN High Schools program – a national initiative that encourages secondary students to create environmental projects while exploring the wealth of environment career opportunities available. This year's pilot program is limited to 50 schools. Participating students, educators, and schools will receive national recognition for their efforts, including a chance to receive a school profile on the ECO Canada website, be featured in national and local media, and receive student certificates of recognition. Interested teachers are encouraged to register early by sending an email to Rebecca Dickson at career.awareness@eco.ca. For more information visit www.eco.ca/greenhighschools.

Museums and Schools Partnership Award

Each year the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), in collaboration with the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), presents the Museums and Schools Partnership Award to celebrate and encourage excellence in collaborative projects or initiatives between Canadian museums and schools, school boards or districts. The award is open to any Canadian school or school board in collaboration with any Canadian public non-profit museum (including closely related institutions such as zoos and science centres) or museum group. Projects will be assessed according to collaboration, heritage, partnership, relevance, synergy and vision. **The deadline for submitting nominations for the award is November 15, 2011.** For more information visit www.museums.ca/?n=16-94.

Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust

The Democracy 250 Youth Engagement Legacy Trust was established following the 250th anniversary celebrations marking the birth of parliamentary democracy in Canada. The purpose of the trust is to provide assistance to non-profit organizations, teachers or students that support the objectives established by the Democracy 250 Management Committee. Please note that applications must be sponsored through the Nova Scotia Social Studies Teachers' Association. Applicants may apply to the Trust at any time. Trustees will review applications four times a year. For further details and to request an application, please contact Maggie McFarlane at the NSTU Central office: 902-479-4735 or mmcfarlane@staff.nstu.ca.

MADD Halifax Youth Project

Mothers against Impaired Driving (MADD) Halifax chapter is initiating a Youth Project in the HRM with the intention of inviting high school students to review existing MADD classroom tools and local demonstrations. We hope students will assist us in designing an effective presentation and, if possible, participate in the delivery of such presentations to youth of their own peer group and respond to requests for adult awareness opportunities. This fall an invitation will be sent to all high schools in the HRM, asking students to submit an application to participate in a one-day workshop (date to be announced). This workshop will be free of charge and take place in Halifax. Preference will be given to students who show an interest and commitment to their community. For more information visit www.maddhalifaxregional.com.

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision K-12 Sci-Tech Competition

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision, the world's largest K-12 science and technology competition is celebrating its 20th anniversary and is now accepting entries for 2012. Students research scientific principles and current technologies as the basis for designing inventions that could exist in 20 years. As the program has evolved over the past two decades, it continues to encourage excellence and motivate students in STEM disciplines. Applications for this year's competition are available online at www.exploravision.org. **The deadline for applications is February 1, 2012.**



DISCOUNT FOR NSTU MEMBERS

Announcing Our Exclusive NSTU Hotel Discount Program

We are proud to now offer our very own NSTU Member Discount Hotel Program, provided for the exclusive access of our members and their families. Why? Because our teachers deserve it!

Teachers and their families may now search and book hotel discounts around the world. Our savings may exceed 50%, and average 10-20% below market rates. To take advantage of these savings, simply enter your destination of choice and travel date in the convenient search widget on our site, and follow the instructions to log-in. Let your dreams grow, while your budgets tighten.

Sample deals you may find: Save 11% in New York over New Years. Save 22% in Florida on spring break. Save 33% in Montreal during Easter. Save 44% in Paris in the summer. Save 55% in Vegas for Thanksgiving.

Virtually all worldwide hotel rates are discounted...some by a little and some by lot...and there are no added service fees, so our deals will compare favourably with any alternative source for making hotel reservations, including all online travel agencies as well as booking direct with the hotels. In addition to our great rates, we also offer our members the best worldwide hotel inventory, as measured by (i) number of property listings, (ii) room availability, and (iii) rate types to choose from. And don't worry, we don't impose any onerous change or cancellation policies, other than simply passing along the terms and conditions offered by the hotels. So, you can book with confidence!

We expect NSTU members to benefit from this service for weekend, vacation and sabbatical travel for many years to come.

This discount is located on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca under Communications ▶ Deals & Discounts ▶ Exclusive NSTU Hotel Discount Program. Once you've logged in with your NSTU user name and password, use the following to access the Hotel Discount Program: User Name: NSTU / Password: NSTU or go to <http://localhospitality.com/corporate.html> and under CONTACT US click on log-in page and start saving!

PROJECT OVERSEAS

"Teachers Teaching Teachers"

VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WITH CTF!

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country? Are you interested in learning more about global education issues? Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?

If yes, Project Overseas (PO) might be for you!

CTF needs English and French-speaking Canadian teachers who are interested in volunteering to offer in-services in a wide range of subjects in countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.

Application criteria include:

- Membership in a provincial or territorial organization that supports PO
- Valid teachers' certificate
- At least five years teaching in Canada by July 2012
- Canadian citizenship
- Excellent health and ability to work in developing country conditions (a doctor's letter is required)
- Show evidence of flexibility, mature judgment and a strong willingness to put the team and project needs above personal needs
- Canadian passport valid until at least December 2012, at the time of application (proof that a passport application has been made will be accepted)

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members) and CIDA.

No salaries or honoraria are paid to participants in PO and the sponsors do not cover costs associated with substitute teachers or release time.

Further information and application forms are available from Lillian Pottie, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) or www.ctf-fce.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 11, 2011

CTF'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: *Together We Make a Difference!*



JUST 5 MINUTES

The next time someone says, "This will just take five minutes of your time after school," I want them to know what it is that I am already expected to do after school.

DAILY

1. See the students out the door, ensuring that everyone has the proper tools to complete assignments, also with notebooks signed, behaviour charts filled in, comments written in daily communication scribbles, and ensuring that handouts from school, PTA, community, and board events are given out. Walk students out to ensure that all are safely off the school grounds or off to Excel.
2. Debrief with EPA about the day for student M. Outline the IPP plans for student M (about Primary - Grade 1 level math and language).
3. Debrief with EPA about the day for student K. Outline the IPP plans for student K who is at a different level from student M in language, but similar in math. EPA is off in 10 minutes.
4. Plan lessons for tomorrow while considering social, behavioural, physical, moral and economic attributes of students, ensuring that guidelines of RCH, etc, are followed - math, mental math, problem solving question, lesson on outcome (including differentiated questions and emphasis on PFI goal for math).
(differentiated questions for students B and C - lower numbers in problems for student P - enriched problem for student J and W - catch-up work)
- Language arts - Reading workshop story with emphasis on strategies outlined in PFI goal, writing workshop topic, independent reading strategies we plan to highlight, questions for literature circles, read aloud book and good questions for this chapter, writing notebook topics for those who have none.
- Health lesson
- Science or social studies lesson
- Art lesson
5. Plan for special needs of IPP student K (probably can differentiate the regular lesson in language, but will need own work for math).
6. Plan for IPP student E (probably can differentiate both the math and language lessons with some extra help with the writing expectations).
7. Prepare a scaffolded exercise for student D with motor skills adaptations.
8. Answer email and phone calls from parents re: behaviour, extra practice work packages, and social grouping concerns.
9. Answer professional emails to school committees, office, board, etc. Record minutes for these meetings.
10. Search online for differentiated work, ideas for science or social studies lessons since there is no text.
11. Correct and mark work to record data and see who needs further reinforcement of concepts:
- Correct math sheets or textbook work (x 28 students);
- Record daily math marks and anecdotal comments x 28;
- Comment on some math journal entries to clarify student understanding;
- Comment on mental math and problem solving strategies;
- Record tracking for those math students B, C, E, F, and J who scored below expectations on standardized tests given in Grade 3;
- Respond to student writing (revising and editing help), reading workshop responses, and writing notebook, record anecdotal comments;


- Give rubric scores to writing pieces, record data;
 - Record tracking for those students B, C, E, F, L and R who scored below expectations on standardized tests given in Grade 3 (different tracking sheets for reading, writing, and listening though some overlap);
 - Give at least a brief glance to science, social studies, and health scribbles. Record any anecdotal comments for report card use;
 - Photocopy student work samples for tracking progress;
 - Pack loose sheet work, tests, reports, etc, to take home for grading.
12. Sign out science and math materials for tomorrow. Make note of science or art materials to purchase on the way home. Clean and organize science and math materials for tomorrow.
 13. Put up, take down displays of student work.
 14. Reshelve and file materials already used to proper cabinets.
 15. Rearrange seating for new groupings, close own windows, ensure that valuable items of math, science, and student belongings are off floor.
 16. Count and record money for snacks, pizza, book orders, etc. Lock up in safe for the night.

SOMETIMES

1. Meet with Professional Learning Community group.
2. Meet with committee.
3. Meet with parents re: reports, testing results, etc.
4. Staff meetings.
5. PTA, SAC, Curriculum night, etc.
6. Plan for math night, literacy night, holiday concert, arts night, open house, etc. Decorate halls or gym for these events.
7. Attend special events such as movie night, Halloween, barn dances, etc.
8. Fill in forms for IWK, testing referrals, SPT, etc.
9. Meet with administration re: goals, other professional discussions.
10. Meet with resource teacher about student programming and progress.
11. Meet with learning centre teachers about programming and progress of special needs students.
12. Meet to review, write, and update IPP for LC students that could not get done during the day.

As you can see, very few of these things take 5 minutes. It's hard to believe they can even get done at all by anyone on a regular basis.

Submitted by an experienced Halifax-area teacher who prefers to remain anonymous.



How is the loss of 300 teaching positions affecting your workload? Are your classes bigger? We want to know what it's like in your classroom. Send your stories to theteacher@nstu.ca

2011-2012 Local Presidents & RRC Chairs



Standing (left to right): Shelley Morse (Kings), Hope Lemoine (Cumberland), Nancy Doyle (Pictou), Ron MacIntosh (Cape Breton District & Cape Breton-Victoria RRC), Dawn Smith (Shelburne), Robert George (Colchester-East Hants), Peter Murphy (Northside-Victoria), Keri Butler (Halifax City), Kyle Marryatt (Dartmouth & Halifax RRC), John Spurdakes (Chignecto RRC), Nathan Smart (South Shore RRC), Leah Lawrence (Annapolis), Louis Robitaille (Community College), Michael Stewart (Lunenburg County), Bernard LeBlanc (Richmond), Gary Schmidt, (Hants West), Tim MacLeod (Halifax County), Ian LeBlanc (CSANE), and Terrence Doucette (Queens).

Seated (left to right): Dianne Raoul (Guysborough County), Krista Oswald (Digby & Tri-County RRC), Lori MacKinnon (Yarmouth), Alexis Allen (NSTU President), Amanda Marchand (Antigonish), Kim Frank (Annapolis Valley RRC), and Sheila Hawley (Inverness & Strait RRC).

Seven NSTU Members in PhD Program

With excerpts from Mount Saint Vincent University

A few years from now, seven members of the union will be able to proudly add PhD to the list of abbreviations after their name. They are part of the inaugural year of the Inter-University Doctoral Program in Educational Studies, the only one of its kind in the region. It is a shared venture between Acadia University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and St. Francis Xavier University.

The seven NSTU members include three principals—Karen Dyke, Ken Fells and Robert Carreau— and three classroom teachers—Chris Cocek, Lisa Hayden and Betsy Jardine.

“This is a very exciting time for us,” says Jim Sharpe, Chair of the Inter-University Committee on Teacher Education, Doctoral Committee and Dean of the Faculty of Education at the Mount. “Initiating this program together is a great way to show our joint commitment to providing quality education for Nova Scotians. It serves as a model of inter-university collaboration and innovation.”

“Before this program I was looking at the University of Toronto and even Australia but it is so great to be able to stay right here at home,” says Chris Cocek, an elementary teacher at Westmount School in the HRSB. “I love learning as much as I love teaching and this opportunity was too good to pass up.”

Cocek’s stated research question is, “Is it possible to improve the facilitation of new curriculum information for elementary teacher professional development through the use of interactive online classrooms?”

“The real benefit of this program is that we can access the resources of three excellent universities,” continues Cocek. “All of us have a lot of education behind us but this is a whole new challenge and it is definitely out of my comfort zone.”

Some of the other NSTU members are studying issues including eco-psychology, administrative supervision and incorporating indigenous and African Nova Scotian learning into existing curricula.

“This program will lead to an advanced research base in educational studies in the province and beyond – research that could very well affect curricula development and public policy on the education system,” says Dr. Sharpe.

The program will be delivered through intensive summer sessions and through residency at each university. The degree has been designed to be among the best in the country, anticipating the attraction of top doctoral candidates.

“The program will include a mix of courses related to the foundations of educational inquiry, research methodologies, theories, and methods, in addition to a Comprehensive Portfolio and a Dissertation,” says Sharpe.

Students will graduate from the university that is home for their supervisor. Their program of study will be delivered using on-site and e-learning at all three campuses throughout the duration of their degree.

Applications for the PhD in Educational Studies will be accepted until November 15, 2011, with decisions being made in March 2012. Classes begin in July 2012. More information is available at www.educationphd.ns.ca.



Some of the NSTU members who are enrolled in the PhD program are (l-r) Rob Carreau, Chris Cocek, Lisa Hayden, Betsy Jardine and Ken Fells.

New format for RRC chairs’/Local presidents’ conference

When Local presidents and RRC chairs came together for their annual meeting September 16, they were met with a new format. Executive Staff Officer Gérard Cormier put together an agenda packed with information, professional development, and chances to network.

“This group only gets a chance to be together twice a year, and we wanted them to get the most out of the first experience,” explained Cormier. “We also had a number of new presidents and we wanted to come up with a formula that fit their needs along with those of the veterans.”

The day included the traditional tour of the NSTU building, which allowed everyone to put names to faces. There were also a number of bell ringer sessions on topics including resolutions, budgets, communication, union resources and insurance matters.

“I liked the new format, it was very informative,” said one participant on their feedback form. “Sessions gave lots of great info for first-year and experienced presidents and RRC chairs.”

Cormier broke the presidents up into strategic groups to enable them to not only learn from session leaders, but also to learn from each other. Presidents from large Locals had a chance to share experiences with each other, while those from the smaller Locals also swapped stories.

“Putting similar sized Locals together was great,” said one member. Another said, “I learned a lot about the other chairs and presidents. I liked the exchange of ideas, concerns and suggestions.”

In April the group will meet again, this time with members of the Provincial Executive.

Coalition for Gun Control

“The gun registry has never killed anyone but ending it may.”
—Coalition for Gun Control

According to the Coalition for Gun Control, the threat to gun control in Canada as never been more serious than it is right now with a majority Conservative Government and Opposition parties headed by interim leaders.

The current Canadian gun law is working to save lives, reduce gun violence, and limit injuries from firearms. Police, victims, and safety experts stand firmly behind it.

- 400 fewer Canadians died of gunshots in 2007 (723) compared to 1995 (1125).
- Youth suicide with firearms has declined, according to the Canadian Paediatric Society and the Canadian Association of Adolescent Health.
- Rates of robbery committed with firearms have plummeted (~43%), while rates of robbery committed by other means have decreased only by 9%.
- Murders with rifles and shotguns have decreased dramatically.
- The rate of women murdered with firearms by their intimate partner has decreased by 69% since 1995.

Without information about who owns guns, and the guns they own, how could firearms be kept out of the hands of dangerous people when there is risk of suicide or domestic violence? Registration ensures licensed gun owners are held accountable for their firearms.

Across Canada, police refer to the gun registry daily - **on average 16,000 times per day this year** - and routinely check for the presence of firearms on domestic violence calls. So do other frontline workers.

The coming months are critical with respect to the survival of the Canadian gun law. Support the Coalition’s work in its advocacy and mobilizing efforts. Here’s how:

1 - Contact MPs and Senators

Mention these key facts:

Rifles and shotguns in the wrong hands are as deadly as handguns, we need controls on all guns.

Registering all firearms holds gun owners accountable for their firearms and reduces the chances that their guns will be diverted to unlicensed owners, helping to choke off the illegal supply.

Registration is a one-time procedure, and it’s free. The system is in place, and 6.9 million rifles and shotguns are already registered. Eliminating the long-gun registry will not refund the financial investment to set it up, nor will it save billions of dollars in the future.

The gun registry is an essential tool used 16,000 times a day by police, including when intervening in domestic disputes. It assists police investigations and in removing ALL guns from dangerous people, enforcing prohibition orders, and taking preventative action.

Gun control works. Health and safety experts have shown that stronger gun laws have reduced gun-related death rates.

Licensing gun owners and registering firearms is the norm internationally. Scrapping the long-gun registry will undermine our ability to meet our international commitments to combat gun trafficking.

2 - Support the work of the Coalition with your donations

Make a **secure on-line donation by credit card through Paypal** or send a cheque to: Coalition for Gun Control, 1488 Queen Street West, P.O. Box 90062 Toronto, ON M6K 1L0. While it is a registered non-profit organization, it is not a charity due to its strong and successful advocacy work. Government rules does not allow it to issue tax receipts.

www.guncontrol.ca

About the Coalition for Gun Control

Founded in the wake of the Montreal massacre in 1989, the Coalition for Gun Control is the only national non-profit organization working to reduce gun injury, death and crime in Canada.

It is endorsed by more than 300 crime and injury prevention, health, women’s safety, victims’ rights, policing, grassroots and community organizations including the Canadian Teachers’ Federation, the YWCA of Canada, the Canadian Public Health Association, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the families and victims of the École Polytechnique massacre and Dawson College shootings.

The 2011-2012 Prime Minister's Awards – Call for Nominations

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence program is Canada's way of recognizing our best teachers, promote what they have achieved and share their innovative and successful teaching practices.

These awards honour outstanding and innovative elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines who instill in their students a love of learning and who utilize information and communications technology to better equip their students with the skills needed to excel in a 21st century society and economy.

In selecting award recipients, the committee looks for clear evidence that nominees have excelled in all of the following five areas:

1. Digital Literacy and Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in the Classroom
2. Innovative and Exemplary Teaching Practices
3. Student Skills Development
4. Student Achievement and Participation
5. Teacher Commitment and Leadership

The Prime Minister's Awards are designed to honour the overall accomplishments of a single teacher or a teaching team of up to three teachers. The program is not intended to recognize the achievements of an entire school or teaching staff. To date, over 1,300 outstanding teachers have been recognized with considerable benefits to their schools, their students and themselves.

Nominate an outstanding educator from your community!

Guidelines and nomination forms for the 2011-2012 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education are now available, with nominations accepted until **November 30th**. Download the nomination package today at <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmate-ppmee.nsf/eng/wz01819.html> or contact us for a copy by telephone at 613-946-0651 or by email at pmate-pmee@gc.ca.

NSTU and CTF Support Ugandan Teachers

Teachers' organizations across Canada are writing the Prime Minister of Uganada urging that government to enter into meaningful collective bargaining on teacher wages and status with the unions.

The teacher union UNATU initiated a dialogue with the government in April 2011, but due to the absence of progress members voted for strike actions starting on September 5.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation is very concerned about heavy repression on teacher unionists from the government security agents as well as threats, selective victimization, arrests and sanctions. This includes teacher unionists' demotions, lock ups in police cells and unfair transfers.

NSTU and CTF would like the Ugandan government to engage in respectful dialogue, respect the fundamental rights and freedoms of teachers, and refrain from threatening teachers with dismissals, replacements and eviction from school houses because of their appeal for a fair salary increase.

Bedford High School Music Teacher Wins Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence



From the Award for Teaching Excellence website

When Nathan Beeler picks up his conductor's baton, his students can make notes dance off their sheets of music. To them, Beeler is not just a music teacher, but a teacher of life.

"Mr. Beeler is a great teacher and mentor. He always made music interesting and his expectations for his students helped us grow as responsible adults," says one former student.

In his ten years at Charles P. Allen Beeler has made his own music heard and offered his students the opportunity to embrace the relationships that exist between everything they learn. He creates colourful projects for his students, pulling knowledge, people and cultures together into beautiful harmonies like the instruments in an orchestra. He is a strong advocate of Canadian content in the high school music curriculum and this has secured once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for his students and shown them that working for something you believe in will bring success and fulfillment in your career.

In 2010, Beeler co-lead a school-wide initiative called “904”. It was a fusion of visual art, sound, multimedia images, lighting, drama, and dance to creatively commemorate the Halifax Explosion of 1917. The production was one of 104 projects at the 2010 Halifax Art Festival “Nocturne: Art at Night “ and the only one performed by a high school.

For the past three spring breaks, Beeler has led cultural exchanges and performance programs to Cuba for his students who still rave about the trip, regardless of the paths they decided to

He also secured a \$5,000 grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism and Culture to commission a new Canadian music piece for the CPA wind ensemble called *Qawwali Party*.

Fellow NSTU member Andrew Stickings received a Certificate of Achievement in the same awards ceremony. Stickings' Grade 5 classes at Grosvenor Wentworth School produce high quality videos each year through his "Reel Student Productions." Students write and edit historical scripts, produce film shoots, direct historically accurate scenes, create sets, costumes and special effects. His films have won awards locally, nationally and as far away as Japan.

Celebrate Media Literacy Week in November

This year, Media Literacy Week will be celebrated November 7 to 11, with the theme *Digital Citizenship*. The catchphrase digital citizenship refers to the need to teach young and old alike how to think and act online. Rights and responsibilities of digital citizens are in many ways as real and as important as those practiced in the more traditional non-virtual environment.

Media Literacy Week was created in 2006 as National Media Education Week. The original idea was to promote media literacy as an important part of a young person's experience with education, as well as to encourage the integration of media literacy and media education into mainstream curriculum. Since 2006 much has changed. Technology has become ubiquitous in the lives of young people, making the teaching of media literacy even more crucial. The digital natives who now form the majority of students may be savvy with technology, but they need guidance in navigating the digital world and using social media wisely.

According to the Media Literacy Week website (www.medialiteracyweek.ca), “Media are powerful forces in the lives of youth. Young people are immersed in media, moving beyond geographical and regulatory boundaries as they access, absorb, communicate, create and repurpose media content. And they’re doing this largely without guidance and often without reflection.”

Young digital citizens see technology as an extension of themselves and, as a result, have an inherent trust in the networks they navigate on a minute-to-minute basis. Media literacy helps to bridge the gap between this inherent trust and the realities of the online world. To be a confident and knowledgeable online citizen, young people need to be strong critical thinkers and self-assured information gatherers and evaluators, and at the same time be well-versed in issues of privacy and online fraud.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and the Media Awareness Network (MNet) are working with an advisory committee, teacher and media education organizations and community groups to develop and promote a wide range of media education resources, professional development programs and youth activities in support of the week.

DISCOUNT FOR NSTU MEMBERS

Razor Blades: ~~\$657.82~~/year

**Shaving Cream
& Moisturizer:** ~~\$284.16~~/year

Time Spent: ~~32 hours~~/year

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- LASER HAIR REMOVAL
- BODY SLIMMING
- CELLULITE REDUCTION
- SKIN TIGHTENING
- PHOTO REJUVENATION
- AND MORE

**JUST SHOW
YOUR BLUE CROSS
INSURANCE CARD**

The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The remaining deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2011-2012 school year are November 15, February 15 and April 15.

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

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

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

coming events

October is...

Autism Month (www.autismsocietycanada.ca); Breast Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.ca); Eye Health Month (www.opto.ca); Flu Prevention Month (www.lung.ca); Healthy Workplace Month (www.healthyworkplacemonth.ca); Lupus Awareness Month (www.lupuscanada.org); Mi'kmaq History Month (gov.ns.ca/abor); Occupational Therapy Month (www.caot.ca); Psoriasis Awareness Month (www.psoriasisociety.org); SIDS Awareness Month (www.sidscanada.org); Women's History Month in Canada (www.swc-cfc.gc.ca); Pregnancy & Infant Loss Remembrance Day, October 15 (www.walktorememberhfx.ca).

OCT. 3 TO NOV. 11

Meaning of Home Writing Contest

From October 3 to November 11, Grade 4, 5 and 6 students can enter the annual Meaning of Home Writing Contest in support of Habitat for Humanity Canada (HFHC). The contest is a fantastic opportunity for students to put their creative writing skills to work for a good cause. This year is the fifth anniversary of the contest which has received more than 7,000 entries, donated nearly \$360,000 to Habitat for Humanity and inspired hundreds of children across the country to make writing a priority in early life. The winner of the contest will be part of a \$60,000 contribution towards the building of a Habitat home in or near the winner's community. The winner also receives a laptop and a pizza party for his or her entire school. Each runner-up will be given an iPod Touch. For full contest details and a complete Education Module for teachers, please visit www.meaningofhome.ca.

OCTOBER 17

Annual School Bus Safety Awareness Campaign

For more than two decades Nova Scotia has conducted an annual campaign devoted solely to school bus safety. Campaign dates coincide with campaigns held across North America. The campaign is coordinated by Safety Bus Services Nova Scotia, in co-operation with many partners. The launch of the Annual School Bus Safety Awareness Campaign will be held on October 17 from 10 a.m. to noon at Exhibition Park in Halifax. The launch will feature updates on school bus safety initiatives, a demonstration of the Danger Zone around a school bus, a police checkpoint, and distribution of school bus safety cards to the driving public. For more information contact Arminta Kennedy at Safety Services Nova Scotia at 902-454-9621 ext. 222 or kennedy@safetyservicesns.ca.

2011 First Vice-presidential Campaign Expenses	
<i>Eric Boutilier</i>	
Posters	\$47.44
TOTAL.....	\$47.44

OCTOBER 24 TO 28

Give Your School a Hug™ Day

This October, Heartspeak is launching Give Your School a Hug Day, providing an opportunity for students to identify ways to make their school better and invite members of their school community to engage in meaningful discussion on topics like bullying/cyberbullying, mental health, learning and communication challenges, addictions, and more. Visit heartspeak.ca to download the Give Your School a Hug Day poster. Teachers can also visit the website to download a planner with suggestions on hosting a Give Your School a Hug Day at their school.

NOVEMBER 1

Holocaust Curricula Workshop

On Tuesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. the Atlantic Jewish Council, together with the Azrieli Foundation and the NSTU, will present a Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators as part of Holocaust Education Week in Halifax. The free interactive workshop will take place at the NSTU building in Halifax at 3106 Joseph Howe Drive. Participants will receive resource materials and information on further Holocaust educational programs. The workshop leader is Anne McLeod, social studies teacher at Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth. To register, please contact Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement, Atlantic Jewish Council, at 902-422-7491 ext. 226 or elevine@theajc.ns.ca.

NOVEMBER 1 TO 9

Holocaust Education Week

The Nova Scotia Holocaust Education Committee is holding its first Nova Scotia Holocaust Education Week from Nov. 1 to Nov. 9. The week's events are designed to promote tolerance and Holocaust education in the province's schools. It aims to promote more than Holocaust education, but also increase tolerance of minority groups and a sense of global justice amongst children, their families and members of the community. The gala banquet will be held on Nov. 1 at the Membertou Trade & Convention Centre at 6 p.m. and an educators' workshop will be held at the Temple Sons of Israel in Sydney on Nov. 2, with both featuring Linda Hooper, principal, Whitwell Middle School, and inspiration for the Emmy nominated documentary *Paper Clips*. The Holocaust Education Committee is funded in part by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, Canadian Federation of Teachers, Cape Breton County Economic Development Authority, Resource Recovery Funding Board and the Atlantic Jewish Council. For information on purchasing tickets to both the gala banquet and the educators workshop, please visit holocausteducationweek.tumblr.com.

Welcome Back Social



The Shelburne Local hosted a fall-themed social September 22 where more than 30 members enjoyed a turkey dinner. Executive Staff Officer Gérard Cormier provided information regarding professional development offerings of the NSTU. Those in attendance had the opportunity to select three sessions they would like to have during the year. Pictured left to right are: Lee Goreham-Smith, first vice-president; Andrea Mood-Nickerson, treasurer; and Cormier.

\$500 and \$750 subsidies available for school-community social action projects!

The Canadian Teachers' Federation in partnership with the Media Awareness Network is pleased to announce funding for projects to support a special initiative focusing on Digital Citizenship and Social Action.

Technology and social media:

- How to use it to engage youth
- How to use it to mobilize for a cause
- Put your research into action at the community level

Applications for subsidies of \$500 or \$750 per project must be received by Monday, November 7, 2011. Projects must be completed by the end of the 2012 school year. Application is through www.imagine-action.ca. Once teachers have created a profile, they will be able to apply for funding. All projects registered with Imagineaction will receive recognition and access to material, human and cash resources.

Thousands of students and their teachers are already making a difference through Imagineaction-supported projects that provide curriculum-based, student-centered, authentic learning in real life situations.

For additional information, please contact info@imagine-action.ca.



10th Annual Tea & Sale

3430 & 3480 Prescott Street
November 26, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Silent Auction, Raffle and Bake Sale
Free Admission

Come for ...
Crafts
Prescott Products
Baked Goods
Seafood Chowder or Chilli
Coffee or Tea & Dessert



Donations for FEED NOVA SCOTIA will be accepted at the door.

Email: info@prescottgroup.ca • Tel: 902-454-7387



Total Care Medical and Dental Claims Reimbursement – Now That Was Easy!

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to ensure that members are aware of the most convenient ways to be reimbursed for claims related to the Total Care Medical and Total Care Dental Programs.

Medavie Blue Cross (MBC) is billed directly by your pharmacy for eligible prescription drugs. You are required to pay the \$5.00 co-pay for each prescription. If you have a hospital stay, hospitals will bill MBC directly so members are not required to be out-of-pocket for semi-private hospital accommodation charges. There are some items insured under Hospital Benefits and Extended Health Benefits such as ambulance service, medical supplies, paramedical services, medical equipment and dental services that may have to be paid up front. Many members ask the question:

What is the best method to be reimbursed as quickly as possible for expenses to ensure I am out-of-pocket the least amount of time?

This is an excellent question. MBC have established electronic adjudication for many of its service providers. Providers such as massage therapists and physiotherapists can have your claim adjudicated online requiring you to pay only the applicable co-insurance. As an example, many physiotherapists can bill MBC directly at the time of service and charge you the 20 per cent co-insurance before you leave their office. This is also true for many dental offices who can also bill MBC directly to minimize your out-of-pocket expenses. Ask your service provider if they have the ability to bill MBC directly.

At some point you may find yourself in a situation where you are required to pay 100 per cent of a supply or service. All paid-in-full receipts must be submitted to MBC for reimbursement within one year from the date the expense is incurred. For convenience, you may wish to set up Direct Deposit with MBC. Claims reimbursement can be transferred electronically to your chosen bank account which will eliminate waits for reimbursement cheques through the mail, cuts back on trips to the bank and reduces the risk of theft or loss of your reimbursement cheque. MBC will send you a notice each time they make a deposit into your bank account.

Registering for Direct Deposit is easy!

Go to www.medavie.bluecross.ca

Choose a language by clicking on English or French.

On the screen that pops up, scroll down until you see the word **FORMS** on the right side bar panel.

On the main page that pops up, Scroll down to **For Group Plan Members**.

Under **For Group Plan Members** under the heading **Ontario/Atlantic Canada** click on **Direct Deposit request**.

A PDF form (illustrated below) will pop up to print off, fill in, and send to Medavie Blue Cross.

Now that was easy!



MEDAVIE BLUE CROSS

DIRECT DEPOSIT REQUEST

Policy No. Identification No.

My/Our Name(s) (Please Print)

Bank Name Branch No.

Bank Address

City Province

Type of Account ☐ Chequing ☐ Current ☐ Savings

Bank Account Number

I request my benefits be paid through electronic funds transfer (direct deposit) into this account. This authorization may be cancelled at any time upon written notice by me/us.

Date

Signature as you sign your cheque

IMPORTANT - PLEASE INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR CHEQUE MARKED "VOID". PLEASE ADVISE US IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGE IN BANKING ARRANGEMENTS.

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Medavie Blue Cross PO Box 220, Moncton, NB, E1C 6L3 ATTENTION: Customer Support
Telephone: 1-800-667-4511 FAX: (506) 867-4651

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Johnson Inc. at 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free) or 453-9543 (local).

JOHNSON

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$1,000?

Exclusively for NSTU active and retired members. Simply request a home or auto insurance quote by December 1st, 2011 for your chance to win a \$1,000 gift card from a retailer of your choice. (Existing policyholders are automatically entered.)

Home and Auto Insurance for NSTU members.

1.800.563.0677

www.johnson.ca/nstu

Please provide your Group ID code: 62 (payroll available)



Johnson Inc. – 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, 2011 to December 1st, 2011. No purchase necessary. Existing policyholders are automatically entered in the contest. The contest is open to NSTU Members, active and retired. 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. *Mediacorp Canada Inc. LRP/07.11



The deadline for the November/December issue of The Teacher is November 4th.

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

DELTA'S ... FALL GETAWAY



Celebrate the change of seasons with Delta Barrington or Delta Halifax. You'll get away from it all right in the middle of everything.

\$94*

Now members of NSTU can make reservations online.

*NSTU id must be presented at check-in for special rate; discounted parking rate of \$9.95

Reservations:

www.deltahotels.com/nstu



www.deltabarrington.com www.deltahalifax.com
For reservations and information call 1-888-423-3582 (toll free)

resources

Anti-Bullying Dubbing Titles Available from Learning Resources and Technology Services

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

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml

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

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

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

More Anti-Bullying Resources can be found at http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Anti-Bullying.shtml

Bully Smart Series (65 min.) Health - Grades 3-5; Bullying

This four-video set explores positive ways to recognize and deal with bullying situations. Students are encouraged to work together to build a zero-tolerance policy toward bullying, while practicing skills that will both prevent and reduce bullying problems. This series also looks at why people bully and how to spot your own bullying behaviour.

Bully Dance (11 min.) Health P-6; PDR 7-9

The "stick people" in Bully Dance are imaginary, but this gritty tale of childhood bullying is all too familiar. Like the dance beat pulsating throughout the film, the bully's intimidation of a smaller victim is unrelenting. While this video offers no simple solutions, it does compel viewers - teachers, parents and children - to take stock of their actions and to find ways to end the painful experience of peer abuse.

The Drawing (20 min.) Healthy Living 8-9; Bullying

A young boy encounters critics' barbs early when his teacher and classmates ridicule his pencil sketch of a dinosaur. Staying true to his artistic temperament literally takes the 10-year old to society's fringes and makes his re-entry into playground politics an exercise in exile. Beautifully and starkly shot, this stylish drama deftly accesses the intense focus of a child's imagination.

Feather Boy (180 min.) English Language Arts 6; Health 6

Based on the novel by Nicky Singer, Feather Boy traces a sequence of events in the life of a boy named Robert Nobel. He is often the butt of classroom jokes and pranks but this six-part series is more than just a story about bullying. It's about finding your voice, shouting from the rooftops about something you believe in, refusing to back down, helping a friend, and never giving up. Appropriate for use with Grades 4-6.

Gum in my Hair (21 min.) Health 5-6; PDR 7-8

Did you know: 41 per cent of students reported being involved in social bullying as either victims or bullies; bullying occurs in school playgrounds every seven minutes and once every 25 minutes in class; every month, 13 per cent of Canadian students report being victims of electronic bullying? This video is an engaging, entertaining answer to the serious problem of bullying. It offers young people concrete techniques that they can practice and use in response to ongoing bullying.

It's A Girl's World: A Documentary about Social Bullying (67 min.) Health 5-6; PDR 7-9; Sociology 12

It's a Girl's World takes us inside the tumultuous relationships of a clique of popular 10-year old girls. Playground bullying captured on camera shows a disturbing picture of how these girls use their closest friendships to hurt each other - with shunning, whispering and mean looks - to win social power in the group. This video shatters the myth that social bullying among girls is an acceptable part of growing up

You're Mean!: When Words Hurt Us (13 min.) Health - Grades P-5; Bullying

This age-appropriate program helps children understand that words can hurt—whether the insults are intentional or the inadvertent result of "trying to be funny." Four common school and home vignettes identify the power of words: a know-it-all who tries to boss others around, a playground bully who enjoys picking on other children, a teacher's pet who relishes seeing other students make mistakes, and an older sibling whose sarcastic banter distresses her little brother. Each vignette includes a positive outcome where children find a way to stand up for themselves and overcome the power of hurtful words.

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

RESOURCES

Veterans' Week Resources

Another school year is beginning and Veterans Affairs Canada is back with new learning tools. Veterans' Week is observed each year from November 5-11. We are again offering our free educational newspapers *Tales of Animals in War* (ages 5-11) and the *Canada Remembers Times* (ages 12-18) to help engage young people in Remembrance. But that's not all... Postcards for Peace, colourful bookmarks and eye-catching posters are also available. And to help you turn these resources in teaching tools, we have created an on-line teacher's guide. **Order your hard copies of our resources or consult our electronic versions at: www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/sub.cfm?source=remembrance/veterans-week/educational-resources.**

Exploring our Veterans' Week resources is just one way to remember. Check out our Veterans' Week Web feature for lots more information like details about commemorative events being held across the country. We even offer social media tools to allow young people to share their thoughts and reflections about those who have given so much in the cause of peace and freedom. **Check it out today at: www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/sub.cfm?source=remembrance/veterans-week.**

"Water Wisdom" Website Launches Just in Time for Back-to-School

We understand that teaching requirements are tight, class sizes large and time is at a premium, so WaterCan's new "Water Wisdom" website for students and teachers provides a one-stop-shop for water education and engagement. This highly interactive website allows students and teachers to easily find and download all of the educational, awareness and fundraising resources that they need to engage in global and domestic water issues.

The site features free curriculum-specific and bilingual **lesson plans** for K-10; downloadable audio-visual resources from our **multi-media library**; a "*Big Book of Ideas*"; and, interactive tools relating to water conservation at home and at school. This year's **School by School Challenge** will unite the fundraising efforts of students from coast to coast in support of WaterCan's inaugural *Clean Water for Health* project to benefit Kechene Clinic in Ethiopia. Join the water wisdom movement today at www.watercan.com/students.

2011-2012 Pre-Retirement Seminars TENTATIVE - SCHEDULE		
DATES	LOCATIONS	
October	24 & 25 (Monday & Tuesday)	HRSB - NSTU Building
November	1 & 2 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	TCRSB - Rodd Grand, Yarmouth
	9 & 10 (Wednesday & Thursday)	CBVRSB - Membertou Trade & Convention Centre
	15 & 16 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	CCRSB - Museum of Industry, New Glasgow
	24 & 25 (Thursday & Friday)	HRSB - NSTU Building
	28 & 29 (Monday & Tuesday)	CCRSB - Wandlyn Inn, Amherst
December	12 & 13 (Monday & Tuesday)	AVRSB - Old Orchard Inn
January	11 & 12 (Wednesday & Thursday)	SSRSB - Best Western, Bridgewater
	24 & 25 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	HRSB - NSTU Building, Halifax

11 October, 2011 Dates/locations subject to change

Natural Resources Education Centre

Centrally Located in the Musquodoboit Valley.

Programs meet curriculum links and connect students to natural resources and nature.

Check out our Newsletter for more details and activities you can use in your classroom.

Both on-site and off-site programs available.

Book online or call (902) 384- 3420.

www.gov.ns.ca/natr/education/nrec/

Important Dates for your Calendar

- November 8: World Water Day
- November 12-13: World Wetlands Day
- November 14-15: World Forest Day
- November 16-17: World Mountain Day
- November 18-19: World Mountain Day
- November 20-21: World Mountain Day
- November 22-23: World Mountain Day
- November 24-25: World Mountain Day
- November 26-27: World Mountain Day
- November 28-29: World Mountain Day
- November 30: World Mountain Day

Branching Out - Curriculum-Based Programming with Hands-on Activities

The Natural Resources Education Centre (NREC) is a well known for its curriculum-based hands-on activities and programs. NREC is located in the beautiful Musquodoboit Valley and offers a wide range of programs to help children and teenagers learn about nature and the environment.

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2011 World Teachers’ Day – Canadian teachers inspire students,awaken potential

With excerpts courtesy of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation

Teachers across Nova Scotia and Canada joined more than 30 million of their colleagues around the globe to mark World Teachers’ Day on October 5. The Canadian theme for this year’s celebration was “*Teachers: Inspiring students, awakening potential,*” while the Education International theme was “*Teachers for Gender Equality.*”

In 1994, UNESCO inaugurated October 5 as World Teachers’ Day to commemorate the joint UNESCO and International Labour Organization’s (ILO) signing of the *Recommendations Concerning the Status of Teachers*. World Teachers’ Day represents a significant token of the awareness, understanding and appreciation displayed for the vital contribution that teachers make to education and development.

“It is the dedication of Canada’s well-educated, highly professional teaching force that has created one of the best public education systems in the world,” says Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) president Paul Taillefer. “By drawing on their substantial pool of experience, expertise and knowledge, Canadian teachers can continue to enhance public education in order to inspire students and awaken their potential.”

Referring to *The Voice of Canadian Teachers on Teaching and Learning*, an extensive report released by the Federation this past summer, the CTF president notes that in a recent national survey “almost nine out of ten teachers stated their belief that some of the very important purposes of public education include preparing students to become responsible citizens, ensuring that students acquire the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics, and preparing students to be lifelong learners.”

“However,” warns Taillefer, “teachers also expressed their frustration that education policy decisions are increasingly being informed by people with little or no background in education. Often ignored in the debate on the future of public education is the voice of teachers who play such a crucial role in inspiring and educating Canada’s future generation.”

CTF speaks nationally on behalf of the Canadian teaching profession. An alliance of 17 member organizations representing nearly 200,000 teachers across the country, CTF is also a member of the international body of teachers, Education International.



GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

We can help you turn your idea into a useful, practical program!
If you, your class, or your colleagues have ideas to share with other teachers, classrooms and campuses in Nova Scotia, get a Sheonoroil Project Application today from your NSTU Representative!



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

- Our mandate**
is simple. The Sheonoroil Foundation will extend financial resources to any active or retired member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, to any group of active or retired NSTU members, or to any group of public school or Community College students working in cooperation with a teacher advisor(s) faculty member.
- Our purpose**
is to support research, inquiry, reflection, writing, distribution of information and interventions which focus on all forms of violence in the public (Primary to Grade 12) and Community College education system.
- Our pledge**
is to award funding grants for anti-violence programs that have a direct and immediate impact on public school and Community College classrooms, students, teachers, staff, administration and community.

Deadline—November 11, 2011

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.

RADIANT CHILD YOGA TEACHER TRAINING - For all who would love to Give Children the Gift of Yoga. A certificate program for teachers who would like to integrate yoga into their classroom. Yoga helps children to calm down, focus, gain clarity, ease anxiety and much more. **Note:** No Yoga background required. For info: www.yogastudio.ns.ca/workshops.htm#child. **Halifax October 21st to 23rd.**

INTERESTED IN A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY? Help promote world peace while doing some travelling? CISV Halifax is the perfect match for you! We are looking for dynamic leaders to accompany a delegation of youth to international camps being held in summer 2011, expenses paid. Contact halifax@ca.cisv.org for more information or view www.cisv.ca

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 sfiander@nstu.ca. See www.eftours.ca/eLiterature/DBD/12/EUS.pdf for itinerary.

NEEDED - Halifax based company seeking qualified French Elementary teachers to work from home evenings and weekends. 1 to 2+ hours a week. 17\$- 20\$ hour. For more info, visit us at www.teachercertifiedtutoring.com or call 902-229-8922.

FOR SALE - Retired tutor selling huge selection of elementary school teaching materials for language arts and math. 902-835-7854.

AVAILABLE - New, quiet country home to share with teaching professional in Chester/Hubbards area, one half hour from Halifax. Close to walking trails and beaches in a great community. Various options: call 902-789-7689 or 902-858-2030 to inquire.

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.**

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.**

JOB SHARE - I am an experienced teacher who is seeking a job share position in Halifax. I am more than half way done a Masters in Literacy and am qualified to teach P-8. Please contact Pamela for full resume at pam_benigno@hotmail.com or 902-209-1344.

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

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Program support teacher with CBVRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher from the CCRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. Please contact teachermove@yahoo.ca

TEACHER EXCHANGE - Early elementary teacher with the CBVRSB is looking to exchange positions with a teacher for the SSRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is possible. Please contact mdburton@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 - 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.

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.

We want your News and Pictures!

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

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



Send your photos to:
The Teacher
ATTENTION: Mary Jane Webber and/or Sonia Matheson
3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7
or email: theteacher@nstu.ca

All pictures must be in jpeg format with a high resolution (300 dpi). Please do not use Blackberries, iPhones or other smart devices to take photographs for *The Teacher*. The quality is not sufficient for our printing process. Any questions? Call Mary Jane Webber anytime at 479-4708. **The deadline for the November/ December issue is November 4th.**