

50th anniversary of THE teacher



Mailed under Canada Post Publications

Agreement Number 40063555.

ISSN 0382-408X



Return undeliverable Canadian addresses
to: 3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA B3L 4L7

NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2011

Now is the time to get involved Stand Up, Speak Out and Involve Your Colleagues

NSTU members across the province are being urged to step up and get more involved in the Union. NSTU President Alexis Allen says that between challenges here in Nova Scotia, and an international anti-union movement, members must come together to form a united voice.

"More than 300 fewer teachers will be in Nova Scotia's classrooms this year thanks to government cuts to the education budget," says Allen. "We know the Dexter government wants to triple that number unless we work together to rally our members, parents, politicians and supporters."

Before the NSTU launched last spring's kidsnotcuts.ca campaign, cuts to a total of 58 permanent and probationary teaching positions were planned; 44 probationary positions in the Halifax School Board and 14 permanent teachers with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board. After 3600 people signed the kidsnotcuts online petition, and another 2000 sent protest letters to MLAs, the boards went back to their

The Lunenburg County Local recently marched in the South Shore Exhibition Parade, with members wearing t-shirts with the kidsnotcuts logo and handing out 1000 campaign pencils.

"This is an example of a simple thing members can do to get involved in their community and let people know what is really going on in our classrooms," says Allen. "We need more members to think of creative ways to reach out and get more engaged."

In two other regions, members printed the pre-written letters to MLAs available at kidsnotcuts.ca and took them to a meeting. That simple act resulted in another

1100 protest letters. Another idea is to set up a computer in the staff room ready to have members sign the petition.

"Wouldn't it be great if in October we could bring at least 11,000 signatures to the Legislature to send a strong message to the government?" asks Allen. "This is a fight for our profession and public education."

The Community College will be facing similar challenges. It has not escaped these cuts and will feel the pressure of reduced funding by the province.

Any real change will take mobilization of all members like never before. With increasing retirements, the need to engage new members is more important than ever.

"The majority of

our members were not involved in the past struggles of the union, such as the crises of the 1990s. We must collectively create an environment for engagement. This is a responsibility for all of us," says Allen.



budgets and saved those positions.

"Our campaign was successful, and we need to keep this issue in the public eye," says Allen. "Even though these layoffs were avoided we still have a serious trend beginning in our classrooms. Three hundred teachers leaving the system were not replaced. We won't know for sure how big of an impact the loss of those 300 positions will be until we get back in the classroom."

Many Locals have started their own initiatives to get the message out.

**There will be a By-Election held
on October 18, 2011
for a Provincial Executive Member
for Halifax County.**



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Dr. Tom Parker Building, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7 (902) 477-5621 Toll Free 1-800-565-6788 Fax: (902) 477-3517 nstu@nstu.ca www.nstu.ca

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleague:

Welcome back! I hope you had a wonderful summer break, full of relaxation and rejuvenation. As always, September is a time of renewal and regeneration for both teachers and students. It is a time to embrace new challenges, while at the same time remembering the lessons learned in previous years.

This is a very special edition of The Teacher. It marks the first issue of the 50th year of publication and the 50th edition of The Teacher. Our organization's history is represented in the thousands of pages printed over the last 50 years in this newsletter. It is a crucial means of communication for the NSTU, but it is also a way to showcase the amazing things that our members are doing throughout the province.

This summer was particularly special for me as your President. As part of the Canadian delegation, I was privileged to represent NSTU members at the Education International 6th World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. Delegates from teacher organizations around the world gathered to discuss the principles of quality education, publicly funded education, equity in society, and the achievement of solidarity. As members of the NSTU and the Canadian Teachers Federation, you are automatically members of Education International. It is sometimes easy to take for granted the education systems that we have in place in Canada. Seeing us through a global perspective fills me with so much pride for Canadian teachers and the amazing job they are doing in our system.

Our first priority this school year will be to reach a tentative agreement for the public school teachers' collective agreement and to bring it to a vote. As well, we will be finalizing the Community College faculty and professional support staff asking package and will be negotiating over the coming months.

We will continue to pressure the government to maintain funding for the public education system. As your union, it is our job to further and maintain your rights and benefits, while at the same time raising the bar for all. As our members, we need you to be ready to take action. All of us need to fight for the good of our profession and for the public education system in Nova Scotia. If you haven't signed the petition demanding that the government provide full funding to the upcoming education budget, please visit kidsnotcuts.ca and add your name to the cause. Also, please take the time to send a letter to your MLA, reminding him/her of the importance of publicly funded education in Nova Scotia.

Other issues that continue to be of concern are cyberbullying, absenteeism, and workload. As you may know, the NSTU is involved with the Minister's Task Force on Cyberbullying. Recommendations from the Task Force on four key areas – intervention, education, assessment and policy – are forthcoming.

The NSTU will be offering a variety of professional development sessions over the coming year. Sessions to meet specific needs can be arranged. As usual, we are looking forward to October Conference Day, this year being held on October 28th. Please visit our website (www.nstu.ca) or call Central Office (477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788) for more information on any of our professional development opportunities and to view complete Professional Association conference program offerings.

We are here for you. If you have any questions related to the NSTU, please contact your NSTU representative at your school, talk to your Local President, or call/email Central Office. This is YOUR union. I encourage you to attend a Local general meeting and to get involved in union-sponsored activities.

As your NSTU President I am extremely honoured to represent you. I am looking forward to serving you to the best of my abilities over the coming year.

Welcome back and have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Alexis Allen



people

NSTU receives four Golden Leaf Awards

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union was recognized with four Golden Leaf Awards at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Educational Press Association (CEPA) during its annual meeting in June. The AGM takes place during the annual CEPA conference, which this year was hosted by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation. NSTU's magazine, *Aviso*, and its writers won all four awards. *Aviso* won in the Overall Publication (in-house) for its Winter 2011 edition on Mental Health. Diane Lewis received an award in the Writing category for her feature article, "Take a Sad Song and Make it Better," in the Spring 2010 edition. Diane Plourde Brennick also received an award in the Writing category for her feature article, "We Just Throw Boots at Her," in the Winter 2011 edition. This year's awards bring the magazine's total to 56. The Canadian Educational Press Association has sponsored the Golden Leaf Awards since 1994. CEPA has been providing excellence in educational publishing for over 40 years. It provides a national identity in educational communications, assists members in their professional development, and offers networking opportunities with colleagues across Canada. Members of CEPA work for teacher organizations across Canada as public relations/communications professionals and/or writers, editors and publications managers. Next year's conference will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia and will be hosted by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.



Canadian
Educational
Press
Association

Association
canadienne
de la presse
éducative

NSTU PR Officer on sabbatical

Angela Murray, NSTU PR Staff Officer is on a one-year sabbatical leave to pursue a Master of Public Relations at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU). She has also recently been elected to the National Board of the Canadian Public Relations Society. She is being replaced for the year by Mary Jane Webber, a former CBC journalist with more than 24 years experience in the communications field. Mary Jane worked with CBC in Halifax and Edmonton, both on-air and behind the scenes, before spending two years in New Zealand where she worked in journalism with the state broadcaster, TVNZ. She then joined the federal government in New Zealand to make the switch to public relations. Since her return to Canada in 2008, she has lent her PR and communications experience to clients including Health Canada, the Nova Scotia Government, Saint Mary's University, the Nova Scotia Community College, many private clients, and MSVU, where she is a part-time instructor. She has edited two books and won multiple journalism awards locally, nationally and internationally including a New Zealand Social Hero award for a partnership she developed with that country's Air Force to help children in foster care.



Mary Jane Webber

Paul Taillefer assumes presidency of the Canadian Teachers' Federation

(Courtesy of the Canadian Teachers Federation)

Paul Taillefer took over the presidential reins of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) as of July 15, 2011. Elected as President-Designate in 2010, Taillefer replaces Mary-Lou Donnelly who served as the Federation's President from 2009-2011.

"On behalf of teachers across Canada, I would like to sincerely thank Mary-Lou for being such an articulate and passionate spokesperson for our federation over the last two years," says CTF President Paul Taillefer. "Her enthusiasm and belief in the teacher union movement have enhanced the Canadian teachers' voice both nationally and internationally. We look forward to her continued involvement as Past President of CTF and as Chair of the CTF Trust Fund which administers our International Programs."

Paul Taillefer's career as a teacher leader spans over 25 years, beginning with the Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO), (a CTF Member organization) where he held various offices including the presidency for two consecutive terms. Taillefer has been a member of the CTF Board of Directors since 2004 and of the Executive Committee as Vice-President since 2007. As a staunch unionist and champion for public education, Paul Taillefer is also a strong promoter of Francophone language in minority settings, chairing the Federation's Advisory Committee on French as a First Language twice.

The native of Sudbury, Ontario began his teaching career in 1977 at the École secondaire catholique Thériault in Timmins. Taillefer completed a four-year bachelor's degree at Laurentian University and a bachelor of education at the University of Western Ontario.

CTF speaks for nearly 200,000 teachers in Canada as their national voice on education and related social issues. CTF membership includes teacher organizations across Canada. CTF is also a member of the international body of teachers, Education International.



Allen re-elected as a CTF vice-president

Nova Scotia Teachers Union president Alexis Allen was re-elected vice-president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) on July 15, during CTF's 91st Annual General Meeting, which was held in Ottawa, July 13 to 15.

"Sadly, today unions are coming under attack during these tough economic times. Union members are seeing their pension benefits being reviewed for possible limitations and collective bargaining rights are suspended in some areas," says Allen. "As a leader of both CTF and the NSTU, it is my priority to keep the pressure on government to respect and uphold our profession, our rights, and our contracts."

Allen was one of four CTF vice-presidents elected for one-year terms. As vice-president she will serve on the Executive for the organization and deal with key issues and resolutions that have an impact on public education, students and teachers nationally.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation speaks for nearly 200,000 teachers in Canada as their national voice on education and related social issues.



ISSN 0382-408X

Managing Editor: Mary Jane Webber
Assistant Editor: Maggie McFarlane
Layout, Advertising & Circulation: Sonia Matheson

Published eight times a year (September-June)
by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to:

3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, NS
B3L 4L7

Phone: 902-477-5621 Fax: 902-477-3517
Toll free: 1-800-565-6788
email: theteacher@nstu.ca
website: www.nstu.ca

All materials for publication must be submitted 13
working days prior to printing date. Submission
deadlines for 2011-2012:

ISSUE	DEADLINE
October	September 30
November/December	November 4
January/February	December 16
March	February 17
April	March 16
May	April 20
June	May 25

Mailed under Canada Post Publications
Agreement Number 40063555.

The opinions expressed in stories or articles do not
necessarily reflect opinions or policy of the Nova
Scotia Teachers Union, its staff or elected provincial
representatives. We assume no responsibility
for loss or damage to unsolicited articles or
photographs.

We welcome your comments and suggestions:
1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca.



You may find past issues posted on
our website: www.nstu.ca

© Nova Scotia Teachers Union 2011

NSTU Provincial Executive MEETING DATES

2011

- September 23-24
- October 21
- December 2-3

2012

- January 19-20
- February 23-24
- March 30
- April 26
- June 8-9



Three Presidents - Cathy Reimer, outgoing president of the NSTU Kings Local is flanked by outgoing CTF president Mary-Lou Donnelly (left) and NSTU president Alexis Allen. The trio were enjoying a balmy Ottawa evening during the CTF Annual meeting in July.

Fifty years of *The Teacher*



October 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of *The Teacher*, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union's longest running and most popular publication. *The Teacher* carried on the tradition established by the long running NSTU Bulletin, which boasted a first publication date of January 1922. The NSTU's commitment to providing members with timely updates on union related issues, as well as articles on professional development innovations and opportunities has a long and proud history.

The current staff members of *The Teacher* are pleased to continue this tradition. We hope that you enjoy these representative images of our publication's past and continue to read and benefit from future issues.



(formerly THE BULLETIN)

This is the first issue of your professional organization's magazine under its new name *The Nova Scotia Teacher*. We hope you will enjoy it. Make it one of your professional habits to read the official journal of your organization. Much of the material contained in it is written by your fellow teachers with the hope that it will be of assistance to you. A limited number of articles are written by recognized experts in their field from beyond the province. Your interest in their articles is the only reward we offer them for their contribution.

We hope to have many worth-while articles and a good deal of valuable information for you in successive issues this year.

Miss Elizabeth Williams will continue to do the attractive cover designs which have received many favourable comments.

Bill O'Malley, of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California, is our cartoonist and will be featured regularly. His subtle and sympathetic knowledge of teachers will doubtless receive your warm approval.

The mailing list for the October issue will be the same as used in June. It is impossible to know all changes in address or in name until new information is available from the Department of Education. Please keep the business manager informed of any change in name or address which occurs after the completion of your notice of opening of school.

We invite your comments and your contributions. You can help us make your magazine a better magazine.



GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

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

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



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

Our mandate

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

Our purpose

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

Our pledge

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

Deadline—November 11, 2011



16-36 Brookshire Court
 Bedford, Nova Scotia
 B4A 4E9

www.teachersplus.ca
Toll Free 1-800-565-3103

YOU SPOKE.....WE LISTENED!!

Teachers Plus Credit Union would like to advise
 YOU; our Members

that we have returned to Full Cash Services
 in order to serve you better!

HOURS of OPERATION

Monday to Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday to Thursday - 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*
 *by appointment only

We look forward to serving you for all your
 financial needs at a time which is convenient for you!

HOME OWNER QUICK GUIDE

- 1 Come to the Credit Union for a pre-approval. The Credit Union will make sure that you are financially prepared for home ownership or help design a plan to get you there.
- 2 Decide on a price range, location and other characteristics that you want for your new home.
- 3 Find a good real estate agent. Ask friends and family for a referral. Make calls to "interview" several agents until you find the one who is right for you.
- 4 Go shopping! Make sure to take property a viewing worksheet with you to each showing so that you can compare properties after you have viewed them.
- 5 Buy your dream home.

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

SPRING / SUMMER MORTGAGE CAMPAIGN

March 15 – September 30



COMPETITIVE RATES!!!

Get a Mortgage! Switch a Mortgage! Refinance your existing Mortgage!* and enter to WIN a \$500 travel voucher anywhere Porter Airlines fly.

**Some conditions apply.*

The Office will be closed Monday, October 10th for Thanksgiving

Finding Humour in Your Day

by Lori MacNeil, O.T. Reg. (N.S.)
EIP Case Coordinator

WHAT IS HUMOUR?

Humour can be defined as “the quality of being amusing, or comic; the ability to express humour or make other people laugh; a mood or state of mind, or an inclination or whim.” Sounds enjoyable, so why are so many people missing it from their lives?

WHERE DID ALL THE LAUGHTER GO?

Jobs are becoming scarce, there are more workplace demands, and the threat of another recession looms. It’s not funny; and it’s easy to see how humour and our ability to laugh has sadly slipped away. Simply growing up and facing adult stressors seems to be a significant reason for loss of humour as we age. Did you know the average preschooler laughs or smiles 400 times a day? That number drops to 15 by the time people are 35 years old. What also gets lost as we age isn’t just laughter, but our emotional range. Four-year olds have dozens of facial expressions; however, most adults only have two or three. I once worked for someone, who I swear, only had one!

**“Eat a live toad
in the morning
and nothing worse
will happen to you
for the rest of the day.”**

Somewhere between childhood and adulthood, the ability to play, laugh, and find humour in our day seems to be replaced with a no-nonsense

seriousness, seen as a “nose to the grindstone” workplace mentality. How’s that for funny? Not so much? Our culture has deemed a hard worker as one that is disciplined, has unquestioning obedience to authority and who has full concentration on tasks. Not exactly Mr. or Ms. Personality.

Perhaps it is during school that kids begin to learn this “new” way of life. As students, we are bombarded with the idea that life is full of tasks and that laughter and fun only get in the way of accomplishing anything. Think about it – have you asked your students “What’s so funny?” lately? Or perhaps, told a child to “grow up” or “wipe that grin off your face”?

RE-KINDLING THE HUMOUR IN YOUR DAY

All babies are born with the ability to smile and laugh within weeks of birth, therefore, even if you grew up in a home where laughter wasn’t common, it is possible to learn to laugh at any stage of life.

- The first step to laughter is smiling; like laughter, smiling is contagious. You don’t need to have something funny to get you started, just practice smiling.
- Seek laughter and move towards it. If you hear people laughing, typically people are very happy to share in the humour.
- Spend time with fun and playful people. Laughter is infectious, and those that can laugh at themselves and at life in general, can help you see the absurdities of life.
- Insert more play into your life. Play should be for play’s sake, not

IT TAKES 16 MUSCLES TO FROWN AND ONLY THREE MUSCLES TO SMILE. WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER?

to achieve a goal. We can re-ignite imagination, creativity, and sheer pleasure, setting the stage for finding opportunities for laughter.

- List the good things in your life. This helps us move away from our negative thoughts and stress which are barriers to humour and laughter.
- See the big picture and find incongruities in life. By looking at ourselves objectively, we’re no longer the centre of the universe and it’s easier to see the humour in our life and even our death. Don’t fret over the things you can’t change.
- Practice distancing. When things look terrible, ask yourself how it would look to a person from another part of the world, or to Candid Camera. Or think of what it will look like to you next week, year, or in 10 years. Ask yourself – how important will this problem be “x” amount of time from now? If the answer is “Not very,” let it go. A great deal of our heartiest laughter comes from reminiscing about past unfortunate events.

LAUGHTER IN THE WORKPLACE

The benefits of laughter on our health have been well-documented and companies are beginning to recognize the value of humour in the workplace. Improved physical and mental health, a sense of happiness, and better co-worker relations lead to a more productive, creative, and efficient environment.

Within the school setting, better physical and mental health would lead to fewer sick leave days, increased creativity, and overall healthier relationships between staff, students and administration.

Injecting humour into the school day may take the form of:

- A humour bulletin board or area in the staff room filled with joke books, fun props, caption contests of funny pictures taken of staff; or put up photos of the staff when they were children.
- Dress-up days where everyone is encouraged to wear a silly tie, shoes, shirt, etc.
- Have a “food joke of the week” box outside the cafeteria, with the winner posted (and perhaps a free lunch included?)
- Open or close a staff meeting with a funny, on-the-job incident, or share a joke if no funny incidents occurred.
- Have a tension-release area – for example, stuffed animals that can be squeezed, kicked or man-handled, hula-hoops, or a putting area.
- Acknowledge moodiness with a “Mood-O-Meter” outside your door. Everyone can take turns forecasting your mood: from fire-breathing to periodic eruptions to variable clouds. Don’t underestimate the power of self-effacing humour for making yourself more accessible and liked.


BENEFITS OF LAUGHTER

Physical Health Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosts immunity/energy • Lowers stress hormones • Decreases pain • Relaxes your muscles • Prevents heart disease • Burns calories! 	Mental Health Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eases anxiety and fear • Relieves stress • Improves mood/adds joy to life • Enhances resilience • Helps rid the mind of negativity • Increases productivity/creativity 	Social Benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens relationships • Attracts others and increases intimacy • Enhances teamwork and team spirit • Helps defuse conflict • Promotes group bonding
--	--	---

**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.



The deadline for the October issue of The Teacher is September 30th.

Please contact Sonia Matheson at theteacher@nstu.ca or call 1-800-565-6788.



Are you a new or returning substitute teacher?

Don’t forget to fill out the Substitute Teacher Contact Information Form available on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca (version française disponible)

Please complete this form annually to ensure you remain on our mailing list.

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!)



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

Please make sure you tell us who took the picture! All pictures must be in jpg format with a high resolution (300 dpi). Any questions? Call Mary Jane Webber anytime at 479-4708. **The deadline for the October issue is September 30th.**

Please don't make me go to school tomorrow!

But Honey, you're the teacher.



Annapolis East Elementary School Grade 4-6 Dance Club Showcase

On Wednesday, June 15, fifty students from Annapolis East Elementary School Grade 4-6 Dance Club travelled to three local schools to perform a Dance Showcase. This is the second year the club and members were invited to perform at the International Day of Dance and at Dance Spectacular for Physical Education and Health Conference at North East Kings Education Centre. The club and members have been invited to perform again in 2012. Although the children participate in the Dance Club for the dancing itself, Club choreographer Cindy Perry feels that there is so much more to it: "Dance promotes fitness, coordination, spatial awareness, social skills and much more." Perry hopes to see other schools organize their own club. If you would like information about starting a Dance Club, please contact Cindy Perry at cindymp@staff.ednet.ns.ca.



Photo courtesy of Keri Butler

NSTU Members March in Pride Parade — As part of the awareness campaign about sexual minority issues in education, and in its efforts to create safe and caring schools for all students and staff, the NSTU continued its participation in the 24th Halifax Pride Parade, part of Atlantic Canada's largest Pride Festival, which took place July 17 to 24. NSTU members, staff and friends marched in this year's parade on July 23. Halifax Pride is the biggest pride celebration east of Montreal.

The NSTU is actively seeking membership for its Substitute Teacher Committee. This committee advises the Provincial Executive on issues affecting and of concern to substitute teachers.

To be eligible you must be an Active or Active Reserve member.

Download the application form from the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca under the "Substitutes" menu and click on "Committee".

The deadline is October 14. The Substitute Teacher Committee will be appointed at the October 21 Executive Meeting.

50- 50- 50

- Donate \$50
- Celebrate the 50th year of the Canadian Teachers' Federation International programs
- Support the launch of the next 50 years of international outreach and cooperation.

Every \$50 donor will automatically receive a copy of the limited edition 50th anniversary poster which features the names of over 2,000 international volunteers as well as many photos taken over the years. A collector's item.

Please send your donation to the CTF Trust Fund, 2490 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa ON, K1H 1E1

Tax receipts will be issued.



23" x 35" high quality offset print. Only 500 posters available on a first-come first serve basis. Ships in reinforced mail tube.

Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants



PUBLIC LECTURE ANNOUNCEMENT

"Fostering Deep Learning in Students: A Dialogue with Ken Bain"



What do the best teachers do to spark interest and devotion to learning among students?

Educators are invited to join Dr. Ken Bain, historian, educator and author of the international best-seller *What the Best College Teachers Do*, in a highly interactive public lecture that explores this and other questions surrounding teaching and learning with students from primary to post-secondary and beyond.

Thursday, Sept. 29
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Seton Auditorium,
Mount Saint Vincent University

All are welcome | Admission: Free

The President's Visiting Lecture Series on Teaching and Learning is an initiative of Mount Saint Vincent University (the Mount), designed to support educators in developing and enhancing their teaching, and to support flexible learning approaches.

msvu.ca/lectureseries

Leadership 2011—A New Structure

More than 180 union members showed a true commitment to leadership by giving up three of the sunniest days of summer to attend indoor workshops at the 7th annual Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) Leadership Skills Development Institute.

Held each August, this two-day conference gives participating Local leaders, Provincial Executive members and professional association presidents the opportunity to network, expand their knowledge of the NSTU, and develop leadership skills.

This year, as in the past, the Institute was held at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia from August

16-18. This year's format was changed to further enable the union to continue to meet the needs of its membership and organization.

"Evaluations over the last few years showed that the conference needed a new direction," explained president Alexis Allen in her opening speech. "We are fortunate that as a union we are adaptable to change."

This year the conference was structured to reach out to a broader cross-section of members. With time, members who may not have previously been involved in union activities will, be able to take advantage of this conference to help them assume a more active role within the NSTU.



Members from across the province work in small groups during Betty-Jean Aucoin's workshop "Group Process," part of the 2011 NSTU Leadership Skills Development Institute.



• And, there were also several back-to-basics courses including Parliamentary Procedure, Employee/Member Discipline and the Grievance Procedure.

"Participants were able to select five sessions this year and, depending on their individual backgrounds, may elect

to take another set of five sessions next year and the following year to address their particular leadership needs," explained Executive Staff Officer Ron Brunton, who co-ordinated the conference along with Danny Eddy and Betty-Jean Aucoin.



Executive Staff Officer Simon Wilkin explains the inner workings of the Nova Scotia Legislature during his Leadership Institute session called Communication and the Political Process.

The War Amps presents


The Canadian Army Newsreels

Featuring 20 hours of footage, this six DVD set contains 106 newsreels filmed and produced by the Canadian Army Film Unit.


Army cameramen documented the Canadian troops in training and on the front lines. They scooped the world on major events including the invasion of Sicily and D-Day.

Available for the first time as a complete set, this collection holds an important place in Canada's military history.

To order The Canadian Army Newsreels (\$30), please contact:



The War Amps
1 800 250-3030
waramps.ca



"As more members retire, our average age is dropping and we need to engage our youngest and newest members who will be carrying on the torch that our veterans have held for so long," said Allen.

Allen explained that the change in structure comes at a time when unions are coming under attack nationally and internationally, largely in response to the global economic crisis. Union members are seeing their pension benefits under review for possible limitations and collective bargaining rights are being suspended in some areas. She cited recent examples, first how the Harper government interfered directly in two legal strikes by introducing "back to work legislation" for Air Canada workers and then later for Canada Post workers; and second, how the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA) was blamed by their former premier, Ed Stelmach, for the layoff of 1000 teachers because the ATA sought an increase in salary that had previously been negotiated.

"All of our members need to be ready to assume a more active leadership role in the next few years," said Allen. "The workshops at the Institute were designed to make members better informed and better prepared to take on a union role no matter how much experience they have."

Some of the sessions included in the conference were:

- Public Relations Strategies, designed to help build support and visibility with the public and one-on-one communicating today and tomorrow.
- Communication and the Political Process, which looked at working with government officials.



All leadership sessions were held at the state-of-the-art Gerald Schwartz School of Business.

AVISO

THE MAGAZINE FOR NOVA SCOTIA'S TEACHING PROFESSION
LA REVUE DE LA PROFESSION ENSEIGNANTE DE LA NOUVELLE ÉCOSSE

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Submissions are encouraged from Nova Scotia's public school teachers and community college faculty and professional support staff. Please submit:

AVISO
3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, NS, B3L4L7
aviso@nstu.ca

Manuscripts submitted should reflect AVISO's mandate as a professional journal for Nova Scotia's teaching profession. Manuscripts will not be returned. Any manuscript chosen to appear in AVISO may be edited for clarity, style, length and consistency.

Contributor guidelines are available to interested writers on the NSTU Website – www.nstu.ca

Please ensure email attachments are Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format or Text Only.

DEMANDE DE MANUSCRITS

Nous encourageons des soumissions des enseignants des écoles publiques et du personnel enseignant et de soutien des collèges communautaires. Veuillez envoyer vos soumissions à :

AVISO
3106 chemin Joseph Howe
Halifax, NS, B3L4L7
aviso@nstu.ca

Les manuscrits soumis devraient refléter la mission d'AVISO en tant que revue professionnelle des enseignants de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Les manuscrits ne seront pas retournés. Les manuscrits sélectionnés pour la publication dans AVISO pourront être édités pour ce qui est de la clarté, du style, de la longueur et de la cohérence.

Les directives relatives aux collaborateurs sont disponibles en consultant le site Web du NSTU – www.nstu.ca

Les manuscrits envoyés par voie électronique doivent être en format Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format ou Texte seulement.



NSTU members at the August Leadership retreat dug into their own pockets and donated \$1170 to Feed Nova Scotia to buy school supplies for children across the province. Provincial Executive member Pat Hillier came up with the idea after the union made an official donation of \$500 to the cause. Provincial Executive members (l-r) Marlene Boyd, Bill Bruhm and Tammy Landry handed out envelopes and carried the donation box around for two days collecting cash. Feed Nova Scotia will purchase the supplies and hand them out through their 150 partner organizations which are located from Yarmouth to Sydney.

The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2011-2012 school year are September 15, 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

Shannen's Dream: A Social Justice Project

Shannen Koostachin of Attawapiskat First Nation had a dream - safe and comfy schools and culturally based education for First Nations children and youth. She worked tirelessly to try to convince the federal government to give First Nations children a proper education before tragically passing away at the age of 15 years old in 2010. Now it is our turn to carry her dream forward.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union invite teachers and students to sign on to Shannen's Dream, a national campaign which advocates for the provision of healthy schools and quality education for First Nations children in Canada. <http://www.fncfcs.com/shannensdream/sign-up>

"A vital step in building economies, reducing poverty and creating futures is the development of a quality public education system that works as well for First Nations children as it works for other children in Canada," says CTF Past President Mary-Lou Donnelly.

"Our Aboriginal population has the greatest number of young people under the age of 25 in Canada. These youth have so much potential in our society, yet, in order to reach their full potential, the correct measures and supports must be in place within the education system. The first barrier is inadequate federal funding," she notes, referring to a report by the Assembly of First Nations showing that federal funding in education for Aboriginal students in First Nations communities is \$2,000 to \$3,000 less per pupil than what provincial and territorial governments are spending on other Canadian pupils.

"Although the *Shannen's Dream* campaign was launched to mobilize support for a school in a remote northern Ontario community, it epitomizes the current state of chronic federal underfunding of Aboriginal education throughout the country," adds Donnelly.

"We are cautiously optimistic with the federal government's recent announcement regarding the construction of a school in Attawapiskat by 2013, and we hope that children in that community will be able to benefit from a safe and clean educational environment," concludes Donnelly.

For more information on the campaign: <http://www.fncfcs.com/shannensdream>.

HPG
HIGH PERFORMANCE GREEN
ODOR FREE
White board cleaner

Whiteboards cleaned and re-conditioned like new - with no harsh chemicals. LEARN MORE AT:
www.hpgclean.com | www.gmssurfacetech.com

Summer's over. Time to get back to class.



What about becoming a student again, too? Whether you choose a course, certificate, or Master of Education program, you can advance in your career by hitting the books.

Master of Education

Acadia provides graduate degree programs on a full-time and part-time basis. Courses are offered throughout Nova Scotia in partnership with your local school board, with many available as flexible online courses.

If you're not ready to commit to a degree program, start as an independent student by taking courses of interest locally or online. You can easily apply courses and electives to your program later.

Available Online

- **TESOL Certificate:** Open up a world of new career possibilities by training as a TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) teacher.
- **Certificate in French Proficiency:** Upgrade your core French skills for personal or professional development with this certificate for both beginner and advanced students.
- **Online Courses:** Broaden your knowledge by choosing one of over 100 online courses that you can begin anywhere, anytime.

To register or learn more, please visit:

edu.openacadia.ca



NSTU Leaders Attend Sixth Education International World Congress in Cape Town, SA

(with excerpts courtesy of Education International)



Between July 22-26, NSTU President Alexis Allen, Executive Director Bill Redden, and First Vice-President Eric Boutilier were part of the Canadian delegation that traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to participate in Education International's sixth World Congress. Delegates from 300 countries and 400 member organisations gathered to examine the challenges facing education around the world. Topics under discussion ranged from the financial crisis, budget cuts, declining resources, the de-professionalisation of teachers, and quality education for all.

The Congress was opened by EI President Susan Hopgood, who took a moment to mention South Africa's most recognizable and important political activist: "We cannot open this Congress in South Africa without remembering the enormous debt that we owe to President Nelson Mandela for what he has taught us all about the struggle for freedom and respect for human rights. At a time when public education is under unprecedented attack, teacher unions' defence of every child's right to quality public education is ever more crucial."

The key note speaker at the opening ceremony was South Africa's Deputy President, Kgalema Motlanthe, a former activist in the mine workers' union and militant in the African National Congress who was held in the notorious prison on Robben Island for 10 years. "Since the advent of democracy [in South Africa] in 1994 we have successfully integrated the many racially and ethnically-

based education departments into one unitary national system," Motlanthe said. "We have achieved near universal access to basic education... but the quality of education leaves much room for improvement."

Influential education union leaders and teachers reviewed and debated best practices in recruiting, preparing and supporting teachers to achieve quality education for all, and discussed the adoption of EI's draft education policy which sets out the fundamental elements of a quality education. Delegates also discussed ways to protect students, teachers, and schools from the global financial crisis. They argued that an enhanced education system was one of the most important elements to rebuilding failing economies around the world.

EI World Congresses are held every four years with the purpose of setting the course of EI's work, electing new EI leadership, and awarding two teachers with international awards for their commitment to the profession and to human and trade union rights.

This year, one of the prestigious awards was given to a Canadian teacher, Pauline Ladouceur, a member of the Fédération des Syndicats de l'Enseignement, which is affiliated to Centrale des Syndicats du Québec. Ladouceur has taught pupils with learning difficulties in disadvantaged communities for more than 25 years, as well as training teachers at the University of Quebec. Accepting the award, Ladouceur said: "This is profoundly moving because the work of teachers working with special-needs students is seldom recognised. We teachers practice the very finest profession. Even if the results are not immediate, sooner or later, you discover that you have made a difference for many young people."

The second award was given to Gülçin Isbert, a Turkish primary school teacher who is a member of Egitim Sen. She was recognised



South Africa's Deputy President, Kgalema Motlanthe, addressing Congress. (Photo credit: EI 6th World Congress © Bea Uhart)

for her work to promote women's empowerment and the rights of ethnic minorities. She is among 31 trade unionists who have been on trial since November 2009 for allegedly belonging to an 'illegal' Kurdish organisation. The Turkish authorities have prevented Isbert from travelling to Cape Town to collect her award so she addressed delegates through a pre-recorded video: "I am a teacher, and I believe that education is a basic and universal human right that should be public, democratic, and available in the mother tongue for everyone. I feel honoured for myself, and on behalf of my union, to be given this award, and I'd

like to pay tribute to all companions fighting for freedom. I thank EI for its continuing solidarity."

Education International represents organisations of teachers and other education employees across the globe.

It is the world's largest federation of unions, representing thirty million education employees in about four hundred organisations in one hundred and seventy countries and territories, across the globe. Education International unites all teachers and education employees.

For more information, visit www.ei-ie.org.



The Canadian delegation poses at the Education International Congress. NSTU president Alexis Allen is on the left in the front row, Executive Director Bill Redden is on the left in the back row, and first vice-president Eric Boutilier is in the upper right.

DELTA'S ... FALL GETAWAY



life is good

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

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

My


DELTA
BARRINGTON & HALIFAX

Bring a Book (to Congress) for 'Equal Education'

(Courtesy of Education International)

Delegates at EI's recent World Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, were encouraged to 'bring a book' from their country as part of the 'Bring a Book' initiative to help populate a library and highlight the fact that almost 70 per cent of schools in South Africa do not have access to a properly equipped library where children can learn and teachers can teach.

EI joined forces to work with Equal Education which is a movement of young people, parents, teachers and unions working for quality and equality in education across South Africa. Equal Education is supported by South African teachers' unions, NAPTOSA and SADTU.

Delegates at EI's World Congress contributed more than six hundred books from around the globe.

More information is available at: www.equaleducation.org.za



Photo credit: EI 6th World Congress © Bea Uhart

Contract talks ongoing

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Department of Education are continuing negotiations on a new Teachers' Provincial Agreement. Asking Packages from both parties were exchanged September 21, 2010.

"We are hopeful that this agreement will address what's in the best interest for public education in Nova Scotia and our members," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

As in past negotiations, the parties have agreed to keep their discussions confidential. A media blackout has been in effect during the negotiation period.

A series of presentations of the Asking Package for NSTU members took place last year.

"All members have had a chance to get firsthand information about the details of our Asking Package," continues Allen.

The current provincial agreement expired July 31, 2010.

Last spring Community College members started putting together Asking Packages for the faculty and professional support bargaining units for their next contract, which expired August 31, 2011.

Check out the **Deals and Discounts** for NSTU Members on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

WE NEED YOU TO SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

There is a need to fill a vacancy on the

Distance Education Committee

Article 49.10 of the Teachers Provincial Agreement states:
A standing Distance Education Committee consisting of two (2) representatives from the Department of Education, two (2) representatives from the Nova Scotia School Boards' Association and four (4) representatives from the Union shall be established to address issues surrounding distance education. The Committee must meet no less than twice a year and provide an annual written report to the parties bound by this Agreement.
You may download the NSTU Standing/Other Committees Application Form from the NSTU website. Or apply on-line by:

- Going to the NSTU Website at www.nstu.ca
- Selecting the "Communications" drop-down menu
- Selecting "On-line Forms" from the drop-down menu
- Following the instructions and link to the application form

The Nominating Committee will be accepting applications until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2011.

Nova Scotia Teachers Union
Nominating Committee
3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7
Phone: 477-5621 • 1(800)565-6788 • Fax: 477-3517
Email: centraloffice@nstu.ca

iwalk²⁰¹¹

International Walk to School and Walk at School Month

in October

Register & qualify your school for great prize draws including:

- A bike donated by Cyclesmith
- A classroom pedometer kit
- Reflective arm/leg bands
- Climate Change Teacher's Guide & Ecology Action Centre membership

Register your school now at www.saferoutesns.ca
(click on the IWALK icon)

NEW for 2011 CONFERENCE

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

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

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:
www.saferoutesns.ca | walk@ecologyaction.ca | 902.442.5055

Thanks also to St. Francis Xavier University and Skate Patrol for their support of Making Tracks.

THE WAVERLEY
Downtown Halifax

Welcome Back !

Located near great dining, shops and attractions the Waverley is the perfect escape for a weekend getaway. Your stay includes breakfast, parking and wireless internet.

Attractive NSTU Rates offered

www.waverleyinn.com • 1266 Barrington Street • 800-565-9346



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

2011 - 2012 COMMITTEES



The NSTU Nominating Committee would like to thank the 79 members who applied for NSTU Provincial Committees. Thirty-seven positions were filled based on a number of criteria including: regional representation; experience in Union activities; curriculum/grade level representation; and gender representation. The Committee encourages members to continue to apply for NSTU committees.

*With the exception of the Resolutions Committee, the following list does not contain committees appointed at Annual Council or those members serving on external committees. **This list is current as of August 23, 2011.***

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE

FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Dave Jones, Chair, Secretary-Treasurer; **Grant MacQuarrie**, Kings (2012); **Keri Butler**, Halifax City (2012); **John Sperdakes**, Pictou (2013); **John Helle**, Executive Member; **Melanie Harding**, NSTU Financial Officer; **Maureen Smith**, NSTU Business Manager; **Bill Redden**, NSTU Executive Director

GOVERNANCE RENEWAL COMMITTEE

Angela Gillis, Halifax; **Pat Hillier**, Chignecto; **Tammy Landry**, Strait; **Bill Bruhm**, South Shore; **John MacKay**, Tri-County; **Jacinta Gracie**, Cape Breton; **Damian Hall**, Community College; **Alexis Allen**, NSTU president; **Bill Redden**, NSTU Executive Director and **Ron Brunton**, NSTU staff liaison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

Bill Bruhm, Chair; **Vince Gillis**, **Cindy MacKinnon**, **Tammy Landry**, **Ian Comeau** and **Bill Redden**, NSTU Executive Director

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

Allister Wadden, Chair; **Marlene Boyd**, **Gerry Alley**, **Mark Savoury** and **Bill Redden**, NSTU Executive Director

PROGRAM

COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE

Renée Samson, Chair (2012); **Sonia Parisé LeBlanc**, (2012); **Sophie Pedneault** (2012); **Melissa Whelton**, (2012); **Shelia Henderson**, (2013); **Ian LeBlanc**, (2013); **Ian Comeau**, Executive Member; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Nathan Orman, Chair, Shelburne (2012); **Stephane Richard**, CSANE (2012); **Brenda Zwicker**, Lunenburg County (2012); **Cathy Doucet**, Colchester-East Hants (2013); **Grant Frost**, Halifax County (2013); **Joyce Lively**, Cape Breton District (2013); **Tanya Sampson**, Richmond (2013); **Cindy MacKinnon**, Executive Member; **Ron Brunton**, NSTU staff liaison

EQUITY

Jenn Laudadio, Chair Antigonish (2012); **Mary McLeod**, Cape Breton District (2012); **Daniel Blinn**, Dartmouth (2012); **Bev Roy**, Kings (2012); **Alex Oickle**, Lunenburg County (2013); **Stacy Thorburn**, Queens (2013); **John MacKay**, Executive Member; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Eric Boutilier, Chair (1st vice-president); **Deborah McVeigh**, Community College (2012) one year term replacement; **Myla Borden**, Pictou (2013); **Jed Corbett**, Cape Breton District (2013); **Bill Murphy**, Antigonish (2013); **Diane Raoul**, Guysborough County (2013); **Leslie Soulsby**, APSEA (2013); **John Driscoll**, Executive Member, Community College; **Janine Kerr**, 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); **Albert Johnson**, RTO Representative; **Pat Hillier**, Executive Member liaison; **Dave Jones**, Secretary-Treasurer; **Joan Ling** and **Allan MacLean**, NSTU staff liaisons

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tonia Cromwell, Chair, Digby (2012); **Jill Burton**, Inverness (2012); **Jaylene Chase**, Lunenburg County (2012); **Roland Hannem**, Yarmouth (2013); **Korey Millar**, Shelburne County (2013); **Catherine McCarthy**, Halifax County (2013); **Pat Hillier**, Executive Member; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Deborah Mitchell, Chair, Lunenburg County (2012); **Graham MacLeod**, Pictou (2012); **Kevin Pearle**, Hants West (2013); **Robert George**, Colchester-East Hants (2013); **Jo-Leigh MacPhee**, Kings (2013); **Eric Boutilier**, **Bill Bruhm**, and **Wally Fiander**, Executive Members; **Simon Wilkin**, NSTU staff liaison

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Garland Standing, Chair, Northside-Victoria (2012); **Wade Van Snick**, Cumberland (2012); **Mark MacPhee**, Halifax County (2013); **Bernadette Julian**, Community College (2013); **Wally Fiander**, Executive Member; **Mary Jane Webber**, Public Relations & Communications and **Simon Wilkin**, NSTU staff liaisons

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE

Kathy Kerr, Executive Member Liaison and **Grant MacLean**, NSTU staff liaison
To be appointed October 2011.

TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Dawn Smith, Chair, Shelburne (2012); **Arnold Burke**, Cape Breton District (2012); **Debbie Davis-Maybee**, Colchester-East Hants (2013); **Shelley Morse**, Kings (2013); **Michael Stewart**, Lunenburg County (2013); **Vince Gillis**, Executive Member; **Danny Eddy**, NSTU staff liaison

STATUTORY

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Scott Tilford, Chair, Colchester-East Hants (2012); **Ellen Louth**, Dartmouth (2012); **Lloyd Taggart**, Cumberland (2012), **Barbara Flynn**, Yarmouth (2012) 1 year term replacement; **Peter Murphy**, Northside-Victoria (2013); **Tim O'Reilly**, Halifax County, (2013); **TBA**, Executive Member; **Bruce Kelloway**, Assistant Executive Director, NSTU staff liaison

OTHER COMMITTEES

INSURANCE TRUSTEES

Thérèse Forsythe, Chair, Kings (2013); **Peter Doucette**, Community College (2012); **Adrien Amirault**, Cumberland (2012) 2 year term replacement; **Stephanie Black**, Cape Breton District (2013) 3 year term replacement; **Phil Doucette**, Antigonish (2016); **Susan Noiles**, Halifax County (2016); **Bruce Spares**, NSCC; **Joe MacEachern**, Department of Education; and **Joan Ling**, NSTU staff liaison

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF) COMMITTEE

Colleen Scott, Shelburne (2012); **Erin Moser**, Halifax County (2014); **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison,

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE

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

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Marlene Boyd, Chair, Executive Member; **Lori MacKinnon**, Yarmouth (2012); **Lynette Rankin**, Inverness (2012); **Jed Corbett**, Cape Breton District (2013); **Leon Swinkels**, Dartmouth (2013); **Ron Brunton**, NSTU staff liaison

SHEONORAIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Redden, Chair, NSTU Executive Director; **Jennifer Murray**, Dartmouth (2012); **Darren Cummings**, Yarmouth (2013) 2 year term replacement; **Mary-Claire MacMillan**, Halifax City (2013); **Mary MacPherson**, Cape Breton District (2014); **Cathy Townsend-Fuller**, Kings (2014); **David Higgins**, retired member (2012); **Gerry Alley**, Executive Member; **Thérèse Forsythe**, Insurance Trustees; **Alexis Allen**, NSTU president; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, Coordinator, NSTU executive staff officer



A New Avenue of Communication between Home and School

Students, teachers and parents are benefitting from a new province-wide program that will support student achievement and give parents a vital view of their child's learning.

Since the fall of 2010, 94 schools in Nova Scotia began registering and managing student information on one common system, as part of iNSchool. And, many parents and students of these schools now have access to real-time information on their attendance, grades, assignments, teacher comments, and school bulletins through use of a student-parent portal.

"Parents like the fact that they can be more in-tune and involved in their children's education, and teachers like how easy and fast it is to manage their information and communicate with students and parents," says John Fahie, director of information technology services for the Department of Education.

Bridgewater Junior Senior High School teacher Kendra Hall agrees, "the student-parent portal opens a new avenue of communication between home and school."

iNSchool will also enable educators to identify students who need additional support more quickly and initiate programs to support them. "This program has improved communication significantly. I believe this increase in communication will help identify areas of improvement for students and lead to greater student success," said Mary Cobb, a teacher at Sackville High School. "Although there has been a significant learning curve, this program has improved my tracking of individual students and has allowed me to be more up to date with my marking."

iNSchool is gradually being introduced to all Nova Scotia schools. Two hundred and eighteen (218) schools will come on board this September, and the remaining 120 schools - mostly elementary in the Chignecto-Central and Halifax regional school boards - will start between January and September of 2012.

To learn more about iNSchool, including the provincial school schedule, go to www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca.

Kids can help grant wishes for kids with life threatening medical conditions.

Fostering community service, leadership, responsibility, volunteerism and school spirit!

Atlantic Provinces Canada

902-466-9474 or infoatlantic@makeawish.ca
or toll free at 1-877-466-9474

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

HRSB signs agreement

The NSTU and the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) signed a new collective agreement June 29 during a ceremony held at the HRSB offices. In an online vote held on May 19, members of the Halifax City, Dartmouth and Halifax County Locals voted 88.46 per cent in favour of acceptance of the tentative agreement. The new contract expires July 31, 2013.



Shown are members of the NSTU negotiating team. Front row (l to r) Provincial Executive member Kathy Kerr; Halifax City Local president Keri Butler; and Halifax County Local president Tim MacLeod. Back row: (l to r) Dartmouth Local Economic Welfare Vice-President Jeff Wamboldt; NSTU executive staff officer Janine Kerr; Past President, Halifax City Local, Liette Doucet; and Dartmouth Local president Kyle Marryatt.



Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development

**Mount Saint Vincent University
May 23 - 25, 2012**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Weight Watchers At Work program is pleased to announce to all Nova Scotia members and support staff a corporate rate of \$11.99 per week plus taxes***

For more information or to book a free Information Session on our fabulous Points Plus Program please contact:

Gail Taylor/Weight Watchers Canada Ltd. / 1.800.989.7810 ext 4039

*****Based on 20 or 26 week series with a minimum of 15 members*****

Gail Taylor / Weight Watchers Canada Ltd.
Corporate Account Manager/Atlantic Canada

902.497.8399 Cell / 902.662.2296 Home office
1.800.989.7810 ext. 4039 - voice mail / gtaylor@corp.weightwatchers.ca

"Weight Watchers.Because it Works."

Project Overseas

Fifty-two teachers attended the orientation for Project Overseas which was held from July 2-5, 2011. This year's group of teachers travelled to 12 countries and participated in a total of 13 projects. This is a particularly exciting upcoming year for Project Overseas as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. To celebrate this achievement a special reception was held during the orientation and the 50th year of Project Overseas was launched.

Project Overseas is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), participating Member organizations of CTF, and many of CTF's overseas partner organizations. The purpose of Project Overseas is to improve the quality of education in Canada and the developing countries in which we work. Although the primary focus of PO is teacher professional development, the primary goal is improved teaching and learning for students around the world. Working towards quality public Education for All (EFA) is the driving force behind all aspects of CTF's International Cooperation Programs.

Over 1,900 Canadian teachers have been involved in Project Overseas since it began in 1962. For more information, visit <http://www.ctf-fce.ca/International/Default.aspx?sid=146>.



Project Overseas 2011 participants (l-r) Gretchen Gerhardt, Liberia, Owen Ferguson, Mongolia and Rima Majaess, Sierra Leone.

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)

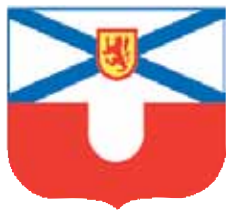
PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members) and CIDA.

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!*



A Message from Member Services

Facebook Dos and Don'ts

Almost every week a news story pops up talking about the effect a Facebook post has had on an employee's career.

Here are some tips about using Facebook that will help you avoid making mistakes that could have serious consequences for you at work.

DO:

- **Ensure your privacy settings are at the highest level for all content.**

Why: *Whoever has access to your information—photos, images, profile, wall, messages—also has the ability to copy and disseminate that information, which means the information is not private and, depending on the content, could put you at risk of discipline.*

- **Ensure your posts and photos/images are professional and respectful.**

Why: *See above. You can be disciplined, in certain circumstances, for off-duty conduct.*

DON'T:

- **Have students as Facebook “friends” or otherwise communicate with students via Facebook.**

Why: *You are not your students' friends. You are their teacher. Allowing personal relationships to develop with students creates the risk that your communications will be misinterpreted that you will become too familiar with that student. The worst case scenario might involve severe discipline or discharge, suspension or revocation of your teaching certificate, and possibly criminal charges.*

- **Criticize your employer or your colleagues.**

Why: *You could be disciplined for such conduct. And as we suggested above, your information is only private until one of your “friends” decides to disseminate it.*

- **Vent about your students or their parents.**

Why: *You have a duty to keep information about your students confidential, and can be disciplined for breaching that confidentiality.*

- **Access or post on your account during class time.**

Why: *You can be disciplined for performing personal tasks while you should be working. No matter what your privacy settings are, the information on your account is ultimately in the public domain. A good rule of thumb is not to put anything on your account that you wouldn't want your employer to see.*

Help Ghanaian Children on World Teachers' Day

For the seventh year in a row, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) is encouraging members to mark World Teachers' Day (WTD) on October 5 by making a donation of a toonie or more to raise funds to help children in Ghana go to school.

“Funds raised will go towards helping Ghanaian children get shoes, uniforms and lunches to attend school,” NSTU president Alexis says Allen. “This will also enable some of the world's 72 million children to have access to education.”

World Teachers' Day helps to celebrate the vital contribution teachers make to education and development, and the NSTU WTD Ghana project helps mark this contribution. Since 2002, through the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Nova Scotia teachers have worked with the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) through the Nkabom project. Donations should be forwarded to the NSTU Central Office. Check out the NSTU website (www.nstu.ca) for more information and photos on the project.

This partnership project supports the professional development of teachers and encourages an enhanced commitment to improving teaching and learning conditions within schools in local communities. The project specifically targets poor and seriously deprived communities and primary schools in each region of the country.

With support from Canadian Government, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) are partnering to improve education in Ghana.

executive highlights

June 10, 2011

- Filed Table Officers Report;
- Hired Mary Jane Webber as Intermediate Staff Officer—Public Relations & Communications for a one-year term position beginning on August 1/11 and ending on July 31/12;
- Selected two members to serve on the Insurance Trustees;
- Approved a recommendation that a kidsnotcuts.ca banner be placed on the NSTU Building below the NSTU sign;
- Approved the Disposition of 2011 Resolutions;
- Approved Operational Procedure 17. Resolutions Procedures (vii) (g), (vii) (h), (viii) (c), (x) (c) AND (xi) be deleted;
- Approved an amendment to Operational Procedures 17. (vii) (b) and (vii) (f) Resolution Procedures;
- Approved an amendment to Operational Procedure 12. Policy Procedures (v) Review Procedures c. Step Three;
- Approved Operational Procedure 22. Negotiations (a) Procedures for Provincial Negotiations (ii) (e) and (f) be deleted;

- Approved Operational Procedure 22. Negotiations (b) procedures for Community College Negotiations (ii) (d) and (e) be deleted;
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedures to reflect the addition of a second Community College member to the Provincial Executive;
- Approved Operational Procedure 17. Resolutions Procedures, (iv) Resolution Submission a. ii. be deleted.
- Personnel Committee: Allister Wadden, Chair; Marlene Boyd, Mark Savoury, Gerry Alley;
- Nominating Committee: Bill Bruhm, Chair, Tammy Landry, Ian Comeau, Cindy MacKinnon, Vince Gillis;
- Approved Table Officers' Report;
- Appointed all Standing Committees for 2011-2012;
- Made a recommendation that a by-election be held for the Provincial Executive member from Halifax County on Tuesday, October 18, 2011;
- Appointed Kathy Kerr as convenor for the Halifax County by-election.

August 15-16, 2011

- Elected 2nd Vice-President: Allister Wadden;
- Re-Elected Secretary-Treasurer: Dave Jones;

NOTICE


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. This notice is virtually our only way of making teachers aware of this possibility. Having said that, an information session in Charlottetown will be held on the 21st of October, and in Moncton on the 22nd. If someone is available to set it up, Carol Wilkins will be available to do a session in Nova Scotia on Sunday, October 23rd or interested candidates can visit the sessions in Moncton or Charlottetown.

For information visit www.ceef.ca; email cwilk@ceef.ca or telephone 705-739-7596.



NSTU on Parade – Members of the Lunenburg County Local took NSTU's kidsnotcuts campaign to the streets of Bridgewater for the South Shore Exhibition Parade July 26.



HELPING ORGANIZATIONS WITH ISSUES OF CRISIS AND TRAUMA

1.204.452.9199 info@ctrinstitute.com www.ctrinstitute.com


<p style="text-align: center;">Anxiety - Practical Intervention Strategies <i>Halifax, NS - October 18, 2011</i></p> <p>Participants in this training will explore the natural purpose of anxiety and how it can become 'disordered,' including links with panic, depression, trauma and other health concerns. The main focus of the workshop will be to learn practical and accessible strategies to assist both adults and children in reducing anxiety.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responding to Trauma <i>Halifax, NS - October 19-20, 2011</i></p> <p>This workshop provides an overview of the way trauma impacts a person through the brain and nervous system and how it can result in longer term symptoms at physical, psychological and emotional levels. In addition, a key element of this training will be on exploring treatment and recovery strategies, including a brief synopsis of the more common approaches to working with those impacted by trauma.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">De-escalating Potentially Violent Situations <i>Halifax, NS - November 15, 2011</i></p> <p>This workshop is designed to teach people to de-escalate potentially violent situations through assertiveness and interpersonal communication. The training will explore how anger and violence interplay, including opportunities for self-assessment of personal styles.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Addictions and Mental Illness - Working with Co-occurring Disorders <i>Halifax, NS - December 12, 2011</i></p> <p>Many people struggling with a mental illness are also struggling with an addiction. Caregivers may often be at a loss for where to start - did the addictions cause the mental illness, did the mental illness cause the addictions or is there something else leading to both? This workshop provides a framework for working systemically with both issues at the same time.</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Substance Abuse and Youth - Creating Opportunities for Change <i>Halifax, NS - December 13, 2011</i></p> <p>Participants of this workshop will examine the needs underlying youth's choices to use substances. They will also consider issues that make working with youth different than working with adults and explore short term and longer term intervention strategies.</p>

WORKSHOP FEES

One-day Workshops: \$160 (early)* \$190 (regular) + HST Two-day Workshops: \$295 (early)* \$355 (regular) + HST


*3 weeks prior to workshop. Fees listed are per workshop

www.ctrinstitute.com



PROVIDING WORKSHOPS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH THAT EMPOWER AND MOTIVATE

<p style="text-align: center;">CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS <i>Halifax, NS: October 24, 2011</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE <i>Halifax, NS: October 25, 2011</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WORKING THROUGH PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES <i>Halifax, NS: November 23, 2011</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASSERTIVE COMMUNICATION <i>Halifax, NS: November 24, 2011</i></p>
--	---



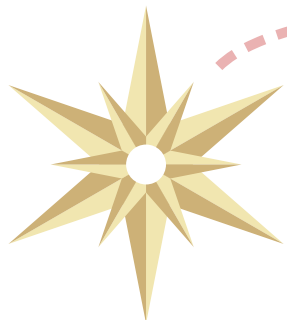
WORKSHOP FEES

One-day Workshops: \$150 (early)* \$180 (regular) + HST

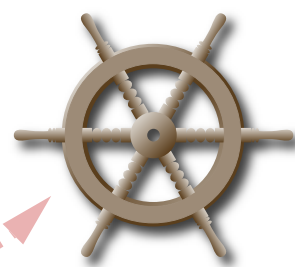
*early registration 3 weeks prior to workshop. Rates are per workshop.

To register or for further information:

www.achievecentre.com
info@achievecentre.com
1.204.452.0180



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Ready, Set and Go — Annual Conference 2011

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Provincial Professional Development Day

October 28, 2011

2011
Program Offerings
Provincial Professional Development Day

NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PROFESSIONNELLES

REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 14, 2011

NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS PROFESSIONNELLES

NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

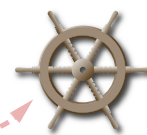
- clicking on the Provincial Professional Development Day banner
- through the Professional Association Conference Day portal on the homepage, or
- on the "NSTU PA Conferences" page, located under the "Professional Development" menu

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

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

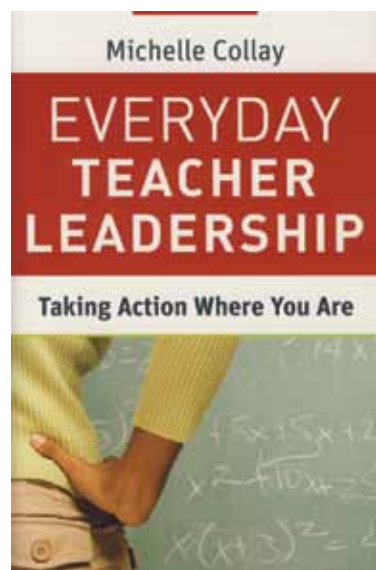


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 7 to be eligible for the draw.

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



Concerned Children’s Advertisers Launch New Initiative: Long Live Kids!



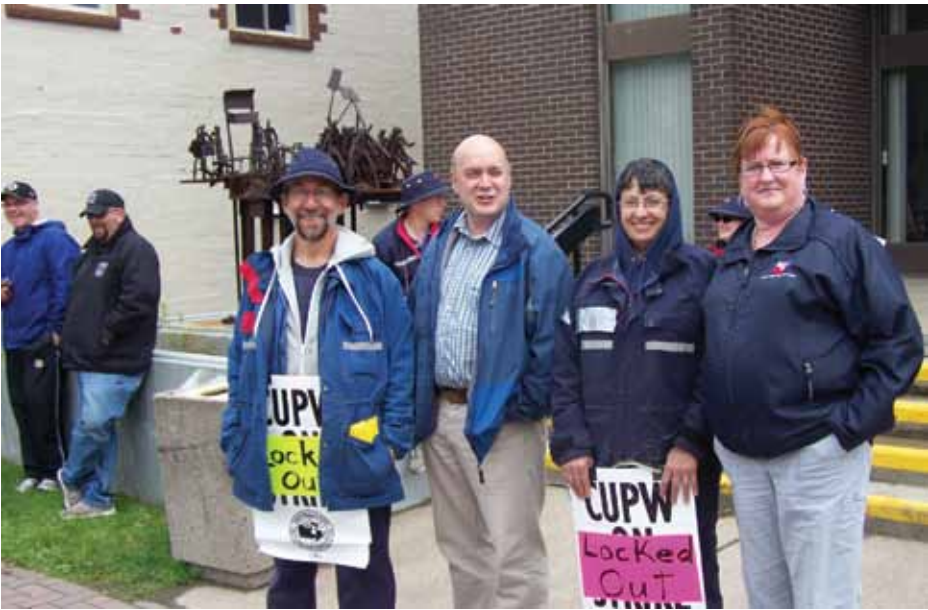
Concerned Children’s Advertisers has launched the Long Live Kids! initiative and website which aims to help kids make healthier choices when faced with compelling messages from the media. The initiative is designed to give them the self confidence they need to make smart decisions about their health. According to the website, “Parents and teachers are looked up to as role models, so it is important that you lead by example. We have created tip sheets for you to use as a resource, found in the Lead section as well as curriculum based lesson plans that focus on media literacy and health and physical education found in the Learn section.”

The CCA’s Long Live Kids! website targets issues like how many hours kids spend watching TV and online, the science of food, anatomy and physiology of the human body, and body image. As Canada faces a childhood obesity epidemic, supporting the healthy development of children and youth is particularly crucial in the prevention of health problems related to obesity.

For more information about CCA, visit www.cca-kids.ca. For more information about the Long Live Kids! initiative and to sign up, visit www.longlivekids.ca/play.

NSTU Supports CUPW

NSTU members from the Antigonish Local visited the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) picket line in Antigonish Monday, June 20, during the national postal strike.

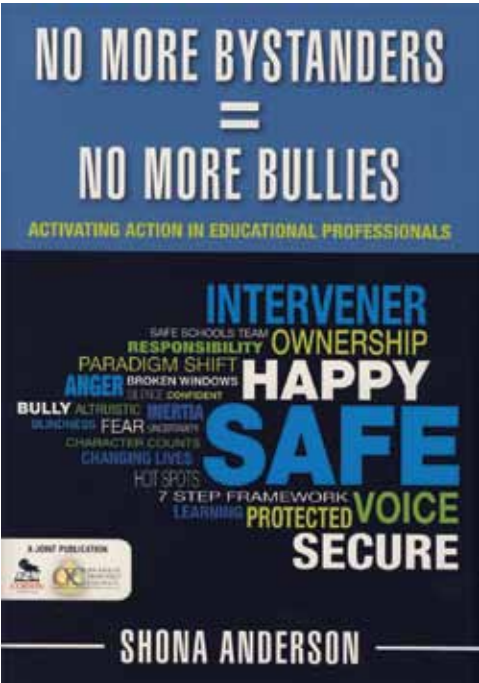


From left to right: CUPW member Lyle Smith, Antigonish Local treasurer, Phil Doucette, CUPW Local president Theresa McCarthy, and Provincial Executive member Tammy Landry on the picket line after delivering subs and coffee to the picketers.



Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 7 to be eligible for the draw.

This month’s equity book giveaway is *No More Bystanders=No More Bullies: Activating Action in Educational Professionals* by Shona Anderson, a joint publication of Corwin and the Ontario Principals’ Council. According to Corwin’s website, “One of the greatest challenges educators face in addressing bullying is recognizing when it’s right in front of them. From identifying unsupervised campus ‘hot spots’ to intervening appropriately in the moment, this practical how-to guide will equip your staff members to stand up instead of standby. Shona Anderson’s seven-step framework arms educators with: a 10-question “pulse check” to determine areas of school culture that need strengthening; tangible actions for each stage of the decision-making cycle; activities that prompt staff members to observe, collaborate, act, and evaluate. School leaders are empowered to maintain safe schools. It is a team effort and this unique guidebook shows how to educate all staff members to transform your school’s culture from passive to proactive.”



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 October 7 to be eligible for the draw.

This month’s FRESH giveaway is *Teaching Digital Natives: Partnering For Real Learning* by Marc Prensky, published by Corwin. From the publisher’s website: “Students today are growing up in a digital world. These ‘digital natives’ learn in new and different ways, so educators need new approaches to make learning both real and relevant for today’s students. Marc Prensky, who first coined the terms ‘digital natives’ and ‘digital immigrants,’ presents an intuitive yet highly innovative and field-tested partnership model that promotes 21st-century student learning through technology. With numerous strategies, how-tos, partnering tips, and examples, *Teaching Digital Natives* is a visionary yet practical book for preparing students to live and work in today’s globalized and digitalized world.”



EDUCATION WEEK
April 15-21, 2012

Eddie’s Litterless Road Tour

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

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

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

Register for a free cleanup kit at www.clean.ns.ca/pmu

A PROGRAM OF

Clean Nova Scotia
Inspiring environmental change

PRESENTING SPONSOR

Tim Hortons

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

RRFB
NOVA SCOTIA

NOVA SCOTIA
Environment

Coady International Institute

Members of the NSTU Provincial Executive toured the Coady International Institute on August 16, 2011. The Institute was established by St. Francis Xavier University in 1959, and named for Rev. Dr. Moses Coady. Coady was a prominent founder of the Antigonish Movement - a people's movement for economic and social justice that began in Nova Scotia during the 1920s. He was also an adult educator.

The Institute works with innovative people and organizations to create effective, practical and sustainable solutions to reduce global poverty and injustice. Coady accomplishes this through leadership education, action partnerships, and research. The Institute also engages in initiatives to help young Canadians become active global citizens.

More than 5,500 development professionals from 135 countries have taken part in the institute's campus-based programs, and many others have benefited from Coady training overseas. As a leader in the study and practice of community-based development, the Coady provides relevant programs that help others make a positive difference in their own communities.



Members Provincial Executive pose with a statue of Rev. Dr. Moses Coady after their tour of the Coady Institute August 16. Shown left to right are: Mark Savoury, Dave Jones, John MacKay, Katherine Kerr, John Driscoll, Tammy Landry, Bill Bruhm, Pat Hillier, Marlene Boyd, NSTU president, Alexis Allen, and Wally Fiander.



**Register early for the October
Provincial Professional Development Day Conference.
No on-site registration is available.**



Raise Awareness about the 2014 Health Accord

In 2014, the existing federal funding agreement for public health care expires and a new provincial-federal Health Accord will be put in place. Over the next three years, the Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network, along with affiliates and supporters around the province including the NSTU, will be launching a major campaign to engage Nova Scotians on the 2014 Health Accord.

You can get involved by supporting a window sign campaign to help raise awareness. Organizations like these are concerned that federal politicians will ink the agreement without any public participation. Please cut out the sign above and display it to show your support.

In 2004, because of public pressure built up through the Romanow Commission, the federal government agreed to a six per cent annual increase in funding for public health care which was supposed to fix “health care for a generation.” Ten years later, that is plainly not true because the 2004 accord did not *protect* public health care by stopping privatization, it didn’t *strengthen* public health care because there was not enough accountability attached to new funding and it also failed to *extend* public health care. This time, we can’t leave it to the politicians and watch patients’ needs go unmet.

We need you on board. We have a once in a decade opportunity to make change happen. You can find more information at nscitizenshealthcarenetwork.wordpress.com/.

HEALTH ACCORD 2014 MUST



***PROTECT
STRENGTHEN
EXTEND***

MEDICARE



www.nshealthcoalition.ca • www.twitter.com/nshealthnetwork

Nova Scotia Citizens' Health Care Network • 209-2099 Gottingen St, Halifax NS, B3K 3B2 • (902) 406-9422 • kyle@nshealthcoalition.ca

coming events

September is

Arthritis Month; Big Brothers Big Sisters Month; Breakfast for Learning Month; Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; Men's Cancer Health Awareness Month; Muscular Dystrophy Month; Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; Thyroid Cancer Awareness Month; International Suicide Prevention Awareness Week (Sept. 2-8); International Literacy Day (Sept. 8); Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Awareness Day (Sept. 9); World Suicide Prevention Day (Sept. 10); National Grandparents Day (Sept. 11); Alzheimer Coffee Break Day (Sept. 15); International Ozone Day (Sept. 16); Learn @ Work Week (Sept. 19-23); National Prostate Cancer Awareness Week (Sept. 12-18); Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Week (Sept. 17-25); National Forest Week (Sept. 18-24); The Terry Fox Run (Sept. 18); World Alzheimer's Day (Sept. 21); International Day of Peace (Sept. 21); Police and Peace Officers' National Memorial Day (Sept. 25); World Heart Day (Sept. 28).

SEPTEMBER 24

Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia Workshop

The Kodaly Society of Nova Scotia is hosting its annual fall workshop for elementary music teachers. Musicplay and Themes & Variations founder Denise Gagne will be the clinician for the annual fall workshop being held on Saturday, September 24, 8:30am-3:15pm. The location is John W. MacLeod Elementary School, 159 Purcell's Cove Road, Halifax. The fee, including membership in both KSNS and KSC, is \$60.00 for regular members, \$15.00 for students, \$30.00 for retired. For more information and to register, contact Adele Megann: meganna@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

SEPTEMBER 25

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life is a national awareness and fundraising event that takes place every year in communities all across Canada. Funds raised support direct programs and services for Canadians living with HIV/AIDS in their communities. As many as 68,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. One third of them don't even know it. There is no cure and no vaccine to prevent new infections. When you have HIV/AIDS, life gets a lot harder. You can help. All Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life proceeds remain in the community and provide necessary funds for support services and programs for people living with HIV/AIDS. Register as a walker and ask people to sponsor you. You can do this on the internet if you like. You can use social networking tools to tell your family, friends and colleagues why this cause is important to you! You can lead a team or join an existing team. You can sponsor yourself or other walkers or both. Or, you can just make a general donation. For more information and to register, visit: www.aidswalkforlife.ca.

SEPTEMBER 28

Annual Terry Fox Run

When Terry recognized that he would not be able to complete his Marathon, he instead bequeathed his mission to those very Canadians who kept him going day in and day out. He knew before his death that there would be an annual Terry Fox Run in cities, towns, hamlets and villages across the country. It was our turn to inspire Terry Fox. Many years later, Canadians adopted Terry's mission of finding a cure for all cancers with an enthusiasm and passion that has done him proud. In keeping with the approach of its founder, The Terry Fox Run is an innovative and volunteer-led event, all-inclusive, non-competitive, with no corporate sponsorship, incentives or fundraising minimums. It has become a fall tradition in Canada to gather your friends and family, lace on your shoes, bring our pledge sheets and attend your favourite Terry Fox Run site, where Organizers have no budget for expenses but have unlimited appreciation for your attendance! For information on starting or joining a team and on raising pledges, visit: <http://www.terryfox.org/Run/index.html>.

SEPT. 29, 30 & OCT. 1

Youth and Violence: The Role of Education

On September 13, 2006, Dawson College became the third institution of higher education in the city of Montreal to experience a school shooting. The experience of Dawson places our school among the many others that have experienced extreme violence, and forms the motivation for hosting an event that calls on educators to examine the potential of education to create a less violent future. The conference will examine the elements, internal or external to school systems, that may contribute to violent behaviour and will explore the potential of educators, particularly in post-secondary education, within and beyond the classroom to reduce violence in schools and the larger community. The conference will coincide with the fifth anniversary of the Dawson shooting and will open on Thursday, September 29, 2011 with a reception, poster session and a reflective evening of art and music. The Friday sessions will focus on understanding youth violence, addressing such themes as the nature of violence in schools today and the psychological and social roots of violence. Saturday's program will address the practical issue of how violence prevention can be integrated into post-secondary education, incorporating both institutional and classroom-based initiatives. Thursday evening's event will be held at Dawson College. The Friday and Saturday program will take place at the Hotel Le Centre Sheraton in downtown Montreal. To register, visit: www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca/conference2011.

Congratulations to our book winners for June!

FRESH: *The Inspirational Teacher*
ORLYNN SOMERVILLE of Baddeck Academy

EQUITY: *The Freedom Writers Diary*
SCOTT SULLIVAN of Park West School

PD: *The Whole Child*
PETER HIMMELMAN of Shelburne Regional High School

OCTOBER

Walk to School Month

October is International Walk to School Month and Walk at School Month and this year's theme is Walking Safety. Our Making Tracks: Walking module is a great way to educate your students on pedestrian safety. Offered in multiple experiential, fun sessions, it teaches students the skills they need to walk in their communities safely. It is endorsed by the Department of Education and links with the P to 6 curriculum. Have your teachers trained to offer it in class. For more information and to register, visit saferoutesns.ca/index.php/event/october-is-international-walk-to-school-month.

OCTOBER 1

Treaty Day

Treaty Day marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia as proclaimed in 1993 by then Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaq Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy. Its purpose is to promote public

awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia. A poster is produced and numerous events are organized throughout the month in recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month. More information on Treaty Day events will be available in September – consult your local newspaper or search online.

OCTOBER 19 TO 23

Come to Your Sense: 4th International Sensory Conference, Toronto, ON

The *Come To Your Senses Conference* creates a meeting place for professionals from varied disciplines to present their sensory related research findings. It is also a place where practitioners can present a variety of treatment and educational modalities and their applications in programs provided to people with disabilities. This year's *Come To Your Senses Conference* focuses on Activating the Sensory Capital within Children & Adults with Autism and Other Complex Disabilities. For more information and to register, visit: www.cometoyoursensesconference.com.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP PRESENTS

THE ULTIMATE DREAM JOB CONTEST

Visit www.dreamjobcontest.ca

ENTER TO WIN NOW!

Are you entering grade nine in September? Submit a photo representing your dream job to win a trip to Ottawa to meet the Honourable Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons on Take Our Kids to Work™ day!

WEEKLY PRIZES INCLUDE*

1st and 2nd place weekly winners will win one of:

- Kobo eReader Touch Edition
- Kobo eReader Wireless
- Canon PowerShot ELPH 100 HS
- Sony 14.1 MP Cyber-shot Camera
- Xbox 360 – 4GB Console with Kinect
- Nintendo Wii Bundle Plus with Wii Sports Resort & Wii - NFL Sports Pack
- HP Mini 210 HD Notebook
- A Night Out at The Movies with the Family!

3rd place weekly winners will win an Apple 2GB 4th generation iPod shuffle

SCHOOLS WIN \$1,000

\$1,000 to the top five schools with the most contest entries!

The Learning Partnership is proud to celebrate 17 years of preparing young Canadians for their futures. Don't forget to participate in Take Our Kids to Work Wednesday November 2nd, 2011.



update

The NSTU Group Insurance Program - An Overview for New Members

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees would like to advise that if you are a new NSTU member and have a term, probationary or permanent contract, you are eligible for benefits under the NSTU Group Insurance Plan. Please review the information below carefully to ensure you enroll on a timely basis and receive the benefits you wish.

The NSTU, through the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees, offer excellent coverages to both active and retired members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Hopefully, this article will provide some useful information with regard to the coverages available.

Automatic Coverage for Every Member

Provincial Master Life Insurance

A \$50,000 term life policy is available to all Active Public School Members, APSEA Members, and Community College Members. A Dependent Life benefit of \$3,000 for your spouse and \$1,500 for each dependent child is also included in this coverage. The premium for this benefit is 100% paid by each employer, therefore, there is no charge to the member for this coverage. As part of your financial planning, please review and ensure you have designated a beneficiary for your Provincial Master Life Insurance and any other Life insurance coverage for which you are insured.

Provincial Master Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance

As part of the Provincial Master Life Insurance coverage, a matching \$50,000 of insurance is included for Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D).

As well, under the Provincial Master AD&D Plan there is a \$2,000 Critical Illness benefit. This benefit provides a one time lump sum tax free payment that may be payable to you, the member, if you are diagnosed with one of the following critical illnesses: Heart attack, coronary artery by-pass surgery, stroke, life threatening cancer.

Funeral Expense Plan

The Funeral Expense Plan provided to NSTU members and eligible dependents under the age of 65 provides up to \$3,000 per funeral. This benefit is provided 100% through the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund. The Funeral Expense Plan will terminate on July 31, 2014.

Employer Cost-Shared Benefits You Need to Enroll In

Total Care Medical

The Total Care Medical Program is a comprehensive supplementary Health Care Program available to all Active Public School Members, APSEA Members, and Community College Members and is paid 100% by the employer. This program provides prescription drug coverage, semi-private hospital room, vision care, paramedical services, including physiotherapy and massage therapy, and many other benefits as outlined in the Group Insurance Profile you will receive. This benefit is not automatic. You may apply for this benefit at any time provided you are actively at work.

Total Care Dental

Similarly, the Total Care Dental Program provides comprehensive Dental Care coverage to NSTU members. Total Care Dental includes Basic Preventative Services, Major Restorative Services, and Prosthodontic and Orthodontic Services. The employer cost shares 65% of the Basic and Major Restorative premiums of the Total Care Dental while the member pays 35% for Basic Preventative and Major Restorative premiums, plus 100% for Prosthodontic and Orthodontic premiums. You can enroll in the NSTU Total Care Dental Program once per year before October 15th. Also, new teachers have 31 days from the receipt of their new teacher package to enroll.

The current member cost for the Total Care Dental Plan is as follows:

Public School/APSEA Members

Single - \$17.46 per month – Difference paid by the Employer
Family - \$36.94 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Community College Members

Single - \$17.52 per month – Difference paid by the Employer
Family - \$37.04 per month – Difference paid by the Employer

Long Term Disability

Long Term Disability benefits are available to active members of the NSTU. If not currently enrolled, you must be under 59 ½ years of age to apply for coverage. This coverage provides a benefit based on 70% of your gross monthly salary at the time your claim commences. This is a taxable benefit as the employer contributes to the cost of the premium.

The Long Term Disability benefit is integrated with CPP and the Teachers' Disability Pension. The qualifying period before benefit payments would commence is the greater of 90 calendar days or your accumulated sick leave.

Effective August 1, 2009, the NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is mandatory for new members and currently insured members without the ability to opt out unless the following conditions have been met:

1. Plan member is at least 50 years of age and has a minimum of 30 years of pensionable service, or

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



2. Plan member is in their last year of teaching with one year of accumulated sick leave.

A new member is defined as an NSTU member who has obtained their first contract in Nova Scotia or a member being rehired and has not met any of the following categories:

1. You were previously automatically enrolled as a "new member" prior to August 1, 2009 and opted out of the program,
2. You previously applied for enrollment in the Long Term Disability Program and were denied coverage,
3. If you failed to enroll through past open enrollments and/or
4. You had previously requested to cancel coverage and were not on a leave.

The NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is cost-shared with the Employer at 50%.

Hospital Cash

A Hospital Cash Benefit is provided to all NSTU members who are enrolled in the NSTU Long Term Disability Program. This coverage is a daily benefit of \$20.00 to an insured member when the member is in a hospital and under the care of a physician. This benefit will be paid from the first day of hospitalization, if hospitalized for at least four days. As with the Funeral Expense Benefit, this coverage is paid 100% by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Optional Coverages Paid By Members

There are a number of optional coverages available to NSTU members that provide the opportunity to purchase additional insurance coverages through payroll deduction, such as, Optional Group Life/Spousal Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment, MEDOC® Travel Plan, MEDOC® Trip Cancellation / Interruption Insurance, Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance, and Home/Auto Insurance. These coverages are 100% paid by the member and are offered at very competitive premium rates. Details on these programs are contained within the Group Insurance Profile.

This is a brief overview of the benefits detailed through the NSTU Group Insurance Program. Full details of your NSTU Group Insurance Program are contained within the Group Insurance Profile, which you should take the time to review carefully.

If you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

resources

New Science 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Matter: Atoms, Elements and Chemistry (60 min) *Science 3-6*

This series of 19 animated episodes introduces viewers to matter and atoms and includes segments on the properties of matter, chemical reactions and the periodic table.

In the Clouds: Air, Weather and Water (60 min) *Science 3-6*

This series of 19 animated episodes reveals the wonders of water and how it moves and includes segments on the atmosphere, cloud formation and regional weather changes.

In the Body: Organs, Health and Nutrition (60 min) *Science 3-6*

This series of 21 animated episodes takes you inside the amazing machine that is the human body and includes segments on organ systems, how cells survive and nutrition facts.

In Force: Gravity, Friction and Work (60 min) *Science 3-6*

This series of 18 animated episodes presents the laws of motion and includes segments on reacting to two or more forces, unbalanced forces and simple machines.

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

RESOURCE

Invite a scientist to your classroom

Scientists and Innovators in the Schools (SITS) has been promoting science and technology education among Nova Scotia's students since 1989. Since science and technology are continually advancing, it can be challenging for teachers to stay current on all aspects of the subjects they teach. As well, many students located in rural regions, or attending smaller schools, are often unable to attend science exhibits, activities, and events located in the province's urban centre.

The mandate of SITS is to create sustainable relationships between our science and education communities to provide students with experiences and opportunities to explore the sciences as they develop key attitudes toward science and technology, and are beginning to think about careers in these fields. The SITS program offers teachers and other educators in Nova Scotia a focal point for guest speakers, expert scientific information, guidance and advice.

The popular **SITS Speakers Bureau** brings scientists into the classroom from the academic, industry, government, and non-profit sectors who contribute their time and expertise to help students to see the sciences as a viable career choice, and provide them with role models in a variety of fields. Volunteers are from scientific disciplines taught within the Nova Scotia curriculum, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, computers, earth and environmental science, engineering, geology, health, math, oceans, physical science and technology. SITS volunteers also judge science fairs, guide workplace visits and field trips, participate in career days, and act as mentors. The relationships formed between the education and science communities through these activities are often long-lasting, with SITS volunteers providing presentations and resources to schools for years following their initial visit.

Ask-A-Scientist is a section of the ASLA website where teachers and students can ask those tough questions about science. Questions submitted through the site are answered by volunteer experts. *Ask-A-Scientist* can be found at atlanticsciencelinks.dal.ca/asksci.html.

The **Climate Change Action Pack** is a collection of lesson plans for Grades 4-6 teachers on the underlying concepts of climate change, specifically in Nova Scotia, based on the Atlantic science curriculum. SITS occasionally offers free workshops around Nova Scotia to groups of teachers and education students interested in receiving a copy of the resource binder.

For more information about these programs, or to request a visit by a scientist, please contact ASLA at sits@dal.ca or 902-494-2831 (toll free 1-800-565-7487). Visit the website at <http://atlanticsciencelinks.dal.ca>, which is also a great source of information, with links to other resources and activities.



EduNova Co-operative Ltd. is seeking CVs from educators, school administrators, and private consultants who are interested in providing overseas consulting services to foreign governments and education partners.

Minimum requirements include a Masters degree and recent (in last two years) consulting, teaching, and/or school administration experience.

EduNova is a non-profit education and training association based in Nova Scotia. The organization works with members, associates, and strategic partners to build teams of consultants in response to global project requirements.

For more information
visit
www.edunova.ca
or contact
Issmat@edunova.ca

World Teachers' Day 2011

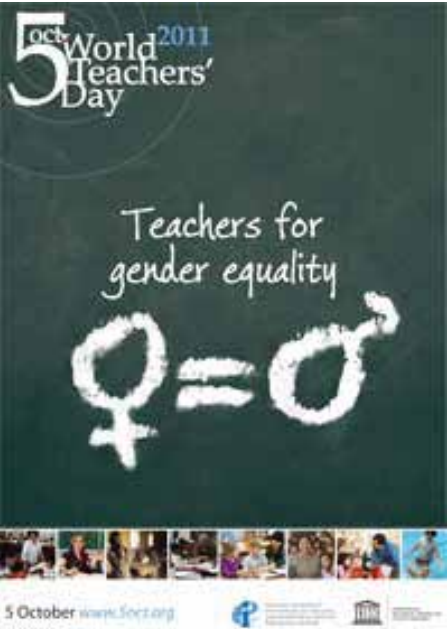
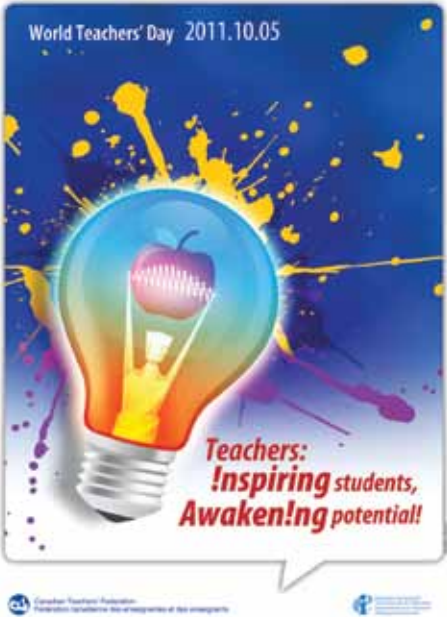
In 1994, UNESCO inaugurated October 5 as World Teachers' Day to commemorate the joint UNESCO and International Labour Organization's (ILO) signing of the *Recommendations Concerning the Status of Teachers*.

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. On October 5, along with over 100 countries around the world, the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and its Member organizations across the country celebrate World Teachers' Day through a public awareness campaign that highlights the contributions of the teaching profession. The theme of this year's campaign is Teachers: Inspiring students, Awaken!ng potential!

It is also an opportunity for Education International (EI) and its member organisations to celebrate the profession and to promote international standards for the teaching profession. EI's theme for this year is: *Teachers for gender equality*. Despite the teaching profession being made up largely of women, inequality remains an issue. Even if measures to ensure equality are enshrined into the policies and constitutions of many states, for millions of female teachers the goals remain unfulfilled. The teaching profession, composed of both men and women, must unite and urge governments to implement their commitments.

For more information on CTF's 2011 World Teachers' Day campaign, please visit www.ctf-fce.ca.

To learn more about EI's World Teachers' Day campaign for 2011, please visit www.5oct.org.



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.

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.ef-tours.ca/eLiterature/DBD/12/EUS.pdf for itinerary.

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 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.**

TEACHER EXCHANGES - THE WORLD IS YOUR CLASSROOM! Live and teach in another country

for a year while remaining employed and paid by your Canadian board! The Canadian Education Exchange Foundation, as mandated by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, facilitates reciprocal teacher exchanges to the United Kingdom, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Australia and some U.S. states. Applications are now being accepted for the 2012/2013 school year. For information visit www.ceef.ca; email cwillk@ceef.ca or telephone (705) 739 7596.

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

TEACHER EXCHANGE - An elementary resource teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same with the CBVRSB for the 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.

NSTU/ViewFinders partnership renewed for third year



The NSTU is continuing its partnership with ViewFinders International Film Festival for Youth this school year. A March Break camp in 2012 will give students and educators an opportunity to create three Public Service Announcements (PSAs).

This year's topic will focus on the positive impact teachers make in the classroom. "There are thousands of untold good news stories happening in classrooms every day. Teachers across the province go above and beyond to help their students succeed," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "We're thrilled to be working with local filmmakers, teachers and students to translate these day-to-day realities into PSAs."

In winter 2011, five teachers and seventeen students from across Nova Scotia participated in the NSTU/ViewFinders PSA Camp over a series of weekends. Because of the longer break due to the Canada Games, weekend camps were more practical. Last year's topic looked at student absenteeism and how skipping class now can mean problems in the future.

The partnership is funded and supported by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. The aim of the workshops is to provide students with a full video-based curriculum focusing on commercial marketing. Mentored by top Nova Scotia film industry professionals and facilitated by teachers, the students created three professional 30-second spots.

Look for updates about this program on the NSTU and ViewFinders websites, in *The Teacher* and through the NSTU rep mailings.

NOTICE

The Teacher: Change in frequency

Continuing this fall, *The Teacher* will be published **eight (8)** times a year from September to June. The **November/December** and **January/February** issues will be combined. This change will help streamline *The Teacher* publication and reduce costs and paper.

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

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

Student Vote 2011

Student Vote is proud to announce that it achieved its best turnout to date. In total, 563,512 students cast a ballot from 3797 schools, representing 301 out of 308 electoral districts across Canada. Specifically in Nova Scotia, Student Vote had amazing results – more than 20,000 students participated from 149 schools. The election results can be found online at studentvote.ca/2011/results/index.php?id=1.

Student Vote is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that aims to build the capacity and commitment of young Canadians to participate in their democracy.

Student Vote's flagship program is a parallel election for students under the voting age, coinciding with official election periods. The program combines in-class learning, family dialogue, media consumption and an authentic voting experience. The purpose is to provide young Canadians with an opportunity to experience the democratic process firsthand and practice the habits of informed and engaged citizenship.

To date, Student Vote has successfully designed and coordinated eleven parallel elections. In total, more than two and a half million students and five thousand schools across Canada have participated in Student Vote parallel elections since 2003. For more information, visit studentvote.ca.

