NSTU presents budget brief to Minister of Finance

“Children can’t wait for the economy to turn around,” was the message that came across loud and clear when NSTU president Alexis Allen and NSTU executive director Bill Redden presented Public Education: An Investment in Nova Scotia’s Future. Allen and Redden presented their brief on March 27, 2009 to the Honourable Jamie Muir, Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Finance Vicki Harnish and Department of Finance staffers as part of the province’s 2009-2010 pre-budget consultations.

The NSTU outlined how members are affected by the current global economic situation. “Teachers deeply fear that the current recessionary climate and the perceived need for government to be frugal with diminishing resources will have a negative impact on the educational programs and services available to students,” says Allen. “Teachers are deeply involved in the communities in which they live. Every day they see in their classrooms the effects of economic hard times, plant closures, layoffs and permanent job losses. These events directly affect our students and their ability to concentrate and learn.”

The problems at home often become the problems at school. Allen also reminded the Minister and Deputy Minister that Nova Scotia’s education partners—the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union—are gravely concerned about the need for increased educational funding. “We agree that this increase in funding of 4.5 per cent represents a regressive step that will have a negative effect on the significant achievements made to date,” she says. This figure includes the affirmative rate for public education is 3.5 per cent, based on national data. This amount is required to cover such items as salary increases, maintenance, and fuel costs for the fiscal year 2009-10. During the presentation the NSTU argued that, supported by constant dollar statistics, progress has been made in the past five years in bringing Nova Scotia’s public education funding closer to the rest of Canada (per student funding rose from the lowest in the country to the third lowest between 2003 and 2006), but the last two budgets were “stand still” documents.

“In three of the last five years we’ve seen improvements to the education system, with class size reductions at the earliest grade levels, funding for specialists such as guidance counsellors, and additional resources—particularly in the areas of literacy and mathematics—beginning to flow to the classroom,” comments Allen. “But the 2007 budget effectively put these measures on hold, and in 2008 we were presented with another standstill budget.”

Specifically, the NSTU addressed the need for adequate funding for ongoing staffing requirements to address the enrolment bulge created by earlier primary entry ages, the need to extend the cap on class sizes, the need for more guidance counsellors at the elementary level and more resources to deal with at-risk students at all age levels.

As well as outlining needs of the education system, Allen encouraged Government to take measures to help individual Nova Scotians in their homes and workplaces during the economic crisis. “There are a wide range of needs and opportunities presented by this crisis. The simplest and least costly of these relate to government support for community-focused organizations such as Feed Nova Scotia, the Canadian Red Cross, the Salvation Army and Breakfast for Learning. School breakfast and lunch programs are crucial tools for helping get students ready to learn.”

Other Nova Scotia public sector unions, including the Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union, the Nova Scotia Nurses’ Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees Nova Scotia, joined the NSTU as part of the pre-budget consultation. At press time school board superintendents were scheduled to meet with the Deputy Minister of Education on April 9 to discuss budget related issues with a view to getting a clearer picture of staffing allocation for the coming school year.
Baddeck Academy celebrates diversity

As part of their celebration for diversity Marlene MacLean’s Grade 11 students from Baddeck Academy took their favourite quotes dealing with diversity and integrated them into posters they created. They are shown proudly displaying their work.

Nova Scotia teachers receive education research awards

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union selected four members to receive education research awards at the February meeting of the provincial executive.

“We are pleased to recognize our members’ contributions to improving teaching and learning through educational research,” says NSTU president Alexis Allen. “We also want to highlight the value of research to the profession and to individual professional development.”

The NSTU has recognized teachers for completed educational research since 2003.

Jennifer Adams (Dartmouth Local), a guidance counsellor at Dartmouth High School, received an award for A Comparative Case Study Analysis of the Implementation of a Positive Effective Behaviour Support (PESB) Program: The Benefits and the Barriers. Cathy Cantreau, an English Program Consultant with the Halifax Regional School Board, received an award for her project Nova Scotian Senior High Principals as Instructional Leaders. Eileen Coady’s Supporting Beginning Teachers – A multi-level approach also received an award. Coady is a family studies and English teacher at Maple Grove Education Centre in Yarmouth. Anson View High School teacher Steven Van Zost was awarded for Mark Me! Student Identities in Authentic Assessment Practice.

An annual fund of $3,500 is available to encourage and assist education research, with no individual award exceeding $475. To be eligible individuals must be active members of the NSTU. Recipients are chosen through a peer assessment review by members of the NSTU’s professional development committee. The deadline for next year’s awards is December 2.

Teachers Plus Credit Union supports Education Week 2009

For the seventh consecutive year the Teachers Plus Credit Union (TPCU) is the proud sponsor of Education Week. Its support has helped to raise the profile of the provincial Education Week and further demonstrated its commitment to public school teachers in Nova Scotia. Teachers Plus Credit Union president Jim Kavanaugh is shown with Education Week 2009 Acting Chairperson Angela Murray (right). Murray is a public relations coordinator with the NSTU and managing editor of The Teacher. Shown with them is TPCU Assistant Manager Angela Boone. This year’s Education Week theme is Bringing Arts to Life/En Les Arts Vivants! (April 19 to 25) and the awards ceremony will take place on Monday, April 20 at NSCC’s Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth. The Teachers Plus Credit Union has been supporting Education Week since the 2002-03 school year.

Spring 2009 Huntley Internship

On March 26 and 27 four more John Huntley interns spent two days at NSTU Central office. Part of their internship included meeting with NSTU staff officers in professional development, counselling services, public relations and member services. The internship offers NSTU members the chance to learn more about the many programs and services the NSTU offers its members. New provincial executive members are also given the opportunity to participate in the program.

From left to right are Vince Gillis, provincial executive member (Cape Breton), and a teacher at Glace Bay High School; Colleen Scott (Shelburne Local), a science teacher at Barrington Municipal High School and the NSTU rep for the school; Stephanie Bruehlt (Inverness Local), a speech language pathologist with the Strait Regional School Board and the president of the Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association, a professional association of the NSTU; Pamela Langille (Kings Local), a Grade 5/6 teacher at Aldershot (Inverness Local), a speech language pathologist with the Strait Regional School Board and Barrington Municipal High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), a Grade 4 teacher at Prince Andrew High School and the NSTU rep for her school.

Round of applications is September 15.
Additional Resolutions for Council 2009

These resolutions will be considered following debate on Resolution 2009-16.

2009-A Governance Policy Amend 2/3
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law Article III.3(1) be amended to eliminate the reference to "and Regional Economic Welfare Committees." (Provincial Executive)

Brief: The case of Council has grown over the past few years to the point where there are very limited options for a venue large enough to hold the 420 plus attendees. The ad hoc Committee to Examine Options for Future Council reviewed all required scans at Council and surveyed a large sample of members who had attended the last 3 Councils. The Committee concluded that the Chairpersons of Regional Economic Welfare Committees, because they are members of a Local’s Executive, could probably attend Council as one of the Local’s delegations so it would not be necessary to designate a specific seat at Council for these members. The results of the survey noted above supported eliminating the special designation of scans for REWC Chairpersons. It is also noted that when this change was made to the Bylaws to add the REWC Chair, the Bylaw that accompanied the Resolution to Council 2004 references the fact that some Local constitutions prohibited (the REWC Chair) from holding a Local office. Under the non-NSTU Mod Constitutions for Local and Branches, there is no such restriction.

2009-A Governance Policy Amend 2/3
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l’article III.1 du Règlement intérieur soit modifié pour supprimer la phrase qui prévoit la présence de représentants du bien-être économique. (Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif:
Le Conseil a consacré de nombreuses années à la mise en place de formations qui ne nécessitent pas plus de 420 participants et sont très limitées. Le Comité spécial d’examen des options pour les futures AGA a passé en revue le nombre de sièges nécessaires à l’AGA et a interrompu un grand élan des participants qui ont marqué au cours des trois dernières AGA.
Le comité a conclu que les présidents des comités régionaux du bien-être économique, du fait qu’ils sont membres du Conseil exécutif de la section locale, pourraient probablement assister à l’AGA dans le cadre de la délégation de la section locale et il n’était donc pas nécessaire de leur attribuer un siège particulier à l’AGA. Les résultats du sondage indiquent de plus que l’attribution d’un siège à chaque président des comités régionaux du bien-être économique serait inutile. Le changement vise à accroître les possibilités de rejoindre le CRRE à l’intérieur du Règlement intérieur, l’exposé explicatif qui accompagnait la résolution à l’AGA 2004 mentionnait que les présidents de sections locales n’étaient pas éligibles pour le CRRE, etc.

2009-B Governance Policy Amend 2/3
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-Law Article III.1 be amended by adding: Elected Regional Economic Welfare Committee Chairpersons shall be voting delegates if they do not hold Local Office. (Provincial Executive)

Brief: An NSTU Regional Representative Council Constitution may require that the Regional Economic Welfare Committee Chairperson is ineligible to hold Local Office. To ensure participation of these Union leaders at Council By-Law By-Law Article III.1 is recommended.

2009-B Governance Policy Amend 2/3
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l’article III.1 du Règlement intérieur soit modifié en ajoutant : Les présidents élus des comités régionaux du bien-être économique seront des délégués votants si ils n’occupent pas de poste au sein de la section locale. (Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif:
Le texte actuel du Règlement intérieur a pour effet que les présidents des comités régionaux du bien-être économique, du fait qu’ils sont membres du Conseil exécutif de la section locale, pourraient en principe assister à l’AGA dans le cadre de la délégation de la section locale et il n’était donc pas nécessaire de leur attribuer un siège particulier à l’AGA. Le résolution du sondage indiqué ci-dessous appuie l’annulation des sièges spécifiques réservés aux présidents de comités régionaux du bien-être économique, mais la mise à jour des règles de l’AGA permettrait de réduire le nombre des présidents de sections locales - immédiatement (au président du CRRE) d’exercer une fonction de délégué votant à l’AGA. En vertu des nouveaux statuts modifiés pour les sections locales et les CRRE, cette restriction n’existe plus.

2009-C Governance Policy Amend 2/3
BE IT RESOLVED THAT effective April 1, 2009, NSTU By-Laws Article III.2(1) be amended by replacing the current text with the following:

Exposé explicatif:
Les résultats d’un sondage de représentants régionaux ont montré que le président du Comité régional du bien-être économique n’est pas nécessaire à assister à une session de la section locale. Pour garantir la participation de ces délégués sur le plan de l’AGA, la modification du Règlement intérieur est recommandée.

2009-C Governance Policy Amend 2/3
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE, à partir du 1er avril 2009, l’article III.2(1) du Règlement intérieur du NSTU soit amendé en remplaçant le texte existant par le texte suivant:

Exposé explicatif:
Lors de l’organisation des formes et formations de la section locale, il est nécessaire de donner à constituer le résumé des règles de l’AGA, qui est inséré à titre informatif, qui est l’usage des syndicats et qui est utilisée pour recevoir des informations dans la section locale. En identifiant les ressources pour un cours de procédure parlementaire, l’organisation des ressources était fondée sur les ressources pour une telle session de l’AGA. Les règles de l’AGA sont utilisées dans une section locale. En identifiant les ressources pour un cours de procédure parlementaire, l’organisation des ressources dans une section locale utilisera des ressources pour une telle session de l’AGA. En identifiant les ressources pour un cours de procédure parlementaire, l’organisation des ressources dans une section locale utilisera des ressources pour une telle session de l’AGA.
Alicia Allen  
**PRESIDENT, NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION**

This year’s Education Week recognizes teachers and partners who develop the artistic and creative ability of students—those who provide artistic experiences through music, visual and media art, drama and dance and those who use creative and artful skills and techniques to teach concepts in all subjects. We are proud of the work teachers and education partners do to enrich the lives of students through self-expression, and creativity. The impact this has on developing and maintaining Nova Scotia’s rich culture is immeasurable.

This year’s theme helps us to recognize the importance of the arts in society. The holiday concert, spring musical and annual art show are often the only events that bring the community and classroom together.

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union I thank all of our members for what they do to encourage students to be creative. I applaud the support and commitment of all our education partners in developing and organizing Education Week. I also thank and acknowledge our corporate sponsor, the Teachers’ Pfa Credit Union, which has been a long-time supporter of the week, and the Nova Scotia Community College, which has provided the venue for this year's ceremony.

I congratulate all recipients of this year’s Education Week awards. I also acknowledge teachers, students, parents, and communities whose participation and support continue to bring arts to life!

**Honourable Judy Sustrath**  
**MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA**

Education Week is a unique and important time in our school year. Educators work tirelessly each day supporting, teaching and guiding our province’s youngest citizens.

This week gives us the opportunity to formally recognize those professionals who prepare our young people to become future leaders.

This year’s theme, Bringing Arts to Life, honours fine art educators who encourage students to think both critically and creatively. Through the exploration of dance, drama, music and visual arts, students develop the skills to be innovative and well-rounded individuals.

On behalf of the Department of Education, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to this year’s Education Week Awards recipients for their continued dedication to education and their roles in inspiring Nova Scotia’s students.

**Leonard LeFort**  
**PRESIDENT DE LA FÉDÉRATION DES PARENTS ACADÉMIQUES DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSEE**

Cette année, le thème de la Semaine de l’Éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse, «Les arts vivants», revêt une signification particulière pour la communauté acadienne et francophone. Il est un reflet de notre désir d’honorer les apports que les arts font à notre société. Ils nous permettent de valoriser l’originalité et l’imagination dans le tout développement des compétences et habiletés nécessaires à la réussite de nos élèves.

La Semaine de l’Éducation permet de souligner le travail exceptionnel des enseignants et des spécialistes qui attirent, stimulent et nourrissent l’intérêt de leurs élèves pour la musique, la danse, le théâtre ou les arts visuels. Grâce à eux, des talents se développent et des passions naissent, qui ne s’éteindront jamais.

Qui dit art dit lien avec une communauté. Par exemple, c’est souvent autour des productions artistiques des élèves que s’expriment le plus ouvertement le soutien et la reconnaissance de la communauté.

Que ce soit pour prêter main forte à la préparation d’un spectacle ou d’une exposition, ou pour apprécier et motiver les jeunes dans leur apprentissage d’une expression artistique, la présence des parents, de la famille et des membres de la communauté vient souligner l’importance que l’on accorde à l’éducation des enfants, et chez-nous, à l’éducation en français. Le lien avec la communauté, c’est aussi cette collaboration entre le Conseil scolaire acadien provincial et trois organismes communitaires, soient le Conseil Jeunesse Provincial, la Fédération culturelle acadienne et l’Association acadienne des artistes. Ces quatre organisations travaillent ensemble pour créer un «Partenariat culturel pour la jeunesse» dont le but sera de développer et d’appuyer les initiatives dédiées aux jeunes, dans le domaine des arts et de la culture.

Les arts, dans la vie d’un enfant ou d’un jeune, quelque soit ses compétences, les arts dans la vie, «les arts vivants», répondent à des besoins essentiels et sont sources de découvertes, de confiance et de plaisir. Mêmes à ceux qui en sont les artisans auprès de nos enfants!

**Ram Marks**  
**PRESIDENT, NOVA SCOTIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION**

This year’s Education Week theme Bringing Arts to Life/Les Arts Vivants is a great way to highlight the importance of the arts in our everyday lives. The arts are all encompassing and therefore allow every student to find his/her own niche within a chosen field. Whether it’s through dance, song, or visual expression, there is a category that will provoke originality and imagination in the students. The arts are an expression of creativity and a sense of belonging in our youth expression.

The Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA) is committed to encouraging the arts in our public education system. We frequently showcase students’ artistic endeavors at our various conferences and seminars around the province. We know that many children are passionate about arts programs and we understand their importance in our schools.

According to a study by the Youth Arts Development Project, after school arts programs decrease negative behavior in students and increase attention span, commitment and cooperation. In addition, the arts contribute to self discipline, cognitive and physical skills and encourage life-long learning.

Our arts educators are crucial in the development of our children into well-rounded, well-educated members of our society. Nova Scotia’s teachers not only encourage students who demonstrate a natural talent for the arts, they also educate the creativity in those who may be less expressed and may not realize their own potential. Without these individuals our students would not have an avenue to express themselves and showcase their talent.

On behalf of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association I would like to sincerely congratulate all the teacher and partner recipients this year and commend all teachers of arts education in our public schools. Thank you for encouraging Nova Scotia students to strive for success and discover their inner creativity!

**Beth McIsaac**  
**INTERIM PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS**

Education Week provides an opportunity to honor those educators and partners who are working together to provide Arts education in our schools. The study of the arts is as crucial to the educational experience as the study of language and mathematics. It provides an opportunity for diverse learners to demonstrate their achievements through their innate creativity. The teachers and volunteers who actively promote the arts devote countless extra hours to support this learning. As educators and partners, we, as well as our society, benefit from these joyful teachings.

On behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, I wish to congratulate this year’s Education Week award recipients for their advocacy and support of Arts education.
TIP OF THE MONTH

It is Tax Season Again, so make sure you file your return a.s.a.p. (no later than April 30th) because:

1. If you are getting a refund, it is better earlier than later
2. If you are paying back, avoid penalties by April 30th
3. If you are a student and you are not filing a return, you may be missing:
   - Your refund of the income tax paid
   - Your GST credit of at least $200.00 per year
   - Your RSP contribution room
   - Your Tax Free Savings Account contribution room
   - Your transfer of up to $5000.00 in federal & provincial tax credits to your parents or grand parents
4. Make sure you claim:
   - Full time & part time post secondary tuition, etc
   - Interest on student loans (Federal & Provincial)
   - Moving expenses if you have relocated to attend school or to find work
   - And more.

Please call your tax preparer if you have any questions.

TEACHERS PLUS INFO CENTRE

1. Teachers Plus Credit Union would like to thank everyone who attended the 2008 Annual General Meeting on Saturday March 28, 2009. It was a great success and we look forward to seeing you all throughout the year.

2. Applications for Post-Secondary and Teacher Training Educational Awards have been sent out. The deadline for the Post-Secondary Educational Award is May 15, 2009 and the deadline for the Teacher Training Award is May 29, 2009. Please contact our office or visit our website for more details.

3. Teachers Plus Credit Union participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Bowl-a-Thon on Sunday March 29, 2009. We had a great time and were able to raise funds for a fantastic cause.

4. Teachers Plus Credit Union will be participating in this year’s Education Week Conference April 10-15, 2009.

5. Spring is a great time for renovations. If you need some extra cash to get started, contact one of our Financial Services Officers for more details.

6. Teachers Plus Credit Union is now offering Travel Insurance to our members. Please visit branch for details on our excellent rates.

7. Please visit our branch or website www.teachersplus.ca to obtain information on the new tax free savings accounts that are currently available to members.

8. Do you have Spring Fever and are looking for a new home, contact one of our Financial Services Officers for more details.

9. Teachers Plus Credit Union has more ABM's in Nova Scotia than any other Financial Institutions. Need to find an ABM? We now have an ABM locator available on our website.

A million reasons to do business with us
In the last 5 years we have given back over $1,000,000.00 to our members.

36 Brookshire Court, Bedford, NS B4A 4E9
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*open Wednesday and Thursday evenings
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for non teller Service.

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

Teachers are often asked to educate students on proper sun safety for students on school trips or during recess or with regards to tanning studios. Teachers themselves must consider the best approach to their own relationship with the sun.

We know that excess ultraviolet exposure contributes to the formation of skin cancer. Light is also the greatest factor in inducing aging of the skin. You can detect this effect by looking at the texture, discoloredation and wrinkling of the skin on your face, upper chest and back of hands compared to the skin on non-sun exposed areas such as the buttocks.

To be sure, the sun has good effects as well. It feels relaxing to bask in the sun on a nice day. Vitamin D metabolism is promoted by sun exposure which is increasingly recognized as important in preserving bone health as well as reducing some internal cancers. Some skin conditions such as psoriasis, eczema and even acne can benefit from a bit of natural sun exposure. While the desire to protect the skin from sun has become emphasized in the last few decades, there can be some confusion as proponents of increasing Vitamin D as well as those selling tanning salon sessions argue against our new keenness to avoid excess sun exposure.

Like most things in life, a moderate approach is likely the best one. The amount of sun required to stimulate Vitamin D formation is estimated to be minutes a day. Therefore deep tanning and excessive exposure is not warranted. While sunscreens are getting better, UBV still gets through; being outside with sun block on still allows some ultraviolet through to contribute to this beneficial effect. Not many people are obsessive enough with sunscreens or clothing to significantly shut down Vitamin D production significantly. Vitamin D supplementation through foods and tablets is a wise precaution for most people, especially those who here and there avoid sun. In any case, there is no rationale for aggressive tanning or burning to try to boost a healthy Vitamin D level.

Burning your skin in the sun is dangerous. It has a particular triggering effect for the most severe form of skin cancer—melanoma. Persistent low grade tanning may have more effect on more minor forms of skin cancer and aging. You should know your skin type—easy to burn, moderate, resistant to burn—so you can gauge your behavior with regards to sun exposure. As well, there is some evidence that sun exposure and damage incurred at a younger age is more damaging so special care should be given to young students and infants out in the sun.

What about tanning salons? We see them promoted as great for the new desire to boost Vitamin D. The main wavelength used in salons, UVA, has little effect on boosting Vitamin D levels. It is better to have a few minutes in the regular sun or take 1000 units of Vitamin D a day. UVA is also the main contributor to skin aging. So salon tanning is the worst thing anyone concerned with avoiding accelerated wrinkling and aging can do. If you simply must have a tan, buy a bronzer or self-tanning agent instead. But remember to keep using a sun block, as this type of tan gives no real protection from burning.

Therefore, enjoy a moderate amount of sun, but protect yourself from burning by using sunscreens. Make sure your sunscreen has good UVB and UVA coverage. You can ask your pharmacist for advice regarding this or look for the seal of approval from the Canadian Dermatology Association to be sure. Apply the sunscreen every few hours during the day and trapply after swimming or sweating.

Do not go to tanning salons as they age skin to an alarming degree as well as contribute to skin cancer. They do not significantly protect you from a sunburn on your trip down south as the wavelengths are not reflective of the burning rays you will experience on a trip. There is no safe exposure to artificial tanning; it may be relaxing, but it is still bad for you.

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@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.
During the week leading up to March Break, Basinview Drive Community School in Bedford conducted a read-a-thon with its students. The purpose of this fundraiser was to raise money to purchase books and resources, to fund class trips, and for special events/presentations. Throughout the week there were daily prizes, themed days, daily fun facts about pigs and duct tape, daily school wide common reading time, and, of course, the Friday afternoon finale on March 13.

Students are working to achieve a goal of reading 42,000 minutes and raise $6,000. At the finale assembly on Friday the students saw their gym teacher, Ryan Feron, and caretaker, Bud Pelrine, dress up as women; Grade 5 and 6 students did their makeup and they led the students in a dance of the Macarena. The students also taped principal, Amy Boutilier, to the wall with duct tape and finally vice principal Kelli Burgess kissed a real pig! The final totals were $8,807.53 raised and 56,728 minutes read.

**Read-a-thon leads to pig kissing**

**Canadian Teachers’ Federation’s 2nd annual World Teachers’ Day Poster Contest**

**Win a trip for two to Montreal to attend a public presentation by His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Bell Centre October 2, 2009**

October 5th, World Teachers’ Day is an annual celebration of the valuable work of teachers in Canada and around the globe. World Teachers’ Day was the brainchild of a former Canadian teacher-leader, Norman Godby. First recognized in 1994, World Teachers’ Day now profiles the work of over 55-million teachers around the world.

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Assessment has been transformed from just determining what a student knows about content to being an integral part of the learning process. Assessment enables students to understand their own learning, their accomplishments, what has yet to be learned and how to meet those challenges. This approach to assess- ment—assessment for learning—serves students well for future success.

On August 20 and 21, 2009, Nova Scotia welcomes five of today’s foremost authors on classroom assessment to the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. This unique learning experience is offered by the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Centre (NSELC), of which the NSTU is a member, in partnership with Solution Tree Education Canada Inc.

During the two days, educators will learn about the importance of descriptive feedback, clearly defined goals, grading practices, student engagement, and moment-by-moment adjustment of instruction to meet student needs. “Powerful student learning and increased achievement take place as a result of effective, student-centred assessment practices,” says Sue Taylor-Foley, co-chair of the 2009 Assessment Summit and South Shore Regional School Board’s (SSRSB) Coordinator of Assessment & Technology. “Here is the opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and expertise on this important aspect of classroom work.”

Educators will experience workshops by each of the five speakers, who are also writers and researchers on the topic of as- sessment. Each day, three presenters will participate in a moderated, unscripted application of practical assessment realities using questions from participants as stepping-stones. “This is certain to be a highlight of the Summit,” adds Taylor-Foley. Participants will also be entered into a draw for the opportunity to win dinner with the keynote speakers. “This is a real chance to speak with the experts about practical assessment for learning applications in real contexts and it will be fun too,” she continues.

The five well-known distinguished presenters are sought after worldwide for their message to educators. “It is a rare opportunity for them to come together in one place in our own province,” re- marks Taylor-Foley. The speakers are: Damian Cooper (balanced classroom assessment practices), Anne Davies (student involvement in assessment), Cassandra Erkens (assessment design and common assessments), Ken O’Connor (grading practices), and Rick Stiggins (implementing the strategies of assess- ment for learning).

Damian Cooper is an independent education consultant who specializes in helping schools and school districts improve their instructional and assess- ment skills. He has specialized in student assessment for more than 20 years and his expertise in assessment is recognized across Canada and internationally.

“Summit participants will gain many practical insights from Damian. His talks really meet the Monday morning test as you can apply information he shares right away,” says Taylor-Foley.

Well-known as a Canadian leader in the field of classroom assessment, Anne Davies has worked with educators at every level and in every subject area. “Anne will share examples that truly show what assessment for learning really looks like in classrooms. She has living examples at every level,”

For more information and registra- tion, contact NSEL C at www.nselc. ednet.ns.ca or call 902-422-3270. Registration deadline is May 1, 2009.
Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 22 to be eligible for the draw.

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 22 to be eligible for the draw.

The winner of the March PD book giveaway
Annette Carey,
Program Support Teacher
at Chester District School in Chester.

This month’s fresh giveaway is entitled Cyber-Bullying: Issues and solutions for the school, the classroom and the home. It is written by Shaheen Sharif and published by Routledge.

As teachers demand the banning of websites such as YouTube, Facebook, and MySpace, schools and governments introduce stricter legislation and filtering systems.

This resource delves into the following:
• traditional versus cyber-bullying
• the role of gender
• controlling kids’ spaces
• balancing free expression
• solutions
• and much more

Sharif now teaches at McGill University. She comes from a background in educational law. Increasingly she is seen as the global expert on this topic.

Charting Your Course
FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 24 to be eligible for the draw.

This PD book giveaway is Ahead of the Curve: The Power of Assessment to Transform Teaching and Learning. It features three speakers who will be part of NSELC’s 2009 Assessment Summit—Anne Davies, Ken O’Connor and Rick Stiggins. Edited by Douglas Reeves and published by The Solution Tree. Ahead of the Curve is written by the most influential, leading-edge luminaries on assessment and brings their ideas and recommendations into a single resource.

From involving students in the assessment process to ensuring accuracy to applying assessments to English language learners and special needs students, you will find compelling insights and proven strategies.

Find out more about the NSELC 2009 Assessment Summit in the Charting Your Course for Professional Development column on page 8 (opposite).

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This month’s equity book giveaway is Just Schools: Pursuing Equality in Societies of Difference. It is edited by Martha Minow, Richard A. Shewey, and Hazel Markus, and published by the Russell Sage Foundation.

Education and policymakers who share the goal of equal opportunity in schools often hold differing notions of what is a just school in a multicultural society. Some emphasize the importance of integration and uniform treatment for all, while others point to the benefits of honouring cultural diversity in ways that make minority students feel at home.

This resource looks at the following:
• pursuing equal education in societies of difference
• schooling and the equality-difference paradox
• just schools in context
• just schools in the world

Annette Carey, Program Support Teacher at Chester District School in Chester.

As Jerome Kagan from Harvard University says, “Finding a balance between loyalty to a national and an ethnic or religious category is a central issue in modern democracies. Just Schools addresses this problem with evidence, insight, and wisdom.”

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Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 22 to be eligible for the draw.

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by May 22 to be eligible for the draw.

The winner of the March PD book giveaway
Annette Carey,
Program Support Teacher
at Chester District School in Chester.

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**LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, COMMITMENT**

**Professional Information**
- Associate in Education (NSTU);
- Bachelor of Education, Diploma in Special Education, Master of Education (Acadia);
- 24 years teaching experience including 5 years in Administration

**Provincial Positions**
- NSTU 1st Vice-President
- Provincial Executive Table Officer
- Chair, Member Services Committee
- Chair, Provincial Bargaining Team
- NSTU Membership Program – Member Services
- Provincial Executive Member (2002-06)
- Finance and Property Committee
- Legal Services Advisory Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Structure Review ad hoc Committee
- Nominating Committee
- New Member Committee
- Discipline Committee

**Regional Positions - Annapolis Valley Regional Representative Council (AVRRC)**
- Chair, AVRRC
- Chair, AVRRC Governance Committee
- Co-chair, Management - Teacher Committee
- Time to Learn, Time to Teach Regional Coordinator
- Regional Economic Welfare Committee
- Regional Safety Committee
- Regional Return to Work Committee
- NSTU Provincial Presidents Election
- Time to Learn, Time to Teach Committee
- Regional Elections Committee
- Regional Public Affairs Relations Committee
- Regional Constitutional Review Committee
- AVRRC - Kings Local rep

**Local Positions - Kings**
- Local President
- VP - Economic Welfare
- VP - Professional Development
- Kings Local Table Officer
- Past President
- Chair, Resolutions Committee
- Chair, Nominating Committee
- Chair, Substitute Teacher Committee
- Chair, New Teacher Committee

During my career I have seen a number of changes, many of which were facilitated through the hard work of teachers and our union. We are a unified force with over 10,000 members; united in many ways over the years by different circumstances and battles with our employer. I have been interested in various aspects of the union since my first year of teaching and have served at many different levels. I am proud to say I am a member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union—and the strongest union in the province.

Public school teachers, Community College faculty and professional support staff are represented by 22 Locals and seven Regional Representative Councils. The Locals are the moral fibre of this organization and the foundation of our union. Each local is unique and their history within the NSTU is admirable. We are a diverse group with differing challenges and workload issues. Nevertheless, in the face of adversity our members continue to maintain the highest level of professionalism.

I started volunteering with the union as an NSTU rep and my involvement has continued in many capacities over the last 24 years. Through my positions as 1st Vice-President, Provincial Executive table officer, Member Services Committee Chair, RRC Chair, Local President, and Provincial Executive member for the Valley region, I have gained valuable leadership experience and a vast understanding of every level of this organization. In turn, these roles have afforded me the opportunity to work on behalf of all members of the NSTU. For many years I have fought to protect the rights of members and enhance our benefits. This year the learning curve has been substantial and a great opportunity for me to increase my union knowledge base and augment my skill set.

I would consider it an honour to continue to serve all NSTU members at the provincial level in 2009-2010. I have the experience, the leadership skills and the commitment necessary to continue in the position of First Vice-president of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Again this year, I ask for your support on May 17 at Annual Council 2009. Thank you.
Brookhouse students collect change for C-H-A-N-G-E

Seana McDonah’s Grade 3 class at Brookhouse School in Dartmouth is making a difference through their Change for C-H-A-N-G-E project. “My students raised an incredible $600 in three weeks—all from their loose change, piggy banks, etc,” says McDonah. She says the initiative was inspired by the phenomenal work of the British charity The Great Football Giveaway.

“The kids watched this documentary in class and were so inspired by it that they decided they wanted to do whatever they could do to help out, too,” she says. McDonah had seen The Great Football Giveaway documentary during last year’s Atlantic Film Festival and was inspired herself.

“When we watched the video we saw how happy it made the kids—it made me want to do it too,” says student Katie Mombourquette. “It made me feel good to do something for someone else.”

The Great Football Giveaway is a UK-based charity that raises money to purchase footballs (soccer balls) and pumps to distribute to underprivileged children in various regions of the world. The documentary focused on the charity’s first project, a trip to the country of Malawi in Africa, and the impact a simple thing like delivering a soccer ball has on a school or community. In the last few years the Charity has personally hand delivered over 10,000 footballs (soccer balls) and netballs directly to children across Malawi, Uganda, and Angola. Next fall they hope to be doing the same in Rwanda and are scoping a project in Nicaragua.

“A lot of countries in Africa are small and forgotten and need help,” says student Chloe Tennant.

McDonah says she never expected her class to raise more than $100 and was amazed with the results of the project. “In the end we decided to give 200 British Pounds Sterling to The Great Football Giveaway (approx. $363 Cdn) to purchase 20 footballs/pumps—which we thought was neat since it would be one ball per student in our class.”

With the remainder of their fundraising efforts, the class gave $100 to World Vision Canada (purchasing olive trees, rabbits and agricultural packs for three families). “We gave the remaining $137 to Feed Nova Scotia.”

Through this terrific project McDonah says her students were able to make a difference internationally and locally while learning a couple of valuable lessons.

“First and foremost, they are learning that it is so much better to give than to receive,” says McDonah. “They are also learning how important it is to stand up to injustice and inequities and to actively do something, whenever we can, to help out. Ultimately they are learning that we can make a difference, even if it is only a little one.”

“This project has completely exceeded my wildest expectations and I am so very proud of my students and how much they cared about this project,” she continues.

McDonah was thrilled to receive email from The Great Football Giveaway founder Paul Clarke thanking her and her students for their contribution. “We are all blown away that you have made such an effort to go out and raise funds for The Great Football Giveaway. Thank you—you will be responsible for many more smiles and happy children and that’s something all your class can be very proud of,” he writes.

“He has confirmed that our 20 footballs (along with student artwork and a photo of the class) will all be going to children in Rwanda,” says McDonah. “He may even get a chance to phone us live from Rwanda when the delivery is taking place.”

For more information on the Great Football Giveaway visit www.thegreatfootballgiveaway.org.uk.

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EduNova
Nova Scotia’s Education Export Alliance

EduNova is seeking experienced educators for mentoring and consulting positions within six EduNova managed schools in the United Arab Emirates.

We have immediate need for two female Teacher Mentors (TMs) to work in all-girls’ schools (elementary and junior high school) for a contract ending June 30, 2009; possibility to renew for up to two years.

We have immediate need for Certified Language Teachers (LTs) to teach English as a Second Language to school teachers and administrative staff for a contract ending June 30, 2009; possibility to renew for up to two years.

EduNova is also receiving CVs for the following 1-2 year positions to start in August, 2009:

* On-site Project Manager
* Teacher Mentors (variety of subjects; Elementary and Junior H/S)
* Leader Mentors (LMs)
* Teachers with ESL training and experience

Qualifications: undergraduate degree; minimum of 5 years relevant experience; TMs/LMs – valid teaching license; Lts – DELTA and DELTA or equivalent; international experience an asset.

Teacher Mentors: school based; work closely with teachers to develop and promote appropriate teaching and learning strategies and techniques.

ESL Teachers: work closely with teachers to develop and promote the use of English in the school and classrooms. Progress measured through IELTS testing.

Leader Mentors: work closely with school principals in developing and implementing School Improvement Plans; oversee the work of the Teacher Mentors.

EduNova provides a competitive salary and benefits package, health insurance, furnished accommodation, work transportation, work visas and a return air ticket.

If you are interested in any of these unique opportunities please forward your CV and letter of application to Mr. Reid Jorgensen, School Improvement Plan Project Director, c/o teachers@edunova.ca.

www.edunova.ca
Cyberbullying Bill introduced

On April 2, 2009 The Honourable Hedy Fry, MP for Vancouver Centre, introduced Private Members Bill C-355, seconded by Brian Murphy, MP for Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, to the House of Commons. Bill C-355 would amend the Criminal Code to clarify that cyberbullying is an offence. Bill C-355 is supported by the Canadian Teachers’ Federation, which represents close to 200,000 teachers across the country, and the anti-bullying website, BullyingCanada.ca.

“The digital age, bullying has spread from Canada’s schoolyards to the Internet so that criminal harassment, defamatory libel, and false messages are now carried out electronically in order to injure reputations, insult, and expose to hate or ridicule others,” says Dr. Fry. “In a recent study by the University of Toronto, 50 per cent of students admit to being the victims of cyberbullying in the last three months. My bill updates the Criminal Code to clarify that cyberbullying is indeed an offence that will lead to criminal prosecution.”

“This bill has the potential of being the first concrete step in making the Criminal Code of Canada more effective in addressing the issue of cyberbullying,” says Emily Noble, President of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation. “These proposed changes to the Criminal Code, along with protective measures already adopted by provincial/territorial governments, would complement the ongoing educational efforts that are currently being undertaken to address this cyberbullying.”

Katie Neu, co-founder of BullyingCanada.ca, says there is an urgent need for updated legislation. “Times are changing and cyber bullying is becoming more and more of an issue and people don’t really know how to handle the situation,” says Neu. “If the Criminal Code includes cyberbullying then maybe it can be stopped before it gets any worse.”

Congratulations to our FEBRUARY WINNERS of the Fresh & Equity giveaways!

FRESH: Peter Myatt of Eastern Passage Education Centre
EQUITY: Susan Mahar of Annapolis Royal Regional Academy

Kingfisher Corner Store officially opens

Sackville High School held the grand opening of the Kingfisher Corner Store on March 4. Through a PDAF grant for the Sackville High project Birdcage Boutique, LearningCentre teacher Lauren Emanuel and Leadership teacher Kerry MacQueen worked with students in the leadership class and learning centre at Sackville High alongside students in production technology to design and create a corner store for the students and staff.

Halifax Regional School Board Superintendent Carol Olsen and Judy White, HRSB Senior Staff Advisor and former principal of Sackville High, participated in the grand opening ceremony by cutting the ribbon to officially open the Kingfisher Corner Store.

The purpose of this project-based learning endeavour was to create a space for real-life training to occur from team-based designs to practical cash register and customer service training. Every student at Sackville High stands to benefit from the store either by having the opportunity to purchase spirit wear, necessary school supplies and specialized course material, by completing volunteer hours for Options and Opportunities course requirements, or by developing life-skill based work experience in the learning centre.

“We are very excited to see the store grow and expand,” says Emanuel. “Students at Sackville High are not only working behind the scenes to create and operate the store but have and will continue to create items to be sold in the store in classes such as (but definitely not limited to) design, art, PDT, entrepreneurship, and learning centre. This truly is a project created by students for students. We would like to thank the PDAF committee for awarding Sackville High with a grant to assist us in achieving our goal. With tremendous student interest and participation, the Kingfisher Corner Store is already a huge success!”
NOTICES

APTN 2009 National Aboriginal Day Live Flag Contest

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) launched its third annual National Aboriginal Day Live Flag contest. APTN is inviting young people between 12-17 years old, from across the country, to design a flag that shows the richness and diversity of all of Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples. The Flag contest is just one part of APTN’s 2009 National Aboriginal Day Live celebrations.

As Canada’s only Aboriginal broadcaster, the flag contest is just one of the ways APTN is providing opportunities for young people to share their vision and pride in Aboriginal culture and heritage.

The winning flag designer and a parent/guardian will be flown to Winnipeg to part of APTN’s National Aboriginal Day celebrations for June 20, 2009. The winning flag will fly on top of APTN’s headquarters in downtown Winnipeg. The winner will also earn a cash prize of $400 and the winner’s school will receive $750 towards the purchase of a new computer. The contest is open to all 12-17 years old, from across the country, to design a flag that shows the richness and diversity of all of Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples. The Flag contest is just one part of APTN’s 2009 National Aboriginal Day Live celebrations.

For more information and rules, please see the APTN website at www.aptn.ca.

Call for Abstracts for the Early Years Conference 2010


The Early Years Conference 2010 will take place May 15, 2009 in Victoria. The conference will explore early childhood, family and community development through the lens of Child Rights. The U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990) articulates various inherent human rights that should be afforded to children. Policies designed to support and provide general and specific services to children and their families should reflect these rights so that all children may reach their full potential in society. Conference participants will have the opportunity to consider research, policy, and practice from a child’s rights perspective in order to further the quality of their work with children, families and communities.

For more information on this conference and call for abstracts contact University of British Columbia, Interprofessional Continuing Education at 862-7524 Fax: 862-4835 or via email at ipad@interchange. ubc.ca.

Slow Food Nova Scotia Class “Prep” with a Difference

Imagine an enjoyable Sunday outing with friends that also provides you with the ingredients for connecting your students with Nova Scotia’s food heritage and current realities. Imagine exploring Nova Scotia’s cultural landscape, its vineyards, farms and aquaculture, and then developing skills with leading chefs and heritage cuisine experts; and finally sharing your experiences with your friends and students.

Imagine gaining insights that can be put to use in your garden and an edible schoolyard classroom.

It is said, “we are what we eat.” Through a connection with Nova Scotia food production and consumption, Slow Food Nova Scotia (SFNS) provides a new way to grow through hands-on learning, convey the heritage of Nova Scotia to students, promote interest and understanding of healthy lifestyles, and connect students with Nova Scotia’s economy and environment.

Slow Food Nova Scotia is a convivial group of people from throughout the province who gather together to enjoy periodic outings to special places and events, which reconnect producers and consumers so they can educate each other. Slow Food Nova Scotia promotes good, clean and fair food from local producers, encourages good growing practices, especially organic and sustainable methods and preserves our culinary history and culture so we have diversity in our food choices.

SFNS is part of a growing worldwide Slow Food Movement. Current membership includes people from all walks of life living throughout the province: teachers, nutritionists, restaurateurs, chefs, farmers, aquaculturalists, environmentalists, historians, and the list goes on.

Would you like to learn more? Visit http://slowfoodns.blogspot.com. Interested in becoming a member, email mail@slowfoodns.ca.

Information on the SFNS video in support of teachers & students, The Edible Schoolyard, is also found on the blog.

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• A Minimum of 3 years of actual continued teaching experience.
• A Current Canadian Passport.

Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates is highly developed with extensive facilities in terms of Schooling, medical support, shopping, etc. The U.A.E. remains one of the most understanding countries in the Middle East in terms of harmonizing western needs with the preservation of its own culture.

Interested persons are asked to email a C.V., a cover letter and copies of degrees and passports to upadmiss@aggregmtsch.ac or fax the same to The Principal, on 011 - 9712 - 645 - 4703.

Only selected candidates will be called for interviews.

Story Theatre’s Hey…Bully, Bully

Story Theatre is excited to announce that it will be touring its popular, relevant and curriculum based show Hey…Bully, Bully across Canada in the 2009/10 school year. Bullying continues to be an issue in our schools and Hey…Bully, Bully uses Story Theatre’s popular style of theatre to help elementary school students explore solutions in an innovative and entertaining atmosphere. Language arts, literature, citizenship, music and FUN are all integrated into 50 minutes of storytelling, style theatre that will have your whole school talking. Please visit their website at www.storytheatre.ca to see the Teacher’s Guide and clips from the show and find out more about booking the show. CD ROMs and references are all available upon request.

Prime Minister’s Awards – Deadline Extended to April 20, 2009

The original deadline of March 31, 2009 has been extended to April 20, 2009. Nominators now have extra time to complete their packages and send them in.

If you know a teacher who should be recognized with one of these prestigious awards, please encourage applications. The benefits for teachers, schools and boards are tremendous!

The 2009 Guidelines and Nomination Forms are going out to schools and school boards across the country and are also available in the following section: Nomination Guidelines www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/pmawpp.nsf/eng/h_wz00010e.html. You can also obtain hard copies by calling 613-946-0651 or sending an email to pmawpp-info@ic.gc.ca.

The Teacher, April 2009, Page 13
Teachers Institute provides teacher with passion for Canadian Parliament

The Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy made an amazing impact on Cape Breton Local teacher Neeta Kumar-Britten. After participating in the Teachers Institute in the fall of 2007, Kumar-Britten came back to her classroom a changed teacher. “It’s the best PD event I’ve ever attended in my whole career,” says the 15-year-veteran, who was a Grade 1 teacher at Brookland Elementary at the time.

She actually found out about the program through an ad in The Teacher (similar to the one found on this page). “I loved every minute of it. It was very well organized and they treat teachers like gold.”

The Teachers Institute (TI) on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy is an intensive professional development opportunity that brings teachers from across Canada together in Ottawa for an insider’s view on how Parliament works. It is an opportunity teachers like gold.”

The Teachers Institute (TI) on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy is an intensive professional development opportunity that brings teachers from across Canada together in Ottawa for an insider’s view on how Parliament works. Among other things, participants meet the Speakers of the Senate and the House of Commons and other parliamentarians, observe Question Period, parliamentary debates and committee meetings, attend working luncheons with key parliamentary and civil society leaders, visit key sites of government and historical significance and participate in key events of the parliamentary calendar. Teachers are given the space to be free thinkers in my classroom, and presented perspectives from all major political parties in Canada.” She had all four local federal candidates visit the classroom during the election period to present all sides.

During the federal election campaign her students submitted a question for CKNs The National political panel about the influence of political polls on voting. “The panel addressed the question, and actually spent quite a bit of time debating it,” beams Kumar-Britten. “Peter Mansbridge even thanked my students and mentioned the schools name in his broadcast. It was very exciting.

Senator Jane Cordy (a former Nova Scotia teacher) spoke to the class about the role of the senate in Canadian democracy. “She presented her to continue with her new-found love of teaching at the high school level has enabled me to teach about Canadian history, Canadian geography and political science, Mi’kmaq studies, oceanography, political appointments. She was that education has a role to play in fostering democracy but can’t be expected to solve all the problems associated with the democratic process. It also explored the many ways teachers incorporate civics into existing curriculums—like Neeta Kumar-Britten. “I highlight citizenship education in whatever class or school or grade I teach,” she says. “I see a fit for it everywhere.”

She says the Teachers Institute was invaluable in her teaching and hopes that a similar program can be created here in Nova Scotia.

Anyone interested in learning more about Neeta Kumar-Britten’s P to 3 lesson plans can contact her at Sydney Academy at 902-562-5464 or via email at n.kumar@staff.ednet.ns.ca Follow this link to the TI alumni corner where Kumar-Britten’s work is highlighted: www.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/Education/T achersInstitute/index.asp?Language=E&param=britten

For more information on the Teachers Institute on Canadian Parliamentary Democracy visit www.parl.gc.ca/teachers. Applications and supporting documents for next November’s Institute must be submitted online, faxed or post-marked no later than April 30, 2009.

See ad this page.

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Renseignements disponibles en francais.
The Canadian Teachers’ Federation (CTF) has a social justice perspective driven by the compassion found in the interests and views of Canada’s teachers. High on that list of interests is the waste of potential in our country resulting from the national disgrace of child poverty. We know now that no significant progress has been made in improving the lot of children living in poverty in the last 20 years. How is it that in one of the wealthiest countries in the world we can have so many children living in poverty conditions and do so little about it?

Chart 1
This chart, taken from the Campaign2000 National Report Card, shows not only that no progress on the issue has been made, but also the effect that taxation has on the lower income households in Canada.

Teachers care about children – that is why they become teachers. They are also directly affected by the number of students unable to learn effectively because they come to school under-fed, over-tired, poorly clothed and inadequately cared for due to appalling living conditions. For CTF, child poverty is a focus for action. Amongst other things we:
• Present briefs and action plans for the federal government budget and various ministries;
• Lobby MPs and senior staff for improvement;
• Contribute to development of the Alternative Federal Budget with suggestions for ways to help children living in poverty;
• Work with national groups such as Canada Without Poverty (formerly known as the National Anti-Poverty Organization - NAPO), the National Alliance for Children and Youth (NACY), Public Health Agency of Canada and others in the advancement of children’s interests.

CTF efforts on behalf of children are forceful and effective. Sadly, the real problem in Canada is that so few Canadians really appreciate the scope of the problem or how it is harming both the present and the future of Canada by draining resources and potential. It seems unlikely that, as a country, we can continue to afford wasting so much of our human potential.

Please address questions or comments on this article to Emily Noble, President, Canadian Teachers’ Federation at enoble@cff-ce.ca

Donnelly among prominent Canadians on ParticipACTION’s Board of Directors
ParticipACTION, the national voice of physical activity and sport participation in Canada, recently announced the appointments of Phil Fontaine, Mary-Lou Donnelly and Dr. Andrew Pipe to its Board of Directors, and member Marilyn Knox to the position of Chair.

“We are delighted to welcome these influential Canadians to our board,” said Kelly Munemoto, President and CEO of ParticipACTION. “We are governed by a group of engaged, committed and diverse people who bring strength and volume to our national voice.”

Phil Fontaine is the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, who led the successful resolution and settlement of claims arising out of the 150 year Indian residential school tragedy. Now serving an unprecedented third term in office, Fontaine is a recognized leader whose respect and reach goes far beyond the First Nations community to the benefit of all Canadians.

Former NSTU president, Mary-Lou Donnelly is president-designate of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation. Her vision is for a strong, quality, public-funded education system equal to or better than any other education system in the world. A school principal and teacher for more than 25 years, she has also been active at the local, national and international levels on a variety of issues affecting both teachers and students.

“ParticipACTION has an important part to play in educating all Canadians about the role of physical activity in ensuring healthy, successful future generations,” said Donnelly.

Dr. Andrew Pipe is chief of the Division of Prevention and Rehabilitation at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, and a professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. He has addressed audiences around the world and is frequently consulted on issues related to tobacco use and smoking cessation, drug use in sport, and physical activity and health.

For a complete list of ParticipACTION board members, please see the Board of Directors section at www.participACTION.com.

Originally established in 1971, ParticipACTION was re-launched in 2007 to help prevent the looming inactivity and obesity crisis that faces Canada. As a national not-for-profit organization solely dedicated to inspiring and supporting healthy and active living for Canadians, it works with its partners (which include sport, physical activity, recreation organizations, government and corporate sponsors) to inspire and support Canadians to move more. ParticipACTION is generously supported by Sport Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada. For more information, visit www.participACTION.com.
Grade 6 girls at William King Elementary in Herring Cove came together on February 20 to celebrate what it means to be a girl and the importance of keeping a balanced mind, body and spirit. William King Elementary was one of 25 Halifax Regional School Board schools that participated in HRM’s Girls Soar Physical Activity Week 2009 which took place from February 16 to 20.

Girls Soar Physical Activity Week is an initiative designed to increase the physical activity rates of girls between the ages of 9 and 18. With support from local businesses and stakeholders, a variety of physically active programs are offered to girls in this age group free of charge for the entire week throughout HRM.

While one may think these kinds of events may be organized by phys ed, PDIR or classroom teachers, the duo that organized and facilitated the day for the girls at William King Elementary was composed of learning centre teacher Tracey Warner, and resource teacher Gidgit Allison. "I did it because I went to a girl power workshop at the YWCA and modeled our program after that one," says Tracey Warner. She and Allison developed a fun-filled well-balanced day for the girls.

The William King girls started their day with breakfast, created peace doves and then had a yoga class with Nancy Hunter. After a short break they learned about self-defense with Doug Large, head instructor of the Herring Cove-based club Chimo Tae Kwon Do. During this session the girls learned some basic self-defense techniques through one of the world’s most popular martial arts. Assistant instructor Jessica Brown, a graduate of William King Elementary, joined Large in presenting the session. Brown is now a national level competitor. A couple of the Grade 6 girls who are members of the club also helped to facilitate this session.

Following the very physical self-defense session, the girls discussed and learned more about body image with RN Cindy Campbell, followed by a power walk (all before lunch). Campbell relayed to the students how to care for their bodies—inside and out, their spirits and their self-esteem. Throughout this session the girls learned what factors contribute to body image, including life experiences, cultural messages, role models, genetics, and how others treat them.

After their lunch break the girls learned about social bullying and conflict resolution before their day wrapped up at 3 p.m.

William King Elementary also participated in the official launch of the week at the LeBrun Community Centre in Bedford on February 13. They joined Halifax Regional Municipality Councillors Barry Dalrymple, Lorelei Nicoll, Gloria McCluskey, Sue Uteck, Jennifer Warts, Debbie Ham and Linda Mosher, and Liberal MLA Diana Whalen and NDP MP Megan Leslie in kicking off the Week with a little hip-hop dancing.

Girls Soar aims to increase opportunities for girls and young women to be active by providing female-centered programs to give girls and women equal access to active opportunities. The week is funded by Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection and supported by Active Halifax Communities, the Halifax Regional School Board, the Halifax YWCA and the Halifax Regional Municipality who all work to offer programs during the week. For more information visit www.activehalifax.ca.
coming events

April is...

**National Poetry Month** ([www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca)), (Oral Health Month ([www.healthyteeth.org](http://www.healthyteeth.org)), Cancer Awareness Month ([www.cancer.ca](http://www.cancer.ca)), Parkinson Awareness Month ([www.parksinson.on.ca](http://www.parksinson.on.ca)), Earth Day April 22 ([www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)), National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week April 20 to 27 ([www.transplant.ca](http://www.transplant.ca/aware_notdaw.htm)).

**May is...**

Allergy Awareness Month ([www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)), Speech and Hearing Awareness Month ([www.sdhhns.org](http://www.sdhhns.org)), Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month ([www.mssociety.ca](http://www.mssociety.ca)), MedicAlert Awareness Month ([www.medicalert.ca](http://www.medicalert.ca)), Huntington Disease Awareness Month ([www.hac-ca.org](http://www.hac-ca.org)).

APRIL

**Young Poets’ Week runs April 6 to 12**

April is a National Poetry Month (NPM) and throughout April The League of Canadian Poets (LCP) is featuring several renowned poets who will present a series of readings in several cities across Canada. The theme for the 11th anniversary is POETRY PLANET and artists and NPM participants are encouraged to discuss and elaborate on themes of poetry related to the planet, land, culture, nature and how we define Canada. For more information visit [www.poets.ca](http://www.poets.ca).

**APRIL 20 TO 26 2009**

**The Big Read**

The Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF) is once again inviting teacher colleagues from across Canada to continue to help achieve Education for All (EFA) goals by participating in this year’s The Big Read on April 22.

The Big Read is the main plan of action for the 2009 Global Action Week (GAW) and is one of the activities which will be held on April 20 to 26 by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), a coalition of charities, teacher organizations, trade unions and citizen groups worldwide.

The theme this year is Youth and Adult Literacy and Lifelong Learning. The Big Read is a special opportunity for many of the world’s most famous authors, education advocates, teachers and students to come together and read their personal stories on the need and importance of literacy.

Research has shown children born to literate mothers are 50 per cent more likely to survive for another year within an increasingly difficult economic climate. Tickets have been kept at last year’s price of $50 each; or $400 for a table for eight. Tickets are available now by contacting Jane at the NGE office at 902-423-1360.

**MAY 2009**

**MAY 7**

**NSGA Annual African Dinner**

The Nova Scotia Gambia Association (NSGA) invites you to their 24th Annual African Dinner on Thursday, May 7, at Saint Mary’s University. Once again this year they will celebrate the success of their programs and projects in The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Atlantic Canada, and their ability to survive for another year within an increasingly difficult economic climate. Tickets have been kept at last year’s price of $50 each; or $400 for a table for eight. Tickets are available now by contacting Jane at the NSGA office at 902-423-1360.

**MAY 8**

**Maximum Impact Simulcast**

The Maximum Impact Simulcast is a one-day leadership event, featuring a premiere collective of brilliant minds intent on communicating the art and science of whole leadership. Speakers for the day include: former UK prime minister Tony Blair; golf pro Jack Nicklaus; Harvard business professor Bill George and inspirational speaker Liz Murray. For information on the local simulcast contact the Maximum Impact Planning Team at the New Minas Baptist Church at maximpact@rmsbc.ca or visit [http://www.rmsbc.ca/app/w_page.php?id=137&type=group](http://www.rmsbc.ca/app/w_page.php?id=137&type=group) or [www.giantimpact.com/](http://www.giantimpact.com/).

**MAY 27 TO 29**

**Teaching for Social Justice Conference**

A Teaching for Social Justice Conference will take place on May 27 (evening), 28 and 29, 2009 at Memorial’s Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The conference will feature award-winning author-Deborah Ellis; Holocaust survivor Izy Uzry and StFX professor Jozsef Tompkins. Registration is $240 (+ item for food bank). To register, email [sjconference@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:sjconference@staff.ednet.ns.ca) or fax 902-794-6206. Visit [www.cbs.ns.ca](http://www.cbs.ns.ca) and follow conference links for more information.

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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MUSEUM OF FOOD

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nature.museum.gov.ns.ca

Know Farms, Know Food

Exploring Sustainable Living

June 8 - 19, 2009

Discover the new face of agriculture! Learn about the role farmers play in keeping Nova Scotia’s environment healthy. We are what we eat… but do you know what you are eating?

June 8 & 9: special program for grades 7 and 8

Limited space, contact Amy to register: 902-424-6512 or coaneale@yorku.ca

June 10 -19 is geared for Grades P-6 and the general public

SCOPE is supported by the Department of Agriculture and the Atlantic Canada Agricultural College, Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Nova Scotia Local Agency for Sustainable Development, Nova Scotia Ecology Action, Parks Canada, National Organ and Tissue Replacement Society, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, Parkinson Awareness Month, Speech and Hearing Awareness Month, Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage.

2009 Regional Election Information for Locals

LOCAL | CHAIRPERSON | DATE OF ELECTION | DATE OF ADVANCE POLL | LOCATION
---|---|---|---|---
Antigonish-Cheplands | Cathy Rorimer | April 29 | |
Colchester-West Kings | Cape Breton | Rednedon MacKinnon | May 5 | Cape Breton Local Office
Lambert | Larry MacLeod | May 5 | Cape Breton Local Office
Bothwell | Clifford Maileart | 2009-2010 (2nd term) |
DAMIR | Yvonne Hennick | September | |
Hafencity | Canada-Koti | May 5 | Electron Vote
Hafencity | Steve Vent | May 5 | Electron Vote
Victoria-Chauncey | Paul Majors | May 5 | Electron Vote
Vanderhoof | Allison MacPherson | 2009-2010 (2nd term) |

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HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR CLAIMS UNDER THE NSTU GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to make sure that Members are informed with respect to how to submit claims under any portion of the NSTU Group Insurance Program. The claims procedures differ by benefit and may be confusing to some. A summary of the procedure by benefit has been outlined below:

HOSPITAL SERVICES

• The NSTU Total Care Subscriber Card confirms coverage for semi-private room accommodation.
• The hospital will bill Medavie Blue Cross directly. No claim forms are needed.

EXTENDED HEALTH BENEFITS (supplies, paramedical practitioners, vision care, hearing aids, etc.)

• Claim forms should be completed and sent directly to Medavie Blue Cross along with itemized receipts and attending physician’s prescription where applicable. Some providers now submit electronically with Medavie Blue Cross and will request you to pay your portion only.
• Reimbursement will be made directly to you.
• Claims must be submitted within one year from the date the expense is incurred. If not submitted within one year, your claims will be declined.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

• The NSTU Total Care Benefit Subscriber Card must be presented to a participating pharmacy at the time the prescription is filled.
• There is a $5.00 co-pay per covered prescription. Some medications may require special authorization.
• All over-the-counter medications, except life sustaining over-the-counter drugs, as defined by Medavie Blue Cross are not covered under the NSTU Total Care Medical Plan.

DENTAL CARE

• Some dentists will only require you to pay the applicable co-insurance as they will submit directly to Medavie Blue Cross.
• Some dentists may require you to pay for services at the time they are rendered and submit a completed Dental Claim Form with an official receipt to Medavie Blue Cross for reimbursement. Payment will be made directly to you.
• In all cases, claims must be submitted within one year from the date the expense is incurred. As with the Health benefit, claims will be declined if not submitted within one year.

If living outside Atlantic Canada, you must pay for all services rendered, submit a completed claim form with official receipts, and attending physician’s prescription where applicable, and forward to Medavie Blue Cross for reimbursement. Payment will be made directly to you.

For all other claims, including Provincial Master Life Insurance, Optional Group Life Insurance, Voluntary Accident Death & Dismemberment, Long Term Disability and the Funeral Expense Plan, you (or your beneficiary) should contact the Claims Specialist at Johnson Inc. at 453-9522 or 1-877-303-1399 (toll-free). The Trustees encourage you to share this information with your beneficiaries and dependents so they are aware of the steps to be taken at the time of a claim for any coverage under the NSTU Group Insurance Program for which you or your dependents may be eligible for and enrolled in.

If you have questions regarding any of the claiming procedures for the benefits you are enrolled in, or any of the voluntary coverages available to you, please contact Johnson Inc. at (902) 453-9543 or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).
Dubbing Resources 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/branchingout.shtml.

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/expose/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 program, an ad, or a presentation collection? ImagesProject, 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.

Teen Safety Series (51 min.) Healthy Living 9 Teens, as well as adults, harbor misinformation regarding personal safety. Prevention is the key to stopping abuse, sexual violence or abduction. Knowledge is the key to keeping teens safe with friends, dates, strangers, and others. Titles in this series: Myths vs. reality; When you are alone; and, Dating and relationships.

7 Ways to Block a Cyberbully (13 min.) Healthy Living 7-9 Cyber bullies don't show kids on the playground or steal lunch money, but they are just as dangerous. They stay hidden behind technology and target students on the Internet and through cell phones. This film details seven effective strategies for dealing with a digital bully and teaches students how to be smart and stay safe in a cyber bully situation.

If the World Were a Village (24 min.) Social Studies P-3 At this moment, there are more than 6 billion people on the planet! It's hard to picture so many people, but what if we imagine the whole world as a village of just 100 people? Based on the award-winning book of the same name, this video tells us who we are, where we live, how far we are growing, what languages we speak, what religions we practice and more. So come and learn about our global village. What you might find may surprise you!

Portion Control (23 min.) Healthy Living 9; Food and Nutrition 10/12; Physically Active Living 11

Using the power of video to its best advantage this program teaches teens how to choose the right food portions for their body type and metabolism and to visualize these portions in memorable ways. Nationwide, teenagers have become accustomed to eating "super-sized.

This is a major factor in the obesity epidemic affecting teens today. Kids are suffering from weight-related health problems - diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, depression, and even heart disease. The goal of this program is to help teens to connect the foods they eat with everyday, to- understand analogies.

Portion Distortion (19 min.) Healthy Living 7/8 Using video to visualize portions, this program teaches viewers the difference between super-sized portions and nutritionally correct portions. Once children understand the right food portions for their body and metabolism, they can make healthy judgments about food portions at every meal, everyday, for long-term health.

Picture Perfect (40 min.) Healthy Living 7-9

This documentary video explores and challenges stereotypical and distorted media images of girls and women. Diverse girls and women candidly share their experiences and feelings about media depictions and their impact. By weaving together interviews, media images, cut-away footage, text, music, and sound, this documentary artfully challenges and depicts the messages that women and girls are sent daily in our media-saturated culture. Useful in a variety of subject areas from health to life skills, it fosters critical thinking and media literacy. Most of all it empowers young women viewers to become critical consumers of mass culture with the ability to recognize the unrealistic standards that media messages can impose on them.

Shedded (12 min.) Healthy Living 9

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

Nutrition and You (83 min.) Health 5/6; Healthy Living 7 This four-part series includes the following titles: Nutrition Basics highlights the six major essential nutrients including: carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, and water. Balanced Diet looks at the USDA food pyramid through vivid graphics, emphasizing each of the five major food groups. Healthy Eating Habits stresses the fundamental skills needed to plan, select, and prepare foods that make up a healthy diet. A Healthy Body addresses a number of health issues including: type of foods to avoid, healthy body weight, harmful substances, and the importance of regular exercise.

Visual Thesaurus free trial until April 24

A link for free access to Visual Thesaurus is available until April 24, 2009 (www.visualthesaurus.com/promo/BCF5BF38). Visual Thesaurus is delivered via the Internet. There is nothing to download or install, simply access the web site. VT is available to all students and staff when purchased and access is available from any Internet connection, at the library, school or at home. It can be used with a white board or at a desk. VT pronounces words, translates into 5 languages and searches across your other databases, making it a valuable reference tool. Lesson plans are also available. For more information on VT contact Ivan V. Krieg, THINKMAP at 888-278-8600 ext.350 or email him at ikrieg@thinkmap.com.

Insurance Institute’s Career Connections Ambassador Program

The Ambassador Program, a free program designed for high school career studies classes, provides an in-class opportunity for students to interact with an insurance industry professional that represents the home, business and auto insurance industry. These volunteer Ambassadors introduce students to the multitude of careers available in this non-traditional and little-known sector, and share their enthusiasm for a $30 billion industry which continues to grow and change.

Ambassadors share their unique career and education journey with youth through interactive presentations in the classroom. These sessions can be true ‘eye-openers’ for those students struggling to figure out what they might want to pursue upon graduation. For more information about The Ambassador Program and how to book an in-class presentation go to www.career-connections.info/en/IC_AP_request Ambassador.asp?ppid=524.

BOOK GIVEAWAY!

Thanks to the folks at Nimbus Publishing, The Teacher has 3 copies of the book Chocolate River Rescue to giveaway. This heart-pounding adventure is inspired by true events and is for readers of all ages.

The author, Jennifer McGrath Kent is a freelance writer and educator who lives in New Brunswick.

Please email your name, home address, and school or campus name with “River Rescue” in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 30, to be eligible for the draw.