



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 an increase in funding of 4.5 per cent for the fiscal year 2009-10 is the bare minimum required to finance our present program levels. Any reduction from 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 assumes the inflation 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 the upper 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.

Provincial agreement officially signed



The new Teachers’ Provincial Agreement was officially signed on April 2 at NSTU’s Dr. Tom Parker building in Halifax. The Honourable Judy Streach, Minister of Education (right) and NSTU president Alexis Allen are shown above. The Agreement was ratified in a vote of NSTU public school membership on February 24.

“On behalf of all teachers I’d like to thank all those involved with the recent negotiated settlement,” says Allen. “Your commitment to the collective bargaining process continues to prove that this is the best possible approach to settling contracts. We had open and frank discussion throughout the process, but more importantly it was respectful.”

“It’s a pleasure to be here and sign what we know is far more important than a document,” says Streach. “On behalf of the Department of Education and Government I thank you for the respect, collaboration and cooperation.”

executive highlights

Friday, April 3, 2009

- Received table officers’ report:
 - Selected the John Huntley Memorial Interns for the next session;
 - Increased funds for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program by \$10,000;
 - Discontinued the Mentorship Program beginning with the 2009-2010 school year;
 - Selected the Council 2009 Nominating Committee and the Steering Committee.
- Approved Grant Thornton to provide auditing services to the NSTU;
- Accepted a plan to assist Professional Association treasurers;
- Supported a decision by the Member Services Committee that no changes

- be made to committee mandate at this time;
- Appointed the scrutineers for Council 2009;
- Approved 2009-2010 proposed budget to go forward to Annual Council 2009 with a recommendation that it be adopted;
- Received the report from the ad hoc Committee to Examine Options for Future Councils along with its recommendations;
- Approved a revision to the operational procedures updating the terms of office for the Insurance Trustees and the Pension Committee;
- Approved a 2009 Council resolution

- to change the NSTU Parliamentary Authority from Sturgis to Roberts Rules of Order;
- Received a report on Resolution 2008-37 on International Students, and approved recommendations for the Department of Education;
- Approved the granting of several Local Service Awards;
- Directed NSTU staff to investigate other CTF Affiliates on conflict resolution protocol and report back to the provincial executive for consideration;
- Approved a resolution for Council 2009 under New Business to address rewording of an existing resolution amending the by-laws.

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NSTU NOW

Additional resolutions to Council 2009 are found on page 3.

On page 8, find out more about NSEL’s 2009 Assessment Summit and how it will provide a unique learning experience in the Charting your Course for Professional Development column.

Learn about one teacher’s passion for Parliament on page 14.



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people

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 Brushett (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 School in the Valley and the NSTU rep for her school; and Robert Wigle (Dartmouth Local), the Fine Arts Department Head at Prince Andrew High School and also the treasurer of the Educational Drama Association of Nova Scotia, a professional association of the NSTU. They are shown meeting with Ron Brunton, NSTU executive staff officer professional initiatives

and technology. **The deadline for the next round of applications is September 15.**

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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 (PEBS) Program: The Benefits and the Barriers*. Cathy Carreau, 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. Avon View High School teacher Steven Van Zoost was awarded for *Mark Me: Student Identities in Authentic Assessment Practices*.

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! / Les Arts Vivent!* (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.



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Additional Resolutions for Council 2009

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

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

Brief:
The size 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 Councils reviewed all required seats 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 delegation 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 seats for REWC Chairpersons. It is also noted that when this change was made to the By-laws to add the REWC Chairs, the **Brief** that accompanied the Resolution to Council 2004 references the fact that some Local constitutions “precluded (the REWC Chairperson) from holding Local office.” Under the new NSTU Model Constitutions for Locals and RRC's, there is no such restriction.

2009-A Gestion Politique Amendée 2/3
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'article III.1(c) du Règlement intérieur pour amender pour supprimer la phrase « et des comités régionaux du bien-être économique ».
(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif :
La taille du Conseil a augmenté à tel point au cours des dernières années que les choix de lieux suffisamment spacieux pour accueillir les plus de 420 participants sont très limités. 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 interrogé un large échantillon des membres qui avaient assisté aux trois dernières AGA.

Le comité a conclu que les présidents des comités régionaux du bien-être économique, du fait qu'ils sont membres du Comité exécutif de la section locale, pourraient probablement assister à l'AGA dans le cadre de la délégation de la section locale et il ne serait donc pas nécessaire de leur attribuer un siège particulier à l'AGA. Les résultats du sondage indiqué ci-dessus appuient l'élimination des sièges spécialement réservés aux présidents des CRBE. Il faut également noter que, lorsque le changement visant à ajouter les présidents des CRBE a été apporté au Règlement intérieur, l'exposé explicatif qui accompagnait la résolution à l'AGA 2004 notait le fait que les statuts de certaines sections locales « interdisaient (au président du CRBE) d'exercer une charge au sein de la section locale ». En vertu des nouveaux statuts modèles pour les sections locales et les CRR, cette restriction n'existe plus.

2009-B Governance Policy Amend 2/3s
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, this By-Law amendment is recommended.

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

Exposé explicatif :
Les statuts d'un conseil des représentants régionaux peuvent stipuler que le président du Comité régional du bien-être économique n'est pas autorisé à occuper un poste au sein de la section locale. Pour garantir la participation de ces dirigeants syndicaux à l'AGA, cette modification du Règlement intérieur est recommandée.

2009-C Governance Policy Amend 2/3s
BE IT RESOLVED THAT effective August 1, 2009, NSTU By-Laws Article III.2(1) be amended by replacing the current text with the following:
The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised governs the Nova Scotia Teachers Union in all parliamentary situations not provided for in legislation, By-Laws and Standing Orders.
(Provincial Executive)

Brief:
A review of formal organizations and boards concludes that *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* is the parliamentary authority widely used in North America.

In identifying resources for a course on parliamentary procedure, available materials were found to be based on Robert's Rules. Workshop activities and supplementary reference materials used Robert's Rules as the basis for instruction.

Although other texts are available (Sturgis, Cannon, Demeter, Lochrie), it is Robert that is used as the primary instructional tool and official parliamentary authority for the vast majority of organizations.

Current Text
(l) All meetings of the Council shall be governed by The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, (4th Edition) by Alice Sturgis supplemented by Rules of Order by Robert (most recent edition).

2009-C Gestion Politique Amendée 2/3
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE, à partir du 1^{er} août 2009, l'article III.2(1) du Règlement intérieur du NSTU soit amendé en remplaçant le texte existant par ce qui suit :
L'édition courante du manuel Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised régit le Nova Scotia Teachers Union dans toutes les situations parlementaires non stipulées dans la législation, le Règlement intérieurs et les Ordres permanents.
(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif :
Un examen des organisations et des commissions officielles permet de conclure que le manuel *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* est le texte officiel de procédure parlementaire largement utilisé en Amérique du Nord.

Dans la liste des ressources destinées à un cours sur la procédure parlementaire, la documentation disponible s'est révélée être basée sur les règles stipulées dans ce manuel. Le matériel pour les activités d'ateliers et la documentation supplémentaire utilisaient ces mêmes règles comme base de l'instruction.

Bien que d'autres textes soient disponibles (Sturgis, Cannon, Demeter, Lochrie), le Robert est utilisé comme principal outil pédagogique et comme texte officiel de procédure parlementaire par la vaste majorité des organisations

Texte actuel
(l) Toutes les réunions du Conseil sont régies par le *Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure* (4^e édition) d'Alice Sturgis et les *Rules of Order* de Robert (édition la plus récente).

2009-D Governance Policy Amend 2/3s
BE IT RESOLVED THAT By-law Article III(2)(c)(i) be amended to add to the end of the first sentence “to a maximum of five (5) alternates per Local.”
(Provincial Executive)

Brief:
By-law Article III(2)(c)(i) sets out the number of alternate delegates who may attend Annual Council. All Locals are entitled to at least one alternate and additional alternates based on a formula of one alternate for each additional 3 voting delegates. While all Locals have not, historically, sent their full complement of alternates, if they did there would be a significant logistical problem. Capping the allowable number to 5 will still allow large Locals to have adequate replacements while allowing for Council planners to handle the difficult logistics of seating a large group of people. The ad hoc Committee to Examine Options for Future Councils support this recommendation.

2009-D Gestion Politique Amendée 2/3
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'article III(2)(c)(i) du Règlement intérieur soit amendé pour ajouter à la fin de la première phrase : « à concurrence de cinq (5) délégués suppléants par section locale ».
(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif :
L'article III(2)(c)(i) du Règlement intérieur stipule le nombre de délégués suppléants qui peuvent assister à l'AGA. Toutes les sections locales ont droit à au moins un délégué suppléant et à des délégués suppléants supplémentaires, selon la formule d'un délégué suppléant pour trois délégués votants. Bien que toutes les sections locales n'aient pas, par le passé, envoyé leur contingent complet de délégués, un problème logistique considérable se poserait si elles décidaient de le faire. En limitant à cinq le nombre autorisé de délégués suppléants, on permettrait toujours aux grandes sections locales d'avoir un nombre suffisant de suppléants tout en permettant aux planificateurs de l'AGA de gérer les difficultés logistiques inhérentes à la nécessité de fournir des sièges pour un grand nombre de personnes. Le Comité spécial d'examen des options pour les futures AGA appuie cette recommandation.

2009-E Governance Policy Amend
BE IT RESOLVED THAT all of Standing Order 6(b) Scrutineers Committee be deleted.
(Provincial Executive)

Brief:
Improvements in the technology of audience response systems and the accompanying reduction in price and availability make it now possible for the NSTU to purchase or rent this equipment for the use of members at Annual Council. The use of this technology would speed up the votes at Council as there would not be a need to call for “division” and votes for vacancies on committees or officers would be counted instantaneously. There would no longer be a need for 10 scrutineers and the savings could be applied to either the rental or purchase of the required number of voting pads. Standing Order 6(b) would need to be deleted as it currently requires the annual appointment of scrutineers.

2009-E Gestion Politique Amendée
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE l'ordre permanent 6(b), Comité des scrutateurs, soit intégralement supprimé.
(Comité exécutif provincial)

Exposé explicatif :
Les améliorations technologiques des systèmes de vote électronique et la réduction associée du prix et de la disponibilité permettent maintenant au NSTU d'acheter ou de louer ce matériel aux fins de son utilisation par les membres lors de l'assemblée générale annuelle. L'usage de cette technologie accélérerait les votes à l'AGA car il ne serait pas nécessaire d'appeler une « division » et les votes pour l'élection des comités et des cadres élus seraient comptabilisés instantanément. Il ne serait plus nécessaire d'avoir 10 scrutateurs et les économies réalisées pourraient servir à la location ou à l'achat du nombre nécessaire de claviers de vote. L'ordre permanent 6(b) devrait être supprimé car il stipule actuellement la nomination annuelle de scrutateurs.

2009-F Governance Policy New (Current Operational Procedure)
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Provincial Executive examine the role of the Member Services Committee to see if its mandate reflects the economic welfare issues presented by the Locals throughout the province.
(Cape Breton)

Brief:
Grievance and other economic welfare issues never get seen by a committee of the NSTU. Changes to the mandate of the Member Services Committee could help resolve the lack of Union involvement at the provincial level.

Comment:
NSTU Standing Order 5(e)(ii) reads:
Should the Local not agree with the decision of the Provincial Executive concerning the issue, the affected Local is able to resubmit that some resolution to the next Annual Council. The brief accompanying the resolutions shall contain information concerning the Operational Procedure status of the submission as well as the decision of the Provincial Executive concerning the issue.

This submission is categorized as an NSTU Operational Procedure (NSTU Guidebook 2008-2009, Pg. 9) and as such is under the authority of the Provincial Executive. This item was addressed at the April 3, 2009 meeting with the following result.

S. Morse/D. Mitchell/Carried
That the Provincial Executive advise the Cape Breton Local that this concurs with the conclusion reached by the Member Services Committee that no changes be made to the mandate of the Member Services Committee at this time.

2009-F Gestion Politique Nouvelle (Procédure opérationnelle actuelle)
IL EST RÉSOLU QUE le Comité exécutif provincial examine le rôle du Comité des services aux membres pour vérifier si son mandat reflète les questions de bien-être économique présentées par les sections locales de la province.
(Cap-Breton)

Exposé explicatif :
Les griefs et autres questions relatives au bien-être économique ne sont jamais examinés par un comité du NSTU. Des modifications au mandat du Comité des services aux membres pourraient contribuer à réduire le manque de participation syndicale au niveau provincial.

Commentaire :
L'ordre permanent 5(e)(ii) du NSTU se lit comme suit :
Au cas où la section locale ne serait pas d'accord avec la décision du Comité exécutif provincial à ce sujet, elle peut soumettre à nouveau cette même résolution à la prochaine AGA du Conseil. L'exposé explicatif accompagnant la résolution devra contenir des renseignements concernant le statut de procédure opérationnelle de la soumission ainsi que la décision du Comité exécutif provincial à ce sujet.

Cette soumission est classée comme une procédure opérationnelle du NSTU (Guide du NSTU 2008-2009, p. 9) et, à ce titre, relève de l'autorité du Comité exécutif provincial. Cette question a été réglée lors de la réunion du 3 avril 2009 et le résultat est le suivant.

S. Morse/D. Mitchell/Motion votée
Que le Comité exécutif provincial informe la section locale du Cap-Breton que cela souscrit à la conclusion tirée par le Comité des services aux membres qu'aucun changement ne sera apporté au mandat dudit comité pour le moment.

Bringing Arts to Life!



Education Week

April 19 - 25, 2009



Alexis 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 Plus 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 Stretch

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 arts 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

PRÉSIDENT DE LA FÉDÉRATION DES PARENTS ACADIENS DE LA NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

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. On ne peut parler des arts sans rejoindre la culture. L'imagination créatrice et les productions qui en émergent sont à la fois l'expression d'une culture, son reflet et la promotion de sa vitalité. Ainsi, «Les arts vivants» sont au cœur des défis que rencontre la communauté acadienne et francophone de la Nouvelle-Écosse.

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 arts, dit liens 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 applaudir 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 communautaires, 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 des 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, quelques soient ses compétences, les arts dans la vie, «les arts vivants», répondent à des besoins essentiels et sont sources de découverte, de confiance et de plaisir. Merci à ceux qui en sont les artisans auprès de nos enfants!

Ron 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 every student. The arts enable expression, creativity and a sense of belonging in our youth.

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 art 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 unlock the creativity in those who may be less expressive 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's 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 learnings.

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.

Janet Walsh

PRESIDENT, NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION OF HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS INC.

Education Week is an opportunity to bring together those involved in educating children and youth in Nova Scotia. It is an opportunity to celebrate the successes that teachers, educators and students have accomplished, especially those related to this year's theme—Bringing Arts to Life!

Artistic ability is a gift—a gift to be valued. For those that have the talent, and more importantly the ability to truly connect with students in sharing your creativity, you are to be applauded.

The one occasion when parents genuinely connect with the school community is when their child is performing or when an open house is held displaying artwork. Parents chaperone and attend many musical festivals and band workshops. They make costumes, construct stages, apply make-up, endure the blare of brass instruments while their child rehearses and give freely of their time helping out in any way they can. The arts, which comprises drama, dance, music and visual arts should not be considered an add-on, but integral to developing well-rounded students. Nova Scotia's history and rich culture is rooted in the arts.

To borrow a quote from John Ruskin, "When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece." Today's recipients have demonstrated that this is certainly true.

NSFHSA congratulates the recipients of the 2009 Education Week Awards for their teaching excellence in Bringing Arts to Life. This is also a time to honour all those who inspire artistry in Nova Scotia's students.



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 years Education Week Conference April 19-25, 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.



**CREDIT
UNION**

TEACHERS Plus

36 Brookshire Court, Bedford, NS B4A 4E9

Open Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.*
*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

by Dr. Scott Murray
DERMATOLOGIST

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, discoloration and wrinkling of the skin on your face, upper chest and backs 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, UVB 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 assiduously 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 behaviour 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

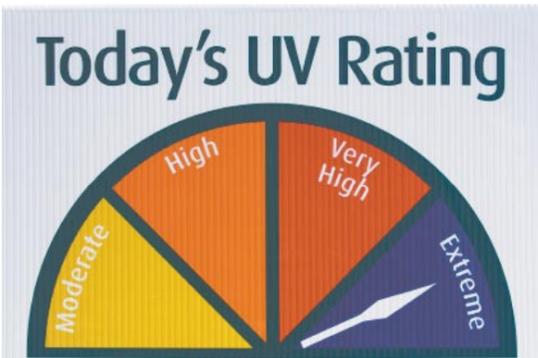
be given to young students and infants out in the sun.

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 reapply 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.



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@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.



2009 ASSESSMENT SUMMIT

AUGUST 20 AND 21, 2009

HALIFAX, N. S.

Use the power of assessment to drive instruction and improve learning. Hear five of the most distinguished assessment experts in North America illustrate why the fundamental purpose of assessment is not to rate, rank, and sort students, but rather to provide meaningful feedback that leads to improved student learning.

Keynote Speakers

Anne Davies	Damian Cooper	Cassandra Erkens
Ken O'Connor		Rick Stiggins

Registration Fees Include:

- ◆ 2 full days of professional learning
- ◆ Sessions with every keynote speaker
- ◆ Breakfast and lunch every day
- ◆ Evening reception with fabulous door prizes including a chance to win dinner with the keynote speakers.

Registration Fees:

Early Bird price—\$499.00 + HST (Before March 31, 2009)

Regular Price—\$549.99 + HST (After March 31, 2009)

Special Group Pricing: for registration fees paid by boards, schools etc. (organization must pay for all registered in the group with one payment). For every 15 registered receive one free registration (buy 15 get the 16th free).

Registration Deadline May 1, 2009



Register on line at
www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca
(902)422-3270



Nova Scotia Teachers Union



NSTU STANDING/OTHER COMMITTEES WE NEED YOU TO SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

Would you like to serve the NSTU at the Provincial Level?

The NSTU needs input from the widest-possible cross section of its members in order to make the most effective contribution to education. Members serve on most provincial standing committees for a maximum of two years,* so we are constantly in search of skilled and interested persons to make our committee structure operate successfully. Committee membership is open to Active and Active Reserve Members.

*NSTU Operational Procedures state: Appointment to a committee will be for one defined term of two years. In extraordinary circumstances, an extension of one year is permissible.

The NSTU is also seeking applications for the following economic welfare committees:

Provincial Economic Welfare
Community College Economic Welfare

YOU MAY DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM FROM THE NSTU WEBSITE.

OR

APPLY ON-LINE BY:

- ⇒ ENTERING THE MEMBERS' ONLY WEBSITE
- ⇒ SELECTING "Union Affairs" FROM THE DROP-DOWN MENU
- ⇒ SELECTING "Committees" FROM THE DROP-DOWN MENU
- ⇒ OPENING "Committee Appointments" FROM THE LEFT-HAND MENU

APPLICATION FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF *THE TEACHER*

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

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS TO COMMITTEES UNTIL 4:30 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2009.

(NOTE EXCEPTION: Substitute Teacher)

Read-a-thon leads to pig kissing



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.

Stephen Harper, Barack Obama and Nicolas Sarkozy are listening... to you!

J8
JUNIOR 8 SUMMIT



J8 is living proof that despite some differences in background and opinions, youth (and maybe even [older] people) from all over the world can be united by our shared hopes for a better future.

Stephanie Liou
Junior 8 Summit delegate 2008

In July 2009, leaders of the world's most influential countries will meet in Italy for their annual G8 Summit. They'll discuss tough issues like climate change and poverty - the kind of issues with a real impact on your life. If you have ideas, maybe even solutions to these issues... speak up and take action with UNICEF. Put together a team of four students, and your group could have the chance to tell G8 leaders at the Summit how to change the world for the better. This is part of what's called the **UNICEF Junior 8 Summit Competition** and here's how it works:

- You must enter as a team of four students, between the ages of 14 and 17
- Your team has to show an understanding of and a commitment to global issues in your community
- Judges will choose one team to represent Canada that will travel to Italy in July where you'll join with other J8 youth to draft and present a declaration to world leaders at the G8 Summit
- Find out more and download an entry form at www.unicef.ca/junior8summit
- **Deadline for entries is April 17, 2009!**

unicef

UNE CHANCE À LA
DOUANCE

SYMPOSIUM ANNUEL
à l'intention du personnel enseignant
en milieu minoritaire francophone
Ottawa (Ontario)
21 et 22 mai 2009

www.ctf-fce.ca/symposium2009



Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants
Canadian Teachers' Federation

PEACE and CREATIVITY come together on October 5, 2009



Canadian Teachers' Federation's
2nd annual
World Teachers' Day
Poster Contest
with financial support from Green Street

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 Goble. First recognized in 1994, World Teachers' Day now profiles the work of over 55-million teachers around the world.

Creative teachers needed to provide design concepts based on the theme:

Peace: Teach it. Live it.

The winning entry will have his/her concept design realized by a graphic designer for use in posters, electronic media and other materials in support of World Teachers' Day and Peace Education.

Here's what you do to win:

- Design a poster/image based on the slogan "Peace: Teach it. Live it."
- Entry must include a hand sketch of graphic elements or it can be a final camera-ready design.
- Although entries are not required to be final camera-ready products, concept sketches must be clear and easy to understand.
- Entry must be accompanied by rationale of no longer than one page in support of the design.
- Send your **HARD COPY** of the design sketch or final camera-ready design along with your name, phone number, e-mail address, and the name of your provincial/territorial teacher organization* to:

"2009 World Teachers' Day Poster Contest"
Canadian Teachers' Federation
2490 Don Reid Drive
Ottawa ON K1H 1E1

Although we enjoy receiving students' drawings, eligible entries will be limited to teachers' submissions.

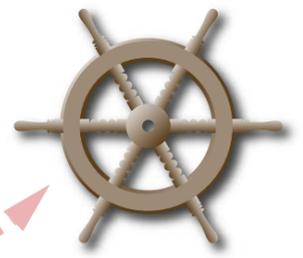
DEADLINE: Friday, May 1, 2009



Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



2009 Assessment Summit will provide a unique learning experience for all educators. Come be a part of the dialogue.

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 assessment—assessment *for* learning—serves students well for future success.

On August 20 and 21, 2009, Nova Scotia welcomes five of today's foremost authorities on classroom assessment to the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. This unique learning experience is offered by the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (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 assessment. Each day, three presenters will participate in a moderated, unscripted discussion 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 be together in one place in our own province," remarks 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 assessment *for* learning).

Damian Cooper is an independent education consultant who specializes in helping schools and school districts improve their instructional and assessment 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 parents. "Anne will share examples that truly show what assessment *for* learning really looks like in classrooms. She has living examples at every level."

Cassandra Erkens, an independent consultant and a recognized leader in education, provides dynamic presentations that address hot-button topics, including how to create meaningful, quality assessment and lay the foundation for high-functioning teacher teams. "I know that Cassandra will focus on how to improve consistency in assessment and in what common assessments can mean for classroom teachers during her presentation. I have found her incredibly insightful," says Ann Moore, SSRSB Coordinator of Support and Evaluation and co-chair of the Assessment Summit.

Assessment, grading, and reporting consultant Ken O'Connor has been a staff-development presenter and facilitator throughout the US and Canada, and around the world. "He contends that traditional grading promotes a culture of point accumulation instead of learning, encourages competition rather than collaboration and often focuses on activities instead of results," says Taylor-Foley. "He will specifically address grading practices."

Rick Stiggins, founder and executive director of the ETS Assessment Training Institute in Portland, Oregon, has helped teachers and school leaders understand how to use the assessment process and its results to benefit (not merely monitor) student learning. He is considered to be a true international leader in assessment and focuses on the big picture.

In their roles with the South Shore Regional School Board (SSRSB) Taylor-Foley and Moore have been facilitating teams of teachers in assessment *for* learning practices for a number of years. Most recently a team of teachers interested in assessment *for* learning have been visiting P to 12 classrooms and gathering illustrative examples to share with colleagues.



Sue Taylor-Foley (standing) with teachers from the South Shore Regional School Board, Melissa Willman (left) and Sandra Bowers-Richardson. Brian Cooper (left), and Alex Oickle are in the background.

Sandra Bowers-Richardson, a language arts teacher and literacy mentor at Bridgewater Junior-Senior High School, Brian Cooper, a Grade 5 teacher at Chester District School, Alex Oickle, a Grade 5 teacher at Lunenburg Academy and Melissa Willman a teaching vice-principal at New Ross Consolidated School comprise this team. The samples they collect will be posted to the Board's assessment website to help showcase how teachers are using assessment to improve student achievement.

Throughout this process these teachers have been amazed at the quality of assessment and instruction they've experienced in their colleagues.

"I was impressed with seeing the teaching at the beginning of the lessons, and how the expectations are clearly defined in student-friendly language, it really focused the learning," says Brian Cooper.

The teacher leaders received many comments from their colleagues that focused on their reflections on assessment *for* learning. "It's evident that this approach to assessment is a really easy way to get students involved and have teachers learn more about their students," continues Cooper.

Melissa Willman, who looked at portfolios of Grade 7 and 9 students, was surprised at how much the students knew about their own learning: "They knew how to reflect on their learning, and what they needed to do to improve and why it was important to do so."

Sandra Bowers-Richardson also sees that "Assessment *for* learning can be used in any subject area at any level." Both Willman and Bowers-Richardson were impressed with an IB Math teacher's use of it in her classroom and how showing samples of work in various stages

of development helped students learn and grow.

"I don't think you can see it (assessment *for* learning) happening any other way, once you see it in practice," says Alex Oickle. "I saw it as part of everything that was happening in the classroom, and it was so well integrated and entrenched in teaching practice—in some schools it's their working norm."

"I saw it working in a classroom with two grades, and with eight or nine different lessons—clearly differentiated instruction was taking place," adds Cooper.

The teachers, who started on this phase of the project in January will continue throughout the school year. The Board will re-launch the website with illustrative examples by the end of the school year. The teachers involved with this project are looking forward to their continued visits to schools and the rest of this exciting process. "The professional conversation has been wonderful," concludes Bowers-Richardson.

Just as these teachers found out, refining our assessment practices are important for teaching and learning and it is helpful to have the opportunity to dialogue with your colleagues. All teachers in Nova Scotia are invited to continue the dialogue by attending the NSELC Assessment Summit on August 20 and 21 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. Interact with teachers from around the province and with some internationally recognized experts in this field too. Don't miss this opportunity!

For more information and registration, contact NSELC at www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca or at 902-422-3270. Registration deadline is May 1, 2009.

EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

COMMITTEE
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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.

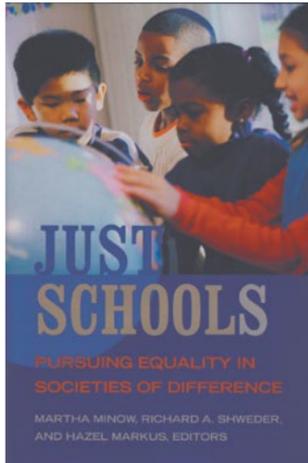
This month's equity book giveaway is *Just Schools: Pursuing Equality in Societies of Difference*. It is edited by Martha Minow, Richard A. Shweder, and Hazel Markus, and published by the Russel Sage Foundation.

Educators 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

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."



fresh

Putting new members in the KNOW!

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

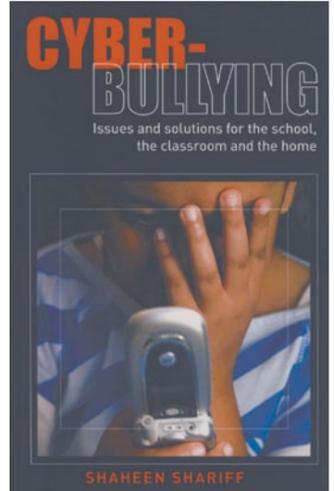
This month's fresh giveaway is entitled *Cyber-Bullying: Issues and solutions for the school, the classroom and the home*. It is written by Shaheen Shariff and published by Routledge.

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

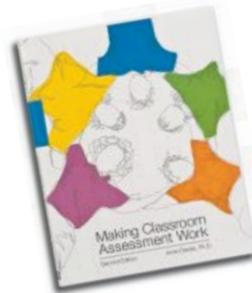
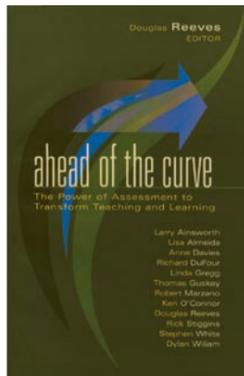
Shariff now teaches at McGill University. She comes from a background in educational law. Increasingly she is seen as the global expert on this topic.



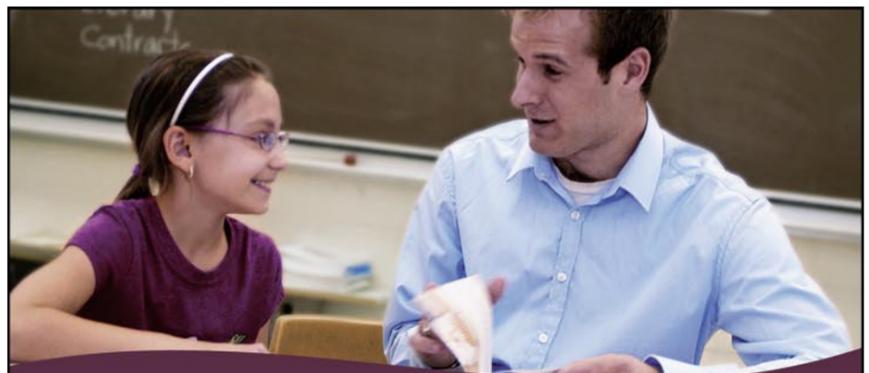
Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by April 24 to be eligible for the draw.

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).



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



Educate U.

Upgrade your teacher certification with graduate education courses from Acadia University.

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Contact info:

MEd.openacadia.ca
1.800.565.6568 ex 1646



Check out the **Deals & Discounts** section for updates on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca in the Members Only section under Benefits.

A Halifax landmark since 1876 the Waverley Inn is situated downtown close to all the city has to offer. Gracious guest rooms featuring modern amenities include on-site free parking, a bountiful hot breakfast and wireless Internet.

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Canada, B3J 1Y5
waverleyinn.com

10% DISCOUNT
offered to NSTU members

NSTU Course Offering INTRODUCTION TO PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Purpose

- To train a cadre of NSTU active members to serve as parliamentarians for regional and provincial NSTU events.

Parameters and Time Frame

- A thirty (30) hour course over a period of six days; August 18 & 19; October 15 & 16; February 25 & 26.
- An open-book exam consisting of 100 multiple-choice, true/false and short answer questions. Successful course completion (i.e. certificate) based on 80% pass rate in examination.
- A class size of 7 participants.
- Course site - Dr. Tom Parker Building.

Eligibility

- Active NSTU members who agree to allow their names to be considered for parliamentarian services for Annual Council 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- Active NSTU members who agree to allow their names to be considered for parliamentarian services for Locals and Regional Representative Councils in the parliamentarian's geographic location.

Participant Selection

- By the NSTU Provincial Nominating Committee with the approval of the Provincial Executive.
- One participant will be selected from each of the following regions.

• Annapolis Valley	• Cape Breton-Victoria	• Chignecto-Central
• Halifax	• South Shore	• Strait
- Tri-County
- Preference will be given to bilingual applicants.
- Names to be submitted to NSTU Central Office by May 29, 2009**

Course Content

Topics to be addressed are as follows: parliamentary terminology, rules of debate, handling motions, voting methods and presiding tips.

Note

All approved expenses and work-related arrangements will be the responsibility of the NSTU.

Application Form

Available on the NSTU website www.nstu.ca or by contacting Lillian Pottie at lpottie@nstu.ca



Candidate for NSTU First Vice-President 2009

Shelley Morse



LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, COMMITMENT

Professional Information

Associate in Education (NSTC);
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
Provincial Bargaining Team
NSTU Mentorship Program – Member Services
Provincial Executive Member (2002-06)
Finance and Property Committee
Legal Services ad hoc 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 Grievance Committee
Co-chair, Management - Teacher Committee
Time to Learn, Time to Teach Regional Coordinator
Regional Economic Welfare Committee
Regional Asking Package Committee
Regional Negotiating Team
Regional Returning Officer
- NSTU Provincial Presidential 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

Chair, Education Committee
Constitutional Review Committee
Finance Committee
Economic Welfare Committee
Staffing Committee
Professional Development Committee
NSTU/KCDSB Joint Budget Committee
Communications Committee
Chair, Kings Local Annual Retirement Banquet Committee
School Representative (7 years)
Annual Council Delegate (13 years)

National Positions

Canadian Teachers' Federation Delegate

Leadership Development

Local President's October and April Conferences (99-08)
August Leadership (00-08)
CAPSLE Conference 2008
NSTU Executive Planning (02-06; 08-09)

Annapolis Valley Regional School Board

Library Services Committee
Emergency Management Committee
Leadership Development Committee - Administrative Training
Leadership Development Committee - New Teacher Support
Guidance Teachers' Lead Team

Leadership Modules

Working with People
Leadership for Teaching and Learning
Nurturing a Learning Environment
The Administrator and the Law
Leadership for School Improvement
Social Justice

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—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.

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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 Chlöe 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.



Seana McDonah's Grade 3 class at Brookhouse School in Dartmouth.

EduNova

Nova Scotia's Education Export Alliance

Education Consultants Needed for Project in Abu Dhabi

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 HS)
- **Leader Mentors (LMs)**
- **Teachers with ESL training and experience**

Qualifications: undergraduate degree; minimum of 5 years relevant experience; TMs/LMs - valid teaching license; LTs - CELTA 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. Read Jorgensen, School Improvement Plan Project Director, c/o teachers@edunova.ca.

www.edunova.ca

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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.

"In 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."

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*, Learning Centre 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!"

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

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- Truro April 16 CCRSB, 60 Lorne St., Truro
- This is a rescheduled date.** The February 3 date was cancelled due to weather.

For further information contact coveyfp@gov.ns.ca

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 be 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 youth aged 12-17. Entries should reflect the rich diversity of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples in Canada. All entries must be received by **May 15, 2009** at midnight eastern time.

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

Call for Abstracts for the Early Years Conference 2010

The Early Years Conference 2010, The Rights of the Child, is accepting abstract submissions until **April 30, 2009**. If possible, please submit your abstract on-line at http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/interprofessional/SubmissionForm.asp?conference_id=12. Abstract submission guidelines are also available there.

The Early Years Conference 2010 will take place February 4 to 6, 2010 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 (604) 822-7524 Fax: (604) 822-4835 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 expertise; 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.

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/pmte-ppmee.nsf/eng/h_wz00010e.html. You can also obtain hard copies by calling 613-946-0651 or sending an email to pmte-ppmee@gc.ca.

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- A Valid Teacher's License – N.S. – TC5 and up (or equivalent).
- 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 agsadmin@agsgrmmr.sch.ae or fax the same to: The Principal, on 011 - 9712 - 645 - 4703.

Only selected candidates will be called for interviews.

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 enquiries can be made to Kari Riddell at 1800-665-5377 or e-mail riddell@clean.ns.ca. For all the fun details please visit www.clean.ns.ca/eddie

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

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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 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. 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 federal government staff

and receive resource materials for teaching about Parliament, governance, democracy and citizenship.

One of the most memorable events for Kumar-Britten was a trip to the Canadian War Museum. "It was really close to November 11, and there was a military band playing. It was just so overwhelming—I was moved to tears."

Participants also explore key issues in citizenship and parliamentary democracy and work together to develop strategies for teaching about Parliament, democracy, governance and citizenship.

"It was a really powerful experience," she adds. "I came home in November and applied for a 20-day study leave so I could develop curriculum for little learners." She focused on lesson plans for Grades P to 3 in civics, one-hour a day activities that introduce students to parliamentary issues, Parliament

as an institution, and the legislation process.

During the final week of the study leave she went to a local school, St. Mary's Elementary in Florence, and piloted the program. "We had a school-wide event in which the student body voted in a resolution."

She made a connection with the Democracy 250 (D-250) folks while attending their local high school session and received funding from the initiative for two more weeks leave so she could launch the program in four more elementary schools—Mira Road, North Highlands, Cape Smokey and Riverside. D-250 also provided some funding to produce a DVD for potential distribution to schools.

Kumar-Britten is also involved with Student Vote. Student Vote is a national, non-partisan organization that coordinated its first parallel municipal election program during the Nova Scotia municipal and school board elections held last October 18 and also paralleled the most recent federal election.

The Student Vote Nova Scotia project was offered to elementary, junior high and high schools in partnership with Democracy 250 with more than 11,000 students participating

in a mock federal election. Kumar-Britten and Chignecto-Central social studies teacher Dr. Owen Ferguson were part of a teacher writing team that provided curriculum materials for the Student Vote program for elementary and secondary school students respectively. Kumar-Britten and the students at Sydney Academy will participate in a Student Vote that will coincide with the next provincial election in Nova Scotia.

The fall of 2008 saw Kumar-Britten change her teaching assignment. She now teaches political science, Mi'kmaq studies, oceanography, Canadian history, Canadian geography and sociology at Sydney Academy, her alma mater. Teaching at the high school level has enabled her to continue with her new-found love of civics education.

During the first semester of the school year she took full advantage of the most exciting season in Canadian politics. Her political science students were heavily immersed in the municipal and federal elections—and the potential coalition government and the prorogation of Parliament by the Governor General of Canada. "I couldn't have written a better script, all we had to do was open the newspaper and listen to the radio every day. I wanted my students to know that they 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 CBC's The National's 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 school's 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 a non-partisan view of the role of the senate," she adds. A newly minted card-carrying Liberal, Kumar-Britten has a soft spot for the Canadian Senate. She started a Facebook group seeking support for her own senatorial bid, but admits that she isn't necessarily advocating for an actual Senate seat. She wants to bring attention to the fact that Prime Minister Stephen Harper promised senate reform and should be pursuing an elected senate rather than continuing to make

political appointments.

When she heard an interview given by MP Peter Stoffer in which he expressed his wishes for the abolishment of the Senate, she knew Stoffer would help her with a teachable moment, so she phoned him and invited him to speak to her class—and he did. She actually met Stoffer during her time in Ottawa at the Teachers Institute.

The NSTU made a presentation to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly's Select Committee on Participation in the Democratic Process on February 5. The primary focus of the presentation 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 curriculum—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 nkumar@staff.ednet.ns.ca. Follow this link to the TI alumni corner where Kumar-Britten's work is highlighted: www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/Education/TeachersInstitute/index.asp?Language=E¶m=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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Nationally Speaking: Using all our potential



Emily Noble, CTF President

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.

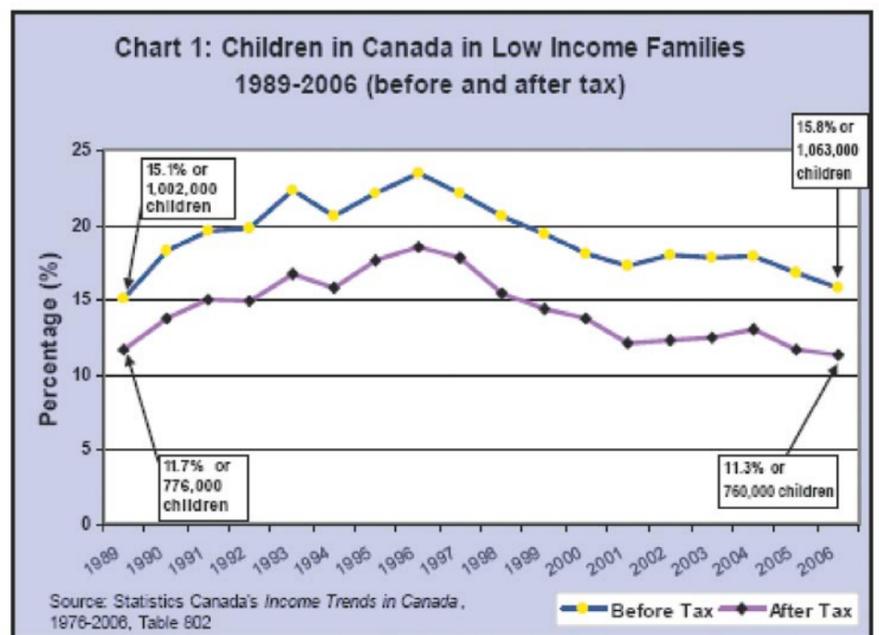
Teachers care about children – that is why they become teachers. They are also directly affected by the number of students unable to learn effectively because they come to school under-fed, over-tired, poorly clothed and inadequately cared for due to appalling living conditions. For CTF, child poverty 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-fce.ca



Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

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 Murumets, 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

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William King Elementary Girls Soar



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, PDR 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



Students started the day with yoga.



William King Elementary's Girls Soar organizing team Gidgit Allison and Tracey Warner.

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.



Self-defense with Tae Kwon Do

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 Watts, Debbie Hum 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.



RN Cindy Campbell discusses body image with students.

coming events

April is...

National Poetry Month (www.poets.ca), Oral Health Month (www.healthyteeth.org), Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.ca), Parkinson Awareness Month (www.parkinsonsocietymaritimes.ca), Earth Day April 22 (www.ecologyaction.ca), National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week April 20 to 27 (www.transplant.ca/aware_notdaw.htm).

May is...

Allergy Awareness Month (www.nslung.ca), Speech and Hearing Awareness Month (www.sdhhs.org), Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month (www.mssociety.ca), MedicAlert Awareness Month (www.medicalert.ca), Huntington Disease Awareness Month (www.hsc-ca.org).

APRIL

Young Poets' Week runs April 6 to 12

April is 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.

APRIL 20 TO 26 2009

April 22 — The Big Read Global Action Week and 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 citizens' 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 compile 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 past the age of five. Yet, according to the most recent UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) data, there are an estimated 774 million illiterate adults in the world, about 64 percent of whom are women.

The Big Read will take place on April 22, 2009. To register and for more information visit www.campaignforeducationcanada.org/en/index.php/td.

APRIL 27

National Healthy Schools Day

Healthy Schools Day in Canada/Journée des écoles saines du Canada will take place on April 27. Go to www.casle.ca/Healthy-SchoolsDay for guidelines and project ideas in Canada. Karen Robinson, coordinator for the launch of Healthy Schools Day in Canada and President of CASLE, Canadians for A Safe Learning Environment can also be reached at karen.robinson@ns.sympatico.ca for further information.

APRIL THROUGH JUNE

SCANS courses

The Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia (SCANS) is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to providing non-credit academic course to seniors (age 50+). Membership entitles you to take any or all of the courses offered in 2009, attend general meetings, serve on committees, and recommend courses and instructors. Each course meets once a week for six to ten weeks. The yearly membership fee is \$120.

Courses for the spring term beginning the week of April 20 are: **History of Psychology — A Critical Look** held at the Keshen Goodman Library, led by Dr. Sid Sodhi. This course begins Monday, April 27, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Courses running at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax are: **Introduction to Microbiology and Infectious Diseases**, begins Tuesday, April 21, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., led by Dr. R.G. Lewis; **Shakespeare's Plays** begins Wednesday, April 22, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. led by Dr. Harry Whittier; **The Use of Hypnosis in Medicine** led by Dr. Donald C. Brown begins on Thursday, April 23, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

For further information on SCANS please contact Dr. Sid Sodhi at 902-443-3269 or Blanche Potter Creighton at 902-454-5554 or visit <http://retireesandpensioners.dal.ca/SCANS>.

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 June at the NSGA office at jboswell@novascotiagambia.ca or by calling 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@nmbc.ca or visit http://www.nmbc.ca/app/w_page.php?id=137&ctype=group or 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 Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia. The conference will feature award-winning author-Deborah Ellis, Holocaust survivor Izzy Unger and St. FX professor Joanne Tompkins. Registration is \$240 (+ item for food bank). To register, email sjconference@staff.ednet.ns.ca or fax 902-794-6206. Visit www.cbv.ns.ca and follow conference links for more information.

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NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Public School

The official signing the new provincial public school contract took place on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at the NSTU building in Halifax. The Honourable Judy Stretch, Minister of Education and NSTU president Alexis Allen signed the new provincial agreement during the signing ceremony.

The Department of Education has advised the NSTU that barring any unforeseen circumstances, the 2.9 per cent salary increase and retroactive salary effective to August 1, 2008 will be applied to the April 23, 2009 pay. Please note that this salary increase and retroactivity will be applied to administrative allowances as well.

Community College Negotiations

Negotiations continue for the faculty and professional support bargaining units. Most recently negotiating teams met on March 4, 11 and 12 and April 1 and 8. The next set of negotiating sessions are scheduled for April 16, 17 and 18.

2009 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS



LOCAL	CHAIRPERSON	DATE OF ELECTION	DATE OF ADVANCE POLL	LOCATION
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	Cathy Reimer	April 29	Electronic Vote	
Cape Breton	Redmond MacDougall	May 5	April 25	Cape Breton Local Office
Cumberland	Lawry MacLeod	May 5	Electronic Vote	
CSANE	Clifford Maillet by acclamation 2009-2010 [2nd term]			
Digby/Yarmouth	Eileen Coady	May 5	Electronic Vote	
Halifax City	Candace Allan	May 5	Electronic Vote	
Halifax County	Steve Wells	May 5	Electronic Vote	
Northside-Victoria	Charlene Pedersen	May 5	April 28	Memorial High
Pictou	Alison MacPherson by acclamation 2009-2010 [2nd term]			
Shelburne-Queens	Leo Campbell	April 22	Electronic Vote	



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.

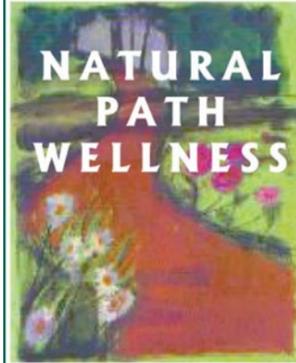
For all other claims, including Provincial Master Life Insurance, Optional Group Life Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Long Term Disability and the Funeral Expense Plan, you (or your beneficiary) should contact the Claims Specialist at Johnson Inc. at 453-9522 or 1-877-303-1399 (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).

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resources

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/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.

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.) Health 6 ; Healthy Living 7-9

Cyber bullies don't shove 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 fast we are growing, what languages we speak, what religions we practice and more. So come and learn about our global village. What you 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 "supersized." 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 teach teens how to correctly measure food portions using everyday, easy-to-understand analogies.

Portion Distortion (19 min.) Healthy Living 7/8

Using video to visualize portions, this program teaches viewers the difference between supersized 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 lifeskills, 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.

Shredded (22 min.) Healthy Living 9

By the time boys hit puberty, they've been bombarded with thousands of images showing the male body as muscled 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 of steroids. With complete frankness, the boys relate their own experiences, desires and motivations 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 types of foods to avoid, healthy body weight, harmful substances, and the importance of regular exercise.

Education Media Library, 3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, NS B3K 4X8, 902-424-2440; 902-428-5828 (fax), Email us at mediacir@ednet.ns.ca. Visit our website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

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RESOURCES

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/BFC5BF38). 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, TH!NKMAP 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_requestAmbassador.asp?ppid=524.

BOOK GIVEAWAY!

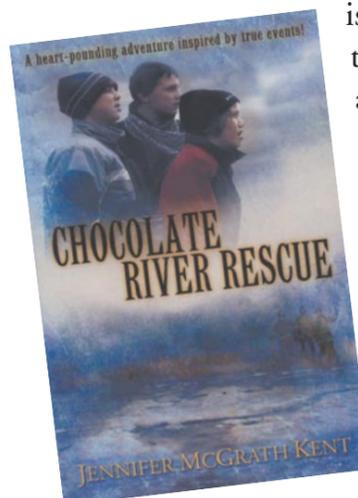
Thanks to the folks at Nimbus Publishing, *The Teacher* has 3 copies of the book *Chocolate River Rescue* to giveaway. This heart-pounding adventure



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.





The Art of Peace: A Camp for Kids

An exciting week of art, drama, puppetry, writing, yoga, solar cooking, dance, tie-dyeing and more...

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- What is Peace? • Peace in Me
- Peace in our Families and Communities
- Peace with Nature • Peace in the World

Who: For ages 8 to 13

When: July 13 to 17 (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
(extended hours available)

Where: Saint Mary's University
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Cost: \$100.00 per session
(\$30.00 extra for extended hours)
Please bring a bag lunch.
Snacks will be provided.

Facilitators: Carolyn van Gurp, Saidu Timbo and several local artists and peace activists.

Carolyn van Gurp has 10 years experience in international development and 13 years experience in education as a teacher, literacy coordinator and in teacher education, curriculum development and peace education. Carolyn is currently heading a peace education project in Sierra Leone as a PSI volunteer.

Saidu Timbo, also a former teacher, is from Sierra Leone where he has been involved in the reintegration of child soldiers and now works as a consultant supporting school agricultural projects. Saidu is also a master tie-dye artist.

For more information
or to register, please call
1-866-532-0228 (toll-free) or email
info@peacefulschoolsinternational.org
Register on-line at: <http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/peacecamp09/peacecamp09.htm>



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WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL - Experience nature, snowshoeing and nearby Wentworth skiing, star gazing, and open space. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-548-2379 or email wentworthhostel@ns.sympatico.ca to book today. 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.

JOB SHARE - Gorsebrook School 2009/2010. Qualified resource teacher to take 40% of my job. If interested, contact wallacej@staff.ednet.ns.ca or call 902-454-6640.

JOB SHARE - Substitute teacher (eight years) looking for job share (any percentage) in HRM. Melissa 902-865-2223; pyattmelissa@hotmail.com.

JOB-SHARE - Elementary teacher looking to job share in the HRSB for fall 2009 (40% - 60%) in any position. Kerry 902-455-0966; kwoodley@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

JOB EXCHANGE - Teacher in Truro area looking to move to and teach in Halifax area and for someone to switch positions. Contact Sean at 902-895-9004.

JOB EXCHANGE - Halifax Regional School Board Senior High Teacher looking for job exchange with a teacher from the CBVRSB for the 2009-2010 school year. Looking to make this change permanent if possible. If interested contact jaharris@staff.ednet.ns.ca or phone 902-489-9080 or 902-733-8080.

FOR RENT - Dartmouth apartment in Westphal for rent. Second floor, private entrance, deck, one bedroom, furnished, cable, Internet, laundry, non-smoker for \$625. a month plus power. Contact Kelly 902-404-7420.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Summer 2009. By Lake Banook in Dartmouth. Walking distance to ferry and Mic Mac Mall. \$800/week. Non-smokers and no pets. Call 902-466-4104.

FOR RENT - Halifax, Westmount Street. Pleasant one-bedroom upper flat with parking. Non-smoking, no pets, includes utilities. Available July 1. Phone 902-422-0516 or email allan.mcdiarmid@gmail.com.

HOUSE FOR RENT - Visiting Halifax for a few weeks? Tastefully-furnished and impeccably clean townhouse, Sheffield-in-the-Park, fully equipped for living, TV, phone, Internet. www.vacationrentals.com/listing4906.

SUMMER RENTAL - Luxury 2 bedroom furnished apartment in Wolfville. Quiet downtown location, short walk to Acadia and main street. Close to park and dykeland walking trails. Roman bathtub, 2 decks, lots of natural light. Contact bnick@eastlink.ca.

SUMMER RENTAL - For July & August 2009 - 2-3 bedroom furnished home in a quiet downtown Dartmouth area. Also available for rent is a one-bedroom ground floor apartment at the same location. Call 902-463-5547 or email mcpersons@accesswave.ca for details.

FOR SALE - Brand new (unused) pine glider rocking chair with matching ottoman. Both chair and ottoman are covered in light blue fabric. \$150. Picture available upon request. Call: 902-445-9237.

FOR SALE - 100 year+ home, view, near beach & surfing, kitchen/livingroom/den/4-piece bath, summer kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 45 minutes from Dartmouth, 2228 West Jeddore Road, \$158,000. Call 902-469-1016.



Education through the Arts

Celebrate Art!

Celebrate Arts Education Week and Win

a Performance by a Professional Theatre or Dance Company for your school.

TO ENTER: Simply email Perform! (coordinator@performns.ca) and tell us what your school did to celebrate Arts Education Week (April 20-24). Emails must be received by April 30th.

Draw will take place on May 1st

A First Prize Winner will be drawn in each school board across Nova Scotia.

1st prize winners will receive:

A performance by a professional theatre/dance company (value: \$600).

2nd and 3rd prize winners will receive:

A 3 hour workshop in dance, theatre or choral singing taught by a professional instructor (value: \$150)

If you would like more information about the contest or the work of the Perform! in the schools program, please don't hesitate to call 902-425-3876 or write us coordinator@performns.ca or by mail Perform! 1113 Marginal Road, Halifax, NS, B3L 2Y9

Joanne Miller, PERFORM! Program Director