



Education Partners' campaign urges Government to maintain education funding

Nova Scotia's education partners are lobbying the Nova Scotia government to rethink a proposed 22 per cent reduction in funding to public education.

"The "back to balance" strategy that government asked of school boards would ultimately decimate the system and see the future of our students and public education system severely jeopardized," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations Inc. and la Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle Écosse are launching a collective campaign to urge the Nova Scotia government to maintain funding to public education in this spring's budget.

The joint partners have engaged m5 Public Relations to help develop the campaign, which is intended to empower people to speak out about the importance of public education.

The partners are compiling stories from Nova Scotians to demonstrate the positive effects education has on all Nova Scotians.

"We believe it's important to speak up about the broad range of services offered as part of the education system, and emphasize how education affects all of us—our communities, our economy and virtually every aspect of life here in Nova Scotia," says Allen.

The goal is to collect personal stories from across the province and post them online

as part of a province-wide public awareness campaign called *Tales out of School: True stories about the positive impact of the P-12 education system in Nova Scotia*. These video or written stories will provide positive perspectives on the public education system and promote how well our students are doing.

People may choose to tell personal stories of how the public education system has affected them, their family or their business. Others may rather express their thoughts on the economic and social impact of school programming on the province or in their community. Or, people may want to talk about what aspects of the current system make them proud and where and how the current system is performing well.

More details about exactly how this will work and how you can help is available on the NSTU website – www.nstu.ca.

"It's important to share these stories of the success of Nova Scotia's public education system," says Allen. "The current system is working extremely well. Our students are being prepared to be successful today – and in the future. Their superior scores in international testing and success in embracing a wide spectrum of relevant curriculum is testament to the quality of their education."

In fact, recent findings in international testing show that Nova Scotia has the smallest gap in Canada between students with the highest and lowest levels of performance in reading.

Nova Scotia has nearly the lowest government spending per pupil and yet boasts the second highest graduation rate in Canada.

Allen says a 22 per cent reduction in funding would mean cutting positions from all

areas, which would have a huge impact on supports and services to schools, and more importantly—students.

Some of the proposed areas of reduction identified by Nova Scotia's superintendents through the NSSBA in its report to government are: classroom resources, professional development and equipment.

Allen points out that there have been some real strides in reaching all students with the provision of more resources for special education, Reading Recovery programs and the O2 program. In fact, 21 per cent of Nova Scotia's students have some kind of learning disability that requires support.

"What will happen to these students?" asks Allen. "Surely this government wants us to be able to reach all students and help them succeed in their learning."

Allen also points out that the education system has changed dramatically from years



NSTU president Alexis Allen is shown with the president of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association Vic Fleury at a recent meeting of Nova Scotia's education partners.

gone by, with schools now needing to provide more specialized programs. Since high quality education systems attract skilled workers from other regions and countries, she says maintaining funding for Nova Scotia's public education system is key to our province's economic and social prosperity.

"Public education impacts more than our children," says Allen. "It is a critical investment in Nova Scotian communities and their economic and social future."

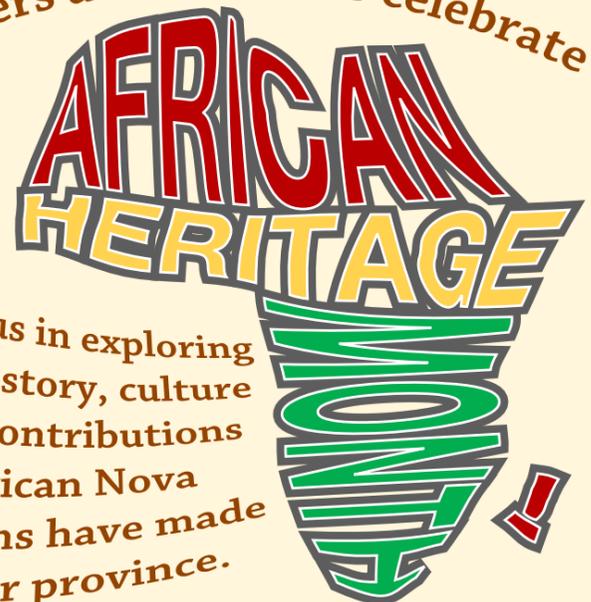
The NSTU leadership is meeting on January 21 to work on this ongoing issue.

executive highlights

December 3, 2010

- Filed table officers report;
- Appointed Russell Comeau to the Teachers' Pension Plan Inc. Board of Directors effective January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2013;
- Selected six candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program, along with two alternates;
- Appointed members to the Community College Economic Welfare Committee;
- Approved Operational Procedures 22(b)(i)(c) – Procedures for Community College Negotiations be deleted and replaced with new text;
- Approved articles be moved from Regional agreements for inclusion in the tentative agreement between the NSTU and the Minister of Education;
- Approved a two-year proposal from Delta Hotels;
- Recommended the Finance & Property Committee develop a policy pertaining to Professional Associations' conference revenues and expenses;
- Recommended the Finance and Property Committee investigate whether NSTU members receive more than one honoraria when serving on the RRC, Locals and Provincial Executive;
- Recommended the NSTU continue to communicate to the Department of Education the frustration teachers and school administrators are dealing with in the implementation of the new Student Information System (iNSchool Program);
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedure Section 1 Governance 4(a)(iii)(a)(i)C and 4(a)(ii)(a)(ii)D;
- Recommended that the Chairs of the RRCs contact Regional Board staff as to the disposition of MDR, LDR, LSP and LTL or successor actions.

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people

NSTU supports Transition House Association of Nova Scotia

Every year, in lieu of printing and sending Christmas/holiday cards, the budgeted amount is forwarded to a charity. This year, the NSTU chose to support the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (THANS). The Transition House Association of Nova Scotia provides crisis and transitional services for women and their children experiencing violence and abuse. It represents 13 shelters around the province. The \$1,500 donation will go to supporting its *Modified Art Therapy Project: Transformation Through Layers*. This province-wide program for survivors of violence and abuse provides a basis for promoting awareness in communities around the issue of violence against women and children. Participants express themselves in a secure, non-judgemental and supportive environment while at the same time, give a voice to the issue in a safe, anonymous and confidential way and promote change around this issue in their own lives and in their communities. NSTU president Alexis Allen presented the cheque to THANS provincial coordinator Pamela Harrison on December 6, the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.



NSELC annual luncheon

The NSTU president attended the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium's holiday luncheon on December 17. This year the luncheon was hosted by the Halifax Regional School Board, and took place at their new offices in Burnside. The guest speaker for this year's event was Rosalind Penfound, Deputy Minister of Education.

The Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELC) provides educators with the skills development they need to ensure they become more effective educational leaders. Its professional learning programs have targeted educators in positions of senior leadership or teachers aspiring to move into administrative leadership roles, but has expanded many of its offerings to meet the professional needs of classroom teachers who want to develop their instructional strategies to better meet the needs of their students, become effective curriculum leaders, or who are interested in fulfilling the role of a coach or mentor.

The NSTU is a partner organization of NSELC and executive staff officer Ron Brunton serves on its board. Executive staff officers Betty-Jean Aucoin and Danny Eddy serve on its program committee and Aucoin and Brunton serve on its assessment committee.



Alexis Allen is shown above with Halifax Regional School Board superintendent Carole Olsen (who also serves as the Chair of the NSELC board), Deputy Minister of Education Rosalind Penfound and NSELC co-directors Sandi Carmichael and Tony Stewart.

Yarmouth Local participates in Parade of Lights

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The Yarmouth Local public affairs/public relations committee created a float with the theme *NSTU Giving the Gift of Education* for the Yarmouth Parade of Lights on November 28, 2010. The Committee also sponsored a free public skate during the holidays, which they promoted during the parade. Through the hard work of Tri-County RRC Chair Wally Fiander, VP-PA/PR Rollie Hannem and VP-PD Beth Hamilton-Hannem the Local was able to raise the profile of the Yarmouth Local and public education. Shown are Yarmouth Local president Lori MacKinnon, Wally Fiander and Beth Hamilton-Hannem, who walked along with the float.



with other Liberal MPs and Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff. Both Allen and Boutilier were in Ottawa attending a CTF board meeting.

NSTU Provincial Executive MEETING DATES

2011

- February 3-4
- March 3-4
- March 31 - April 1
 - April 28
 - June 10-11



Certification Upgrading - A reminder for teachers wishing to complete a Certificate Program

Please be reminded that as of October 1, 2010:

Any teacher wishing to enroll in a Certificate Program for the purpose of certification upgrade must seek approval from Teacher Certification for the specific certificate program prior to commencement of the program of study. Failure to obtain prior approval will mean the program of study will NOT be recognized for an increase in certification classification.

Certificate programs were introduced as of August 1, 2000. At that time it was evident there were teachers with or seeking assignments for which they did not have the formal content and pedagogical background. The chosen mechanism for preparing teachers to teach in a new subject field of need, while at the same time increasing their certification classification, was the approved certificate program.

Each certificate program required approval at two levels:

Each certificate program had to be approved by the Minister of Education based on the recommendation by the Minister's Advisory Committee for Teacher Certification (MACTC); and

After the certificate program receives general approval, each teacher is required to seek approval from the Office of Teacher Certification, Department of Education for his or her individual upgrading portfolio. The major decision involved in the individual teacher approval level is the teacher's current eligibility to teach in the subject field. If a teacher is already qualified, as defined below, to teach in the specific subject field then the individual teacher does not satisfy the basic rationale for approval to use that specific certificate program as an upgrading mechanism. If the teacher is not

qualified to teach in the specified subject field, then he/she is eligible for approval for the specified certificate program.

Qualifications to teach in a subject field:

The basic criteria for approval for certificate programs (other than the Certificate in French Proficiency at Acadia University), at the specific teacher level, is that the teacher not have a minimum of 30 credit hours of study in the subject discipline which would constitute a major teachable subject (a major endorsement if certified after August 1, 2005) or a minimum of 18 credit hours of university study in the subject discipline constituting a minor teachable subject field (minor endorsement).

As an example, a teacher who had a major or minor in mathematics would be considered to have the teacher certification qualifications to be assigned to a mathematics position. These

teachers would not be eligible for approval for the Saint Mary's University CMSE program because they were already qualified to teach mathematics.

Notes:

School boards have the mandate to establish assignment qualifications that exceed those of teacher certification but these board criteria are not used in determining a teacher's eligibility for using a certificate program for an increase in classification; and

Only certificate programs approved by the Nova Scotia Minister of Education can be recognized for an increase in classification.

For further information and clarification please contact the Department of Education's Certification Office at <http://certification.ednet.ns.ca>.

2010 First-vice presidential Campaign Expenses

Shelley L. Morse

Posters & Paper.....	\$47.25
Lanyards & badge holders	\$193.00
Labels.....	\$56.30
Gift Certificates	\$95.00
Food & Drinks (juice)	\$432.00
Tickets (concert).....	\$138.00
Subtotal.....	\$961.55
Non Monetary Contributions	\$80.00
TOTAL.....	\$1041.55



Grosvenor Wentworth Park Schools' 2nd Annual Toonies for Toys raised \$250 that was spent on toys for the Kick-off of the Q104 Empire Theatres toy drive on December 9. Quinn Densmore and Mackenzie Welsh delivered the toys on behalf of the school. They are shown with Q104 radio personalities Bobby Mac and BJ Wilson.

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- 1 Our financial planners are available for appointments Monday to Thursday until 8 p.m. for your convenience.
- 2 RRSP deadline is March 1, 2011.
- 3 Do you need a 2nd opinion on your finances....We offer free financial advice.
- 4 Our office is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with cash service until 2 p.m.
- 5 Need to protect your valueables, we offer 4 different sizes of safety deposit boxes.
- 6 We offer Travel Insurance, US Currency and Travelers Cheques.
- 7 We have great things planned for 2011...please watch for the next issue of The Teacher for details.

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from the nstu president

Perhaps we've been doing too good a job

For some time now, I've been saying that teachers are stretched to the limit; that they take on every new task or initiative requested of them, no matter what toll it may take on their personal well-being. We've been doing so well in fact and had such great success that perhaps that is why the Dexter government is looking at cuts; bizarre logic, but the idea itself defies any logic. Why would any rational government in a developed country, analyzing 21st century learning with a technology-rich requirement, consider decimating education by reducing the budget by 22 per cent? It makes no sense.

So exactly how well are we doing?

According to a release from the Department of Education regarding the results of the 2009 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), Nova Scotia students continue to perform above the international average in reading, mathematics and science. In fact, Nova Scotia's best showing was in reading, placing 13th in the world.

Public school IB students in Nova Scotia outperformed North American IB students in 24 of 26 subjects and international IB students in 21 of 27 subjects - including math, English, biology, physics, economics, music and history.

More than 82 per cent of our Grade 9 students continue on to graduate from Grade 12. That's the second highest rate in the country.

International schools are also acknowledging and embracing Nova Scotia's success. Currently, 13 schools in Dubai and China are using the Nova Scotia curriculum as they recognize it as the best they've seen for meeting student needs and requirements. The reason for this success is that our own members, teachers on education's front line, develop the curriculum in collaboration with the Department, and offer a richness that is superior to many areas.

The ability of our students to speak, think critically, perform in plays, musicals and choirs, participate in heritage and science fairs, robotic model competitions and successfully take on entrepreneurship projects goes beyond skills taught and learned in the past.

So why cut? Any cuts to education funding will be felt in the classroom. Nova Scotia already ranks near the bottom in terms of the amount it spends per pupil in the classroom, when compared to all the other provinces in Canada. Any reduction will result in children and youth getting fewer services and less teacher time than they currently receive. This will hurt their growth and development.

Our own premier has said he is: "committed to the development of Nova Scotia as a learning province where every place is a learning place and everyone a learner." At a time when the Nova Scotia economy needs a major boost to enable it to become a knowledge economy, we find the Province is doing exactly what it should not do; cutting public education. Students will suffer, parents will suffer, teachers will suffer and ultimately, the economy will suffer.

It makes no sense, but if we must cut in these tough times, we have some ideas. The following are some of the suggestions we presented to Graham Steele, Minister of Finance, in a meeting on December 21:

* Eliminate or greatly reduce provincially-mandated, system-wide tests and Board level system-wide tests. Many millions of dollars are being poured into these measures that are of little or no value to classroom teachers. In most cases, teacher-made tests are much more informative and even more valid for determining whether students are meeting the required outcomes. In fact, these system-wide tests take away valuable time that could be put to better use actually teaching students.

* Eliminate accreditation/planning for improvement. The time-consuming, data collection exercise is not adding any value. It has taken away valuable in-service time that could be used to enhance teaching strategies and discussions about student learning. The costly exercise of bringing in external evaluation teams and hiring substitutes to provide release time should be eliminated. Collecting data for the sake of data is wasteful both in terms of teacher/administration time and the cost of producing documents that do not assist teaching.

* Reduce the number of provincial and board-sponsored in-services that incur costly travel, meal and accommodation costs. Also, these often require teachers to be away from classrooms. Site-based in-servicing is much cheaper and less disruptive to classrooms.

* Put a freeze on all new provincial and board initiatives and curriculum changes for the next three years. These are expensive and the education system is already overloaded with changes. The NSTU has identified to the Department of Education 74 initiatives that are currently occurring in the education system—far too many to be effectively managed. The Department and the boards need to eliminate all those that do not add value to student success.

* Restrict the amount of money boards are spending on legal costs by having the Department of Education intervene in grievances to address those human resources personnel who are ignoring our collective agreements.

* Priority in staffing should be placed on putting teachers in classrooms to ensure that class sizes and class composition are at manageable levels. The elimination of some of the above-noted initiatives should allow for some staff to be freed up to take on classroom assignments.

These are some of the suggestions I made to the Minister of Finance. If they must cut, it CANNOT affect students.

We will get through this crisis in education, but the public at large must ask...at what cost?

Nous avons peut-être fait du trop bon travail

Depuis un certain temps déjà, je répète que les enseignants travaillent au maximum de leur capacité, qu'ils acceptent toutes les nouvelles tâches ou les nouvelles initiatives qui leur sont imposées, en dépit des conséquences néfastes que cela peut avoir sur leur bien-être personnel. Nous avons fait du si bon travail et nous avons obtenu une telle réussite que c'est peut-être la raison pour laquelle le gouvernement Dexter envisage des compressions budgétaires; la logique est bizarre et l'idée elle-même défie toute logique. Pourquoi un gouvernement rationnel dans un pays développé, vu les conditions d'apprentissage du 21^e siècle et ses lourdes exigences technologiques, envisagerait-il d'anéantir l'éducation en réduisant son budget de 22 %? Cela n'a aucun sens.

Alors quelle est exactement l'ampleur de notre réussite?

Selon une publication du ministère de l'Éducation concernant les résultats du programme international 2009 pour le suivi des acquis des élèves (PISA), les élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse continuent à obtenir des résultats supérieurs à la moyenne internationale en lecture, en mathématiques et en sciences. En fait, la Nouvelle-Écosse obtient ses meilleurs résultats en lecture, où elle se place au 13^e rang mondial.

Les élèves de BI des écoles publiques de la Nouvelle-Écosse ont obtenu de meilleurs résultats que les autres élèves de BI en Amérique du Nord dans 24 matières sur 26 et que les élèves de BI des autres pays du monde dans 21 matières sur 27 – y compris les mathématiques, l'anglais, la biologie, la physique, l'économie, la musique et l'histoire.

Plus de 82 % de nos élèves de 9^e année poursuivent leurs études jusqu'à l'obtention du diplôme de 12^e année. Cela représente le 2^e taux de réussite du pays.

Les écoles internationales reconnaissent également la réussite de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Actuellement, 13 écoles à Dubaï et en Chine ont adopté le programme d'études de la Nouvelle-Écosse car elles le considèrent comme le meilleur programme existant pour répondre aux besoins et aux exigences des élèves. La raison de cette réussite est que nos propres membres, les enseignants qui travaillent en première ligne, élaborent ce programme d'études en collaboration avec le ministère, ce qui offre une richesse supérieure à beaucoup d'autres régions.

La capacité de nos élèves à s'exprimer, à avoir une réflexion critique, à se produire dans des pièces de théâtre, des comédies musicales et des chorales, à participer à des foires du patrimoine, à des concours de modèles robotiques et à entreprendre avec succès des projets d'entreprise dépasse de loin les compétences enseignées et acquises dans le passé.

Alors, pourquoi ces coupures de budget? Toute réduction du financement de l'éducation sera ressentie en salle de classe. La Nouvelle-Écosse est déjà pratiquement au dernier rang pour ce qui est du montant dépensé par élève scolarisé, comparativement aux autres provinces canadiennes. Toute réduction entraînera une diminution des services offerts aux enfants et aux jeunes et du temps d'enseignement qu'ils reçoivent. Cela va nuire à leur croissance et à leur développement.

Notre propre premier ministre a déclaré qu'il était : « déterminé à faire de la Nouvelle-Écosse une province d'apprentissage où chaque lieu est un lieu d'apprentissage et où chaque personne est un apprenant ». À un moment où l'économie de la Nouvelle-Écosse a besoin d'une forte stimulation pour lui permettre de devenir une économie du savoir, nous constatons que la province fait exactement ce qu'elle ne devrait pas faire : réduire le budget de l'enseignement public. Les élèves vont en souffrir, les parents vont en souffrir, les enseignants vont en souffrir et, en fin de compte, l'économie va en souffrir.

Cela n'a aucun sens, mais si nous devons vraiment réduire les dépenses durant cette période difficile, nous avons quelques idées à proposer. Vous trouverez ci-dessous quelques-unes des suggestions que nous avons présentées à Graham Steele, ministre des Finances, lors d'une réunion le 21 décembre :

* Éliminer ou réduire considérablement les tests à l'échelle du système et les tests à l'échelle des conseils scolaires qui sont ordonnés par la province. Des millions de dollars sont dépensés pour ces mesures qui ont peu ou pas d'intérêt pour les enseignants en classe. Dans la plupart des cas, les tests élaborés par les enseignants sont beaucoup plus instructifs et beaucoup plus pertinents pour déterminer si les élèves parviennent aux résultats souhaités. En fait, les tests à l'échelle du système occupent un temps précieux qui pourrait être beaucoup mieux utilisé à enseigner aux étudiants.

* Éliminer le processus de certification et la planification pour l'amélioration. Cet exercice de collection de données prend beaucoup de temps et n'ajoute aucune valeur. Il occupe du temps précieux de formation qui pourrait servir à améliorer les stratégies d'enseignement et à parler de l'apprentissage des élèves. Cet exercice coûteux qui oblige à amener des équipes d'évaluation externes et à embaucher des enseignants suppléants pour fournir du temps de congé aux autres enseignants devrait être éliminé. Réunir des données simplement pour avoir des données est un gaspillage à la fois en termes de temps d'enseignement et de temps d'administration et en termes du coût de production de documents qui ne contribuent pas à l'enseignement.

* Réduire le nombre des sessions de formation interne parrainées par la province ou les conseils scolaires et qui entraînent des frais importants de déplacement, de repas et d'hébergement. De plus, ces sessions obligent souvent les enseignants à s'absenter de la classe. La formation interne offerte sur place dans les écoles coûte beaucoup moins cher et perturbe beaucoup moins les classes.

* Geler toutes les nouvelles initiatives ou les modifications de programme d'études par la province ou les conseils scolaires durant les trois prochaines années. Ces initiatives coûtent cher et le système d'enseignement est déjà surchargé de réformes. Le NSTU a signalé au ministère de l'Éducation que 74 initiatives étaient actuellement en cours dans le système d'enseignement – beaucoup trop pour permettre qu'elles soient efficacement gérées. Le ministère et les conseils scolaires doivent éliminer toutes les initiatives qui ne favorisent pas directement la réussite des élèves.

* Réduire la quantité d'argent dépensé par les conseils scolaires en frais juridiques en demandant au ministère de l'Éducation d'intervenir dans les griefs en s'adressant au personnel des ressources humaines qui ignorent nos conventions collectives.

* La priorité en matière de dotation devrait être l'affectation d'enseignants dans les salles de classe de manière à ce que la taille et la composition des classes se maintiennent à un niveau raisonnable. L'élimination de certaines des initiatives notées ci-dessus devrait permettre de libérer du personnel en vue de l'affecter en salle de classe.

* Voici quelques-unes des suggestions que j'ai faites au ministre des Finances. S'il est absolument nécessaire de réduire le budget, IL NE FAUT PAS que cela nuise aux élèves.

* Nous allons surmonter cette crise dans le domaine de l'éducation mais le grand public doit se demander... à quel prix?

International Human Rights Day celebrates Unity in Our Communities

The International Human Rights Day Event took place December 10 at the North Preston Community Centre celebrating the day's theme *Unity in Our Communities*. "International Human Rights Day is just one day that many of us use to celebrate human rights and ensure those rights are vigorously promoted," says MLA Percy Paris, speaking on behalf of Premier Darrell Dexter. "If we can accomplish unity in one community, we can influence other communities."

The day began with a harmony breakfast and featured remarks from the Honourable Mayann E. Francis, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Sister Dorothy Moore, Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission, and keynote speaker Angela Simmonds, African Nova Scotia Student Support Worker.

Two Nova Scotians were presented with Nova Scotia Human Rights Awards for their continued dedication to advancing human rights in the province. Fourteen-year-old Kendra Slawter of East Preston, a student at Graham Creighton Junior High School and Anne Simmons of North Preston, a long-standing member of the Black Cultural Society of Nova Scotia were presented with awards. Both are very involved in community activities that have brought together people of all ages.

The year 2010 was also the United Nations International Year of Youth, under the theme *Our Year Our Voice*. The Partners for Human Rights marked this by involving many youth in the day's activities. In keeping with the *Unity in the Community* theme, Partners for Human Rights also organized a Creativity Contest where junior high and high school students were asked to demonstrate how they make their community stronger through poetry/spoken word, art and music.



Grade 8 Oxford School student Sarah Haroun, a winner of one of the Creativity Contest Awards is shown with her principal Joe Morrison (second from left), NSTU president Alexis Allen and the chair of the Halifax Regional School Board Irvine Carverly.



Above are members of Shannon Park Elementary School's Africa Drum ensemble with teacher Toria Aidoo.

Winning entries were recognized as part of the day's celebration. Rima Majaess' ESL students from Citadel High School were recipients of a Creativity Contest award. The class of 18 students from 15 countries speaking 22 languages recited their collective poem as part of the day's events.

Entertainment included a performance from the Shannon Park Elementary School African Drum and Dance troupe, 4Plus students from Nelson Whynder Elementary School, and youth performances from CEED (Centre for Entrepreneurship, Education and Development).

The event was organized by the Partners for Human Rights, a coalition of organizations that, in co-operation with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, are dedicated to working towards a respectful and inclusive community. The Partners for Human Rights committee, of which the NSTU is a member of, teams with local community groups to organize events that promote racial harmony and awareness of human rights issues in the community. Partners host an annual event on December 10, International Human Rights Day, of which the NSTU has been a long time sponsor, and also encourages recognition of March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

International Human Rights Day celebrates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948 in Paris. It has been translated into at least 375 languages and dialects, and is credited with shaping human rights around the world. The original document was drafted by Canadian John Humphrey.

Take the ROOF off WINTER



Sign up your school or youth group to organize an outdoor activity or Winter Walk Day and receive toques and other resources as an official supporter of Take the Roof off Winter.

Register online at www.taketherooffwinter.ca

NEW: Guinness World Records 'Snow Angels' Challenge – details on how your school can participate coming soon on TTROW website.





THE CITY 1 866 461-3222

"CREDIT CHECK IS NOT AN APP."

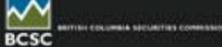
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February marks a time for Family Violence Prevention awareness and Family Violence Prevention Week takes place February 13 to 19. Abuse and family violence is often a taboo subject and most people do not know what to do or how to support those who experience it. As you will see from the following article written by staff at Bryony House in Halifax, it is much more common than anyone would like to believe. There are supports that can be offered and steps we can all take to recognize signs of family violence and abuse in children and adults.

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

ABUSE: WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Woman abuse touches perhaps as many as 25 per cent of Nova Scotian women. In adult (and teen) relationships, women are abused physically, emotionally, verbally, sexually and/or financially, and it often remains hidden for months, years, even decades. Abuse has long-lasting negative effects on all members of the family, and in most cases, without some sort of intervention or change, it gets worse over time. There are three key characteristics of an abusive relationship: control, isolation and blame. Abusers seek to control their closest family members and they usually focus on a person they consider their subordinate (usually a woman or a child). They also seek to isolate the abuse survivor from the very supports that might help her find safety: her family, friends, professionals and colleagues. Abusers exacerbate the isolation by insisting on silence, with the false threat that that no one would believe her, or that she would lose everything, including any children, if she were to tell anyone or leave the relationship. The third characteristic is perhaps also the most destructive in the long-term. An abuser blames the survivor for his or her behaviour, and this often takes the form of extreme or constant criticism about a woman's behaviour, dress, cooking, work, parenting, or sexual expression. This blame accomplishes two things: it demeans the survivor, making it less likely she will seek out help or resist the abuse, and it makes it possible for the abuser to avoid responsibility for the abusive behavior.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Children who live in a family where their mother is being abused have many of the same characteristics of children who are being directly abused. Support for these children can be expressed in a number of ways. Teachers need to provide a safe environment for chil-

dren. This is often accomplished by simply having a positive and approachable attitude. Being aware of the types of abuse, teaching children in the classroom about abuse, and being responsive to any signs of violence in or between children also creates a sense of safety. It is also important to model equality between men and women, and support the expression of a variety of emotions in both boys and girls. If children have been directly abused, there may be physical indicators such as unexplained or suspicious fractures, bruising, burns or scratches. Although there are sometimes physical signs of abuse, many of the indicators are behavioural. Children may become withdrawn or quite aggressive following an abusive incident, whether they have experienced it first or second hand. Other emotional signs to look for would be anti-social behavior, developmental delay, or, in some cases, behaviour that seems to indicate ADHD. A child who is experiencing abuse may not want to be at home, and may consider school their "safe place." Children may arrive early for school, and may be resistant to returning home. Teachers are important adults in every child's life, and they can help build children's self-esteem and help them focus on their strengths and positive attributes. Building strong and trusting relationships with children who experience abuse can be the most important support available to them.

There are also some ways teachers can offer support to a woman experiencing abuse, whether it be a colleague, family member, friend, student, or parent of a student. First of all, let her know that you believe her, and give her space to tell her story in private. Try not to judge her, or to give her advice, but let her know what options are available to her and help her plan for her safety. Assure her that abuse is wrong, and that no one deserves to be hurt. Remind her that without intervention, abuse increases in severity over time. It can be frustrating to watch from outside the relationship as someone continues on a difficult path, but give her support, no matter how long she seems to take, and reassure her that you are available to her in whatever way you can help.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO HER?

According to Statistics Canada, approximately 30 per cent of women who are being abused contact the police for support, and many more contact support services to discuss their relationship and inquire about options. If a woman needs somewhere to stay (with her children, if there are any) she can call a transition house like Bryony House and stay for up to six weeks. While she is there, she can access 24-hour counselling services, and her children can participate in the supportive



children's program. She can also contact other agencies and services she may need, such as Family Court, Legal Aid, Social Assistance, or her doctor. She can make decisions, while safely away from her abusive partner, about what her next steps will be, and gather the resources necessary: things like furniture, clothing and other household goods. She can plan for her safety and her children's safety once she has moved on, and perhaps access a household or personal alarm, and arrange for follow-up

counselling or other care.

Information about transition houses in Nova Scotia is available online from the Transition House Association of Nova Scotia (www.thans.ca), from Shelternet (www.shelternet.ca), which includes multilingual information, or through a local transition house such as Bryony House (www.bryonyhouse.ca). For more information, call Bryony House: 423-7183 ext. 1, or the Bryony Crisis Line 422-7650.

The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The remaining deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2010-2011 school year are February 15 and April 15.

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

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

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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.



Education without boundaries



Photo: Joseph Robichaud

Seana Blanchard, metro training coordinator for the School of Applied Arts & New Media at the Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth and member of the Community College professional support bargaining unit.

With more than 25,000 students and more than 100 program choices, the Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) has taken significant steps in producing and presenting 'education without boundaries.'

One such effort is "programming offered on a part-time basis—evenings, weekends and online," says Seana Blanchard, metro training coordinator for the School of Applied Arts & New Media at the Waterfront Campus in Dartmouth and member of the Community College professional support bargaining unit. Blanchard is responsible for coordinating the programming logistics at metro campuses or online, "which includes deciding what courses we will offer in each of our three semesters. Also, who will teach these courses, where courses will be held, and day-to-day course management.

"My role," she explains, "is to help students with course inquiries and course selection, support students throughout their course, and deal with any issues that might come up. I also provide support to faculty members who teach these courses.

"Part-time studies provide an informative introduction to NSCC programming. It introduces students to what attending college is like and what is expected of them. Our courses are also used for retention purposes, giving full-time students another opportunity to be successful and keep on track if they fell behind the previous semester."

NSCC's part-time studies, she adds, "provide a flexible path for students, most of whom may be unable to attend day classes. Students take part-time classes for many reasons: to achieve a College diploma or certificate, upgrade skills, maintain designations, gain prerequisite courses for other programs, or purely for personal interest. By offering courses evenings, weekends and online, we reach a key demographic that would be unable to continue their education if this programming pathway wasn't available."

In addition to her demanding coordinator role, Blanchard, an NSTU member since 2001, has been an NSTU representative at the Waterfront Campus since 2008.

She is a member of the NSTU Economic Welfare committee for Professional Support and the College-Union Learning Leave committee. She has also been an active participant on the Professional Development committee,

Equity committee, and the College-Union Community College Educational Development Program committee.

The Professional Support bargaining unit, she says, "has some 180 members province-wide, among them training coordinators, registrars, counsellors, librarians, admissions officers and instructional designers. Together, our role is to support NSCC students' needs, to ensure they are successful in their programs and courses."

Service Learning abounds at NSCC School of Health and Human Services, Non-profit Leadership program two prime examples

All Stories by Les Walker, SPECIAL FEATURES WRITER

REPRINTED FROM THE CHRONICLE HERALD NSTU ADVERTORIAL, NOVEMBER 27, 2010

The exceptional development and growth of today's Nova Scotia Community College (NSCC) system is evident in the diversity of its extensive portfolio of programming for students.

Brenda Wallace-Allen a faculty member of Kingstec Campus, Kentville, is quick to provide evidence of that diversity.

"Our School of Health and Human Services, for example," she says, "is a dynamic, growing academic unit of NSCC. It provides a substantive foundation of quality education for learners seeking employment on health care teams and in human service organizations."

The Non-profit Leadership program she teaches incorporates regular opportunities for service learning which is a multi-faceted approach to teaching and learning.

"It prepares students to address a defined community need while meeting specific learning outcomes. A process of action/reflection provides structured opportunities to think, talk and write about the service experience, ensuring that it has contributed to the student's learning."

Non-profit Leadership, she says, "is designed for students who want to enhance their skills to provide leadership to nonprofit organizations. It provides an overview of the sector, as well as solid grounding in indispensable skills: grant proposal writing, fundraising, volunteer management, program development and evaluation.

Perhaps to the surprise of many, Wallace-Allen points out, "the non-profit sector employs more than 30,000 Nova Scotians. That's more than are employed in fisheries, oil and gas, tourism or construction. It is a highly educated sector. More than 75 per cent have at least one degree. People seeking employment in this sector must arrive with skills and/or experience that allow them to hit the ground running."

Class members agree. "What a great way to learn skills and become a change agent," says David MacInnis, formerly a member of the military.

"The Non-profit Leadership program taught me I can make a difference," says Sonya Janes-Carroll.

Jessika Foley agrees. "This program is preparing me for a career with a great deal of meaning."

"Entering into the Non-profit Leadership has taught me just how valuable the non-profit sector is to society, and to those who require the essential services provided by the sector," says Aziz Al-hamwai.

NSCC diversity is also evident in a new specialized program available at Cumberland Campus in Springhill. Aimed at providing qualified personnel for a "new, emerging profession," is its Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Assistant (OTA-PTA).

The two-year diploma program is taught by Community College faculty members Sean Murphy, occupational therapist, and Ron Renz, physiotherapist. It is designed, says Murphy, "to meet the growing needs for rehabilitation based on Nova Scotia's aging population and prevalence of chronic illness."

Adds Renz, "As a collaborative member of a healthcare team, Occupational Therapy Assistant-Physiotherapy Assistants may perform occupational therapy and physiotherapy interventions for clients with mental and physical conditions. They do so under the direction of a physiotherapist or an occupational therapist."

Both say the program "is structured to provide cross training at the assistant level in occupational therapy and physiotherapy disciplines.

Graduates may secure positions with district health authorities, long-term care facilities, community settings and private clinics."

Murphy and Renz also expressed enthusiasm for a planned, one-day April 2011 service learning project, Building a Professional Future.

"We expect it will be held at NSCC Cumberland Campus in Springhill. Provincial OTAs and PTAs will be invited. Among agenda items will be discussions to create a professional organization for Nova Scotia OTAPTAs."



Cumberland Campus faculty members Sean Murphy, left, Occupational Therapy Assistant program and Ron Renz, Physiotherapy Assistant program.



Brenda Wallace-Allen, (standing) faculty, Human Services program at the Kingstec Campus is shown with students (l to r) Aziz Al-hamwai, Jessika Foley, David MacInnis and Sonya Janes-Carroll.



2010-2011 Pre-Retirement Seminars SCHEDULE

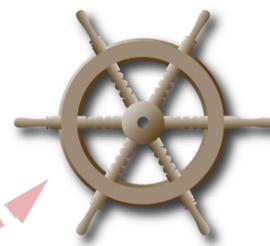


DATES		LOCATIONS
March	24 & 25 (Thursday & Friday)	CCRSB (Holiday Inn, Truro)
March	28 & 29 (Monday & Tuesday)	HRSB (NSTU Building, Halifax)
April	20 & 21 (Wednesday & Thursday)	CBVRSB (Delta Sydney)

27 September, 2010 Dates/locations subject to change



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



About the Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA)

by Barbara Rushton

PAST EXECUTIVE MEMBER, PETA

The Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA) has a long and rich tradition among educators in Nova Scotia. Founded over 50 years ago by Dr. Florence Wall, PETA has prided itself on providing high quality professional development for elementary school teachers in this province. PETA is one of “the big ones” with membership running as high as 1,200 teachers. In the early days, PETA was one of the few options for elementary teachers and conferences were huge.

PETA conferences have been held throughout the province. Offering professional development to elementary teachers means providing a range of topics from teacher wellness to physical fitness, art, music, literacy, math and more. PETA has always prided itself on being relevant and offering workshops and keynotes that span a broad range of topics. In recent years, keynote speakers including Sharon Taberski, Tony Stead, Miriam Trehearne, Steve Molene, Dr. Leonard Sax and Dr. Robin Sharma have shared their particular knowledge with teachers and have received rave reviews.

For a number of years in the mid-90s and early in the new millennium, PETA was able

to offer a separate Multiage Symposium, at Port Williams Elementary School. This specialized conference drew hundreds of interested teachers and became an important part of PETA's work.

PETA prides itself on being more than a conference association. There has been a long tradition of providing a variety of resources for teachers, including newsletters filled with practical everyday tips, topic-themed journals, summer institutes and special project grants for teachers.

CONFERENCE MEMORIES

During the 1980s, PETA used the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax as its conference site. The sheer size of the facility offered PETA the chance to have a Multiage Symposium as part of the conference and the central location was popular.

It was, however, also very costly and one bad conference meant economic disaster for PETA. The decision to leave the World Trade was not taken lightly but was necessary if we were to survive.

It was during these days that PETA developed a deep relationship with its sponsors



Above are teachers attending the PETA 2010 conference. They were participating in children's author Sheree Fitch's workshop: *Breathe, Stretch, Write a Whole Being, Whole Body Approach to Writing*. See page 11 for more on this workshop.

and publishers who stepped up and provided workshop speakers and keynotes at little charge to the organization. This generosity has never been forgotten by PETA, and our publishers' displays and involvement have continued to be a highlight of our conferences.

One of several “near disaster events” happened after PETA had moved to Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth. Through a publisher, we had contracted Jeanette MacKenzie as our keynote speaker. The day before conference we got word that Jeanette's appendix had decided that she was not coming to PETA. The publisher was not going to replace her... until the PETA Executive had a chat with them. Enter Christine Finnochio, who arrived to do a keynote and workshop with less than 24 hours notice—she did a bang-up job. Jeannette provided our keynote the following year.

When teachers attend PETA events at Auburn Drive High School in Dartmouth, we often hear them wonder about the site. First of all, it is a high school and it also can be tricky to find. In the early 90s, PETA had developed a relationship with Prince Andrew High in Dartmouth. It had two gymnasiums, a performance theatre and, although tired, it was able to accommodate our needs and our large numbers. One year, early in September, we were contacted by the Halifax School Board and told that our booking had been cancelled and that another special association had booked the site. The word “panic” hardly seems strong enough, considering the amount of advance planning, including publication of the site in the conference booklet. After some serious scrambling, the Halifax Board found us another site—Auburn Drive. The site was new and beautiful, the staff was most accommodating, and we developed a relationship with several staff members who were anxious to provide their students as helpers in return for a donation to their club/team. This relationship with Auburn Drive has fostered and grown and we are very grateful to have Auburn Drive High to call our own on conference day.

There have been other conference-related adventures which are worth relating. In 2001 our special guest speaker was to be Sharon Taberski from New York. At that time, her

book *On Solid Ground* had been distributed in Nova Scotia schools as part of the Active Young Readers initiative and Sharon was “hot.” Sharon hated to fly, even on a good day. And following the events of September 11, 2001, she became much less interested in flying. As an Executive, we were willing to hire a car service for her transportation, if necessary. Through some fancy negotiations and persuasion from our Executive, Sharon finally agreed to come and provided us with a conference that remains a highlight among our many successful ventures. Her warmth, caring and passion for kids touched all who heard her.

Being on the PETA Executive is not for the faint hearted!

AND NOW FOR THE EXECUTIVE

Beginning with Dr. Florence Wall, PETA has been led by a variety of wonderful executive members. Presidents such as Betty Dunbar, Barb Allen, Bill Tower, Susan Hazelton, Marion Leier, Arthur Blades and Judy MacDonald are a part of PETA's history, and current members ride on their shoulders with pride. Executives often have a special culture all their own. At times they are regional, as current members invite others from their area to join.

There was the Port Hawkesbury crowd—Judy MacDonald, Buddy MacEachern and Doreen Beaton. In recent years, this area has been gracefully represented by Debbie Graham. The western part of our province was well represented by Bill Tower, Susan Hazelton and Arthur Blades, among others. The Annapolis Valley has also provided a significant number of executive members, including Brenda Newcombe, Lalia Kerr, Cathy Townsend, Heather Lewis, Marion Leier, Dave Campbell and Barb Rushton. With Fay Johansen and Krista Murray Hayden, PETA is expanding to Chignecto and other regions.

PETA continues to thrive because of the dedicated leadership of its Executive, and the quality of the opportunities offered to provincial teachers and the ongoing support of our loyal members. PETA looks back on its past with pride and looks ahead to its future with excitement!



CONFERENCE

April 7 – 9, 2011

Delta Halifax Hotel
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Concurrent Sessions include:

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21st Century Families
and many more



KEYNOTE SPEAKER DR. SAMANTHA NUTT

FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF WAR CHILD CANADA

Conference Fee

\$175.00

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Accommodations at

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and ask for Conference Group Rate

Register now at

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Nova Scotia
Teachers Union

For more info contact:

Gail Doucette

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

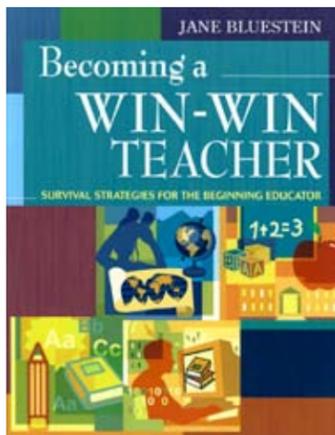
(902) 477-5621

1-800-565-6788

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 February 25 to be eligible for the draw.



This month's Fresh book giveaway is *Becoming a Win-Win Teacher; Survival Strategies for the Beginning Educator*, written by Jane Bluestein and published by Corwin. In this book, Bluestein addresses the issues new teachers face and provides practical ideas and honest cautions. These insights and strategies, backed by years of experience and research, are designed to help you establish your professional identity; understand the culture, environment and politics of today's schools; build your own support team with mentors, administrators and colleagues; connect with students and create win-win classrooms; and take care of yourself and grow in your career. With activity sheets full of handy charts, self-assessment surveys and planning pages, *Becoming a Win-Win Teacher* helps you become a welcome, established and effective member of a school community – without sacrificing your personality, intentions or ideals.



imagineaction

CTF Announces \$40,000 in Funding for School Community Projects

The Canadian Teachers' Federation in partnership with the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation is pleased to announce an additional \$40,000 in funding for projects related to the Imagineaction initiative linking schools and communities in social action.

Applications for subsidies of up to \$750 per project **must be received by Friday, February 25, 2011**. Projects must be completed by the end of the current school year. Application is through www.imagine-action.ca. Once teachers have created a profile, they will be able to apply for funding. All projects registered with Imagineaction will receive recognition and access to material, human and cash resources.

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

Imagine the possibilities – join the movement now!



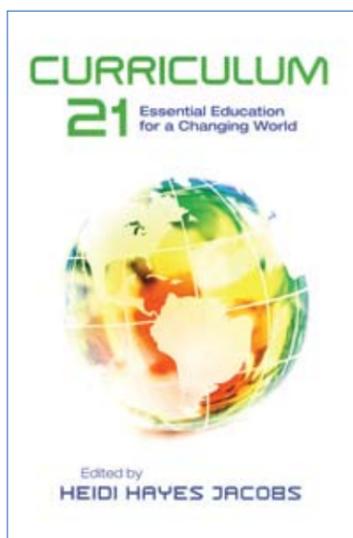
Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

This month's PD giveaway is *Curriculum 21: Essential Education for a Changing World*, edited by Heidi Hayes Jacobs and published by ASCD. In her book, Jacobs makes a case for overhauling, updating and injecting life into the K-12 curriculum in order to transform schools into learning organizations that match the times in which we live. Sharing her expertise as a world-renowned curriculum designer and calling upon the collective wisdom of ten education thought leaders, Jacobs provides insight and inspiration in the following key areas: content and assessment, program structures, technology, media literacy, globalization, sustainability and habits of mind.



Call for Art:

The planning committee of the Peace...ing it Together conference (see ad opposite page) is putting forward a call for art in the form of placemats responding to the question, "What does peace look like in our schools, campuses, and communities?"

The committee requests that the student artwork be completed on 11 x 17 paper and forwarded to Gail Doucette at the NSTU building, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7 by **March 11, 2011**.



NSTU REP PINS

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has the NSTU Rep pin available for purchase by NSTU Locals, for their NSTU Reps. At only \$2.50 each these brushed pewter pins are sure to be recognized at your school or campus.

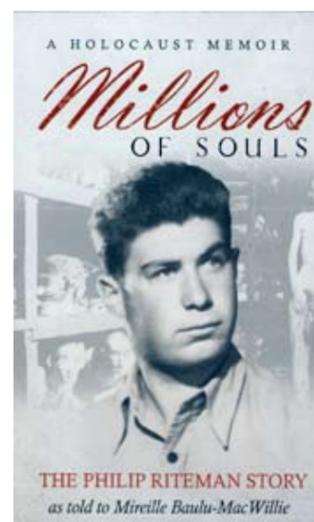
To order, contact: **NSTU Public Relations Department**
[Phone] 477-5621 or [Toll-Free] 1-800-565-6788
or [Email] pr@nstu.ca



EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

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

This month's Equity book giveaway is *Millions of Souls; The Philip Riteman Story*, as told to Mireille Baulu-MacWillie and published by Flanker Press. Philip Riteman is a Holocaust survivor whose mission is to educate today's youth on the atrocities committed against millions of Jews and Gentiles by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime during World War II. From the Pruzhany Ghetto, Poland, Philip and his family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau. There, his entire family was exterminated. As the lone survivor, Philip was used as a forced labourer in five concentration camps, where he witnessed degradation, dehumanization, starvation, hard labour, daily beatings, torture and murder. Philip Riteman is committed to spreading his message: "Hate destroys people, communities and countries. Love binds us all together and makes a better world."



GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

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

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



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

Our mandate

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

Our purpose

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

Our pledge

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

DEADLINE—MARCH 25, 2011

NSTU Professional Associations

NSTU members organize 520 workshops for province-wide PD day

October 22 was the provincial professional development day in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia teachers attended 23 different conferences in locations in the Valley, South Shore and HRM offering some 520 workshops, keynote sessions and hands-on learning opportunities. More than 7,000 NSTU members registered online for these conferences.

"The NSTU provincial professional development day represents the incredible dedication of teachers to the improvement of public education in the province. It provides an opportunity for thousands of teachers to enhance their practice and knowledge," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

Keynote speakers among the 23 conferences included: percussionist-composer Jerry Granelli, who spoke to art and drama teachers; Olympian Karen Furneaux, who addressed physical and health education teachers, and Sun Life Chair in Adolescent Mental Health Dr. Stan Kutcher, who provided insights to guidance counsellors. Symphony Nova Scotia's resident composer Dinuk Wijerantne addressed music educators while Texas Instruments curriculum manager Dr. Kevin Spry was at the Math Teachers Association conference. Dr. Leonard Sax, author of *Boys Adrift and Girls on the Edge*, provided his insights on the gender crisis to primary-elementary teachers.

"Committed NSTU volunteers plan and deliver an astounding array of workshops and sessions for each professional association," continues Allen. "Collectively, these conferences provide some 6,000 hours of professional development per year."

"The teachers who organize and conduct workshops during this conference day are to be commended," she adds. "In sharing their expertise and resources with their colleagues from across the province, they are making an invaluable investment in public education in Nova Scotia and our students will reap the rewards of their efforts."

The 23 associations also include one for faculty members of the Community College and one for NSTU professional support members. This year's conference was the first for the newly formed Learning Support Professional Association. The Association, developed for professional support staff of the Nova Scotia Community College, has been in existence since the spring of 2009, but was unable to hold a conference in October 2009 because of the pending Community College strike.

AAE

The Association of Adult Educators (AAE), which gears its PD to Community College Faculty members presented this year's conference at the Kingstec Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College in Kentville.

The theme of the conference, *Harvesting Educational Innovations* featured executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin's keynote address *Gatekeeper's Response to 21st Century Learners*. Aucoin outlined challenges of being a learning leader in this new digital information landscape. "The technology is there to enhance the way you teach and the way in which your students learn, but there is still the need for a critical mind behind it to lend the right perspective," she says "Don't let the technology take over, but don't be afraid of it either."

Aucoin summarized important traits of 21st century learners that influence the way they learn including the fact that the Internet is better than television, reality is no longer real, doing is more important than knowing, multitasking is a way of life and staying connected is essential. "Our challenge is to create environments that engage this generation to help them reach their full potential and provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to be competitive in a global information-based economy while being contributing and respectful digital citizens."

Other workshops in the conference included: Integrating Technological Entrepreneurship; Renewable Energy Technology Here and Now; Twitter: A Twiffic Way to Learn about Troubled Youth; and Using Probeer for Discovery learning.



Shown at the AAE (Association of Adult Educators) conference is NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin (far left) and NSTU president Alexis Allen (far right) with members of the conference organizing committee, NSTU Community College members from the Kingstec Campus: Brad MacDonald, Margaret Vanblarcom, Terry Sulis, Jennifer Bezanson, Shelley Meldrum, Peter Mowatt, Janice Henderson, Lorraine Mockford, Jill Hiscock, Anne Murray, and Jill Hyndman.

ATEC

The Association of Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC)'s conference focused its workshops around its theme *Education in 3D- Diversity, Differentiate, Deliver*. The conference attracted 1,043 delegates to Empire Theatres in Dartmouth Crossing.

Outgoing ATEC president and Parkview Education social studies IB teacher Wade Selig presented a workshop on Gifted Education and Talent Development. Conference Day 2010 marked the release of the Department of Education's Gifted Education and Talent Development Guide. Selig outlined how the resource provides educators with a framework and tools that help to support appropriate programming and services for students with gifts and talents from Primary to Grade 12. Selig was one of 12 facilitators from interested Professional Associations that helped to roll out the guide to teachers by providing workshops during provincial professional development day.

"The new guide helps to encourage people to open up those conversations about what possibilities are available for the accelerated student," says Selig, who reminds workshop participants that gifted and talented learners are able to meet learning outcomes at a faster pace with less instructional repetition. "Use the program planning team approach for gifted and talented students. It's not just for those students struggling with outcomes."

The workshop gave teachers the opportunity to learn the document's content, implications for the classroom as well as strategies to support gifted and talented students. Starting in January 2011, Department of Education moderated webinars will comprise Phase II of the roll out of the new Guide, and Phase III is a Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development scheduled for May 23 to 25, 2012.



Wade Selig is shown with Christina Giles, a Grade 8 science and social studies teacher at St. Mary's Bay Academy in Weymouth.

GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION

Distance, On-line, Face-to-Face



StFX University, renowned for its enduring commitment to quality educational experiences for students, is now accepting applications for full-time and part-time study in the Master of Education program.

The StFX program

- facilitates the preparation of educational leaders
- furthers the professional growth and development of practicing educators
- engages educators in research activities
- examines educational issues
- contributes to the knowledge of teaching, learning, curriculum and administrative processes

Many alumni have chosen to return to StFX to complete full-time and part-time MEd programs. Students can complete a course-based, project-based or thesis-based MEd program in Educational Administration and Leadership or a variety of Curriculum and Instruction areas. MEd programs can be completed by one month of study on campus in July, followed by remaining courses completed on-line, or at one of our four centers in Halifax, Yarmouth, Truro or Sydney.

For more information about benefits and opportunities, please see the Continuing and Distance Education website at: www.stfx.ca/continuinged/Graduate.html. To receive an information package, call 1-877-867-3906 or (902) 867-3906 or email: med@stfx.ca. Application deadline: March 1.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

2010 Provincial Professional Development Day

PETA

This year's PETA conference featured award-winning children's author Sheree Fitch and her workshop: *Breathe, Stretch, Write a Whole Being, Whole Body Approach to Writing*. This participatory workshop focused on various ways to integrate body, breath and brains in the development of writing practice.

Fitch inspired and delighted workshop participants and her workshop was a point of departure of making healthy body healthy brain connections in schools. Teachers participated as writers and poets, and moved their bodies as well as their pens in several guided exercises

"Remember the best teachers of writing are teachers who write," says Fitch. She encouraged teachers to bring back the joy, fun and play of writing. And compared writing practice to yoga practice.

Participants were asked to write down the five most important things in their lives. "Why write about something you don't care about," she remarks. "Your classrooms are a safe place for the voices and visions of your students, so their stories can be told. Figure out a way for them to write about what they like."

She then asked participants to pick one of the five things from their list and write about it for five minutes. "How many found that emotional?" she asks. (Most hands go up.) "Remember that if it's like that for us, it's like that for our students."

Fitch says over the years she's been amazed at how teachers have integrated her books into the classroom. "One teacher dyed her hair purple like Mabel Murple. One class recreated Mabel's room."

It was feedback from a Grade 3 student that transformed Fitch's poem Mabel's Purple Tears from a collection of her tongue-twisting poems into her award-winning book, Mabel Murple. "She asked me why Mabel was left crying at the end of the poem, and said it wasn't fair, that I should take her out of the poem and give her a story or her own."



Author Sheree Fitch, is shown at the publisher's display area at the 2010 PETA conference. Conference attendees could purchase Fitch's books, get them autographed and attend an interactive writing workshop she presented as part of the conference.

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For information on the show go to offtheleash.ca

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Negotiations Update

Negotiation sessions were held on December 7 & 8, 2010. Unfortunately, the session scheduled for December 1 had to be cancelled.

The next round of negotiation sessions are scheduled to take place on January 18 and 19 and 26 and 27.

Eddie's Litterless Road Tour

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

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

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

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BRITISH COLUMBIA SECURITIES COMMISSION

CTF President Mary-Lou Donnelly recognized as one of Canada's most powerful women:



The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), which represents nearly 200,000 teachers from across the country, was honored that its President, Mary-Lou Donnelly, is a recipient of the prestigious *2010 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100™ Awards*, in the Professional category on

"I am truly humbled to receive this award and am thankful that I have been influenced in my career by so many female teacher colleagues who have helped to shape a prosperous and compassionate Canadian society," says CTF President and former NSTU president award recipient Mary-Lou Donnelly.

The *Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100™ Awards* are Canada's most recognizable awards for the country's highest achieving female leaders in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Donnelly joins a community of 522 women across Canada who have received this recognition. The complete list of 2010 winners can be found at www.top100women.ca. Donnelly's sister Chris Power, CEO of Capital District Health Authority also received an award. Donnelly's award was under the KMPG Professionals Category.

Donnelly, whose term as CTF President runs from 2009 to 2011, served as the NSTU president from 2004 to 2008. Among her many accomplishments, Donnelly is a founding member of the Coalition Against Workplace Violence—a provincial lobby group of Nova Scotia public sector unions which helped bring about legislation protecting against emotional, verbal and physical violence in the workplace. She has a keen interest in social justice issues from national and international perspectives, especially with respect to child poverty, human trafficking, women's issues and achievement of the UN Millennium "Education for All" goals.

"Every year, we honor the exceptional female leaders of Canada," said Pamela Jeffery, Founder, Women's Executive Network. "They each have remarkable achievements and Top 100 is a mark of their success and how they have supported their communities, companies, and employees. Our Top 100 community is a powerful group of women who are at the top of their game, exemplify success and empower the next generation of women to take their careers to the next level."

The CTF President was celebrated at the Top 100 Awards Gala Dinner on November 29, 2010 in Toronto. The gala is the finale of a full-day celebration that offers Top 100 winners an exclusive morning of networking and professional development. The morning session was followed by a Summit which allowed participants the opportunity to meet Award recipients and enjoy an afternoon of professional development. The theme of this year's Summit was the Power of Collaboration and Connectivity.

Both Donnelly and Power were recognized during the last sitting of the Nova Scotia legislature with this following resolution, "*Whereas Chris and Mary-Lou are both remarkable Nova Scotian women who have advanced to the top ranks in their chosen professions and are a credit to our province.*"



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NSTU CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

The 2011 deadlines for candidates' information are **March 18** for the April 5 issue (1st opportunity) and **April 15** for the May 10 issue (2nd opportunity). This information should be given or sent directly to *The Teacher* office.

7. VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

In respect of Vice-Presidential campaigns, the following guidelines shall apply:

- Active campaigning within the Council Chambers other than the normal address to delegates is prohibited. Passive campaign activity within Council Chambers is permitted.
- Locals are prohibited from directly making any monetary or non-monetary contribution to any candidate's campaign. Such contributions do not include expenditure of funds designated for the Local (e.g. Local suite at Annual Council).
- Campaign spending, excluding travel, by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed \$1,500.00. Such expenses are the sole responsibility of the candidate;
- All candidates must submit an approved financial statement report form to the Council Nominating Committee within sixty (60) days from the conclusion of Annual Council. This statement is to include a list of all contributions with non-monetary items being assessed at dollar value, and an itemized list of expenditures;
- The Council Nominating Committee shall refer the financial statements of candidates to the Provincial Executive for review. These financial statements will be published in *The Teacher*.
- Publicity: Each candidate is permitted to insert in an issue of *The Teacher* prior to Council:
 - one head and shoulder photograph of himself/herself;
 - biography of personal, educational, and career achievements, of no more than 150 words;
 - a personally prepared platform of objectives, no more than 600 words in length.
- Items in (f) must be sent to *The Teacher* fifteen (15) working days before publication and these will appear in alphabetical order.
 - Each candidate will be given a second opportunity to publish a statement subject to the provisions of paragraph (f), which statement shall not be more than 750 words in length.
 - Paid advertisements in any medium (press, radio, TV, *The Teacher*) are prohibited.
 - The number of campaign posters and/or banners on display in the hotel at Annual Council may not exceed a total of twenty-five (25) for each candidate. When Annual Council is held at a facility where Local delegates are divided between two facilities, the number of posters will be increased to thirty-five (35).
- Upon request, each candidate shall be given a list of the room numbers at the main facility used by NSTU delegates, alternates, official observers and guests once delegates have been accommodated. Distribution of campaign materials to rooms shall be limited to those rooms so identified. Such identification shall not allow the name of the occupant of the room to be determined.

8. COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

In respect of electoral campaigns for committees elected at Council, the following guidelines shall apply:

- Active campaigning within the Council Chambers is prohibited. Passive campaign activity within the Council Chambers is permitted;
- Locals are prohibited from directly making any monetary or non-monetary contribution to any candidate's campaign. Such contributions do not include expenditure of funds designated for the Local (e.g. Local suite at Annual Council).
- Campaign spending by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed \$100. Such expenses are the sole responsibility of the candidate.
- All candidates must submit an approved financial statement report form to the Council Nominating Committee within sixty (60) days from the conclusion of Annual Council. This statement is to include a list of all contributions with non-monetary items being assessed at dollar value, and an itemized list of expenditures;
- The Council Nominating Committee shall refer the financial statements of candidates to the Provincial Executive for review. These financial statements will be published in *The Teacher*.
- Publicity: Each candidate is permitted to insert in an issue of *The Teacher* prior to Council:
 - One head and shoulder photograph of himself/herself;
 - Biography of personal, educational and career achievements, of no more than 150 words;
 - A personally prepared platform of objectives, no more than 300 words in length.
- Items must be sent to *The Teacher* fifteen (15) working days before publication and these will appear in alphabetical order.
- Paid advertisements in any medium (press, radio, TV, *The Teacher*) are prohibited.
- The number of campaign posters and/or banners on display in the hotel at Annual Council may not exceed a total of twenty-five (25) for each candidate. When Annual Council is held at a facility where Local delegates are divided between two facilities, the number of posters will be increased to thirty-five (35).
- Upon request, each candidate shall be given a list of the room numbers at the main facility used by NSTU delegates, alternates, official observers and guests once delegates have been accommodated. Distribution of campaign materials to rooms shall be limited to those rooms so identified. Such identification shall not allow the name of the occupant of the room to be determined.

9. GENERAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES - ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CAMPAIGNING

With respect to all elections, the following definitions shall apply:

- Active campaigning shall be considered any display or action that involves the presentation of partisan information in a manner that is difficult for a group of delegates to avoid. Examples of such active campaigning include the display of campaign posters, the wearing of campaign clothing or ornaments when in view of the majority of delegates, the shouting of campaign slogans, shouting out in support of a candidate other than during the normal address to delegates, distributing materials throughout Council chambers including the placing of campaign materials anywhere within Council chambers prior to, during or following a Council session, and demonstrations in support of a given candidate.
- Passive campaigning shall be considered any display or action that is observable only by people in the immediate vicinity of the campaign material and involves no explicit action to promote or advance those materials at the time at which the material is seen or heard. Examples of such passive campaigning include the use of writing materials containing references to a candidate, the wearing of campaign buttons while not addressing Council, and the presence of a single copy of a candidate's campaign literature at the delegate's seat and table spot.
- In the event that campaigning for any other NSTU election takes place during Council, the guidelines for the Council Committee election campaigns applicable to the conduct of the campaign during Council shall apply.
- Active campaigning for election to a position not related to the structure of the NSTU is prohibited.

Inverness schools create challenge for Ghana project

Last fall the NSTU initiated the sixth annual World Teachers' Day (WTD) Ghana project. NSTU members marked World Teachers' Day by donating a toonie or two to help raise funds to help children in Ghana go to school.



Stephanie MacDonald from Dalbrae Academy.

The teaching staff at three schools in the Inverness Local—Dalbrae Academy, SAERC (Strait and Area Education Recreation Centre) and Whycomagh Education Centre (WEC) challenged each other to raise enough at each school to send at least one child to school for one year on Ghana (approximately \$107).

"We thought it was a great way to get ourselves motivated," says NSTU rep at WEC, Betsy Jardine, who facilitated the challenge. The small staff at the school (12 including the principal) and its 150 students are continually

raising funds for great causes. Jardine says her school is known for its fundraising activities.

The idea of raising money to send kids to school in Africa really appealed to Stephanie MacDonald, a term teacher at Dalbrae Academy. A first-year teacher, MacDonald did a six-week practicum in Kenya last March and April. She taught in Nairobi at an all-boys National School and was in attendance for a prize-giving ceremony. "One student who got the highest mark in the country on the standard exam came back to get his prize."

MacDonald says she was very impressed with him, not only because of his academic prize or the fact he had been offered a job at a top bank in the country and was accepted into Harvard, but, "He was a sponsored student his whole school life," says MacDonald. "He wasn't able to pay his school fees, and if he had not been sponsored by someone, would not have had access to the education he did."

Jardine is pleased that her colleagues participated in the Ghana Project this year. "We would like to extend the challenge to more schools for next year."

This year's overall campaign raised \$3,755.94, enabling about 35 students to attend school by providing them with the essentials—shoes, uniforms and lunches, and therefore giving them access to education.

"I sincerely thank all the members, schools and campuses who participated in this project. Their support is much needed," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

Since 2002, through the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Nova Scotia teachers have worked with the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) through the Nkabom project to provide professional development for its members.



Above are some of the teaching staff at WEC from left to right: Roseanne Campbell (Grade 1/2); NSTU rep Betsy Jardine (Resource and Reading Recovery); Amy McCormack (Grade P/1); Debbie Jordan-MacKay (Youth Services Facilitator) and Lynnette Rankin (Junior High Math, French and Science).

The NSTU wishes to thank members, schools, campuses and Locals who raised a total of **\$3,755.94**

for the Ghana WTD Project

Acadia Street Elementary
Antigonish Education Centre
Aspotogan Consolidated
Atlantic View Elementary
Baddeck Academy
Bayview Education Centre
Bras d'Or Elementary
Breton Education Centre
Bridgeport School
Cabot Junior Senior High
Cape Breton Highlands Education Centre & Academy
Cape Smokey Elementary
Carleton Consolidated
Caudle Park School
Cavalier Drive School
CBVRSB Central Office
Chedabucto Education Centre
Clark Rutherford Memorial
Clark's Harbour Elementary School
Cobequid District Elementary
Crichton Park Elementary
Cumberland North
Dalbrae Academy
Digby Local NSTU
Dr. Arthur Hines School
Dr. John C. Wickwire Academy
Dr. John Hugh Gillis High
Dutch Settlement Consolidated
Eastern Shore District High
École Beaubassin
École Bois-Joli
École Jean-Marie-Gay
École Pubnico-Ouest
Frank H. MacDonald Elementary
Greenfield Elementary
Halifax West
Hillside Park Elementary
Holland Road Elementary
Inglis Street Elementary
Inverness Local NSTU
Jubilee Elementary
Lakeview Elementary
Le Marchant St. Thomas
Liverpool Regional High School
Lyn M. McInnis
MacLennan Junior High School
Milton Centennial School
Mountainview Elementary

Newport Station District
Northumberland Regional High
NSCC - Lunenburg Campus
NSCC - Pictou Campus
NSCC - Lunenburg Campus Staff
O'Connell Drive Elementary
Oxford School
Parrsboro Elementary
Parrsboro High
Parrsboro Regional High
Pictou Academy
Pugwash District High
Rawdon District School
Redcliff Middle School
Riverside Education Centre
Riverside Elementary
Rockingham School
Rockingstone Heights
SAERC
Shelburne Local NSTU
Sherwood Park Education Centre
Sir John A. MacDonald
St. Mary's Bay Academy
St. Stephen's School
Spring Street Academy
Staff Development Centre
Tamarac Education Centre
Tantallon Elementary
Tatamagouche Elementary School
Thorburn Consolidated School
Truro Elementary
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FREE Science & Math events for Nova Scotia schools

In May 2010, over 1200 students/teachers from across the province joined us at Dalhousie University for fun, hands-on and educational science and math activities!

PSYCHOLOGY and NEUROSCIENCE Days May 4-5, 2011

MATH Fun Days May 16-21, 2011

PHYSICS Fun and Discovery Days May 9-13, 2011

Discover CHEMISTRY Days May 17-19, 2011

BIOLOGY Fun Days June 8, 2011

Stay tuned for additional events being planned for schools to celebrate **Oceans Days** in June 2011!

For more information contact
Theresa Myra, School Outreach, Faculty of Science
Tel: (902) 494-6448 Email: theresa.myra@dal.ca
Or visit http://science.dal.ca/FOR_P-12_EDUCATORS/What's%20New/
and sign up to our P-12 Educators mailing list

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coming events

JANUARY 16 TO 22

National Non-Smoking Week

National Non-Smoking Week will be held January 16-22, 2011. The theme is: "There are hundreds of reasons to quit... what's yours?" Weedless Wednesday (January 19 this year) is a focal point of National Non-Smoking Week, focusing media and public attention on the benefits of cessation and the community resources available to help smokers quit. The idea behind Weedless Wednesday is to promote a "one day at a time" approach to quitting smoking, a concept appealing to many smokers who may be discouraged at the thought of an entire week—or lifetime—without cigarettes, but who may be able to cope with one smoke-free day.

JANUARY 24 TO FEB. 5

Nova Scotia Skills Competition

The 14th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition & Career Showcase is just around the corner! This Olympic-style competition is a chance for students and apprentices from across the province to put their skills to the test, and showcase their talents in skilled trades and technologies. Competitions range from fashion to carpentry. If you know a student who you think could compete, encourage them to register! Registration runs from January 24 - February 25. More information can be found at <http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca>.

JANUARY 27

Family Literacy Day

This year's Family Literacy Day® 2011 theme is *Play for Literacy*. It encourages Canadians from coast-to-coast to participate together in games and play dates with family, neighbours and friends on Family Literacy Day®, January 27, 2011.

Play for Literacy can include all types of play that encourages literacy and numeracy development as well as comprehension skills, such as board games, card games and imaginative self-created activities and games. Games, and the carefree act of playing, provide a fun outlet in which individuals of all ages can engage in activities that inherently provide new learning or opportunities to improve one's reading, writing, math and comprehension skills.

Teachers and early childhood educators use exploration, investigation, creative thinking, observation and learning techniques formed around game playing to help children with their comprehension, math and reading skills.

Established in 1999, Family Literacy Day®, held annually on January 27, is an initiative developed to celebrate parents and children reading and learning together, and encourages Canadians to spend at least 15 minutes enjoying a learning activity every day.

Register your event online at FamilyLiteracyDay.ca and make it a true community initiative. To register, pledge funds, or find a local Family Literacy Day event, please visit FamilyLiteracyDay.ca. To learn more about literacy and lifelong learning please visit www.abclifelifiteracy.ca.

FEBRUARY

African Heritage Month

This year marks the 27th anniversary of African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia. Held in February, African Heritage Month celebrates the history and contributions of people of African descent in Nova Scotia. Visit the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca for more information and links. You can also check out the following for information and events in exploring the history, culture and contributions African Nova Scotians have made to our province. African Heritage Month activities are found on the African Nova Scotian Affairs website at www.gov.ns.ca/ansa/specialevents.asp and the Halifax Public Libraries' page at www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/ahmonth, which includes activities, book lists, programs and links. The Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia's website also has lots of information regarding the history and contributions of African Nova Scotians.

FEBRUARY 2011

Winter Walk Day

Any day in February is Winter Walk Day. Schools and youth groups may register at www.taketherooffwinter.ca and receive a kit along with free toques to give away. The event is a partnership of Active & Safe Routes to School of the Ecology Action Centre, Heart & Stroke Walkabout and Take the Roof Off Winter, which promotes healthy outdoor winter activity in Nova Scotia.

FEBRUARY 13 TO 19

Teacher Staff Appreciation Week

Home and School Associations/School Councils across Canada are celebrating National Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week February 13 to 19, 2011. Parents organize community events in recognition of the personal and professional contributions of teachers and school staff such as school secretaries, school nurses, teacher assistants, custodians and bus drivers. This week gives parents and others concerned with children and their education the opportunity to join in nation-wide demonstrations of support for Canada's schools and their teachers/staff.

FEBRUARY 15

National Flag Day of Canada

Every year on February 15, Canadians celebrate shared values, common citizenship and sense of belonging to our country through National Flag Day. February 15 was declared National Flag of Canada Day in 1996. It marks the day in 1965 when our red and white maple leaf flag was first raised over Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and in hundreds of communities across Canada. Red and white were designated as Canada's official colours in 1921 by His Majesty King George V. A special Canadian Heritage website (www.pch.gc.ca/special/jdn-nfd/index-eng.cfm) provides readers with the flag's history, its symbolism and flag etiquette. It features a variety of adaptable materials that can be used in many different ways to focus attention on the Canadian flag in interesting and fun ways.

FEBRUARY 17

14th Annual Safe Schools Conference

Registration is now open for the 14th Annual Safe Schools Conference. The Cost is \$279 per person before January 31 and \$299 after January 31. This year's conference is being held on Thursday, February 17 at The International Centre (close to Toronto Pearson International Airport).

* Learn new and practical ways to make your school a safe and caring community.

* Obtain essential, up-to-date information and training on safe schools issues, procedures and policies.

* Hear from experts across Canada on various Safe Schools Issues.

* 25 different workshops to choose from.

* Atelier en français!

Keynote Speakers include: Barry MacDonald, Founder of MentoringBoys.com and Bestselling Author of *Boy Smarts* Parent Engagement and Annie Kidder, People for Education. To view a complete list of workshops and descriptions visit www.canadiansafeschools.com.

FEBRUARY 21

National Heritage Day

February 21 marks National Heritage Day, an opportunity to celebrate the architectural heritage and historic places of Canada. The 2011 Heritage Day theme (Historic Parks and Landscapes) coincides with Parks Canada celebrating 100 years as the world's first parks service. Our parks, local and national, big and small, all play an important role in the lives of Canadians. For more information on National Heritage Day, please visit www.heritagecanada.org/eng/h_day.html.

FEBRUARY 20 TO 26

Freedom to Read Week

Freedom to Read Week is an annual event that encourages Canadians to think about and reaffirm their commitment to intellectual freedom, which is guaranteed them under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Freedom to Read Week is organized by the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council. A calendar of events and resources including the annual Freedom to Read Kit is available at www.freedomtoread.ca. It consists of fresh material based on current issues of intellectual freedom – as well as appendices that provide basic information of use to those concerned with the various aspects of the issue. The articles, activities and suggestions contained in the kit are designed to inform and assist booksellers, librarians, students, educators and the community at large.

MARCH 8

International Women's Day

This year marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. Each year on 8 March, hundreds of International Women's Day events occur all around the world. The events range from small random informal gatherings to large-scale highly organized events. All celebrate women's advancement and highlight the need for continued vigilance and action. For more information on International Women's Day 2011 events around the world, check out the website: www.internationalwomensday.com. For Canada-specific material, the Status of Women Canada will be updating their website with information on this year's theme and available resources. That's at www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/iwd-jif/index-eng.html.



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

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

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

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PERSPECTIVES

Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

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NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Spring 2011 (Revised Fall, 2010)

Election of NSTU Provincial Executive Members



I. Background:

NSTU By-Law Article IV *The Provincial Executive* outlines the structure and duties of the NSTU Provincial Executive.

• Definition

There shall be an Executive of the Council, to be composed of the President, the immediate Past-President (one year position only), the first Vice-President, twenty-one (21) members elected on a regional basis at the local level, including one member elected by all the members of the CSANE Local, and two (2) members elected by all the members of the Community College Local. A majority of the members of the Executive shall constitute a quorum.

• Duties

The Executive functions in the name of the Council between sessions. It shall perform its duties in a manner that is consistent with the will of the Council as expressed through resolutions passed by the Council. In addition, the Executive shall carry out duties imposed specifically by the *Teaching Profession Act* and;

- (a) appoint and dismiss an Executive Director and such other paid employees of the Union as it may deem necessary and determine their duties, remuneration and terms of employment, including bonding;
- (b) provide suitable offices and equipment for carrying on the work of the NSTU;
- (c) direct and supervise the business, property and affairs of the NSTU between Council meetings, and all decisions that are deemed policy by the Executive shall be forwarded to the upcoming Council as resolutions;
- (d) determine the place and date and make arrangements for workshops and special Council meetings;
- (e) issue a post-Council press release;
- (f) provide assistance with organizing Locals and Regional Representative Councils and Professional Associations;
- (g) shall ratify constitutions of Locals, Regional Representative Councils and Professional Associations by following regulations outlined in the NSTU Guidebook;
- (h) determine the boundaries of the Locals;
- (i) publish a magazine or other official publications;
- (j) cause the books and accounts of the Council to be audited annually by a chartered accountant and cause the report of the auditor to be submitted to Council;
- (k) have the power to convene an emergency meeting of a Local or a meeting of the NSTU members in a given area; and
- (l) is empowered to exercise on behalf of the Union, as the Executive deems advisable from time to time, the powers of the Union under the *Teachers' Pension Act* and report thereon to the Council at the next following meeting of the Council.

• Representation

NSTU Standing Order 10 *Composition of the Provincial Executive* delineates the representation by regional.

10. Composition Of the Provincial Executive

- (a) Members of the NSTU teaching in the following regions shall elect twenty-one members to the Executive subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) elections shall be held fifteen (15) days or more prior to the first meeting of the Council;
 - (ii) the regions and the numbers to be elected from each region shall be as follows:

Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	2 members
Antigonish-Guysborough	1 member
Cape Breton Industrial	2 members
Colchester-East Hants	1 member
Community College	2 members
Conseil syndical acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse	1 member
Cumberland	1 member
Dartmouth	1 member
Digby-Yarmouth	1 member
Halifax City	2 members
Halifax County	2 members
Inverness-Richmond	1 member
Lunenburg County	1 member
Northside-Victoria	1 member
Pictou	1 member
Shelburne-Queens	1 member

II. Election Locations:

Region	To be Elected
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings (2)	1 member
Cape Breton Industrial (2)	1 member
Community College (2)	1 member
Cumberland (1)	1 member
CSANE (1)	1 member
Digby-Yarmouth (1)	1 member
Halifax City (2)	1 member
Halifax County (2)	1 member
Northside-Victoria (1)	1 member
Pictou (1)	1 member
Shelburne-Queens (1)	1 member

III. Eligibility

NSTU By-Law Article I-10(a) (iv) The right to vote and hold office at the Local and/or provincial level.

IV. Time Line:

- A regional election must be conducted at least 15 days prior to Annual Council.
- Nominations close 30 days prior to Election Day in a region.
- The Regional Nominating Committee sets the exact dates for the election and close of nominations in a region.
- Contact your Local President to obtain the dates for the Close of Nominations and Election Day.

V. Contact Person:

For further information regarding the 2011 Regional Elections, contact Kate Ingram at kingram@nstu.ca or 1-800-565-6788.



CUMBERLAND LOCAL

NSTU Cumberland Local Representatives donated over a dozen turkeys to the local food bank over the holidays.

Our local is also sponsoring "Community Skates" over the next couple months. These skates are open to the public.

- **Dr. Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre (Springhill):**
Sunday, February 20; 5:45 - 6:45 p.m.
- **Parrsboro Lion's Arena: Friday, March 4; 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable winter season.

Congratulations to our November/December BOOK WINNERS!!

FRESH: Looking in Classrooms
Glenys Fraser from Port Maitland Consolidated

Equity: Transmissions!
Elizabeth Collett from Harbour View School

PD: Chicken Soup for the Soul
Elizabeth MacLean from Seton Elementary

PD: How to Handle a Bully
Laura Jay from Gertrude Parker Elementary



YOUTH RUNNING for FUN



Doctors helping youth lead healthy, active lives.

The Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Running for Fun Program is a free school-based running program offered to schools across Nova Scotia. Last year, more than **11,400 kids** from **182 schools** participated! Sign up your school today!

Go to doctorsNS.com for more information.

ASSOCIATION PARTNER



PRESENTING PARTNERS



PATRON PARTNER



NOTICES

The Teachers' Tour for St. F.X. Grads

Experience stunning landscapes and unrivalled heritage adventures with friends and family from St. F.X. The Teachers' Tour to Gros Morne National Park and L'Anse Aux Meadows, Newfoundland and Labrador, including a visit to Baddeck, Cape Breton, will take place from August 1 to 6, 2011. The cost is \$850 per person, double occupancy and \$100 reserves your place. This tour has been specifically designed and scheduled for educators and retired educators. Bookings will be reserved for teachers until January 2011 at which time any remaining seats may be purchased by other alumni and friends. Itinerary subject to change. For further information please contact the St. F.X. alumni office at 902-867-2186 or alumni@stfx.ca.

Raise Your Voices! Banner Contest

The Raise Your Voices! Banner Contest is a national art contest and public art installation open to students across the country from Grades 5 to 8. Now in its second year, the contest encourages youth to bring their unique ideas to the nation's capital through the creation of colourful banners. Students are invited to submit their banner designs to the National Capital Commission by February 18, 2011. The seven winning submissions will be professionally produced and will become part of a public art display in Major's Hill park in Ottawa from May to October 2011. For more information visit www.canadascapital.gc.ca.

Lights... Camera... Science Grade Five Science Film Competition

The Discovery Centre is getting ready for its annual Grade Five Science Film Competition. This year, the event will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2011 inside Discovery Centre's theatre. **The deadline for registration is January 31, 2011.** Deadline for film submissions is March 9, 2011. Please visit the Teacher Zone on our website for details and forms. Don't miss out on this blockbuster event. For more info call 492-4422 or visit www.thediscoverycentre.ca.

Kaleidoscope Real World Video Challenge

The Kaleidoscope Real World Video Challenge is a call to youth across Canada to raise their voices on global issues. Organized by seven provincial/regional Councils for International Cooperation across Canada, Kaleidoscope is a space for youth to reach their peers, communities and leaders by creating videos under five minutes in length highlighting why they think active global citizenship is important and what makes them global citizens.

Many teachers across Canada are using the initiative as a class project, motivating students to reflect on global issues and working on the video during classroom time. We invite you to use this contest as a motivational tool and connect your students to global issues.

The contest will be open until March 31, 2011. The first place winners in each age category (ages 13 and under and 14-18) will receive a video camera or equivalent cash prize up to \$500. A selection of winners will go to Ottawa in September 2011

to present their videos at the Kaleidoscope National Gala and Youth Conference.

Visit www.videochallenge.ca or www.defivideo.ca for contest guidelines, videos and other resources.

In the Atlantic region, the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation manages the Kaleidoscope contest. The contest is funded in part by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). To speak with the Atlantic region representative, please contact Rena Kulczyk or Eva George at 902-431-2311.

Faculty of Science

FUN AND DISCOVERY DAYS

Have you heard about the Faculty of Science FUN AND DISCOVERY DAYS at Dalhousie University? These free science and math events for Nova Scotia schools take place in May. Last May over 1200 students/teachers from across the province joined participated for fun, hands-on and educational science and math activities!

Here are planned events for 2011:

- * Psychology and Neuroscience Days, May 4-5, 2011
- * Math Fun Days, May 16-21, 2011
- * Physics Fun and Discovery Days, May 9-13, 2011
- * Discover Chemistry Days, May 17-19, 2011
- * Biology Fun Days, June 8, 2011

Stay tuned for additional events being planned for schools to celebrate Oceans Days in June 2011! For more information contact: Theresa Myra, School Outreach-Faculty of Science, Dalhousie University at (902) 494-6448 or Theresa.myra@dal.ca, or visit http://science.dal.ca/FOR_P-12_EDUCATORS/Contact_Us.php.

Math On Competitions 2010-2011

The Math On Olympiad competitions are back!

Is your school up for the challenge?

On Saturday, May 9, the fourth annual Math On Provincial competition will be held at Sexton Memorial Gym, Dalhousie University. Students can earn the right to represent their schools by winning at Math On Zone competitions throughout the province on March 29. They will test their ability to solve problems—accurately and efficiently, of course.

Students will once again be thrilled by the excitement and social interaction of a competition that culminates in a celebration of academic talents and school spirit.

The Math On Lead Team consists of seven teachers responsible for bringing the Math On experience to Nova Scotia students. Lead Team teachers are Irene Angelopoulos (HRSB Math Coach), Stephanie Barnaby (JL Ilesley High School), Jen Comeau (Cornwallis Junior High), Linda Joyce (Astral Drive Junior High), Lisa O'Brien (Ridgedcliff Junior High), Brenda Vaughan (Oxford School), and Susan Wilkie (Lockview High School).

For additional information about Math On Olympiad or to organize a zone competition in your area, please visit our website at <http://math-on.ednet.ns.ca/>.

Encana High School Scholarship

Encana Corporation is once again offering the Encana High School Scholarship in Nova Scotia to support students pursuing careers related to the offshore oil and gas industry. The Encana High School Scholarship is available to Nova Scotia public school Grade 12 students who are pursuing post-secondary education in engineering, geology, geophysics or trades training related to the offshore oil and gas industry.

The scholarship is disbursed in payments of \$2,500 per year for up to four years, to a maximum of \$10,000, provided the recipient is enrolled in full-time studies. One scholarship will be awarded to one graduating high school student in each of the eight public school boards in Nova Scotia, for a total of eight bursaries in 2011.

Selecting the scholarship recipient will be at the discretion of each school board in Nova Scotia. The successful student must demonstrate leadership skills, community involvement and high academic achievements. A suggested deadline for students to apply for the scholarship is **March 15** as each school board is expected to forward the name of the student selected to Encana by no later than **May 2**. The application form can be found at the website at www.encana.com.

Information on the Encana High School Scholarship has been distributed to all public high schools in Nova Scotia. For further information about the Encana High School Scholarship, please call 1-403-645-2000 or send an email to dpinfo@encana.com.

Chronic pain in children research, HRSB teachers needed

Rebecca MacNevin, Master of Arts in School Psychology Program (MASP) student at Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) is currently recruiting Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) elementary, junior high, and high school teachers to complete an online survey regarding teacher perceptions of chronic pain in children which is being conducted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the MASP degree. The Research Ethics Board at the IWK Health Centre, the Research Ethics Board at MSVU, and the HRSB have approved this study.

If you choose to complete the survey, you will be provided with some information about a hypothetical student with chronic pain and be required to answer six questions about this student. Your participation will require about 20 minutes of your time. After completing the study, you will have the option of being entered into a draw to win a Scholar's Choice or Chapters gift certificates (your choice).

If you would like to participate, please follow this link to complete the survey: <https://surveys.dal.ca/opinio/s?s=9224>

Thanks in advance for taking the time to participate in this valuable research study.

NSTU
SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

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

To obtain the secondment application form:

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

Millwood High receives Best Buy Canada Awards in Technology grants

Christmas came early for Millwood High School students on December 15 as they were officially announced as winners of the Best in Class Fund, the annual technology grant program awarded by consumer electronics retailer Best Buy. In total, 15 schools were presented with a collective \$250,000 in technology grants in recognition of their winning proposals submitted at the start of school year. Millwood High was the only school in Nova Scotia to be chosen.

"Every year, we at Best Buy are so inspired by the innovative ways of incorporating technology into the classroom proposed in the Best in Class Fund submissions," said Danielle Jang, Communications Manager at Best Buy Canada. "We initially set out to award ten \$20,000 grants, but we were so impressed by the innovation and quality of proposals received, that we decided to award an additional five schools with honorable mentions each worth \$10,000."

In addition to the coveted technology grant, which will help provide schools with new consumer electronics that support the education-focused projects outlined in their proposals, Best Buy also provides the top ten schools with ongoing Geek Squad support. This will ensure the students and teachers understand how to get as much as possible out of this new technology and maximize the learning experience.

Conceived as an education-focused program that inspires teachers and students to develop compelling educational projects that will advance learning through the integration of technology in the classroom, The Best in Class Fund has become an increasingly popular contest among Canadian schools and has been backed by a number of Canada's top technology and education experts.

Millwood High School was among the ten schools to receive a technology grant worth \$20,000 and complimentary Geek Squad service.

The Best in Class Fund Program began in 2008 and to-date Best Buy has donated \$750,000 (including \$250,000 this year) in technology grants to schools in Canada. The program is open to teachers and students in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. Each Fall, students and teachers are asked to develop their proposals, which must include a video and a written proposal that outline how they would like to integrate various consumer electronic technologies in the classroom and how it will provide an educational benefit, and submit online at www.BestBuy.ca/BestinClass in time for the year's set deadline. One submission is allowed per school and it can come from a single class, or from a cross section of students and teachers from the same school, such as Student Council or other student clubs.



Principal Harvey Beaton and teacher Rona Chisholm-Cleary from Millwood High School in Lower Sackville celebrate winning a \$20,000 technology grant through Best Buy Canada's Best in Class Fund which was presented to them by Best Buy General Manager, Darren MacPherson.



Principal Harvey Beaton and teacher Rona Chisholm-Cleary with students from Millwood High School in Lower Sackville, celebrate winning a \$20,000 technology grant through Best Buy Canada's Best in Class Fund.

For more Best in Class information and submission guidelines, please visit www.BestBuy.ca/BestinClass

NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION
We need you to share your expertise!

We require a member to complete a term on the Sheonoroil Board of Directors
(Note: Term to expire July 31, 2013)

The Sheonoroil Foundation is an arms-length charitable agency created to fund school and campus-based projects and research directed at reducing violence in schools and community college campuses. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Foundation; it develops Foundation policy, mandates Foundation initiatives and approves project funding.

You may download the NSTU Standing/Other Committees 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

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

The Nominating Committee will be accepting applications until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 11, 2011.

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Assessment Institute
August 17-19, 2011,
Holiday Inn, Dartmouth, N.S.

As a follow-up to our extremely successful Assessment Summit in the summer of 2009, the **Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium** is providing another exceptional professional learning opportunity.

Responding to the feedback from 2009 participants, we are offering an entire day with the keynote speakers, a limited audience and registration options:

- Speakers who will be presenting are:
 - Dylan William, August 17
 - Anne Marie Daye Burke, August 18
 - Anne Marie Daye Burke, August 19
- Registration is limited to 250 people per speaker
- Registration Options:
 - Single Day Ticket or Three Day Package

CANCELLED
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

Check the **NSEL** website www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca or call 902-422-3270 for more info.

WINTER NSTU RATES START AT \$99

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Introducing the Nova Scotia Teachers Union Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance Program !!

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2011, a Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance Program will be available to active and retired members of the NSTU. We have outlined below information with respect to Critical Illness coverage and some details on when active and retired teachers will have the opportunity to purchase coverage.

Being diagnosed with a serious illness or disease can be devastating both to your health and to your finances. You may find yourself with financial concerns as a result of these issues. Critical Illness Insurance is designed to alleviate the pressure of financial concerns should you find yourself facing life threatening health problems. With some of the financial worries removed, you will be able to focus attention on getting well.

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

The NSTU Critical Illness Insurance Program will be launched in January 2011. Active teachers will receive an enrollment package in mid to late January and retirees will follow shortly after. All details of the program will be included in the enrollment brochure, contained in the package.

Plan Highlights include:

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

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are pleased to be able to offer this important coverage to active and retired members.

We encourage you to read carefully the information when you receive it in the mail.

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

update

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peace
of mind

Insurance is all about having peace of mind. And that's what you get with a home and auto insurance policy through Johnson. We offer excellent products and services that are tailored for groups and associations like the NSTU.

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Contact us today and put your mind at ease.

1.800.563.0677 | www.johnson.ca/nstu
(Please provide your Group ID Code: 62)

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. AIR MILES® reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund. At the time the premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium. **Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund). CAT.12.2010

**The deadline for March's issue
of *The Teacher* is February 18.
Call 1-800-565-6788 or
email theteacher@nstu.ca**

DELTA'S ... WINTER WARM-UPS

Plan your winter escape at Delta Barrington or Delta Halifax. You'll get away from it all right in the middle of everything.

\$88*

Now members of NSTU can make reservations online.

*NSTU id must be presented at check-in for special rate; discounted parking rate of \$9.95
Reservations: www.deltahotels.com/nstu

My DELTA BARRINGTON & HALIFAX

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

Making Tracks Gets Them Moving!

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

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

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

Learn more about **Making Tracks** at:
www.saferoutesns.ca | walk@ecologyaction.ca | 902.442.5055

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

resources

RESOURCES

Bill Nye Loan Titles Now Available on DVD from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Loan programs are shipped to the school with a prepaid mailing label so there is no charge to ship them back to us! 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.

*** Please note: these programs are available for loan only and cannot be copied.**

23119 - Water cycle [and] Oceanography

2-disc set. Water cycle: Did you know that most of the water on the planet is the same water that's been here since the earth was formed? Using a whimsical model made of a tiny staircase, wind-up penguins and a bicycle tire, Bill Nye the science guy demonstrates the phases of the water cycle evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. Oceanography: Surf's up! Get the current information as Bill Nye the science guy explains why oceans are salty, and explores the ocean currents.

23118 - Forensics [and] Genes

2-disc set. Forensics: Join Bill Nye, the science guy at the scene of the crime as he explores the world of forensic science. Learn how detectives reconstruct events from the past using bloodhounds, fingerprinting and DNA. Genes: Did you know that humans have about 80,000 genes? And that they determine everything from hair and eye colour to whether or not you can roll your tongue? Join Bill Nye, the science guy as he explores the chromosomal world of DNA, and visit a veterinarian from Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo who helps to save endangered animals using gene technology.

23117 - Chemical reactions [and] Phases of matter

2-disc set. Chemical reactions: Have a blast watching the explosive examples Bill Nye, the science guy uses to explain that everything is made of chemical. Guest star Candace Cameron shares the lab with Bill Nye and shows that fire is actually a chemical reaction. Together, they extinguish a tornado of fire. Phases of matter: Bill Nye the science guy takes students on a tour of a steel mill to help demonstrate that matter exists in three phases: solids, liquids and gases.

23116 - Electrical current [and] Light optics

2-disc set. Electrical current: Get amped up when Bill Nye, the science guy gets a charge explaining watts up with electricity. Learn how electricity makes the world a brighter place. Light optics: You won't believe your eyes when Bill Nye, the science guy reflects, refracts, bends, bounces, absorbs, and pulls light waves to show how things can be seen in different ways. Using lenses, mirrors and water, Bill's optical illusions are sights to behold. Guest stars Penn and Teller prove there's more to light optics than magic.

23115 - Biodiversity [and] Garbage

2-disc set. Biodiversity: In any given environment there are hundreds of varieties of plants and animals living together, creating ecosystems. Bill Nye, the science guy sets up shop in an ocean, a forest, and a field to commune with nature and show what happens when one link falls out of nature's chain. Garbage: By digging up the dirt on garbage in ever expanding landfills from New York to Florida, Bill Nye, the science guy exposes the vast amounts of non-biodegradable waste humans create. A parody of Aretha Franklin's popular single "RESPECT" entitled "RECYCLE" encourages everyone to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste.

23114 - The Sun [and] The planets

2-disc set. The Sun: Go star gazing with Bill Nye as he visits his favourite hot spot - the sun. Bill Nye, the science guy, sheds light on solar flares, eclipses, sun spots, fusion and solar energy, and visits an enormous solar energy farm outside Sacramento to demonstrate how the sun is the source of energy for all living things on earth. The planets: Prepare for an out of this world experience as Bill Nye gets up close and personal with each of the solar system's planets and moons. Bill Nye takes a serious look at Jupiter's features, earth's elliptical orbit and distances between planets.

23113 - Spaces exploration [and] Ocean exploration

2-disc set. Space exploration: Join Bill Nye, the science guy as he finds out what it is like to be an astronaut and find the tools humans invented to explore space. Meet Dr. Linda Horn, a NASA scientist, who is helping to develop the Cassini spacecraft, destination - Saturn! Ocean exploration: Exploring the ocean helps us better understand the earth, and get a glimpse of some of the special tools required for ocean exploration with Bill Nye, the science guy.

CTF's new resource for French-language secondary schools in minority settings

The Canadian Teachers' Federation's (CTF) new teaching resource, Favoriser la réussite: une affaire d'école (to promote success: the school's affair) is for teachers in French-language secondary schools in provinces and territories where French is the language of the minority.

"This tool was produced through the collaborative efforts of teachers from across the country who developed strategies to meet the needs of Francophone teens", notes CTF President Mary Lou Donnelly.

Coordinated by Dr. Marianne Cormier, from the Université de Moncton, the resource provides teachers with courses of action based on the focus areas for pedagogy in minority settings developed in 2005 for the Federation.

Favoriser la réussite: une affaire d'école will be distributed free of charge to all French-language secondary schools in minority settings. This tool is part of a series of resources produced by CTF to support teachers. It can also be downloaded free from CTF Web site, under "Resources".

Equal Voice Youth website

The Equal Voice Youth (EVY) website (www.equalvoice/youth.com) helps young women in Canada have more of the tools they need to strengthen their participation in seeking elected office to all levels of government.

With social media built into the fabric of the site, it's easy to network, meet new people, and learn more about the issues Equal Voice is engaging on a day to day basis. This includes an embedded Equal Voice Twitter feed, Flickr stream, and links to the Equal Voice Youth category on Equal Voice's new weekly blog: Canadian Women in Politics.

The website includes a number of rich resources designed to empower young women and further engage them in the political process, including: a dynamic events calendar accessible to all of EVY's student chapters, an interactive campus club map, links to relevant resources, online reference materials, a repository of useful links, and tools to start a chapter.

The goals of the new website align with the national goals of Equal Voice, including: increasing political awareness among young Canadians; encouraging and facilitating young women's participation in politics and public policy-making at all levels of government; and encouraging, mentoring and coaching young women interested in seeking political office.

Established in 2001, Equal Voice is an organization dedicated to promoting the election of more women to political office in Canada. For more information, please contact: Giovanna Mingarelli Program Manager, Communications at gmingarelli@equalvoice.ca or 613-523-5315 ext. 306.

New Department of Education Online PD Videos

An LRTS initiative launched on October 26, the Digital Video Library features online teacher professional development collection. Formerly called "MEWS", the Digital Video Library has a new look, with new formatting for the videos in the collection. Videos are provided in Flash format, offering better quality images, bigger pictures, and clearer sound. Just about every LRTS Media Production PD series in the last four years will be included on the site when all videos have been transformed and prepared.

The online player has a one-click, "full screen" option, to facilitate video projection. Don't worry if you don't have Flash on your CPU; you can download the latest (free) software from a link on our site.

Series included in our initial batch of videos are:

Assistive Technology: Supporting Student Success (CNIE Award of Excellence, 2010);

Challenge for Excellence Series Mental Math (All four DVD discs);

Providing Support through Co-teaching;

Doing and Thinking Science: Olympic Freestyle;

Hands-On, Minds-On Science;

Open Options: Careers in Science;

Core French 10: Les simulations globales;

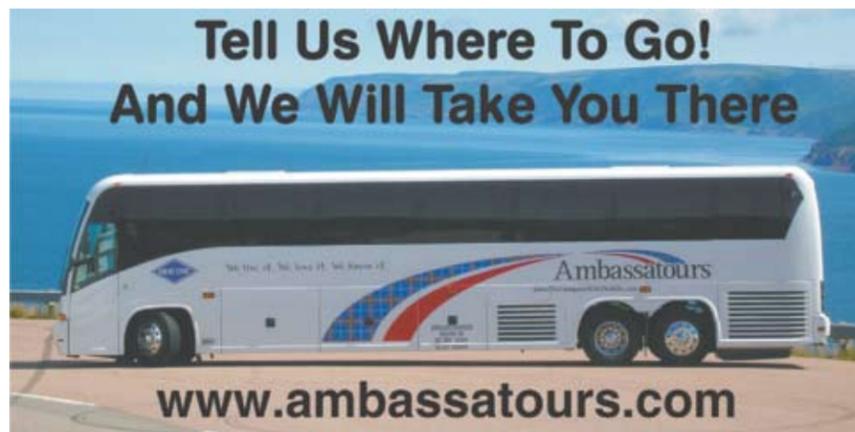
Teaching & Learning: A Primary Focus (CNIE Award of Excellence, 2008);

Writing Workshop P-3;

Writing Workshop 4-9

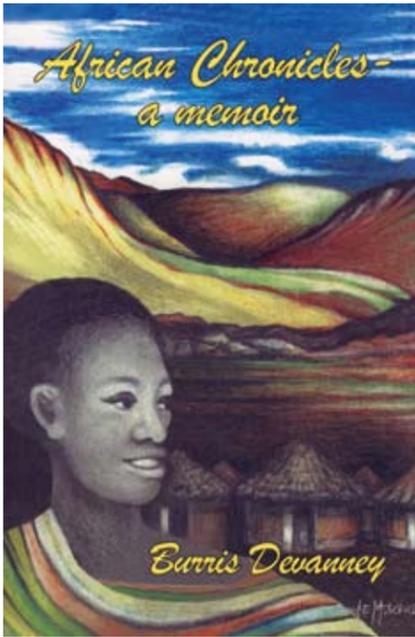
Most of these titles are presented in multiple segments. Some videos may look familiar, they've also been available in DVD format from the LRTS Media Library catalogue. All titles still remain available from the Media Library (<http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/>), but now teachers can also access them at will online or download segments to their school or home computers.

Please visit the new website at <http://dvl.ednet.ns.ca> and watch for additional titles in the months ahead.



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

BOOK GIVEAWAY



African Chronicles

The Teacher is giving away **three copies** of retired teacher Burris Devanney's book, *African Chronicles*, published by New World Publishing. African Chronicles is a two-volume memoir of one of the most turbulent periods in African history. (Volume One: Rhodesia-Zimbabwe and Volume Two: Nigeria-Biafra).

In 1965, newlyweds Burris and Louanne Devanney travelled to Africa on Canada's new international assistance program. They had a passion for Africa and for development work. Their first posting was to a remote mission station in rural Rhodesia. Their second posting was to a secondary school in Eastern Nigeria, a region on the brink of civil war. African Chronicles tells of uncertain journeys, challenging missions and deadly conflicts.

After their early experiences in Africa detailed in this memoir, the Devanneys were responsible for establishing and managing one of the more successful NGOs in The Gambia, including the formation of a university program in that country (in conjunction with Saint Mary's University). They also expanded educational opportunities for public education, health and other training opportunities, such as police and government services. In all, close to 1000 high school and university students, health workers, educators and police from Nova Scotia went to The Gambia to help build that country. For his work, Devanney was awarded the Order of The Gambia (officer status) as well as an honorary doctorate from Saint Mary's University. In addition, Devanney was honoured with an education award from the Canadian Teachers Federation (CTF). He is now involved in the Nkabom project through the NSTU and CTF in which retired educators travel to Ghana and provide professional development for teachers.

To enter your name to win a copy of *African Chronicles*, email theteacher@nstu.ca with your name, address and email address. Be sure to include the subject heading: **African Chronicles**. Deadline for entries is **February 25**.

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words; 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional number. Non-teachers pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word. To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca.

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

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TEACHER EXCHANGE - Physical Education teacher with the HRSB is looking for a teacher exchange with the CCRSB for the 2011-2012 school year. If interested, please email: cbarr@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

TEACHER EXCHANGE - The world is your classroom. Live and work in another country for a year while remaining employed and paid by your Canadian district! As mandated by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation facilitates reciprocal teacher exchanges to the United Kingdom, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Australia, and some U.S. states. Applications are now being accepted for the 2011/2012 school year. For more information visit www.ceef.ca; email cwilk@ceef.ca or telephone 705-739-7596.

JOB EXCHANGE - CCRSB elementary teacher (near Halifax) seeking job exchange in AVRSB. Please contact by phone 902-532-0646 or email fayenvp@gmail.com.

JOB SHARE - Elementary Teacher looking to job share in HRSB or CCRSB (Nova). Any percentage. cherwal2008@hotmail.com. 499-6575.

JOB SHARE - Elementary teacher looking for job share 2011/12 anywhere in HRSB. Currently in a job share and enjoying this unique partnership. Please contact alrichard@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

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

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TEACHER EXCHANGE - An elementary teacher with the HRSB is looking for a teacher exchange with the CBVRSB for the 2011-2012 school year. If interested, please email dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

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

TEACHER EXCHANGE - A Learning Center Teacher with the HRSB is looking for a teacher exchange with the CCRSB for the 2011-12 school year. If interested, please email burtonch@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

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

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

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

education week

April 10 to 16 2011

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