

NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

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MARCH 2009

Teachers vote in favour of Tentative Agreement

Nova Scotia's 10,000 public school teachers have endorsed a tentative agreement reached between the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the provincial government on February 6.

In a province-wide on-line vote held on Tuesday, February 24 81 per cent of teachers voted 79 per cent in favour of the tentative deal.

The contract will see teachers receiving a 2.9 per cent salary increase in each of two years of the agreement. The contract will expire on July 31, 2010.

NSTU president Alexis Allen says the agreement addresses issues identified by teachers across the province, including a definition of the school day, increases in allowances paid to administrators, enhanced health plan benefits, and better pay for substitute and beginning teachers.

"Bargaining teams for both sides were able to overcome their differences and work together to address concerns about the public school system," says Allen.

Education Minister Judy Streatch says, "Both parties worked very hard to reach an agreement that is fair to teachers, affordable to the province and in the best interests of public education."

Highlights of the agreement include:

- A 2.9 per cent raise retroactive to August 1, 2008 and again on August 1, 2009.

- A defined school day—now teachers need not report to school until 20 minutes before the instructional day begins nor stay beyond 20 minutes at the end of the instructional day. There will normally be no more than two staff meetings per month and they may last no longer than 90 minutes after the end of the instructional day. A reasonable number of other activities and meetings related to programs and student services will require sufficient notice and also be limited to 90 minutes.

- Total Care ancillary benefits, including chiropractic, naturopathic, acupuncture, osteopathic, speech therapy, podiatry/



Glynda Wimmer, French and music teacher and NSTU rep for Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School in Hubbards passes out voting keys for the public school tentative agreement on-line vote on February 24. Primary teacher Katrina Johnston and substitute teacher Scott Greenough are also shown.

chiropractic and occupational therapy will be increased to 80 per cent of customary charges for up to 20 visits per year. Orthopaedic shoes and modifications will be funded at 80 percent for up to \$200 per year.

- Article 64, Class Climate has guidelines allowing for quicker decisions when a class has so many students with such diverse needs that the teacher cannot respond to them without assistance.

- The provision for Leave for Injury on Duty for services and devices not covered by Total Care Medical has been extended by one year to three years.

- For early career teachers the first step on the salary scale will be removed on August 1, 2009.

- For teachers in semestered schools, the "four on the floor" practice of teaching a whole semester in high school with no preparation time is gone.

- Administrators will be compensated for the extra work required to supervise non-teaching personnel.

- Substitutes will see their daily rate of pay rise from \$140 to \$160. More importantly, they will receive full pay after 21 days of continuous service for the same teacher, rather than the former 31 days.

The previous teachers' contract expired on July 31, 2008. There have been 17 bargaining sessions held since April 2006 and three days of talks assisted by a conciliation officer in early February. The agreement will come into effect at the official signing of the document by both parties, which is scheduled for April 2, 2009.

The NSTU is still in the midst of negotiating a new contract for Community College faculty and professional support members. The next set of negotiation sessions are scheduled for March 4, 11, 12, April 1 and 8.



Pictou Local teachers learn about the articles in the tentative agreement from NSTU staff officer Janine Kerr at a regional information session on February 11 at North Nova Education Centre.

executive highlights

February 10, 2009

- The tentative agreement on the provincial contract was reviewed with a recommendation to the membership to accept;
- Ratification vote to be held Tuesday, February 24, 2009 by electronic method;
- Dominique Henry appointed as provincial returning officer.

February 26-27, 2009

- Received table officers' report;
- Received personnel committee report approving permanent status for Janine Kerr and Grant MacLean; and approving a sabbatical leave request for Sharon Gibson, member counsellor;
- A plan to assist professional association treasurers will be forwarded to PA focus groups for input prior to March 28;
- Approved a two-year proposal from the Delta Hotels;

- Approved recommendations from the Professional Association Coordination Committee, including the following:
 - conference fee structure include complimentary membership;
- Approved changes to the Summer Travel Fellowship;
- Approved amendments to the Electronic Procedures for the Election of the NSTU President;
- Approved the Disposition of 2008 Resolutions be forwarded to Annual Council 2009;
- Granted six out-of-province grants of \$475. (plus two alternates) and four Education Research Awards of \$475;
- Approved a 30-hour parliamentary procedure course to be offered in the 2009-2010 academic year;
- Approved several professional association constitutions;

- Approved the following Professional Association Conference Procedures:
 - that pre-registration procedures be used exclusively when sponsoring October conferences;
 - that mail-in registration and payment of fees be post-marked at least two weeks prior to conference day;
- Revised the mandate, composition and meeting frequency of the Pension Committee;
- Adopted an NSTU position paper on Member Professional Development;
- Approved a training session on website development for Local VPs of Communications and/or webmasters;
- Approved the appointment of the Limited College Trustee of the Group Insurance Trust Fund;
- Approved a Service Award to be granted at Annual Council 2009.

inside



NSTU NOW

On page 8 in the Charting Our Course PD column learn about PD for the contemporary classroom.

Students in Cape Breton learn more about their musical heritage. See the PDAF profile on page 14.

The Sheonoroil Foundation is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Find out how in the story on page 15.

The World Teachers' Day second annual poster contest is now open, with the theme of Peace: Teach It Live It. Details are on pages 11 and 20.

ONLINE EDITION

www.nstu.ca

Lily DeYoung—an outstanding principal



The teachers, students and parents of Thorburn Consolidated School already knew their principal Lily DeYoung was among the best in the country and now she is one of 31 Canadian principals to attain this honour for 2009. DeYoung was named an exceptional leader in education through the Learning Partnerships Canada's Outstanding Principals™ for 2009.

"I'm a little embarrassed from all the attention," says DeYoung from all the recognition she's garnered since the announcement of this year's recipients on January 19. "I am honoured to receive this award, and it is particularly meaningful to be recognized towards the end of my career."

With 30 years of education under her belt, DeYoung has worked in a variety of roles including principal of Thorburn for the past six years and the vice-principal at East Pictou Rural High and Dr. W. A. MacLeod Elementary. She's worked in elementary, junior high and high school settings as a classroom teacher, guidance counsellor and learning centre coordinator and has taught English, social studies and business ed. She was also a mentor to last year's Outstanding Principal for Nova Scotia, Alison MacNeil-Wilson. "I was lucky to have a great role model," she says of DeYoung. DeYoung has been a mentor to other teachers in the Pictou Local through her involvement in the Teacher Induction Program, of which she was a facilitator for 10 years. She has also been very involved in ATYA (Association of Teachers of Young Adolescents) for many years, serving on their executive and planning their annual conferences.

DeYoung was nominated by members of her school community including the staff of the P to 9 school, the School Advisory Council, the Home and School Association, all with support from Celtic Family of Schools Supervisor Lynn MacLean.

Superintendent of Chignecto-Central Regional School Board Dr. Noel Hurley has this to say of DeYoung: "Her great interpersonal skills have fostered effective communication and strengthened the home and school partnership so necessary for effective learning. She is collaborative with leaders throughout the entire region and is quick to offer help when she senses she can be of assistance."

One of the most rewarding parts of this process, from getting nominated to completing the writing of an essay required by the selection committee to meeting the other 30 outstanding principals in Canada, is the congratulatory correspondence she has received from former colleagues and students. One email from a former senior high English student she taught stands out. "She's a teacher herself now, in Georgia. She let me know that comments I made on an assignment she'd written, and kept, still inspire her today."

DeYoung knows the value of this inspiration and reminds her teachers that they are the most important factor in a child's education. "Teachers can have a powerful effect—positive and negative—on a child's life, and it's important for us to always be cognizant of this."

As part of the Learning Partnership honour, DeYoung joined the other outstanding principals across Canada in the last week of February at a five-day executive leadership-training program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. She had the opportunity to dialogue and reflect on leadership issues with other renowned leaders from the educational, social, cultural and business communities. "It was an incredible experience and made me realize the importance of a well-funded public education system in a developed country such as ours," says DeYoung. "There is no greater insight into the future than our children. When we save our children, we save ourselves. It has also made me realize that with leadership comes great responsibility. However, it is a privilege to be a principal and in a civilized nation-building country like Canada, leaders should not be discouraged by hard times. It means we must work harder to lobby on behalf of our children, so that all children across Canada have an equitable and excellent education."

DeYoung was also inducted into the National Academy of Principals, joining more than 120 previous recipients.

Now in its fifth year, Canada's Outstanding Principals™ program was developed as an endeavour between The Learning Partnership and the Canadian Association of Principals, in collaboration with the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. The Learning Partnership, a Canadian not-for-profit organization, has championed public education since 1993. The award is presented to principals who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their own local communities. They help ensure Canada's young people continue to receive a quality education. For more information visit www.thelearningpartnership.ca.

people

Third installment of mentorship program



The first week of February saw the third installment of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union's Mentorship program. Intended for individuals interested in learning about executive staff officer positions within the NSTU, participants are mentored by staff officers in the member services or professional development departments.

Public school members Bruce Abriel and Mario Eleftheros participated in the Mentorship Program from February 2 to 5. Abriel, a member of the Dartmouth Local and the O₂ (Options & Opportunities) coordinator at Dartmouth High School, was also a participant in the NSTU's John Huntley Memorial Internship program last February. Eleftheros, who is a social studies and tech ed teacher at Elizabeth Sutherland School, is a member of the Halifax City Local and serves as vice president of communications. He too was a John Huntley intern in October of 2005.

Both job shadowed executive staff officers, Abriel in member services and Eleftheros in professional development. Their participation in this program provides insight into the types of skills and training necessary to be an executive staff officer of the NSTU.

Participation in this program is not a prerequisite for employment with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, nor does such participation imply or guarantee preference in hiring with the Union.

The deadline for applications for the next mentorship opportunity for the 2009-10 school year is October 15, 2009. Application forms are available through your NSTU rep or on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca.

Bruce Abriel (far right) and Mario Eleftheros (second from right) are shown with staff officers Betty-Jean Aucoin and Grant MacLean.

PA/PR committees plan conference

The Public Affairs and Public Relations standing committees of the NSTU met jointly on February 6 to plan for the upcoming Communications Conference scheduled for April 17 and 18 at the Delta Barrington in Halifax. This annual conference was formerly known as the PA/PR Conference and is open to NSTU's vice presidents of public affairs, public relations and communications. This year's conference will feature a panel of representatives from Nova Scotia's Joint Education Partners as they discuss their lobby effort with regard to a continued investment in public education in Nova Scotia. The partners, including school boards, teachers, administrators and parents, are asking the public to urge their MLAs to put education first in this year's provincial budget.

Clockwise from left are: PA committee member Lee MacKenzie (Cape Breton Local), Sandra Mitchell, chair of the public affairs committee (Lunenburg County Local), PR committee member Stephanie Black (Cape Breton Local), provincial executive PA committee rep Jed Corbett, PA committee liaison Grant MacLean, PR committee member Phil Goora (Halifax County Local), PA committee members Steven Van Zoot (Hants-West Local) and John Drish (Community College Local), chair of the public relations committee Ramona Jenex (Kings Local), provincial executive PA rep Marlene Boyd and PA committee member Myla Borden (Pictou Local). Missing from the photo are: provincial executive PR committee rep Eric Boutilier, provincial executive PA committee rep Russell Comeau, PR committee member Chris White (Pictou Local) and PR committee staff liaisons Paul McCormick and Angela Murray.



New mandate will see volunteer pension consultants appointed

The NSTU provincial executive met in Halifax on February 27 and approved a new mandate for the Pension Committee that will see members serving as "pension consultants" available to provide information to Locals throughout the year.

"Under the new mandate the pension committee will have one member from each of six geographic regions trained to give basic information on the pension plan and facilitate pension sessions in their regions," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

The changes will also see members appointed to the committee for a three-year rather than two-year term. It is expected that committee members will spend an additional two days in Halifax following the fall meeting of the committee to undergo training.

"The plan will require a greater time commitment for committee members," says Allen. "Although the committee itself will meet the usual three times per year, members will be required to take the additional training and commit to being available to facilitate sessions and work with Locals in their regions." The NSTU will reimburse members for any expenses occurred in their work with Locals.

Allen says the new role of committee members will be similar to those of insurance trustees, who are also available for consultations with Locals in their regions.

To apply for membership on the Pension Committee, please see the application form on page 10.

Four and a half per cent increase needed for public education

The education partners, namely the NSTU, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations Inc., the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association have been working cooperatively to remind government of the need to provide adequate financial support to public education.

The theme of their effort is *Public education-our best investment*.

"The key message to our initiative speaks to the need for a 4.5 per cent increase in funding for the fiscal year 2009/2010 as a minimum to finance our present program levels," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "Any reduction from 4.5 per cent means a regressive step which will have a negative effect on the significant achievements to date."

Where does the 4.5 per cent number come? The origin of the 4.5 per cent figure assumes the inflation cost for public education is 3.5 per cent based on national data which is intended to cover salary increases, fuel costs, etc., for the fiscal year 2009/2010. In addition, the 1.0 per cent is to cover the shortfall in funding for 2008/2009 which required Boards to utilize one-time revenue items such as surplus redirected targeted funding etc. The calculation also assumes that salary increases granted for any portion of 2008/2009 will be covered by the province and added to the funding base on a go-forward basis.

For more information on this issue visit investineducation.ca.



Online Poll Results (February 24, 2009) NSTU Ratification Vote

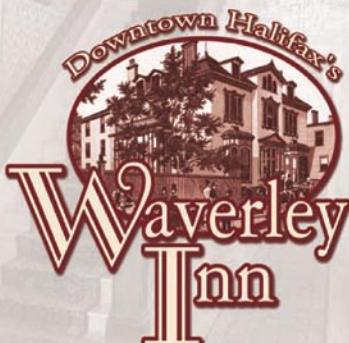
| Local | Region | Accept | Reject | Total | Eligible Voters | % of Voter Turnout |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Annapolis | Valley | 138 (96.50%) | 5 (3.50%) | 143 | 190 | 75.26% |
| Antigonish | Strait | 179 (89.05%) | 22 (10.95%) | 201 | 228 | 88.16% |
| Cape Breton | CB-Victoria | 518 (70.77%) | 214 (29.23%) | 732 | 913 | 80.18% |
| Colchester-East Hants | Chignecto | 595 (82.87%) | 123 (17.13%) | 718 | 839 | 85.58% |
| CSANE | CSAP | 255 (80.70%) | 61 (19.30%) | 316 | 379 | 83.38% |
| Cumberland | Chignecto | 248 (86.41%) | 39 (13.59%) | 287 | 335 | 85.67% |
| Dartmouth | Halifax | 389 (77.96%) | 110 (22.04%) | 499 | 618 | 80.74% |
| Digby | Tri-County | 89 (89.00%) | 11 (11.00%) | 100 | 126 | 79.37% |
| Guysborough | Strait | 89 (90.82%) | 9 (9.18%) | 98 | 103 | 95.15% |
| Halifax City | Halifax | 521 (76.84%) | 157 (23.16%) | 678 | 895 | 75.75% |
| Halifax County | Halifax | 1346 (72.37%) | 514 (27.63%) | 1860 | 2278 | 81.65% |
| Hants West | Valley | 155 (98.10%) | 3 (1.90%) | 158 | 189 | 83.60% |
| Inverness | Strait | 93 (46.04%) | 109 (53.96%) | 202 | 212 | 95.28% |
| Kings | Valley | 478 (93.36%) | 34 (6.64%) | 512 | 675 | 75.85% |
| Lunenburg County | South Shore | 325 (89.04%) | 40 (10.96%) | 365 | 483 | 75.57% |
| Northside-Victoria | CB-Victoria | 249 (75.23%) | 82 (24.77%) | 331 | 362 | 91.44% |
| NSCC | NSCC | - | - | 0 | 0 | - |
| Pictou | Chignecto | 310 (86.83%) | 47 (13.17%) | 357 | 475 | 75.16% |
| Queens | South Shore | 80 (82.47%) | 17 (17.53%) | 97 | 125 | 77.60% |
| Richmond | Strait | 55 (60.44%) | 36 (39.56%) | 91 | 93 | 97.85% |
| Shelburne | Tri-County | 143 (95.97%) | 6 (4.03%) | 149 | 168 | 88.69% |
| Yarmouth | Tri-County | 197 (91.20%) | 19 (8.80%) | 216 | 271 | 79.70% |

2009 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS



| LOCAL | CHAIRPERSON | DATE OF ELECTION | DATE OF ADVANCE POLL | LOCATION |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|---|
| Annapolis-Hants West-Kings | Cathy Reimer | April 29 | Electronic Voting | |
| Cape Breton | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Cumberland | Lawry MacLeod | April 16 | April 8 | Oxford Regional High |
| CSANE | Marc Poirier | March 31 | March 24 | TBA |
| Digby | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Halifax City | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Halifax County | TBA | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| Northside-Victoria | Carlene Pedersen | May 5 | April 28 | Memorial High |
| Pictou | John Sperdakes | April 14 | April 7 | West Pictou Cons. (Room 13) |
| Shelburne-Queens | Leo Campbell | April 22 | April 15 | Hillcrest Academy /South Queens Junior High |

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Our mandate

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

Our purpose

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

Our pledge

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

DEADLINE—APRIL 10, 2009



Alex

from the nstu president

The new provincial agreement—support for a number of our issues

Now that we have a new provincial agreement for public school teachers ratified by 79 per cent of our members it is time to review what this will mean for us as a union. Certainly this negotiated settlement could be described as "fair" and in the end enabled us to address many of the concerns identified by our members. We have settled for a two-year agreement and will therefore be able to revisit our salary and working conditions very soon; in fact, we will be preparing another package for your consideration next year. Once again, just as in the asking package for this agreement, we will base our next package upon the issues identified by Council resolutions and by submissions from Locals or individual members; the Provincial Economic Welfare team will draw upon these to develop our 2010 package.

The recent downturn in the economy made it extremely difficult to achieve the expectations that teachers had for significant financial gains. However, we were able to address some of the long-standing concerns identified by our members with this agreement. Some of these priorities include:

- Our early career teachers were among the lowest paid in Canada:
 - ✓ Step 1 was removed from the scale, therefore a beginning teacher in 2010 will see an added benefit of roughly \$12,000 compared to 2005.
- Our school day had no limits and there were no limits on meetings:
 - ✓ The school day is now defined; you do not have to be at school until 20 minutes before classes begin and can now leave 20 minutes after school ends. You will have no more than two staff meetings a month, each no longer than 90 minutes at the end of the instructional day. We finally have wording to allow us to challenge what is reasonable and unreasonable in the number and length of meetings.
- We needed a fair pay increase:
 - ✓ Almost every public sector union in Nova Scotia has received a 2.9 per cent increase; we have this same increase for each of the two years, retroactive to August 2008.
- Many teachers in high schools outside metro were teaching one whole semester without prep time:
 - ✓ This is now gone; everyone will receive prep time each semester.
- Administrators had expressed their concerns regarding increased workload in particular around non-teaching personnel:
 - ✓ All administrators will receive some compensation for the extra work required for non-teaching personnel.
- Paramedical services and orthopaedic benefits in our insurance plan have not been increased in 30 or 40 years and were out of date:
 - ✓ Paramedical benefits are increased to 80 per cent and will adjust for the future costs; the reimbursement for orthopaedic services doubled.
- Article 64, Class Climate, deals with the process by which a teacher seeks additional support for a class with a number of students with diverse needs. The problem with this article was that there were no guidelines, it took a long time to get a response, and there was no money attached to this article:
 - ✓ Guidelines are now established to help streamline and speed up the process. Unfortunately we did not receive additional funding for this article; however, I do encourage teachers to start using this more when necessary.
- We've heard for years that we need to get additional compensation for substitutes and decrease the number of days before they finally receive full pay based upon their level on the pay scale:
 - ✓ Substitutes received an increase in the daily rate of pay from \$140 to \$160 and more importantly will have full pay after 21 days.

Did we get everything in this agreement? Certainly not, but with some of these issues resolved we have the opportunity to further enhance our salary and working conditions in our next package. The important thing to remember is that as a union we must look after **all** our members so no one region or teacher is disadvantaged. On behalf of the provincial executive I would like to thank all who played a role in this agreement. We are still in the midst of negotiations for a new contract for Community College faculty and professional support members and we will continue to work on behalf of all of our members.

La nouvelle entente provinciale nous apporte un soutien dans de nombreux domaines

Maintenant que nous avons une nouvelle entente provinciale pour les enseignants des écoles publiques, entente qui a été ratifiée par 79 % de nos membres, il est temps d'examiner ce que cela signifie pour notre syndicat. Ce règlement négocié peut certainement être décrit comme « raisonnable » et, en fin de compte, il nous a permis de régler bon nombre des préoccupations soulevées par nos membres. Nous avons convenu d'une entente sur deux ans et nous serons par conséquent en mesure de revoir nos salaires et nos conditions de travail très bientôt; en fait, nous allons préparer un nouveau cahier de revendications qui sera soumis à votre examen l'année prochaine. Une fois encore, tout comme nous l'avons fait pour la présente entente, nous établirons notre prochain cahier de revendications à partir des questions soulevées dans les résolutions à l'AGA et dans les soumissions des sections locales et des membres individuels; l'équipe du Comité provincial du bien-être économique s'appuiera sur cela pour mettre au point notre cahier de revendications 2010.

Vu le récent déclin économique, il était extrêmement difficile de répondre aux attentes des enseignants en matière d'avantages financiers importants. Toutefois, dans cette entente, nous avons été en mesure de régler plusieurs des préoccupations de longue date identifiées par nos membres. Les priorités étaient les suivantes :

- Nos enseignants en début de carrière étaient parmi les moins payés au Canada :
 - ✓ Le premier échelon a été supprimé et, entre 2005 et 2010, les enseignants qui débutent dans la profession auront bénéficié d'une augmentation de salaire d'environ 12 000 \$.
- Il n'y avait pas de limite à la journée scolaire et il n'y avait pas de limite au nombre de réunions :
 - ✓ La journée scolaire est maintenant définie; nous devons être à l'école seulement 20 minutes avant le début des classes et nous pouvons maintenant partir 20 minutes après la fin des classes. Nous n'aurons plus de deux réunions du personnel par mois, et elles ne pourront pas durer plus de 90 minutes après la fin de la journée d'enseignement. Nous avons maintenant un article qui nous a permis de définir ce qui est raisonnable et déraisonnable en matière de nombre et de durée des réunions.
- Nous avions besoin d'une juste augmentation de salaire :
 - ✓ Presque tous les syndicats du secteur public de la Nouvelle-Écosse ont obtenu une augmentation de 2,9 % et nous avons obtenu une augmentation semblable pour chacune des deux années, rétroactive au mois d'août 2008.
- De nombreux enseignants des écoles secondaires situées en dehors de la région métropolitaine enseignaient un semestre complet sans aucun temps de préparation :
 - ✓ Cela ne sera plus possible; tous les enseignants recevront du temps de préparation chaque semestre.
- Les administrateurs avaient exprimé des inquiétudes concernant l'augmentation de leur charge de travail, tout particulièrement en liaison avec le personnel non enseignant :
 - ✓ Tous les administrateurs seront dédommagés pour le travail supplémentaire qui leur est demandé pour s'occuper du personnel non enseignant.
- Les prestations pour services paramédicaux et services orthopédiques de notre régime d'assurance n'avaient pas augmenté depuis 30 ou 40 ans et étaient archaïques :
 - ✓ Les prestations paramédicales ont été augmentées jusqu'à atteindre 80 % et seront ajustées en fonction de l'évolution des coûts; le remboursement des services orthopédiques a doublé.
- L'article 64, Climat de la salle de classe, traite du processus permettant à un enseignant de demander un soutien supplémentaire pour une classe comportant un certain nombre d'élèves présentant des besoins divers. Le problème avec l'article précédent était qu'il ne contenait aucune directive. Cela nous a pris beaucoup de temps pour obtenir une réponse et cet article ne stipule pas de financement :
 - ✓ Des directives sont maintenant établies en vue de rationaliser et d'accélérer le processus. Malheureusement, nous n'avons pas reçu de financement supplémentaire pour appliquer cet article; j'encourage toutefois les enseignants à commencer à l'utiliser davantage lorsque c'est nécessaire.
- Cela fait des années qu'on nous dit que nous devrions réclamer une rémunération supplémentaire pour les enseignants suppléants et réduire le nombre de jours d'enseignement exigés avant qu'ils ne reçoivent un plein salaire basé sur leur échelon salarial :
 - ✓ Les enseignants suppléants ont obtenu une augmentation de leur taux de salaire journalier, qui est passé de 140 \$ à 160 \$ et, ce qui est plus important, ils recevront un plein salaire au bout de 21 jours d'enseignement.

Avons-nous obtenu tout ce que nous voulions dans cet accord? Certainement pas, mais du fait que certaines de ces questions ont été réglées, nous avons la possibilité de réclamer une amélioration supplémentaire de nos salaires et de nos conditions de travail dans notre prochain cahier de revendications. Il est important de ne jamais oublier que notre syndicat doit s'occuper de **tous** ses membres afin qu'aucune région ni aucun enseignant ne se trouve désavantagé. Au nom du Comité exécutif provincial, je voudrais remercier tous ceux qui ont joué un rôle dans cette entente. Nous sommes toujours en cours de négociation pour un nouveau contrat concernant le personnel de la faculté et le personnel de soutien professionnel du Collège communautaire et nous allons continuer à travailler ensemble dans l'intérêt de tous nos membres.





You Are Invited To Our AGM

Teacher's Plus Credit Union's 2008 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday March 28, 2009. The meeting will be held at the Quality Inn and Suites in Halifax from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

Hope To See You There

TEACHERS PLUS INFO CENTRE

- 1** Teachers Plus Credit Union is now offering Travel Insurance to our members. Please visit branch for details on our excellent rates.
- 2** Spring Time is a great time for renovations. If you need some extra cash to get started, contact one of our Financial Services Officers for more details.
- 3** Please visit our website www.teachersplus.ca for information regarding our Post Secondary Educational Awards and our Teacher Training Awards.
- 4** Do you have Spring Fever and are looking for a new home, contact one of our Financial Services Officers for more details.
- 5** Please visit our branch or website www.teachersplus.ca to obtain information on the new tax free savings accounts that are currently available to members.
- 6** Teacher's Plus Credit Union has more ABM's in Nova Scotia than any other Financial Institutions. Need to find an ABM? We now have an ABM locator available on our website.

Teachers Plus Credit Union

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INJURY PREVENTION AT THE WORKPLACE

by Leticia Richer, O.T. Reg (N.S.)

CASE COORDINATOR, NSTU EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Injuries at work happen more often than we think. Sometimes these injuries can be avoided and sometimes they cannot. Common workplace injuries for teachers include chronic muscle strain (neck, shoulder, and lower back), joint and soft tissue inflammation, excessive disc compression, and eye strain. Such injuries can be manifested as headaches, pain, muscle spasms, joint soreness, and numbness in the back, neck, shoulders, hands, wrists or fingers.

There are four basic principles of injury prevention which aim to optimize your environment and practices to minimize your risk for injury at work and at home. The following article outlines these principles and gives some suggestions on how to incorporate them into your practices.

1. Optimize Your Posture - Posture is how we hold our bodies. It is important to optimize our posture, as it minimizes the stress and tension on our soft tissues (muscles, tendons, ligaments and nerves) as well as our joints. So what are proper postures? See box.

Proper Sitting Posture

- Head: directly over shoulders over hips
- Neck: relaxed
- Shoulders: down, back and relaxed
- Back: upright, supported lower back curve
- Elbows: relaxed and at 90°
- Knees: 90°, same level as hips
- Fingers: gently curved and relaxed
- Feet: firmly planted on ground or footrest



Proper Standing Posture

- Keep your shoulders down and back
- Avoid slouching or rounding your shoulders
- Pull in your chin
- Tighten abdominal muscles
- Tuck in your buttocks
- Keep knees soft, avoid locking your joints
- Avoid standing in one spot
- Raise and rest one foot
- Avoid high heels or hard soles
- Alternate between sitting, standing and walking whenever possible



What to look for in a chair

- Five castor base of support
- Waterfall front to decrease pressure on the back of the thighs
- Good supportive foam seat (dense foam works well)
- Breathable fabric
- Adjustability
- Adjustable height armrests and backrest
- Ensure chair is well maintained and in good working order

2. Minimize Contact Stress - Contact stress occurs when we come in constant contact with a surface. This usually occurs in three places: the elbows, wrists and backs of the knees. It is mainly a concern for those who work for any length of time in a seated posture.

To minimize contact stress at the elbow, rest the entire arm on your armrest, not just your elbow. This will help to evenly distribute the pressure minimizing the risk for a compression injury.

To minimize contact stress at the wrist, utilize wrist rests if the corner of your desk is sharp. The wrist rests should be positioned below the home row on the keyboard and they should be made of a soft material. Wrist rests should only be used occasionally to provide

repetitive motions of the neck. Try moving your entire arm when correcting or when writing on the board. Let the larger muscles do the work. Most importantly, alternate tasks so that the same muscle groups are not being used for long periods of time. This will allow your muscles (small and large) to relax and recuperate.

4. Minimize Force - Activities where excessive force (pushing, pulling, lifting, and carrying) is used may also cause injury. It is important to be aware of any tasks requiring force and reduce that force wherever possible.

For example, relax your grip when writing. If you find this difficult, try using a pen grip which will increase the diameter and loosen your handgrip.

rest to the wrists when typing.

To minimize contact stress at the back of the knees - make sure there is about a two-inch clearance between the front edge of the seat and the back of the knees. This allows for proper blood flow to and from the lower legs. Ensure that your feet are firmly placed flat on the floor or footrest. Make sure to adjust the seat depth on your chair and use the backrest for support.

3. Minimize Repetition - Repeated movement can result in repetitive strain injuries otherwise known as Cumulative Trauma Disorders (CTDs). Repetitive use causes inflammation or irritation of the soft tissues in the area and is often quite uncomfortable.

To minimize repetitive movements, store your frequently used materials close by and at your work level so you can minimize frequent extended reaching, bending, pushing and pulling. Put away the things that you don't use often.

If you are typing or reading from a document, use a document stand to prevent

To minimize the force you are exerting in lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling, try practicing the following techniques.

1. **Assess the load** you are working with. Consider the weight and size, and break the load up or seek assistance if needed. If something is too heavy or seems too challenging, do not attempt to lift it. Get help from a colleague.
2. **Clear the area** of potential hazards such as cords, garbage cans, wet floors or other obstacles that may be in your way.
3. **Minimize the height of a lift**. Where possible, do the lift in segments. Try lifting from the floor to your waist level and then from your waist to shoulder level.
4. **Place your feet in the direction of the move** and use a wide base of support (feet shoulder width apart).
5. **Tighten your abdominal muscles** to flatten and stabilize your back.
6. **Bend at the knees and hips** to lower the body. DO NOT bend at the waist.
7. **Rotate through the legs** and not through the spine. DO NOT twist the trunk of your body. Keep both arms in front of your body at all times. Avoid transferring loads while sitting.

8. **Keep the load as close to you as possible**. The horizontal distance between the object to be lifted and the feet should be minimized before commencing the lift. Use both hands!
9. **Ensure the materials you are lifting are stable and balanced**. Try to make the load as compact as possible.
10. **Utilize handles** whenever possible.
11. **Minimize the carrying distance**. If possible plan rest points to allow you to rest the load before continuing with the carry.
12. Avoid frequent lifting. **Safer lifting is less lifting.**

Some other tips for minimizing your overall risk for injury at home and at work include learning to pace yourself. Don't try to do everything all at once. Do things according to a timed schedule and make sure to take regular breaks to stretch your muscles and decrease tension build up. Stretching will also increase flexibility and improve your blood circulation. Most importantly, do not ignore symptoms of injury if they occur. Seek the opinion of your doctor if you think you may have an injury. The sooner you make changes to minimize your risk, the better your prognosis will be!

did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at Be_Well@nstu.ca.

Please contact Erin at ekeefe@nstu.ca to provide her with your NSTU email address. The Be_Well@nstu.ca list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



2009 ASSESSMENT SUMMIT

AUGUST 20 AND 21, 2009

HALIFAX, N. S.

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

Keynote Speakers

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

Registration Fees Include:

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

Registration Fees:

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

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

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

Registration Deadline May 1, 2009

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



Power of Positive Change Awards

The Premier's Power of Positive Change Awards are available in 2009.

The boys in pink, David Shepherd and Travis Price, took action with a simple gesture and made a big difference in their school community and beyond.

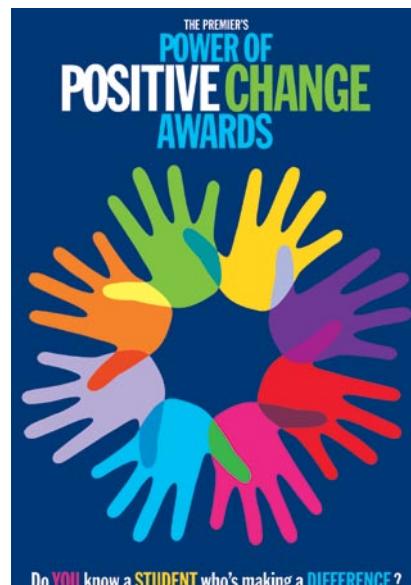
In honour of their efforts to stand up against bullying, the Premier's Power of Positive Change Awards will recognize students in Grades Primary to 12 who are making a positive difference in their schools, their communities and their province. There are few things in the world more powerful or more life changing than a good deed. These awards will recognize students from around the province who are going the extra mile to make a positive change.

The awards will be presented in the form of \$2,000 bursaries, to be used for post-secondary educational opportunities. Up to ten awards will be given to Nova Scotia students annually.

To be eligible, nominees must demonstrate leadership by organizing a school or community activity or show exemplary conduct in promoting positive change. Successful candidates will be presented with their award at a reception hosted by the Premier and the Minister of Education in June.

Criteria for the Power of Positive Change Awards, additional information, and forms are available online by going to powerofpositivechange.ca.

Successful candidates will be selected by a committee comprised of representatives from the Premier's Office, the Department of Education, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations and La Federation des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Ecosse.



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

ATTENTION

ALL TEACHERS WORKING FOR THE HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD

Halifax Regional Council, a division of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union will be offering a workshop entitled **BATTLING HOMOPHOBIA IN THE CLASSROOM** session for all teachers.

All students and educators have the right to a safe, welcoming school environment. This workshop will allow participants the opportunity to explore the issue of sexual orientation as it relates to the classroom and school experience. Participants will discuss the way students use language to harass and hurt fellow students. They will look at who uses this language and discuss the devastating results it can have on bisexual, gay, lesbian, transidentified and two-spirited students. They will also examine ways in which they can deal with GBLTT issues in the classroom. Finally, resources pertaining to GBLTT issues will be available for consultation.

Monday, April 20, 2009 — 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Tom Parker Building (NSTU), 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax

Please spread the word – tell a friend, tell a colleague!!

**Please register by emailing Gérard Cormier at
gcmcormier@nstu.ca**

**The deadline
for the April issue
of *The Teacher*
is March 27.**

**Please contact
Sonia Matheson at
theteacher@nstu.ca
or 902-477-5621.**



Summer Institutes 2009

The Faculty of Education at Mount Saint Vincent University provides unique learning opportunities for teachers through its Summer Institute program. Using innovative pedagogical approaches to teaching and learning, institute instructors create unique summer learning communities on the Mount Campus. These courses have broad appeal to all educators including classroom teachers, community workers, adult educators, educational administrators, consultants and other educational professionals.

What distinguishes a Summer Institute program from a regular summer course is its compressed format over the first seventeen days of July. In preparation, participants are required to complete pre-course readings and/or assignment(s) in the months prior to the start of the Institute, and then engage with the material and each other while on-campus. In some instances, the instructor may require the completion of assignments after the end of the formal in-class instruction. Participants are encouraged to enroll early, as space is limited, and enrollment is on a first come first served basis.

Half unit courses: July 2 – 9

- GEDU 6154 04 S.I.: Foundations of Curriculum Studies I
- GEDU 6154 08 S.I.: Suicide and Depression Education
- GEDU 6154 09 S.I.: Evidence Based Practices in Learning Disabilities I
- GEDU 6154 10 S.I.: Ways of Knowing: Theatre
- GEDU 6154 11 S.I.: Evaluation in the Classroom
- GEDU 6154 12 S.I.: Race, Culture and Education: Introduction to Anti-Racism Education
- GEDU 6154 14 S.I.: Teaching Mythology in Elementary & Middle Schools

Half unit courses: July 10 – 17

- GEDU 6155 04 S.I.: Foundations of Curriculum Studies II
- GEDU 6155 06 S.I.: Entrepreneurial Thinking and Enhancing Curriculum Outcomes
- GEDU 6155 08 S.I.: Mental Health Education
- GEDU 6155 09 S.I.: Evidence Based Practices in Learning Disabilities II
- GEDU 6155 10 S.I.: Ways of Knowing: Visual Art

Full unit courses: July 2 – 17

- GEDU 6156 01 S.I.: Talking up a Storm: Language Inquiry in the Classroom
- GEDU 6156 02 S.I.: Literacy in the Community: Exploring Writing and Reading
- GEDU 6156 03 S.I.: Building Peace in a Consumer Society
- GEDU 6156 04 S.I.: Strategies for Teaching Multi-Age Classes
- GEDU 6156 05 S.I.: Teaching Tools for Tolerance: A Pedagogy of Peace and Social Justice
- GEDU 6156 07 S.I.: Professional Development through Coaching
- GEDU 6156 09 S.I.: Reflective Practitioner/Soul in Education
- GEDU 6156 10 S.I.: Teaching in a Connected Classroom

**Congratulations
to our
JANUARY
WINNERS
of the Fresh & Equity
giveaways!**

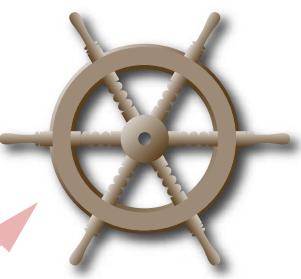
FRESH: Michele Mockler
of Park West School
in Halifax

EQUITY: Dean Marchand of
Mulgrave Memorial Education
Centre in Guysborough

For more information on this year's Institutes, visit our website at msvu.ca/education



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Professional Development for the Contemporary Classroom

By Gérard Cormier

EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, OUTREACH PROGRAMS & EQUITY SERVICES

The face of the teaching workforce is constantly changing. As more and more teachers retire, new recruits are being introduced to the classrooms of the 21st century. The vast majority of these early career teachers are what are known as the millennial generation—born after 1981. They are joined by well-known people such as Rex Goudie, Heather Strong and Sydney Crosby. The millennials want work that has meaning for them; they need a balanced work/home life, and they see continuous learning as a way of life. All of these things have an impact on the kinds of professional learning activities they are requesting.

Locals are encouraged to ask their new members to fill out a new member survey where they indicate the three PD sessions they would find most useful. Invariably, the results are almost always the same with management issues at the forefront. Early career teachers (as well as mid and late career teachers) are looking for strategies that will help them to better manage their classrooms. Sessions dealing with classroom management offer practical strategies for teachers who face issues ranging from disruptive behaviour to bullying. Workshops addressing issues of time management assist educators in assessing how they may make better use

of their limited time as the demands on their time keep increasing. Seminars on diversity management give members insight into how the changing demographics of our student population is having an impact on today's classroom. Issues relating to culture, race, gender, and sexual orientation are ever-present in our schools and teachers and administrators are looking for ways to make their work sites inclusive of everyone.

To ensure their lives have balance, millennials are increasingly requesting wellness workshops. Not only do they want more time to devote to family and friends (indicative by the number of requests for time management workshops mentioned above), but they also want to learn how to survive the changing workplace. Teacher wellness also includes sessions on stress management, ergonomics, and workplace balance, all of which help educators take better control of both their professional and private lives. Also, given the current economic times, it is not surprising that requests for financial planning are being made by younger teachers. Teachers should plan ahead so as not to reach retirement age only to find out that they are not fully prepared for it. The health and well-being of our younger teachers are vital if



Staff officer Gérard Cormier provides a time management workshop for the teaching staff at Highland Park Junior High School on February 24. The majority of the teachers at this school are beginning teachers, and Cormier is scheduled to present other PD sessions to the group.

they are to remain in the profession for any length of time.

Today's contemporary classrooms are equipped with technology not even heard of not that long ago. Although early career teachers grew up in the digital age, they require continuous professional learning to make optimum use of today's technologies. For some that will mean learning how to use Senteos in the classroom to get immediate student feedback. For others the question is how to best integrate new technologies into the classroom. New technologies also bring new challenges. New teachers

must be made aware of the problems associated with social networking sites, incorrect uses of the Internet, and cyber bullying, just to name a few.

The NSTU wants early career teachers to chart their course for professional development. The 2008-2009 PD offerings brochure outlines the many workshops mentioned in this article along with many others. NSTU staff officers facilitate these sessions free of charge to all NSTU members. Contact the NSTU if you are interested in professional development for your contemporary classroom.

2009 NSTU Equity Conference Educators: Taking PRIDE in Equity

April 24 and 25, 2009

Delta Halifax

ONLY
25 SPACES
LEFT

Registration Fee Includes:

- 2 Breakfasts, 1 lunch
- International Banquet on Friday evening
- Keynote Speakers, Panels, Workshops

Highlights

- Opening Keynote — Scott Brison, MP
- Closing Keynote — Steven Van Zoost, PhD
- International Banquet — Entertainers from Halifax West High School
- Workshops on diversity, homophobia, transphobia, Gay-straight Alliances, and more
- 2 Panels: Overcoming Challenges & Youth in Crisis

Registration Fee: \$150.00

Register with Lise Meunier at 479-4718,
1-800-565-6788 or lmeunier@nstu.ca

Publisher displays and materials will be available



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

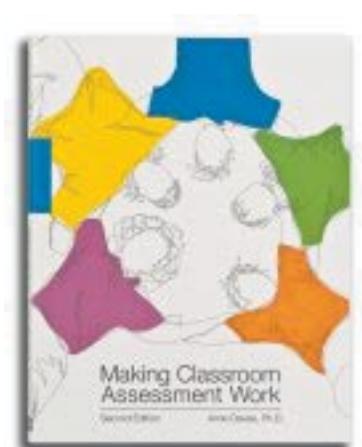


Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by March 27th to be eligible for the draw.

This month's giveaway is Anne Davies' *Making Classroom Assessment Work - 2nd Edition*. Davies will be a featured speaker at the NSELCS's Assessment Summit which will take place August 20 & 21. Read more about this conference you won't want to miss in the advertisement on the back page.

Making Classroom Assessment Work - 2nd Edition provides simple and easy-to-follow steps that lead educators to quality classroom assessment, bridging between what research shows and what teachers can do in their classrooms to prepare students for their lifelong learning journey.

This updated 2007 edition offers more ideas and examples of using assessment for learning to guide instruction and present evidence of success. It provides a guide for teachers to follow, from involving students, parents, and community members in the assessment process to evaluating and reporting progress.

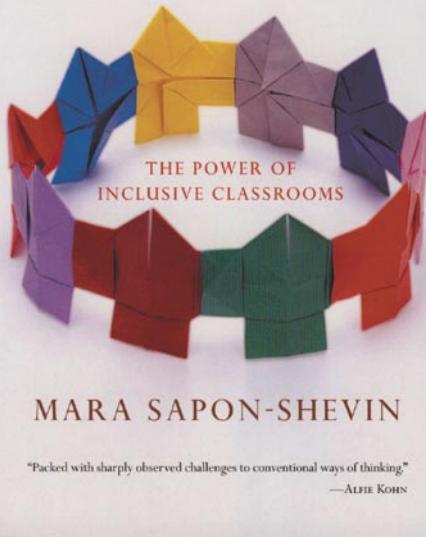


EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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

WIDENING THE CIRCLE



"Packed with sharply observed challenges to conventional ways of thinking."
—ALFIE KOHN

we think about inclusion—essential reading for all educators."

This month's equity book giveaway is *WIDENING THE CIRCLE* written by Mara Sapon-Shevin and published by Beacon Press.

The author breaks this book down into three sections. In the first section, entitled VISION, she imagines what an inclusive classroom looks like and looks at ten lessons to be learned by inclusive education. In the second section, entitled CHALLENGES, she sets forth the answers that are to be given to those who would criticize inclusive education. In the third section, entitled GETTING IT RIGHT/DOING IT WELL, she talks about how to build inclusive classroom communities, how to teach to all, and how to take a stand for social justice.

Kevin K. Kumashiro, director, Centre for Anti-Oppressive Education, says it best when he states, "With a profound vision and a gift for storytelling, Sapon-Shevin challenges and broadens the very ways that

**The winner of the February PD book giveaway
*No Such Thing as a Bad Kid: Understanding and Responding to the Challenging Behaviour of Troubled Children and Youth***
is Kathleen Sampson from
West Hants Middle School in Newport, Hants County.

fresh

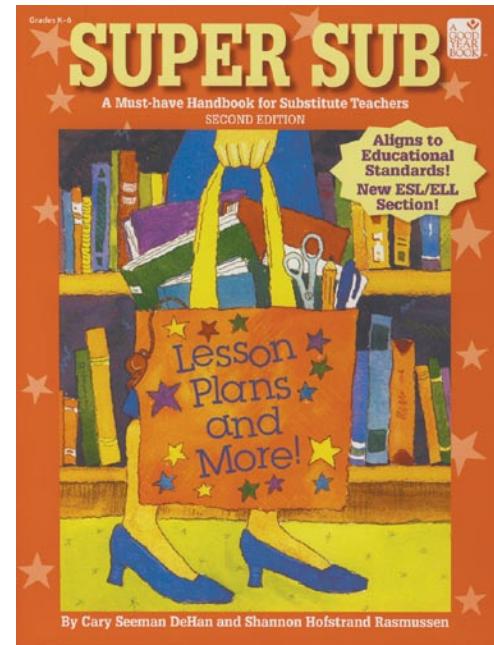
Putting new members in the KNOW!

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

This month's FRESH giveaway is *SUPER SUB: A Must-have handbook for Substitute Teachers*. It is written by Cary Seeman DeHan and Shannon Hofstrand Rasmussen and published by Good Year Books.

Many early career teachers are either substitute teaching themselves or preparing for a substitute teacher, both of which can prove to be very challenging. This resource will help in this area as it provides the following:

- answers, questions and dilemmas that substitute teachers face
- clearly defined lesson plans for every curriculum area
- motivation and classroom management ideas
- a dos and don'ts list
- a 'substitute travellog'
- tips and organizational techniques
- advice on how to prepare for a long-term assignment
- a 'sub kit' list



SUPER SUB addresses the issues that are unique to substitute teaching and gives substitute teachers the tools they need to guarantee a successful day for them and for their students.



Take democracy for a test drive. Then hand the keys over to your students.

Many students hear the word "civics" and nod off. Here's something that will keep them awake. Elections Nova Scotia has created a fun (*no, really*) game to help students from grades 7 to 12 learn about how elections work in Nova Scotia. Students go on-line where they can choose to run as a candidate or exercise their democratic right to vote.

It's a great tool to help you teach them about how our electoral system works. But don't take our word for it, try it yourself!

RUNVOTEWIN.ca

Nova Scotia
Make your mark with the **Election Game**



We Need You to Share Your Expertise!

NSTU STANDING/OTHER COMMITTEES APPLICATION FORM

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

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

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

Standing Committees will be appointed at the Executive Meeting scheduled for AUGUST 10-11, 2009.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN CENTRAL OFFICE BY JUNE 26, 2009

(NOTE EXCEPTION:
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE)

Name:

Prof. Number:

Local:

NSCC Employee Number:

Contact Address:

Postal Code:

Phone: (School/Campus)

(Home)

Fax:

NSTU email:

Present Position:

Grade Level(s):

Subject(s) Taught:

Have you previously applied for or been appointed to any
NSTU standing or *ad hoc* committee? Yes No

If so, when: _____

Are you currently involved in an NSTU New Member program? Yes No

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION (e.g., skills, interests, relevant courses, professional development, or experiences that relate to the committee on which you wish to serve. You may attach additional information to this application.)

List any other areas of interest you may have so we may consider you in the event that *ad hoc* committee work is required:

The NSTU is committed to the promotion of equity and affirmative action. Equity for under-represented groups, i.e., aboriginal persons, racially visible persons, persons with disabilities and women, must be considered in the hiring of staff, secondments, the formation of committees, and the Mentorship and Internship Programs. Should you choose to provide any relevant information, please indicate below:

Individuals planning to retire prior to the expiry of a committee appointment term are encouraged not to apply for that committee. (Prov. Exec. Sept. '94)

Please select AT LEAST ONE committee indicating your preference by inserting 1, 2 or 3 in the box beside the committee(s) for which you wish to apply. (SELECT UP TO THREE ONLY.)

AVAILABLE COMMITTEES INCLUDE:

Please indicate if applying for a one year extension

- APPEALS** - reviews applications for assistance on appeals under Section 36 of the *Education Act* and decides if the appealing teacher is to receive legal assistance from the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.
- COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE** - studies the curriculum and all proposed changes in it as it relates to Acadian schools under the direction of CSAP and reports its findings to the Provincial Executive.
- CURRICULUM** - studies the curriculum of schools and proposed changes and reports the findings and recommendations to the Provincial Executive.
- EQUITY** - is concerned with matters pertaining to the status of women, equity and diversity issues.
- FINANCE & PROPERTY** - prepares the annual budget for Council, keeps informed of the Union's financial position, supervises the payment of accounts, forwards financial statements to Executive meetings, determines the amount of travel expenses to Council and checks every NSTU expenditure and expenditures on property.
- MEMBER SERVICES** - identifies bargainable items; prepares background information related to merits of negotiable items; identifies trends and developments in teacher bargaining across Canada; reviews economic forecasts; considers Council resolutions; plans workshops for REWC negotiators; reviews results of most recent contract bargaining.
- PDAF** - reviews applications for financial assistance to support innovative curriculum projects and awards grants to successful applicants.
- PENSION** - studies pension resolutions and keeps the Executive informed of trends and changes affecting teachers' pensions. **Please see page 3 for details.**
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** - reviews and develops policy programs and ideas intended to improve the effectiveness of teachers as professionals and to advance education through research in Nova Scotian classrooms.
- PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - promotes the involvement in public affairs by encouraging teachers (and others) to take an active part in government affairs pertaining to public education.
- PUBLIC RELATIONS** - examines and plans directions for public relations programs.
- SHEONOROILBOARD OF DIRECTORS** - 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.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** - advises the Provincial Executive on issues affecting and of concern to substitute teachers. **NOTE: Appointments to the Substitute Teacher Committee are made at the October meeting of the Provincial Executive. Therefore, the deadline for receipt of applications to this Committee is October 9, 2009.**
- TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES** - provides a voice, within the NSTU, for teachers with administrative responsibilities.
- I WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE ON ANY COMMITTEE.**

NSTU ACTIVITIES

List below the NSTU Committees on which you have served:

| LOCAL: | REGIONAL: | PROVINCIAL: | DATES | DATES | DATES |
|--------|-----------|-------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | DATES | DATES | DATES |
| | | | | | |

List below the offices you have held at the:

| LOCAL LEVEL: | REGIONAL LEVEL: | PROVINCIAL LEVEL: | DATES | DATES | DATES |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | DATES | DATES | DATES |
| | | | | | |

Applications may be made online or download the form on the members-only site at www.nstu.ca and forward to:

*Nominating Committee, Nova Scotia Teachers Union,
3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7*

While collection of this information conforms with regulations under PIPEDA, please be advised that disclosure of this information is limited to the administration of this organization.

Enter World Teachers' Day poster contest and get a chance to see the Dalai Lama

(CTF News Service – Ottawa) Peace education in the classroom is the backdrop to this year's World Teachers' Day poster contest organized by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), with financial support from Green Street. CTF President Emily Noble invites teachers throughout the country to take part in this second annual poster contest which focuses on the slogan *Peace: Teach it. Live it.* **Deadline for entries is May 1.**

"The winning entry will have his/her concept design realized by a graphic designer for use in posters, electronic media and other materials in support of World Teachers' Day and peace education," explains Noble. "The winning teacher also receives a trip for two to Montreal to attend a public presentation on peace by His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Bell Centre on October 2, 2009 – just days before World Teachers' Day on October 5."

"This contest is an opportunity for teachers in Canada to artistically express their visions of peace education," says Noble. "As peaceful role models, teachers play a pivotal role in helping children and youth create a safe world based on justice and human rights. Peace education is also about building a sustainable environment, protecting it from exploitation and war."

"This year, we've decided to level the playing field by inviting teachers to send in their sketches as well as final camera-ready artwork. All entries must be accompanied by a rationale no longer than one page in support of the sketch or artwork," continues Noble.

Participating teachers must send a HARD COPY of their design sketch or final camera-ready artwork along with name, phone number, email address, and the name of their provincial/ territorial teacher organization to:

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



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

with financial support from Green Street

More information on Peace education and the contest are provided in the promotional flyer found at this link www.ctf-fce.ca/e/events/wtd/2009/flyer2009EN.pdf. October 5th, World Teachers' Day, is an annual celebration of the valuable work of teachers in Canada and around the globe. World Teachers' Day was the brainchild of a former Canadian teacher leader, Norman Goble. First recognized in 1994, World Teachers' Day now profiles the work of over 55 million teachers around the world.



Health Research Competition

Deadline for entries: Friday, April 10, 2009

Encourage your grade five students to find out more about their health by learning about diseases or disorders that could affect them. They could win a tour of Dalhousie Medical School for their whole class. Competition winners get to meet researchers and graduate students while finding out how medical research is done - hands on!

All expenses, including transportation, meals and accommodation, will be paid if required.

MegaSearch™ is a curriculum supplement for Grade Five teaching and learning. It's all about bringing health and science together in a fun and educational way.

All rules and regulations are available in the MegaSearch™ Teacher Resource at www.medicine.dal.ca/megasearch or call (902)494-2756.

REMINDER FOR TEACHERS:

MegaSearch surveys were distributed with this year's edition.

Please return them for a chance to win a \$500 scholastic gift certificate for your school.

Dalhousie Medical School produces MegaSearch™ in partnership with Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation, Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Manulife Financial.



Manulife Financial



The Art of Peace: A Camp for Kids

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

To explore:

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

Who: For ages 8 to 13

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

Where: Saint Mary's University

Robie Street, Halifax, NS

Cost: \$100.00 per session

(\$30.00 extra for extended hours)

Please bring a bag lunch.

Snacks will be provided.

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

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

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

**For more information
or to register, please call**

**1-866-532-0228 (toll-free) or email
info@peacefulschoolsinternational.org**

Register on-line at: <http://peacefulschoolsinternational.org/peacecamp09/peacecamp09.htm>



FUEL DISCOUNT OFFER FOR NSTU MEMBERS!

Save 3 cents per litre on your home heating oil and save 5 cents per litre on your propane fuel costs!

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Terms and conditions apply.]

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

After Hours Telephone Intake, Crisis Counselling and Referral Service

4:30 PM AST to 8:30 AM AST
After Hours, 24 Hour Service
During Weekends and Holidays

During these hours, call:
1-800-268-7708

Provided By:
Health Canada's
Employee Assistance
Services Crisis
Referral Centre



NSTU CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

The 2008 deadlines for candidates' information are **March 27** for the April 15 issue (1st opportunity) and **April 24** for the May 13 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:

- (a) Active campaigning within the Council Chambers other than the normal address to delegates is prohibited. Passive campaign activity within Council Chambers is permitted.
- (b) 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).
- (c) 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;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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*.
- (f) Publicity: Each candidate is permitted to insert in an issue of *The Teacher* prior to Council:
 - (i) one head and shoulder photograph of himself/herself;
 - (ii) biography of personal, educational, and career achievements, of no more than 150 words;
 - (iii) a personally prepared platform of objectives, no more than 600 words in length.
- (g) Items in (f) must be sent to *The Teacher* fifteen (15) working days before publication and these will appear in alphabetical order.
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) Paid advertisements in any medium (press, radio, TV, *The Teacher*) are prohibited.
 - (iii) 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).
- (h) 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:

- (a) Active campaigning within the Council Chambers is prohibited. Passive campaign activity within the Council Chambers is permitted;
- (b) 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).
- (c) Campaign spending by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed \$100. Such expenses are the sole responsibility of the candidate;
- (d) 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;
- (e) 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*.
- (f) Publicity: Each candidate is permitted to insert in an issue of *The Teacher* prior to Council:
 - (a) One head and shoulder photograph of himself/herself;
 - (b) Biography of personal, educational and career achievements, of no more than 150 words;
 - (c) A personally prepared platform of objectives, no more than 300 words in length.
- (g) Items must be sent to *The Teacher* fifteen (15) working days before publication and these will appear in alphabetical order.
- (h) Paid advertisements in any medium (press, radio, TV, *The Teacher*) are prohibited.
- (i) 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).
- (j) 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.

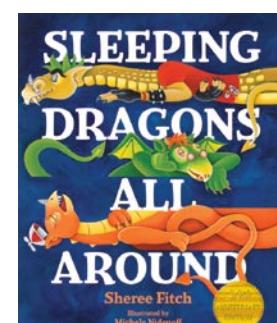
9. GENERAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES - ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CAMPAIGNING

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

- (a) 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.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Active campaigning for election to a position not related to the structure of the NSTU is prohibited.

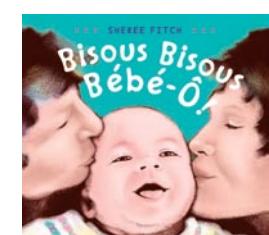
BOOK WINNERS

The winners of Sheree Fitch's *Sleeping Dragons All Around* are: **Kim Emberly** of Redcliff Middle School, **Kendra MacDonald** of Tompkins Memorial Elementary, **Leigha Gouthro** of St. Anne's Elementary, and **Susan Serieys** of Port Williams Elementary.



The winners of Sheree Fitch's *Kisses Kisses Baby-O!* are: **Roberta MacDonald** of Lunenburg Academy, **Susan Crowell** of Chester District School, **Susan MacDonald** of Shipyard Elementary, **Eileen Dwyer-Crane** of Enfield District School, **Mary-Jane Helpard** of Spring Street Academy and **Karla Turnbull** a substitute with the HRSB.

The winners of the French edition *Bisous Bisous Bébé-Ô!* are: **William D. Sampson** of Memorial Composite High School, **Marnie McDonell** of École St. Catherine's School, **Carrie LeBlanc** of Hammonds Plains Consolidated School, **Yvette Despres** of École Joseph-Dugas, **Marcel F. d'Eon** of École Belleville and **Renee deViller** of Meadowfields Community School.



NOTICES

Petroleum Services Association of Canada Scholarships for Students

The Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC) offers five \$1,000 scholarship opportunities to any Canadian student, 25 years of age or under, who is enrolled or planning to enroll in post-secondary education in the next 12 months by means of a random draw. Application forms are available online at www.psac.ca/career-resources/scholarships-a-grants and must be submitted to the PSAC office by **4:30 p.m. on April 24, 2009**. A poster is available at this link: www.psac.ca/images/edfund/2009_scholarship_public_poster.pdf.

Funding is made possible by the PSAC Education Fund which has a goal of creating awareness of career opportunities in the petroleum industry and helping to develop the future workforce. For further information, please visit the PSAC website at www.psac.ca or contact PSAC at (403) 264-4195 or by email at info@psac.ca.

NSGA—raising money for The Gambia and Sierra Leone

The Nova Scotia Gambia Association's (NSGA) fundraising campaign to date has raised just over \$20,000 in donations from individuals across Canada, many of whom are continuing supporters or previous participants in NSGA projects over our 20 years of operation. They are still looking to raise an additional \$40,000 by April 30. This money will trigger matching funds from several of their main institutional donors—funds urgently needed for projects in The Gambia and Sierra Leone. The NSGA is an internationally admired NGO that works in The Gambia and Sierra Leone helping people in these two very poor nations grapple with the most serious health problems of our times: HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and reproductive health. Contributions can be made to: Nova Scotia-Gambia Association, 1574 Argyle Street, Suite 17, Halifax, NS B3J 2B3, www.novascotiagambia.ca/CanadaHelps

Nova Scotia Teachers College Reunion 09, August 14 to 16

The old Nova Scotia Normal College still stands proudly in downtown Truro. For many it holds memories of time filled with friendships, and wonderful learning experiences. Recently a proposal has been put forward by Truro native and well-known actress Lenore Zann to give this building new life. She wants to open a school of the performing arts in the town on the old college site.

"Look at this beautiful old building," she says, "It's over 100 years old, and this was the first teachers' college in Canada and it's part of our Canadian heritage. It is even on a postage stamp. When you go inside, it's all light and airy and it even has classrooms and a stage, with high ceilings and wonderful bones."

Hear Lenore Zann talk about her life and plans and meet with friends at the Nova Scotia Teachers Colleges Annual Reunion '09. Regardless of what year you may have graduated or whether you graduated from the old Normal School, N.S. Normal College or the NS Teachers College, you are invited to attend the 39th annual reunion. Special attention will be given to all the classes that end in '9', but everyone is welcome.

The reunion will be held on the campus of the Community College (former Teach-

ers College) in Truro from August 14 to 16, 2009. Rooms and meals are available at the residence. A block of rooms has been booked at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel. Book before mid-July to get the rate. The Friday evening will be a Pub Night, following guest speaker Lenore Zann. For registration forms or more info contact Rosella MacDonald (902) 736-6315, rosellamacdonald@yahoo.ca or Robert Jordan, rjordan@ca.inter.net or visit www.nsteacherscollege.ca.

Mi'kmaq History Listserv

Elder (Dr.) Daniel N. Paul, C.M., O.N.S. accidentally erased a listserv on Mi'kmaq (First Nations) History set up to send historical information and outstanding news items about First Nations. The list contained the names of more than 100 teachers. If you would like to get your name back on this list or put your name on it, please email Daniel Paul at daniel.paul@ns.sympatico.ca. Visit www.danielnpaul.com for further information.

Deal.org Youth Advisory Committee

Students can make a difference in their community by sharing their ideas and opinions with the RCMP. Deal.org is looking for youth aged 14 to 18 to participate in their 2009-2010 Youth Advisory Committee. All they need to do is spend two to four hours a month on their secure online forum, where they get to answer and discuss questions about issues and problems they face in their school or community (such as cyberbullying, drug use and Internet safety). Gain community service hours while helping shape the RCMP's youth resources and policies. As an added bonus, the most-involved members may get a free trip to Ottawa at the end of the year to meet with the RCMP Commissioner! To join or get more information, visit deal.org's "Get Involved" section and fill out an application form, or email us at: deal-choix@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

School twinning in Sierra Leone update

Nova Scotia teacher Carolyn van Gorp will be returning to Canada from Sierra Leone at the end of April and hopes to complete letter exchanges and joint learning activities before she leaves. If any teachers are planning on sending any more letters and/or if you might be interested in another type of activity with your students like exchanging artwork, online photos and video via the Internet visit cvangorp.googlepages.com/schooltwinningactivities to find out more.

As she winds up the first full year of twinning and planning for next year she's asked some friends to help research the effectiveness of this bi-national peace/global education initiative to help both with planning and with raising funds for continued twinning (now done with no funding in place). Hetty van Gorp, Carolyn's sister conducted two extremely successful workshops with teachers, administrators and community members on alternatives to corporal punishment which have had an immediate positive impact. Information about Hetty's visit is linked from the School Twinning for a Small Planet blog at: <http://cvangorp2.blogspot.com/>.

Peaceful Schools International has set up the "Kawaleh Peace Education Fund" (Kawaleh means "light") to support scholarships for volunteer teachers and students, grants to community schools, peace education, library and bookmobile, students' health needs, and income-generation for volunteer teachers. If your students are thinking about a fund-raising project, please contact Hetty at hvangorp@mail.com for details.

NSTU Course Offering Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure

Purpose

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

Parameters and Time Frame

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

Eligibility

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

Participant Selection

- By the NSTU Provincial Nominating Committee with the approval of the Provincial Executive.
- One participant will be selected from each of the following regions.
 - Annapolis Valley • Cape Breton-Victoria • Chignecto-Central
 - Halifax • South Shore • Strait
 - Tri-County
- Preference will be given to bilingual applicants.
- Names to be submitted to NSTU Central Office by May 29, 2009**

Course Content

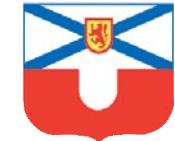
Topics to be addressed are as follows: parliamentary terminology, rules of debate, handling motions, voting methods and presiding tips.

Note

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

Application Form

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



ABU DHABI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (CANADA) IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

We are seeking expressions of interest from Teachers for the areas indicated below:

Pre-School (Kindergartens I and II)

Elementary Grades: (Grades: 01 – 06) all subjects.

Junior / Senior High – English Language, Mathematics, Science (including: Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and Computer Programming (C++)

We are:

- A very well reputable and growing co-educational school operating in a very competitive environment with over 500 students from 35 different countries.
- Accredited by the Nova Scotia Department of Education teaching Nova Scotia Public School Programs (PSP) plus more.
- Awarding successful students a Nova Scotia High School Graduation Diploma.

We offer:

- Tax-free earnings for non-resident Canadian Teachers with a monthly salary not less than Cdn\$3,000.00 .
- A Minimum of 2-year contract.
- A comfortable, furnished one-bedroom apartment (or a shared 2-bedroom apartment, subject to availability) including utilities.
- Annual return airfare to Abu Dhabi, returning end of June.
- An opportunity to teach in a Canadian school in a foreign environment in one of the most beautiful and modern cities in the Middle East.

We require:

- A University degree. (Degrees must be authenticated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates in Ottawa if applicant is selected).
- A Valid Teacher's License – N.S. – TC5 and up (or equivalent).
- A Minimum of 3 years of actual continued teaching experience.
- A Current Canadian Passport.

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

Interested persons are asked to email a C.V., a cover letter and copies of degrees and passports to agsadmin@agsgrmmr.sch.ae or fax the same to: The Principal, on 011 - 9712 - 645 - 4703.

Only selected candidates will be called for interviews.

The drum that sings

Grade 4,5, and 6 students at Shipyard and Mira Road Elementary are singing with drums and learning more about their cultural and musical traditions thanks to their music teacher Donalda Westcott and her PDAF project Seinn an Druma (the drum that sings).

The Seinn an Druma project (pronounced shane an droom-a) is based upon the Gaelic notion of the drum as a means of communication. "It has been designed to address a number of cultural, traditional and musical issues unique to the people of Cape Breton Island," says Westcott. Students are learning how to play the bodhrán, a traditional instrument in the Celtic Instrumentarium. "It is an excellent starting platform for students to become engaged with the traditional music of the Island," she says. "It is easily accessible and provides students with elemental musical experiences."

A bodhrán (pronounced bo-ron) is an Irish folk instrument resembling a large deep tambourine without jingles, played with a wooden beater knobbed at both ends—the tipper. It ranges from 25 to 65 cm (10" to 26") in diameter with a goatskin head tacked to one side. The other side is open-ended for one hand to be placed against the inside of the drum head to control the pitch and timbre. The drums Westcott uses are made in Pakistan. The tippers are maple or rosewood. She also tells her students how they fix the animal skin (goat) head to the drum. "They take the hyde, and take the hair off. On a good skin you can see the heavier skin that covers the spine."

She also reminds her students how to

play it, it gets a hold of you," she says. In her eleventh year of teaching as music specialist Westcott thought about incorporating the bodhrán into her music program after her summer PD a few years ago. "I went to the Gaelic College several years ago and took the bodhrán and piano accompaniment. I was so struck by the bodhrán and played it until my fingers fell off."

She had never done a whole lot of percussion but soon discovered her love of the drum that sings. She took her drum to school and realized some children didn't know what it was, others had never played one. "The younger kids in elementary school had seen Uncle Johnny play it but had not experienced it themselves. So, I took as many classes as I could and got as many people as I could to help." And then came the PDAF grant, which enabled her to purchase 25 bodhráns, music books and CDs.

The CDs expose her students to Cape Breton artists like Mary Jane Lamond, Jerry Holland and the Beaton Family of Mabou. "We talk about jigs and reels. At Mira Road the school has a Gaelic language grant so the Grade 4s and 5s are learning Gaelic." Westcott adds that Seinn an Druma is taught in conjunction with vocal lessons using Gaelic language songs, and basic step dance and square set figures to engage all students.

The thing that's been really rewarding for Westcott is how this program has helped her struggling students. "The kids who struggle with theory and notation—they go to this like ducks to water. They may struggle with formal elements but are willing to take the risks and get immediate pay back." One of her students struggles with maintaining



"The results of this glimpse into our past have opened up a whole new world for my students. Several have gone so far as to register for summer programs at the Gaelic College where they intend to further study the bodhrán as well as other Celtic arts."

She has even seen the effect on the community. "I have had an increased parental presence. Parents are interested and coming into the school to see what we are doing in class. It's encouraging to see the community take a more active role in the music classroom."

The PDAF program encourages innovative program development in Nova Scotia's public schools. Co-sponsored by the NSTU and the Department of Education, with an annual sum of \$200,000, it provides financial support for projects directly related to the Public School Program. For more information visit the members-only side of the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or contact NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin at 1-800-565-6788 or 477-5621 or bjaucin@nstu.ca.



Music teacher Donalda Westcott plays the bodhrán with her Grade 5 Mira Road Elementary students.

hold the tipper. "Remember, hold a tipper like a pencil and drum on your belly button," she tells her Grade 5s as they prepare to play. "Then brush, sweep up and down. It's all in the wrist."

Ironically the bodhrán is traditionally Irish, not Scottish (which is the predominant ancestral heritage of Cape Breton Island). "The Scots took them as well," comments Westcott. "In fact they are more popular now in Cape Breton than Scotland, and are so accepted in the mass culture here."

Westcott, who was born in Truro and grew up in the Valley, is married to a Cape Bretoner and is very passionate about Celtic music and the bodhrán. "Once you start to

focus, "but he shines with the bodhrán. It's wonderful to see."

"There are intricacies to the bodhrán that I won't ever master, but my students can take the basics and make it their own and learn from it and enjoy it," she adds.

Throughout this project Westcott intended to provide students with the opportunity to enhance their appreciation for an understanding of their own Cape Breton roots. "The outcomes have far exceeded our wildest imaginings," she comments. "If they had the chance they would play the bodhrán every day."

Students are also taught about the history of the Bodhrán, along with the basic skills required to play and care for the instrument.



Donalda Westcott's students love playing the bodhrán.

The deadline for the next round of project proposals is April 1, 2009.

Sheonoroil celebrates 10th anniversary



On June 4 the Sheonoroil Foundation will officially celebrate its **10th Anniversary** at a special dinner and silent auction at the Waterfront Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College.

"This dinner will celebrate corporate sponsors, partners and educators who make the Foundation viable for schools, and campuses across Nova Scotia," says Bill Redden, Sheonoroil chair, and NSTU executive director. "It will also highlight some anti-violence projects developed by teachers."

Established in 1999 as an independent foundation to focus on all forms of violence in the public school and Community College education system, the Sheonoroil Foundation extends financial resources to anti-violence programs that have a direct and immediate impact on public school classrooms, students, teachers, staff, administration and community. Project proposals are accepted from active or retired members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, or groups of students working in cooperation with a teacher advisor. "Over the past ten years, we have supported over 90 projects, and will be showcasing some of those at the dinner/silent auction," continues Redden.

In April of 2007 the Foundation launched a first-ever endowment campaign in public schools and Community Colleges with a second public, provincial phase in September of the same year. The objective of the campaign is to supplement long-term funding provided currently by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union Insurance Trustees and Johnson Inc. Monies raised from the **10th Anniversary** dinner and silent auction will be used for the endowment campaign.

"We are eager to showcase our Foundation's achievements and continue to raise funds so we can continue to help schools and Community College campuses assist in the reduction of violence. The generosity of corporations, partners and individuals remains crucial in providing the fiscal resources required to address as many program requests from teachers, schools and campuses as possible," he adds.

Tables of eight for the event cost \$1,500 and since the Sheonoroil Foundation is a registered charity, tax receipts are available for a portion of this price. Silent auction items to raise money for the Sheonoroil Foundation will also be available to delegates at Annual Council May 15 to 17. The word "sheonoroil" (pronounced shenerall) is a modified phonetic Gaelic title describing "peace with honour." If you are interested in finding out more about the Sheonoroil 10th Anniversary Dinner and Silent Auction, please contact Betty-Jean Aucoin at the NSTU at 1-800-565-6788 or email sheonoroil@nsstu.ca.



OVERSEAS SCHOOLS TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES

Are you

- A certified teacher in Nova Scotia
- A new teacher graduate seeking full-time experience
- A retiree still interested in teaching

Why not consider

- Teaching Nova Scotia curriculum in overseas schools
- Seeing the world while working in a rewarding school environment

Teaching/administrative opportunities are available immediately in

- China (High School Program)
- United Arab Emirates (Primary – High School Program)
- Kuwait (Primary – High School Program)
- Egypt (Primary – High School Program)

Compensation includes

- Basic salary
- Return airfare
- Fully furnished apartment (including utilities)
- Meal allowance
- Medical Insurance Plan
- Work Visa

Information sessions available - (all sessions 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.)

- Truro April 16 CCRSB, 60 Lorne St., Truro

This is a rescheduled date. The February 3 date was cancelled due to weather.

For further information contact coveyfp@gov.ns.ca

October conference inspires teacher



Johanne McInnis, music, drama and language teacher at Aldershot School sees great value in the October professional association conferences. "I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in the preparation of our Nova Scotia October Conference. The music and drama workshops have always been an inspiration before our December concerts. Fresh and new ideas are brought to so many teachers working together to make our classes exciting and relevant for our students," she says.

Her inspiration is witnessed in the photo above. It depicts a scene from the school's December play, *Clock Story*, about time, done in shadow theatre. "Time spent with our children is the most precious gift we can give in this 21st century," she says. "These Chinese shadow theatre scenes reflect grandfather, grandmother and grandchildren clocks through our students' body shapes. This warm picture represents chestnuts roasting on an open fire, from *The Christmas Song*."



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met.ubc.ca/ns.htm

coming events

March is...

National Nutrition Month (www.dietitians.ca); Asthma Month (World TB Day March 24) (www.ns.lung.ca); National Epilepsy Awareness Month (www.epilepsys.com); Liver Disease Awareness Month (www.liver.ca); Red Cross Month (www.redcross.ca); Kidney Health Month (www.kidney.ca); Youth Science Festival Month (www.ysf.ca), Engineering Month (www.nem-mng.ca)

MARCH

National Engineering Month 2009

National Engineering Week is now known as National Engineering Month. Taking place under the theme *Design the Future*, the celebration encourages elementary and high school students across the nation to see how, with engineering, they can design an amazing future for all Canadians.

This annual celebration of Canadian engineering excellence allows youth to use their creative skills with math, sciences and technology to see how, as engineers, they can come up with things that were once thought impossible. They discover the important and exciting engineering profession, as well as important elements of being an engineer including ingenuity, teamwork and creativity. The celebration promotes engineering as a career choice and reminds Canadians of the role engineering plays in their daily lives. Activities are scheduled coast-to-coast throughout the month of March. Event listings for each province and territory are available at: www.nem-mng.ca/activities.cfm. For more examples of fun engineering projects, visit www.whyengineering.ca.

MARCH 19 & 31 DEADLINES

Summer School for Young Physicists Einstein Plus Teachers' Workshop

Canada's Perimeter Institute is now accepting applications for free summer science camps for students and teachers with a keen interest in modern physics (all expenses paid within Canada). For students, the application deadline for the *International Summer School for Young Physicists* is Thursday, March 19, 2009. For teachers, the application deadline for the *Einstein Plus Teachers' Workshop* is Tuesday, March 31, 2009. For detailed information regarding these camps please visit www.issyp.ca and www.einsteinplus.ca. Additional information is available online at www.perimeterinstitute.ca.

MARCH 21

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21 is recognized by the United Nations as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. March 21 kicks off the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination from March 21 to 28. The March 21 campaign heightens awareness of the harmful effects of racism and encourages fostering respect, equality and diversity. It has mobilized youth across Canada to rise up and to take a stand against racism. To help stop racism you can plan an activity or project in your school or community and continue to promote the concept throughout the year.

For more information please visit www.cic.gc.ca/march-21-mars/index-eng.asp.

APRIL 7, 16 & 23

The Ultimate Career Fair

On April 7, 16, and 23, Skills Canada - Nova Scotia will host the 12th Annual Nova Scotia Skills Competition & Career Showcase. Apprentices, secondary, and post secondary students will compete in a variety of skilled trade and technology competitions including heavy duty equipment repair, IT software applications, welding, and plumbing.

In addition to visiting the competitions, students are invited from across the province to explore their career options in the highly interactive career showcase. Approximately 800 students are expected to visit the Memorial High School event, 500 are expected to visit the Kingstec Campus event, and 800 students are expected for the Akerley Campus event.

For more information, contact Shannon O'Halloran at 902-424-5193 or

shannono@skillscanada.com or visit <http://skillsns.ednet.ns.ca>.

APRIL 21 TO 25

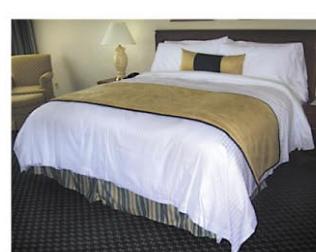
VIEWFINDERS: International Film Festival for Youth, Halifax

ViewFinders Opportunities for Educators

There is still time to book your class for *ViewFinders'* school program, workshop zone or French program, taking place April 21 to 24, 2009, in Halifax as part of the 8th *ViewFinders:* International Film Festival for Youth.

ViewFinders Educator Pack will help you plan your *ViewFinders'* experience. Complete with lesson guides, the Educator Pack will provide everything you will need to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity for all grade levels P to 12, including a full day of French-only programming. Book your class soon and you may qualify for bus funding.

TEACHERS NEED A BREAK TOO



Now members of NSTU can make reservations online.

\$84*

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

Reservations: www.deltahotels.com/nstu


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HALIFAX

1-877-814-7706 (toll free)



Do you have something to say but feel like you're not being heard?
Then what are you waiting for?
READ ON...

deal.org
choix.ca

Calling all students! Do you want to make a difference in your community but don't know how? Well here is a chance to share your ideas and opinions with the RCMP. We want to know what is on your mind! Deal.org is looking for youth aged 14-18 to participate in our 2009-2010 Youth Advisory Committee.

All you need to do is spend 2-4 hours a month on our secure online forum, where you get to answer and discuss questions about issues and problems you may face in your school or community (such as cyberbullying, drug use and internet safety). You can gain community service hours while helping shape the RCMP's youth resources and policies. Plus it will look great on a resume! As an added bonus, the most involved members may get a free trip to Ottawa at the end of the year to meet with the RCMP Commissioner!

To join or get more information, visit deal.org's Get Involved section and fill out an application form, or email us at: deal-choix@rcmp-grc.gc.ca

NSCAD
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2007

VISUAL ARTS CERTIFICATE for Teachers



All Nova Scotia teachers, art specialists and non-art specialist teachers, are welcome to participate in this program. Approved by the Nova Scotia Department of Education, this program meets provincial requirements for one level Advanced Teacher Certification.

Visit www.nscad.ca/cstudies for the program description, requirements and application form.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Division of Continuing Studies:
Email: continuingstudies@nscad.ca
Telephone: 902-494-8185

"Drawing enables me to see."

-Dr. Richard Serra, Convocation Address
Graduation Ceremonies, April 25 2004

Application Deadlines:
March 15 and October 15

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

 **RCMP**
FOUNDATION

Canada

[More on the ViewFinders School Program](#)

FILMS

ViewFinders presents five full days of cinematic excellence from around the world geared towards children and youth Grades P to 12. An Educator Pack accompanies the films and is produced by the *ViewFinders* Teacher Advisory Committee specifically for participating educators.

WORKSHOP ZONE

Filmmakers and multi-media educators from the community facilitate hands-on workshops for students and teachers to learn techniques and applications of animation, live action and digital media. Spaces are limited so sign up early!

FRENCH PROGRAM

ViewFinders offers a full-day of French-only film and workshop programming to the Francophone community and French immersion schools. We are pleased to partner with French for the Future for senior grades again this year.

For booking information, call the *ViewFinders* Box Office at 902-422-6965. For More Information on *ViewFinders* programming check our website [atlanticfilm.com/view](#).

ViewFinders Opportunities for Youth:

Perfect for that film buff, YouTube star, actor or comedian in your class, *ViewFinders* has many opportunities for youth to get creative while learning from some of Atlantic Canada's most prominent film and television professionals.

FILM CHALLENGES

Live action, animation and green screen filmmaking challenges will help your students

explore their creative side for a chance to have their film screened as part of the Festival. **Deadline for entry is Friday, March 27, 2009.**

JUST KIDDING OPEN MIC COMEDY EVENT

Need an outlet for that class clown or aspiring comedian? The Just Kidding! Open Mic comedy event on Saturday, April 18 offers young entertainers and comedians

the chance to get up on stage and perform a stand-up routine, improv or just tell their favourite joke.

THE 48-HOUR FILM PROJECT

The 48-hour film project has youth teams script, storyboard and shoot a real Super 8 movie in 48 hours and then screen it the next weekend to friends, family and fans. Super fast, super fun, Super 8!

(Saturday, April 18 - Sunday, April 19)

MASTER CLASSES

From film and television to music videos and voiceovers, taking scripts to screen and pitching story ideas industry stakeholders, *ViewFinders*' Master Classes provide action packed sessions that give youth the hands-on opportunity to create and have fun while learning from industry professionals!

(Thursday, April 23 - Saturday, April 25)

Parliament of Canada

Ottawa, November 1 to 6, 2009

**TEACHERS INSTITUTE
ON CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
APRIL 30, 2009**

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www.parl.gc.ca/education Educational Programming and Products

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Includes roundtrip airfare from Vancouver, 12 nights accommodation, transfers and daily breakfast.

Two Country Explorer • 14 Days from \$2229*
Includes roundtrip airfare from Vancouver, 9 nights Cook Islands, transfers and daily breakfast, 3 nights Auckland.

New Zealand Self Drive • 14 Days from \$1830*
Includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, 11 nights accommodation, 12 days car rental, discounts, maps and detailed itinerary.



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*Prices are per person, twin share, and do not include US and Foreign Government Taxes and Fees of up to \$350 per person and the September 11th Security Fee of up to \$10 per person.



What Happens To My Benefits When I Retire?

It is approaching the time of year when many teachers will begin to consider or may have already decided to retire from the teaching profession at the end of this school year.

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to ensure that you are aware of exactly what occurs at your retirement with respect to your NSTU Group Insurance Program coverages.

Listed below is a **summary of the coverages that are available to Retired Teachers under the age of 65** and any cost sharing that may be available to you. Also, we have listed a few important items to remember as you consider the coverage you will have at retirement.

Total Care Medical - Total Care Medical continues. Premium paid 100% by Province of Nova Scotia for Single or Family Plan for Retired Teachers in receipt of a NS Teacher's Pension cheque. **Must apply for coverage within 60 days of receipt of first pension cheque. Form included in package from Pension Services.**

Total Care Dental - Total Care Dental continues if enrolled at date of retirement. **Premium paid 100% by teacher.** Deducted monthly from NS Teacher's Pension cheque.

Provincial Master Life & Accidental Death & Dismemberment

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| \$50,000 | Life |
| \$50,000 | AD&D |
| \$3,000 | Dependent Life - Spouse |
| \$1,500 | Dependent Life - Children |
| \$3,000 | Funeral Expense |

Coverage may be continued. **Premium paid 100% by teacher.** Deducted from NS Teacher's Pension cheque. Funeral Expense Benefit is provided by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund, however, you must continue to be insured under the Provincial Master Life.

Optional Life Insurance / Spousal Life Insurance - \$30,000 to \$300,000. Premium paid 100% by teacher. Deducted from NS Teacher's Pension cheque. **Can only continue the coverage in effect prior to retirement.**

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment - \$5,000 to \$300,000.

Premium paid 100% by teacher. Deducted from NS Teacher's Pension cheque. **Can only continue the coverage in effect prior to retirement.**

NSTU MEDOC® Group Travel Plan - Available to all Members. Premium based on age. Deducted monthly from NS Teacher's Pension cheque.

NSTU MEDOC® Trip Cancellation / Interruption Plan - New Plan! Available to all Members. Premium based on age. Deducted monthly from NS Teacher's Pension cheque.

Home / Auto - Coverage continues. Deducted monthly from NS Teacher's Pension cheque.

Teachers Plus Credit Union - Requested amount will be deducted from NS Teacher's Pension cheque.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

PROVINCIAL MASTER LIFE:

Coverage reduces to \$3,000 at age 65, however, you can convert the terminated coverage to an individual policy of insurance. The Funeral Expense benefit ceases at age 65.

Optional Life:

Members can enroll or increase coverage only while you are actively teaching. Optional Life coverage cannot be increased after you retire. Coverage ceases at age 65. Terminated coverage prior to age 65 is eligible for conversion. **If you wish to enroll or increase your coverage before retirement, make sure you start the process before the end of March. This will allow sufficient time for the underwriter to assess your application.**

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment:

Members can enroll or increase coverage only while you are actively teaching. Coverage ceases at age 75. **If you wish to enroll or increase coverage before retirement, make sure you start process before the end of May. Coverage decreases at age 70 to \$100,000 and there is no Permanent Total Disability, Home-Maker Weekly Indemnity or Hospital Indemnity coverage.**

Total Care Medical:

Members must remember to enroll within 60 days of the receipt of your first pension cheque if they are currently enrolled. Prescription drug coverage under the Total Care Medical Program ceases the end of the month prior to you turning age 65. Coverage under the Nova Scotia Seniors' Pharmacare Program commences the first of the month that you become age 65. Therefore, there will be no lapse in prescription drug coverage.

Total Care Dental:

Total Care Dental coverage may be continued into retirement and will cease when the member turns age 75. **Members must be enrolled in the Total Care Dental Program prior to retiring.** For members who have deferred their pension and have not continued their Group Insurance coverage, they have 60 days from receipt of their first NS Teacher's Pension cheque to enroll in the Total Care Medical and Dental Plans.

Summary:

There are many issues to consider as you move toward retirement. As well, there are many benefits available to you to continue through retirement to make your life a bit easier. The Trustees encourage members to ensure that you consider your insurance needs prior to retirement to avoid any surprises after having finished your teaching career. **If you have any questions with respect to your NSTU Group Insurance coverage at retirement, please do not hesitate to contact the Administrator, Johnson Inc. at (902) 453-9543 or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).**

home & auto insurance

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Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. AIR MILES® reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company. At the time the premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium. Contest runs from March 1, 2009 to December 1, 2009. No purchase necessary. Those already insured through the NSTU Johnson Inc. Home and/or auto program are also entered. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Certain conditions may apply. For full contest details visit www.johnson.ca/nstu. *Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund Assurance Company). A.E.02.09

resources

Physical Education Resources from Learning Resources and Technology Services

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

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

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

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

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

These programs are available in VHS and DVD, except where noted. Unless otherwise specified, DVD format will be sent.

Playground Safety (15 min.) Health P-2; Physical Education

Children learn that by acting properly on the playground equipment they will have more fun and reduce injuries. Children learn playground rules—using equipment for its designed purpose, taking turns, what to do when approached by strangers, and what to do if someone is injured.

Fitness for Every Lifestyle (29 min.) Health 10-12; Physical Education

Part of the Journey to Health series, this video relates the importance of fitness to one's quality of life and ability to cope with the demands of everyday living. It also demonstrates new techniques for encouraging the development of physical fitness early in life and explores the components of fitness and a fitness program.

Exercise for Life (21 min.) Health 7-9; Physical Education

This video looks at why regular physical activity is so important, in terms of physical, social, emotional and intellectual health. This program examines the amount of exercise required per day, per week, and the different types of physical activities and organizations that individuals can participate in. The health problems as a result of insufficient levels of physical activity are presented with particular attention to overweight and obesity issues. Nutrition and the importance of good nutrition and a well balanced diet are also detailed.

Hip Hop: Dancing in Your Chair (25 min.) Health P-12; Physical Education

Here's exercise that's easy and fun, and no one has to leave their seat to get into it! An exciting, all-original soundtrack, innovative choreography and dynamic dancers deliver a rhythmic workout that energizes and inspires all ages and abilities. Try these one-minute activities to build strength, flexibility and endurance. Appropriate for all ages.

Roll Play (208 min.) Health P-3; Physical Education

Kids love to pretend, they love stories and they love getting physical. This 13-part series will engage your students in really fun physical education without having to resort to hard to understand, rule laden games. The time length of the individual segments makes them perfectly adaptable to a Quality Daily Fitness program. Although Roll Play is intended primarily as a tool for use in Phys. Ed. classes, there is a Language Arts component to it as well which could easily be incorporated into cross curricular activities. NOTE: Each 16-minute episode bundles 4 x 4 minute segments.

Rainy Day Recess - Primary Grades (11 min.) Health P-3; Physical Education

Enjoy the perfect indoor recess. This exercise program is designed especially for the recess break. This creative workout is divided into three equal parts—"Alphabet Boogie" warm-up, "Recess Rumble" aerobic workout, and "Follow the Leader" cool down. Features rhythmic activities utilizing all muscle groups. These easy-to-use routines are designed to be performed at students' desks.

Rainy Day Recess - Intermediate Grades (12 min.) Health 3-5; Physical Education

Maximize classroom space and have fun with this invigorating program. Students will look forward to bad weather once they've experienced the Geography Jam and other new moves. Get heart rates up to refresh students and prepare them for more learning.

Rainy Day PE (26 min.) Health P-3; Physical Education

It features aerobics to music staying in personal space with "boogie" warm-ups featuring arm movements (clapping, stretching, circling, patty cake, and swimming), body movements (arms moving with hips, trunk twisting, neck twisting), and leg movements (marching, jumping, slow jogging, double jumps, grapevine step, celebration hand jive dance). Also features rhythm activity using lummi sticks to music.

Education Media Library, Brunswick Place, 2nd floor, 2021 Brunswick Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2V5; 902-424-2440 (phone); 902-428-5828 (fax), mediacir@ednet.ns.ca (email) or visit <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

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**NOVA SCOTIA EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM
2009 ASSESSMENT SUMMIT - AUGUST 20 & 21
World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, NS**

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Rick Stiggins is founder and executive director of the ETS Assessment Training Institute in Portland, Oregon. His work has helped teachers and school leaders understand how to use the assessment process and its results to benefit (not merely monitor) student learning. Stiggins believes classroom assessment should serve to promote student success by advancing their learning with enthusiasm so they feel in control and can attain new levels of proficiency: assessment for learning.

Ahead of the Curve, Solution Tree, 2007

Ken O'Connor is an independent consultant on assessment, grading, and reporting. He has been a staff-development presenter and facilitator in 33 states in the U.S., eight provinces in Canada and in seven countries outside North America. He contends that traditional grading promotes a culture of point accumulation instead of learning, encourages competition rather than collaboration and often focuses on activities instead of results. Ken O'Connor uses real school samples to illustrate how you can make grades compatible with the objective of learning for all.

Ahead of the Curve, Solution Tree, 2007

Cassandra Erkens is an independent consultant and recognized leader in education. She is president of Anam Cara Consulting, Inc. in Minnesota and an adjunct faculty member at Hamline University. Her dynamic presentations address hot-button topics, including how to create meaningful, quality assessment and lay the foundation for high-functioning teacher teams.

ASCD Educational Leadership, Dec. 2008/Jan. 2009

Damian Cooper is an independent education consultant who specializes in helping schools and school districts improve their instructional and assessment skills. He has specialized in student assessment for more than 20 years and his expertise in assessment is sought across Canada and internationally. His current work focuses on helping teachers and administrators connect curriculum, instruction and assessment in ways that improve learning for all students. He is in constant demand, both as a consultant and as a dynamic, entertaining speaker.

www.damiancooperassessment.com

Anne Davies, a Canadian leader in the field of classroom assessment, has worked in most Canadian provinces, American states and overseas. She has worked with educators at every level - primary to post-secondary, as well as with parents. Anne is also involved with schools and jurisdictions in multi-year projects, working closely with local educators. This long term connection allows her to help people find assessment for learning solutions that work in specific contexts. As well, through her workshops and webinars she helps educators build the bridge between what the research shows and what teachers can do in their classrooms.

www.Connect2learning.com

DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES MARCH 31, 2009

www.nsclc.ednet.ns.ca

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.

MASSAGE THERAPY - Registered Massage Therapy at Allure. Located up the street from Alderney Landing at 115 Portland St., Dartmouth. Chris Bagnell RMT - 10 years experience. Direct billing for Blue Cross coverage - Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year - no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety and muscle tension. To contact Chris, call 902-464-0606 to book an appointment.

INTERESTED IN A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PROMOTE WORLD PEACE? - CISV Halifax is the perfect match for you! We are looking for dynamic leaders to accompany a delegation of pre-teens to an International Camp this summer, expenses paid. Contact halifax@ca.cisv.org or visit www.cisv.ca for more information.

AVAILABLE - Genny Locke Magical Entertainer presents "THE NO BULLY ZONE PRESENTATION" ideal for school assemblies. Telephone 902-567-0825.

HISTORIC HALIFAX ACCOMMODATIONS - HINS Halifax Heritage House. Enjoy holiday shopping downtown Halifax; waterfront trail, and live theatre. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-422-3863 to book today. 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.

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

JOB EXCHANGE - Tri-County Regional School Board teacher looking for a job exchange with an elementary teacher from the Halifax Regional School Board for the 2009-2010 school year. Six months free rent in gorgeous oceanfront penthouse suite included in exchange. If interested, please email bevanthony@eastlink.ca or call 902-405-0597.

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

JOB-SHARE - Elementary teacher seeking job share with contract teacher for 2009/2010 school year in HRSB. Flexible on days, percent and grade. If

looking for a teacher to job share with, please email karenkempplus2@hotmail.com or call Karen at 902-830-0346.

JOB-SHARE - Experienced guidance counsellor (retired, references) interested in job share (20-35%) in HRM. Carol 902-453-2452; carolpage1@gmail.com.

JOB-SHARE - Looking for a French Immersion job share partner for the Junior High Level in HRM. Current position is FLA, SH, DPS for Grade 9. Me 60%, you 40%. Please contact Nancy at ndibblee@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

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

HOUSE TO SHARE - Respectful, professional, environmentally conscious person to houseshare 5 minutes from NSCC Waterfront Campus, Dartmouth July 2009 - August 2010. Must love cats. Contact evafarma@yahoo.ca; tel: 902-466-0440.

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

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

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

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

FOR SALE - White bathroom sink with cupboard underneath, assembled from Piercy's. 24" w by 18" d by 31" h. \$75.00, picture available. ndelor1@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

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

PEACE and CREATIVITY come together on October 5, 2009



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

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

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

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

Peace: Teach it. Live it.



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

Here's what you do to win:

- Design a poster/image based on the slogan "Peace: Teach it. Live it."
 - Entry must include a hand sketch of graphic elements or it can be a final camera-ready design.
 - Although entries are not required to be final camera-ready products, concept sketches must be clear and easy to understand.
 - Entry must be accompanied by rationale of no longer than one page in support of the design.
 - Send your HARD COPY of the design sketch or final camera-ready design along with your name, phone number, e-mail address, and the name of your provincial/territorial teacher organization* to:
- "2009 World Teachers' Day Poster Contest"
Canadian Teachers' Federation
2490 Don Reid Drive
Ottawa ON K1H 1E1

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

DEADLINE: Friday, May 1, 2009



Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

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