



Contract talks open September 21

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Department of Education will open negotiations on a new Teachers' Provincial Agreement on September 21 at 9:00 a.m. at the NSTU building. Asking Packages from both parties will be exchanged at this initial meeting.

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

As in past negotiations, the parties have agreed to keep their discussions confidential. So a media blackout will be in effect during the negotiation period.

A series of presentations of the Asking Package for NSTU members will take place in various school sites around the province on September 21 and 22.

(See full schedule on page 3). CSANE members are to attend the presentations in the Region where their school is located.

"I encourage all members to try to attend one of these sessions to get first-hand information about the details of our Asking Package," continues Allen.

For further information on these presentations please contact Kate Ingram at kingram@staff.nstu.ca.

The current provincial agreement expired July 31, 2010. This spring Community College members will begin the process of putting together asking packages for the faculty and professional support bargaining units for their next contract, which expires August 31, 2011.

NSTU/ViewFinders continued partnership focuses on school attendance

The NSTU is continuing its partnership with ViewFinders International Film Festival for Youth this school year to create three Public Service Announcements (PSAs) around the theme of the importance of school attendance.



"Student absenteeism continues to be a major concern for the NSTU and its members," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "We're thrilled to be working with local filmmakers, teachers and students to create PSAs to help address the issue."

A New Business resolution to support a ViewFinders camp or similar activity with the theme of "the importance of school attendance," was passed during Annual Council last May.

Last March Break, six teachers and 13 students from across Nova Scotia participated in the NSTU/ViewFinders March Break PSA Camp, funded and supported by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. The aim of the Camp was to provide students with a full video-based curriculum with a focus on commercial marketing. Mentored by top Nova Scotia film industry professionals and facilitated by teachers, the students created three professional 30-second public service announcements (PSAs) with the theme *Teachers Make a Difference*.

Because there is not a common provincial March Break in 2011, this year's camp will take place over three weekends. Tentative dates are November 26 to 28, January 14 to 16, 2011 and January 28 to 30. Look for updates about this program on the NSTU and ViewFinders websites, in *The Teacher* and through the NSTU rep mailings. The application form should be available on the ViewFinders website this month, with a link from the NSTU website.

The 30-second PSAs from the 2010 March Break camp will be broadcast on CBC, CTV, and Global Television as well as the Eastlink listings channel throughout the month of September. To view the videos created during the March Break camp, visit the NSTU website.

Allen elected as a CTF vice-president

Nova Scotia Teachers Union president Alexis Allen was elected vice-president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) on July 16, during CTF's 90th Annual General Meeting, which was held in Edmonton July 14 to 16.

"Issues affecting teachers in Nova Scotia have a national scope," says Allen. "I am looking forward to applying expertise gained here in Nova Scotia and advancing the cause of public education in Canada."

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

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

Starting in the fall of 2010, The Teacher will be published eight (8) times a year from September to June. The November/December and January/February issues will be combined. This change will help streamline The Teacher publication and reduce costs and paper.

For further information
email theteacher@nstu.ca or visit www.nstu.ca



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Colleague:

Welcome back! Hopefully you had a good break and enjoyed our nice summer weather. The start of a new school year is rejuvenating. We are energized and ready to face new challenges, new students and, for some, new courses. Please remember to look after your health and well-being throughout the year.

This summer I attended CONTACT, the PD conference offered by the four Atlantic provinces' teacher organizations, and learned a new term. Instead of *time management* to help us as we struggle with workload issues and deadlines, a more descriptive term is *energy management*. There are only so many hours in a day but **you** are in control of your energy level. Pressures and demands placed upon us require us to step back periodically and assess what we can physically do within the day. Our health and well-being must come first. Also remember that members, new to the profession or to your school/campus or substitutes/auxiliary members may need a friendly face and helping hand. Please reach out and offer support to one another as much as possible.



Our first priority this school year will be to open negotiations on September 21 to seek a new public school teachers' collective agreement, which expired July 31. We will also be seeking input this spring from Community College members to draft asking packages for the two contracts which expire August 2011.

Workload continues to be a concern that we will keep in the forefront of the Department of Education and school boards. We hope the Minister will adopt all or most of the 13 recommendations within the *Promoting Student Engagement* report, dealing with student absenteeism. Also, the Pension Trustees and the Pension Board will continue to monitor our pension plan and timely updates will be distributed to all members.

The NSTU will continue to offer professional development sessions over the coming months. In particular look for a combined Equity/Professional Development/Sheonoroil conference to be held April 7-9, 2011 in Halifax. It will focus on issues of peace, social justice and equity. Review the conference booklet distributed to schools and campuses for our Provincial Professional Development Day on October 22 and register early online. Check out the wide range of materials outlining programs and services for all our members. Call the office at 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788 or visit www.nstu.ca.

Au NSTU nous sommes contents d'être capable d'offrir des services aux francophones. Nous reconnaissons le besoin de faire valoir la langue maternelle de tous nos membres.

If you have an NSTU-related question, please contact your NSTU representative at your school/campus, your Local president, or central office at 477-5621, 1-800-565-6788. I also encourage you to attend at least one Local general meeting and get involved in YOUR Union.

As your NSTU President I am extremely proud to be part of this organization and look forward to continuing to serve you. Again, welcome back and have a great year!

Sincerely,

Alexis
ALEXIS ALLEN

people

NSTU appoints executive staff officer



The NSTU welcomes Simon Wilkin as the newest member of the NSTU executive staff. He was appointed as Executive Staff Officer, Coordinator of Technology and Communications effective August 3, 2010 filling a vacancy created by the pending retirement of Executive Staff Officer, Monica Maloney. He is responsible for coordinating the NSTU's technology initiatives, including the NSTU website, database and virtual research centre. He will coordinate public affairs and communications initiatives; edit the professional magazine, *Aviso*; and also deal with member services inquiries.

Wilkin has been a teacher with the Halifax Regional School Board for the past 13 years, most recently as an Assistive Technology Specialist for the past eight years. He started his career as a physical education teacher at Sackville Heights Elementary and also taught in

elementary classrooms in Dartmouth. He has been very active with the NSTU. Most recently he was a member of the NSTU's provincial executive, serving six years in that capacity. He won in a by-election for a retiring member for the 2004 to 2006 term. He then served two two-year terms. He was also president of the Dartmouth Local from 2002 to 2004.

As a Local president he was the chair of the Metro Regional Council and the Professional Development Committee. While serving on the provincial executive, he served as chair of the Resolutions Committee, was a member of the personnel committee and was provincial executive liaison on both the professional development, and teachers with administrative responsibilities committees.

He holds a B.Sc. in Physical Education from St. Francis Xavier University and a Masters of Education in Curriculum from Mount Saint Vincent University.

Provincial Heritage Fair 2010

NSTU president Alexis Allen was a presenter at the Provincial Heritage Fair, which was held at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on May 28. The back of the museum was transformed into a Nova Scotia Heritage museum as more than



50 student Heritage Fair projects from around the province were displayed. The event included a parade of participants and a display of student-created pennants depicting various communities around the province. Awards for the event included: the Minister of Education Award, Best Maritime History Award and Historians of the Day. Above Allen is shown with Orrie Goucher, a student at Central Kings Rural High School and male historian of the day, whose project focused on the West



Nova Scotia Regiment and its involvement during World War II. She is also shown with Jamie Smith, a student at Maple Grove Education Centre in Yarmouth. She was the female historian of the day and her project was on Augustus Cann, a Yarmouth

County resident who started Minard's Liniment Company, which became one of the largest drug companies in Canada. The Heritage Fairs program encourages students to explore Canadian heritage in a dynamic, hands-on learning environment. Students use the medium of their choice to tell stories about Canadian heroes, legends, milestones, and achievements—and present the results of their research at a public exhibition. Each school board organizes a regional fair, and regional projects are chosen to be showcased at the provincial fair. Provincial fair projects are then chosen to be showcased at the National Heritage Fair which takes place every summer. For more information contact your school board's representative or visit www.HeritageFairs.ca.



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



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

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NSTU members march in Pride Parade



As part of the awareness campaign about sexual minority issues in education, and in its efforts to create safe and caring schools for all students and staff, the NSTU continued its participation in the Halifax Pride Parade, part of Atlantic Canada's largest Pride Festival, which took place July 18 to 24. NSTU members, staff and friends joined NSTU president Alexis Allen and marched in this year's parade on July 24. For the first time in Nova Scotia's history, the gay pride flag was raised at Province House, one of the first kickoff events for the 23rd Pride week in Halifax.

NSTU receives three Golden Leaf Awards

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union was recognized with three Golden Leaf Awards at the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Educational Press Association (CEPA) during its annual meeting on June 14. The AGM takes place during the annual CEPA conference, which this year was hosted by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario in Toronto, Ontario from June 14-16. NSTU's magazine, *Aviso*, and its writers won all three awards. Margaret M. Miles, received an award in the category of Writing: Feature Article for her piece *Understanding Gender Differences—An Educational Perspective* (*Aviso* Fall 2009). David Ritchie received one for his Professional Learning Feature *Six Straws that Might Break Teachers' Backs in 2010* (*Aviso* Winter 2010). Steven Van Zoost won for his Column *So There I Was... On a Métis Trapline* (*Aviso* Winter 2010). This year's awards bring the magazine's total to 52.

The Canadian Educational Press Association has sponsored the Golden Leaf Awards since 1994. CEPA has been providing excellence in educational publishing for over 40 years. It provides a national identity in educational communications, assists members in their professional development, and offers networking opportunities with colleagues across Canada. Members of CEPA work for teacher organizations across Canada as public relations/communications professionals and/or writers, editors and publications managers. Next year's conference will take place in Vancouver, British Columbia hosted by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.



Canadian Educational Press Association
Association canadienne de la presse éducationnelle

Changes to Article 16 of the TPA for labour mobility agreement

Nova Scotia has joined the other provinces and territories in the *Agreement in Internal Trade: Labour Mobility*. The Labour Mobility Agreement stipulates that a teacher certified in a province or territory in Canada will be able to receive certification without any additional course work or assessment in any other province or territory. The provincial executive approved the regulatory changes required to implement this agreement at its meeting in July. These changes apply to all teachers currently holding a Bridging Teacher's Certificate (BTC) and any new teachers from other Canadian jurisdictions who would have received a BTC. Any teacher holding this new, permanent certificate who wishes to upgrade his or her certification level must first complete the certification requirements incumbent on all teachers who do their teacher education here in Nova Scotia. The name for this certification category will remain "Bridging Teacher's Certificate".

To maintain equity with teachers who received their teacher education at Nova Scotia Teachers' College, the NSTU and the Department of Education agreed to delete Article 16.08 of the Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA). Article 16.08 stated:

... a teacher who did not hold either a probationary or permanent contract in the school year 1999-2000 and is hired under a probationary or permanent contract thereafter must obtain the TC-5 certificate level or equivalent by July 31, 2005 in order to continue on a probationary or permanent contract.

This article has been deleted and means that those teachers who hold a TC-4 and are not currently employed under a permanent contract may apply for and be granted a probationary contract.

At its meeting on August 17, 2010, the provincial executive also approved changes to the certification regulations that recognize the new Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Program for certification upgrade.

2010 - 2011 REGIONAL MEETING SCHEDULE PROVINCIAL NEGOTIATIONS ASKING PACKAGE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)



DATE	TIME	LOCAL	LOCATION
September 21	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Dartmouth	Prince Andrew High School - AV Room
September 21	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Halifax City	NSTU Building
September 21	7:00 - 8:45 p.m.	Halifax County	Sackville High Cafeteria
September 21	7:30 - 9:15 p.m.	Lunenburg	Park View Education Centre
September 21	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Annapolis	Bridgetown Elementary
September 21	7:30 - 9:15 p.m.	Hants West-Kings	Wolfville School
September 21	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Pictou	New Glasgow Junior High - Multi-purpose Room
September 21	7:30 - 9:15 p.m.	Colchester-East Hants	Cobequid Educational Centre
September 21	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Yarmouth	Meadowfields Community School
September 21	7:00 - 8:45 p.m.	Digby	Digby Elementary
September 22	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Antigonish-Guysborough	St. Andrew Junior School - Multi-purpose Room
September 22	7:00 - 8:45 p.m.	Inverness-Richmond	Community College - Nautical School Auditorium
September 22	4:15 - 6:00 p.m.	Cumberland	Amherst Regional High - Room 129
September 22	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Cape Breton	Malcolm Munroe Junior High
September 22	7:00 - 8:45 p.m.	Northside-Victoria	Memorial High School - Lecture Theatre
September 22	4:00 - 5:45 p.m.	Shelburne	Hillcrest Academy
September 22	7:00 - 8:45 p.m.	Queens	Liverpool Regional High School

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by Jennifer Finlayson
NSTU EIP MANAGER O.T. REG. (NS)

It's the middle of August, and after a wonderful, relaxing, enjoyable summer holiday, school begins to creep back into your mind. The transition from no school to full steam ahead can be challenging. Whether you have been teaching one year or 30 years, September is always a busy, hectic and usually stressful time of year. The change of pace often wreaks havoc on your system—physically, mentally and emotionally. How do you hang on to that rested, relaxed feeling and positive state of mind you had during the summer? How do you make it through September, not just by the skin of your teeth, but with flying colours?

To start, keep up with your healthy, well-balanced routines. Try not to let school run your life. Instead, find time for those activities you enjoy, whether it be reading, walking, or keeping in touch with friends. The summer leaves extra time to include such leisure activities, but they are just as important, if not more so, when you add school and heavy workloads to the mix. It is essential to find ways to renew your energy throughout the school day, week and year to keep up the pace, and stay healthy. It doesn't have to take a lot of time. So be creative and find something that is meaningful and enjoyable for you:

... *Take a micropause: think of something funny, stretch your muscles or take a deep breath;*

... *Take a mini-vacation: read a chapter in a book, call a friend or have a cup of tea;*

... *Schedule an activity: go for a walk, visit with friends, or take a hot bath.*

Balance is an ideal you can strive for any time of year, but do you really know what it looks like when you achieve it—if you achieve it? Instead consider your personal values and strengths. Take time to think about your strengths, what is important to you, what you value. Strive to align your life with these same values, so your life holds meaning and equilibrium. That is when you will find the greatest satisfaction in your life, whether or not the scale is balanced.

When the demands on your body go from zero to 60 in a matter of hours, it becomes even more important to care for it by feeding it well, maintaining a healthy routine of activity, and getting enough rest.

Nutrition: Remember eating breakfast improves mood, memory, energy and overall daytime performance. Make your energy last by eating complex carbohydrates including whole grains and go easy on simple sugars and caffeine which provide short term energy blasts. Drink two litres or eight cups of water daily and eat small frequent meals to keep your energy going. Aim for at least two of the four food groups when choosing snacks. Making time to eat healthily can help you through your busy day.

Physical activity: Exercise is not only good for your body, but your brain also benefits. Even during busy times of year, incorporate activities you enjoy into your daily routine. Physical activity and exercise does not necessarily mean going to the gym. If you find an activity you enjoy, you will feel motivated to do it and it may not even feel like exercise. Ensure you participate in activity that is appropriate to your fitness level and current level of health. If it has been years since you exercised, participate in a graduated exercise program, and consult your doctor if you have any specific health concerns.

Sleep and rest: Sleep nights are individualistic. Although eight hours is considered the norm, some people require more and others less. The right amount can be judged based on your daytime performance—that is, how much you need to be alert and active throughout the day. Rest throughout the day is also important. If you feel your energy draining, try taking a few minutes to sit at your desk, or just be in the moment. This may be enough to refocus your attention and reclaim your energy to proceed with the rest of your day.

When school begins, the physical demands on your body also increase. You must set up your classroom, stand for hours, and sit at a desk with less freedom to move around. How will your body adjust? The implications of lifting, reaching, moving for set-up and sustaining prolonged postures during the rest of the year will be fewer if you have proper posture and use good body mechanics.

Proper sitting posture: Your head should be directly over shoulders which should be over your hips. Your neck is relaxed and your shoulders down, back and relaxed. Sit with your back upright and supported at the lower back curve. When typing, your keyboard should

be at about elbow height, and slightly higher for any handwritten work on your desk. Your knees are best positioned with a 90 degree angle, at the same level as your hips and your feet firmly planted on the ground or a footrest. Take periodic breaks from sitting to stretch your muscles and get your blood flowing.

Proper standing posture: In standing, you want to maintain the natural “S” curve of spine. Straighten your shoulders, pull in your chin, tighten your abdominals—and tuck in your buttocks. Keep your knees soft and avoid locking your joints. Try not to stand in one spot—instead move around or alternate between standing, walking and sitting whenever possible.

Proper lifting technique: You should first size up the load. Test it to see if you can lift it safely. Can you grasp it securely? Good handholds (cut-outs, handles) will make the load easier to lift. Make sure the load is balanced in your hands. Get as close to the load as possible before lifting it. If possible, slide the load towards you before picking it up. Do not twist while lifting! Instead, move your feet so that they point in the direction of the lift as you turn. Lift smoothly and do not jerk the load. Organize the work so as to avoid lifting from the floor or above shoulder level. Items to be handled should be between knee and shoulder height to allow you to keep your spine straight. Keep the

load as close to your body as possible. Carrying a heavy object at arm's length makes it **ten times** heavier than the actual weight. If necessary, ask another person to help you. If you have a lot of lifting to do during the day, try not to do it all at once. Alternate lifting tasks with lighter work to give your body a chance to recover.

All in all, the success of your September and your fitness—mentally, physically and emotionally—for the rest of the school year rests in your hands. You have the power to make choices that will improve your health and help you deal with the stressors and demands which are inherent in your teaching career. If you have difficulty finding what works for you, in your routine, or with your values and strengths, seek support. Contact the Early Intervention Program at the NSTU for more information.



Professional Associations help roll out Gifted Education and Talent Development Guide

NSTU professional associations are participating in the first phase of the rollout of the Department of Education's Gifted Education and Talent Development Guide for Teachers. The new guide, scheduled to be released by the Department of Education in October, provides programming for students with gifts and talents, that require extended challenges to meet their full potential.



Above are representatives from NSTU's professional associations attending a training session on the Gifted Education and Talent Development Guide at the Dartmouth Teachers' Centre on June 2.

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.



Leadership development 2010



CTF president Mary-Lou Donnelly opens the Leadership Development Conference.

One-hundred and eighty-five Local leaders, provincial executive members and professional association presidents came together at St. Francis Xavier University's Millennium Centre August 17 to 19 to network, expand their knowledge of the NSTU and develop leadership skills at the sixth annual NSTU Leadership Development Conference.

"Each year I am impressed with the dedication and commitment of our leaders and your willingness to continue to develop professionally to better serve our members," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

Canadian Teachers' Federation president Mary-Lou Donnelly (former NSTU president 2000-2004) opened the conference with her keynote address, *Teacher Unions of the 21st Century*.

She outlined some provincial, national and international trends that teacher organizations need to be cognizant of to thrive and survive during this century. "Trends on an international level, although not seemingly so when we are in our classrooms, definitely have an impact on our classrooms," she says.

She warned of over emphasis on accountability. "Educational jurisdictions that emphasize accountability tend to diminish the professional role teachers play in the delivery of education. This devaluation is especially ironic given that teachers are now better educated than at any time in the past."

She also discussed the newest OECD survey, the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS). This survey looks at key issues affecting the work of secondary school teachers. "Education International argues the TALIS findings, with regard to teacher appraisal and feedback in particular, could be used to strengthen the argument for crafting systems of performance-based pay for teachers."

Moreover it could get linked to PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment, an internationally standardized assessment administered to 15-year-olds in schools). "Could individual teachers be evaluated according to how well their students perform in PISA-type assessments?" she asks.

The *Race to the Top* program in the U.S.—which provides funding for education reform like expansion of charter schools and aggressive intervention for schools with low test scores (including firing of teachers)—has given new life to the concept of merit pay tied to test results, she says.

NSTU Provincial Executive MEETING DATES

2010

- September 24-25
- October 28
- December 3-4

2011

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



[continued from page 4]

The Gifted Education and Talent Development Document Committee is planning to release the document in three phases to teachers in Nova Scotia. "It is our hope that through each phase, teachers are given the opportunity to learn the document's content, implications for the classroom as well as strategies to support students within their subject areas," says NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU's representative on the committee.

"Since professional associations are leaders in professional development for teachers, we wanted to involve them in the first phase of the rollout," continues Aucoin. Professional Associations were asked to consider offering one or more workshops specialized for their particular association introducing the content and process of the new guide as part of the 2010 Provincial Conference Day on October 22. Interested Professional Associations recommended a member of their Association to be a facilitator. Representatives from 12 Professional Associations participated in a training session on June 2. Another session is scheduled for October 1.

As part of the training, participants were given a core presentation on the new Guide to support them in tailoring the workshop to their specific curriculum area.

Aucoin, along with Cindy Tully, Facilitator, Alternative Programming with the Halifax Regional School Board, Meredith Greene, Consultant of Success Planning for the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board and Daniel Demers, Special Education Consultant with the Department of Education comprise the Gifted Education and Talent Development Document Committee. The committee's mandate is to roll out and support teachers with the new Guide.

Teachers interested in learning more about the new Gifted Education and Talent Development Guide can attend a workshop at one of the following Professional Associations conferences on October 22: Association of Adult Educators (AAE), Association of Science Teachers (AST), Association of Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC), Association of Teachers of English of Nova Scotia (ATENS), Association of Teachers of Young Adults (ATYA), Educational Drama Association of Nova Scotia (EDANS), Family Studies Teachers Association (FSTA), Mathematics Teachers Association (MTA), Nova Scotia Language Teachers Association (NSLTA), Nova Scotia Technology Education Association (NSTEA), Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA), and the Social Studies Teachers Association (SSTA).

Other issues teacher unions of the 21st century will have to tackle include continued ranking of schools, changing demographics of the Canadian population and teacher demographics and declining enrollment.

Going forward Donnelly talked about the opportunity for teacher organizations. "Discussion about the future direction of teacher unions is very much a part of a larger discussion about the future of teaching and learning in Canada, and our role and capacity as teachers' organizations to reclaim and shape this discussion in the interest of optimizing learning and development of all children and youth."



NSTU members read *The Teacher* in a benefits of membership workshop that focused on the professional development opportunities available for NSTU members. Sandra Mitchell (Lunenburg County Local) and Susan Larivière-Jenkins (CSANE) are shown.

She encouraged the audience to not be complacent, borrowing from JFK. "Ask not what your Union can do for you, ask what you can do for your Union."

On August 18 and 19, NSTU leaders were offered 17 different concurrent sessions that focused on three streams, *Organization of Meetings*, *Unloading Your Cart* and *Benefits of Membership*. These workshops included: Death by Meeting; Communication in the 21st Century; BODY: Taking Care of your health, your stress, your life; HEART: Reviving your passion in Teaching and Leadership; Legislative /Contractual Framework of the NSTU; and Pension Overview.

[continued on page 9]

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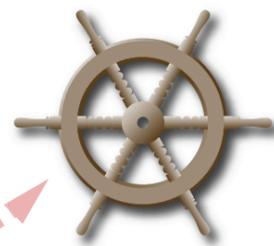
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Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Demystifying Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment

BY ANGELA MURRAY, NSTU PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Since no two children are alike, and no two children learn the same way, an enriched environment for one student is not necessarily enriched for another. This is why it is so important to appreciate and embrace differentiation of instruction and assessment. NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin demystified this concept in late February for NSTU members from the Inverness Local.

At the beginning of the 2009-10 school year, Lauchie MacKinnon, vice president of professional development for the Inverness Local, surveyed his members on topics relevant to their specific professional learning needs. Differentiated instruction and assessment was the number one choice.

Aucoin notes that it is important that all students work with respectful and engaging tasks. She reminds participants that differentiation of teaching is easier when the content, activities and products are based on clear concepts, generalizations and skills rather than on coverage of everything in a text.

"If our learning style matches our student, that's easy, but your preferred style of learning and teaching will not match every student's. So, it's important to include other learning styles throughout a unit."

Through this session she wants teachers to *Know, Understand and Do—KUD*. "The outcome for the workshop is to know the concept of differentiation, understand the steps toward responding to the differentiated classroom and reflect on two areas to work on in supporting such a classroom."

Aucoin reminds participants that, "Students should be the hardest workers in the classroom, focused on achieving the outcomes—not the teachers—you've already got two or more degrees." She stresses that a balance of student-selected and teacher-selected tasks is important when differentiating learning and assessment. Giving students responsibility for their learning fosters independence—an

important learning goal on its own.

She also outlines what differentiated instruction is not. "Teachers, remember differentiated instruction is not a recipe or formula, a new idea in education or incompatible with certain subject areas."

Using what she calls "low tech Senteos®" index cards of red, green and yellow, Aucoin demonstrates something all teachers can use in their classrooms in trying to ascertain if their teaching is being understood. "If your students are flashing too many red cards, when asked if they understand the concept you are teaching, it's time to stop, back up and re-focus on that particular concept or outcome. If there are a lot of green cards, you can go and move on to the next concept. However once the group is engaged you can now work with those students who have questions—yellow cards, or those with red who did not understand." She encourages teachers to use this method when teaching new concepts or reviewing concepts taught. It is also important to discuss the various classroom procedures and group processes you are using with students. They will then understand your expectations and rationale for certain procedures and groupings.

Aucoin outlines the building blocks of differentiated instruction as noted in Carol Tomlinson's research: own the student; varied avenues for learning; flexible classroom routines; assessment to inform instruction; shared responsibility for teaching and learning; building community and teach up. "Teach up, don't teach down giving students a crayola curriculum; remember that writing, reading and numeracy are the critical skills to teach all students," she adds. "It is important to be aware of students' readiness in reading comprehension and complex reasoning and provide them with tasks that are respectful of this readiness."

When talking about differentiated assessment, Aucoin provides the Latin term for assess, which literally means to sit beside, she says. "When we assess for



Clockwise from the left are some of the 27 teachers who attended the Differentiation of Instruction and Assessment workshop held at Dalbrae Academy on February 16, 2009: Jessalyn MacLellan (Inverness Academy), Margaret Coady (Bayview Education Centre), Monika MacLennan and Betsy Jardine (Whycocomagh Education Centre), and Lorna MacDonald (Inverness Education Centre).

learning, we need to use class time to sit beside our students supporting them in achieving concepts and skills taught." The analogy she uses to differentiate between Assessment for Learning and Assessment of Learning helps to simplify the concept. "Think of the drama teacher and the rehearsals that take place for months in preparation for opening night—the blocking, the learning of lines, the development of sets and costumes—that's Assessment for Learning. Opening night—the play must go on without on stage assistance—that's Assessment of Learning."

She ends the presentation with a quote from Carol Tomlinson, the author of *The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of all Learners* and *Fulfilling the Promise of the Differentiated Classroom*. "Differentiated Instruction is responsive instruction. It occurs as

teacher become increasingly proficient in understanding their students as individuals, increasingly comfortable with the meaning and structure of the disciplines they teach, and increasingly expert at teaching flexibility in order to match instruction to student need with the goal of maximizing the potential of each learner in a given area."

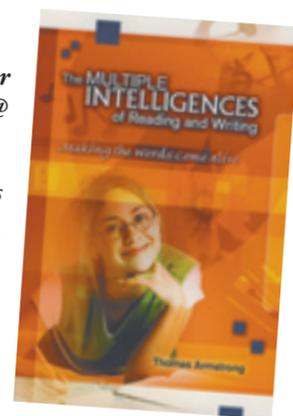
Throughout this workshop Aucoin uses differentiated instruction and assessment to demonstrate and model the very concepts she is exploring with participants. Teachers are provided with Monday relevant strategies for procedures, teaching, grouping and assessment, which they can take back to their classrooms.

For more information about this workshop and the many other PD workshop offerings of the NSTU, contact Gail Doucette at gdoucette@nstu.ca.



Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 12 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's PD give away is *The Multiple Intelligences of Reading and Writing* by Thomas Armstrong. The book will appeal to all educators who work in supporting the development of reading and writing skills at all levels. This book combines research of Howard Gardner and recent brain research on reading and writing. Thomas showcases how educators can engage students by infusing the study or words with imagery, logic, physical activity, emotion, music, social involvement and nature experiences.



Take Me Outside Week September 20-26, 2010

Doing something with your class in the outdoors during Take Me Outside Week? Register your class (in the family/small group category).

Take Me Outside Week supports families, groups and organizations in Nova Scotia in a growing "back to nature" movement, inviting more children and youth into the great outdoors. Register your activities and events to help us track the movement and to win prizes!

www.takemeoutsideweek.ca

A partnership of: With support from:



The June winner of the PD book
21ST CENTURY COMMUNITIES

Edited by NSTU member Steven Van Zoost, PhD

is **COLLEEN SCOTT**
of Barrington Municipal High School

Sheonorail project creates connections for the future

Grade 4 students from Ocean View Elementary and Nelson Whynder Elementary are making connections and building relationships long before they attend the same high school together, thanks to the Sheonorail Foundation.

Last January, Tracey White, principal of Ocean View Elementary received a \$2,000 grant from the Sheonorail Foundation for the project *Cole Harbour High Class of 2017- Building Bridges for the Future*. "It is a joint venture with Nelson Whynder, where students who will be going to Cole Harbour High together are getting to know each other now and have opportunities to get together to see if it helps with their high school relationships." White is the project manager, and she worked very closely with Ruth Bond, principal of Nelson Whynder Elementary School. The *Building Bridges* project also received \$1,500 from the South Eastern Community Health Board.

Twenty Grade 4 students from each school were matched up, and came together for several activities to get to know each other in non-threatening and fun ways. "These connections will hopefully continue until they reach high school."

In January at Cole Harbour Place, students met their partners for the first time, interviewed them about themselves and their community, then went for a swim. The February meeting took place at the Black Cultural Centre in Cherry Brook. Students from Nelson Whynder shared information about their community and both groups enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Henry Bishop, curator of the Centre.

White says the best thing about the project for the students was making new friends. "A lot of students didn't know where the other schools were," comments White. "The students from Ocean View had never been to North Preston and the students from Nelson Whynder had driven through the Ocean View school community, but didn't know the school was on the ocean. They learned about each others' cultures and communities, and really liked hanging out."

One student commented "We never get to meet any other students from other schools until we are in high school, and we don't know them." But, through the *Building Bridges* project they now will.

Monthly excursions continued until the end of the school year. Students visited both schools and "job shadowed" their partners by attending all classes together. Even the principals of both schools participated in the same activity. Each excursion involved sharing snacks and socializing. One excursion involved the students going to Fishermen's Cove. "The Nelson Whynder students were happy to bring back sand and sea shells from that trip," says White.

It was a positive experience for students. "They really enjoyed sharing a meal together and want it to continue." Another student commented that, "We learned that making friends is a very good thing for us."

"My hope is that what we started this year will continue," adds White. "Both groups of students want it to continue." The Ocean View Grade 4 students have moved on to Seaside Elementary for Grade 5, and then they will attend Eastern Passage Education Centre (EPEC) for junior high. The Nelson Whynder students will stay at their school until the end of Grade 6 and then go to Ross Road School for their junior high years before high school. The guidance counsellor at Seaside is also the counsellor at EPEC, so White anticipates that through this connection the program will continue in some shape or form. "I'm hoping that the guidance counsellor will help to collaborate meetings with the Grade 5 teachers." She admits it will be more difficult to manage, but the students have already expressed other outings they would like to try, like bowling and visiting Citadel Hill. The Nelson Whynder students would also have an opportunity to see a new school.



Above are some of the students from Ocean View and Nelson Whynder Elementary Schools who participated in the *Building Bridges* project.

White is assured that the students will stay in touch. "They have each other's emails and have "friended" each other on Facebook, and during the process we also did some pen pal writing." She's also very pleased with the results of the project. "We wanted them to learn about each other, not just the community they come from. And in the end they were just kids wanting to know about each other, interested in things kids their age care about." Quite a few of the students wrote about their experiences and one Ocean View student won a school peace award for his writing about the project.

At the final get-together, a wrap-up meal on June 15 back at Cole Harbour Place, students evaluated their experience by answering questions like: What did you know about North Preston/Eastern Passage and Nelson Whynder/Ocean View School before participating in this project? Have your ideas changed over the past six months? Why or why not? Did this project help ease your fears about attending high school at Cole Harbour High in Grade 10?

The deadline for the next call for proposals for the Sheonorail Foundation granting is November 12. The arms-length charitable agency funds school and campus-based projects directed at reducing violence and promoting peace initiatives.

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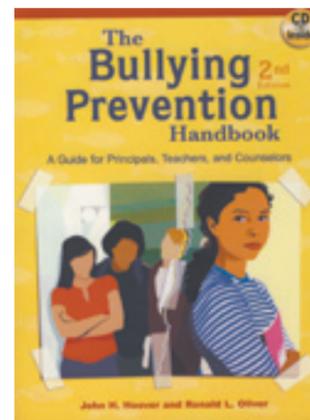
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fresh

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 October 12 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's FRESH giveaway is *The Bullying Prevention Handbook: A Guide for Principals, Teachers, and Counselors (2nd Edition)* by John H. Hoover and Ronald L. Oliver. A Solution Tree Press publication, this handbook offers a comprehensive vision for preventing bullying, working with bullies and their victims, and fostering a school climate in which respect and caring are the norm. This edition includes material appropriate to high school as well as middle school, and new chapters on cyber-bullying; bullying of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students; and the importance of bringing a multicultural perspective to anti-bullying work.



WE NEED YOU TO SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

We require a **RETIRED MEMBER** to complete a term on the Sheonorail Board of Directors
(Note: Term to expire July 31, 2012)

The Sheonorail 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, the governing body of the Foundation, develops policy, mandates initiatives and approves project funding.



Download the NSTU Standing/Other Committees Application Form from the NSTU WEBSITE or APPLY ONLINE by:

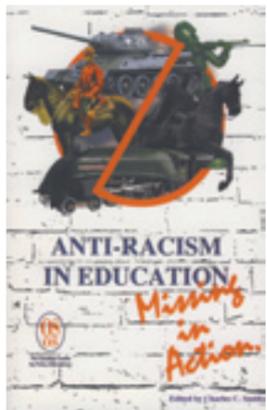
- ==> ENTERING THE MEMBERS-ONLY WEBSITE
- ==> SELECTING "Union Affairs" FROM THE DROP-DOWN MENU
- ==> SELECTING "Committees" FROM THE DROP-DOWN MENU
- ==> OPENING "Committee Appointments" FROM THE LEFT-HAND MENU

Nominating Committee, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Dr., Halifax, NS B3M 3K5
Phone 477-5621 / 1(800)565-6788 / Fax 477-3517
Email centraloffice@nstu.ca

The Nominating Committee will be accepting applications until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 17, 2010.

EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with **EQUITY** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by October 12 to be eligible for the draw.



This month's equity book giveaway is *Anti-Racism in Education: Missing in Action*, edited by Charles C. Smith. It's from the quarterly series Our Schools/Our Selves, published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. It addresses needs across the educational spectrum, from primary school up to and including university, and addresses the link to our workplaces and to ongoing issues of societal and institutional racism. It also looks at the relationship between education and other systems in which racialized and Aboriginal peoples face ongoing challenges.



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION

2010 - 2011 COMMITTEES



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

With the exception of the Resolutions Committee, the following list does not contain committees appointed at Annual Council or those members serving on external committees. This list is current as of August 25, 2010.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATIVE

FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Dave Jones, Chair, Secretary-Treasurer; **Curt Crane**, Colchester-East Hants (2011); **Grant MacQuarrie**, Kings (2012); **Keri Butler**, Halifax City (2012); **Jed Corbett**, Executive Member liaison; **Melanie Hartling**, NSTU Financial Officer; **Maureen Smith**, NSTU Business Manager; NSTU Executive Director **Bill Redden**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

Sue Hannem, Chair; **Bobbie Archer**, **Bill Bruhm**, **Pat Hillier**, **Vince Gillis** and NSTU Executive Director **Bill Redden**

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (EXECUTIVE MEMBERS)

Alison MacPherson, Chair; **Marlene Boyd**, **Gerry Alley**, **Jed Corbett** and NSTU Executive Director **Bill Redden**

PROGRAM

COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE

Denise d'Entremont, Chair, (2011); **Nadine Doiron**, (2011) one-year extension; **Sonia Parisé LeBlanc**, (2012); **Sophie Pedneault** (2012); **Melissa Whelton** (2012); **Ian Comeau**, Executive Member liaison; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

Grant Dunn, Chair, Annapolis (2011); **Ernestine Oakley**, Halifax County (2011); **Dayna Enguehard**, Cape Breton District (2011); **Debbie Davis-Maybee**, Colchester-East Hants (2011) one-year term replacement; **Stephane Richard**, CSANE (2012); **Nathan Orman**, Shelburne (2012); **Brenda Zwicker**, Lunenburg County (2012); **Brenda Butler**, Executive Member liaison; **Ron Brunton**, NSTU staff liaison

EQUITY

Tanya DeViller, Chair, Yarmouth (2011); **Chris Weeks**, Cumberland (2011); **Mary McLeod**, Cape Breton District (2012); **Daniel Blinn**, Dartmouth (2012); **Bev Roy**, Kings (2012); **Jenn Laudadio**, Antigonish (2012); **John MacKay**, Executive Member liaison; **Gérard Cormier**, NSTU staff liaison

MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Eric Boutilier, Chair (1st vice-president); **Mary Currie**, APSEA (2011) one-year extension; **Wally Fiander**, Yarmouth (2011); **Dean Marchand**, Guysborough County (2011); **Judy Jackson**, Northside-Victoria (2011); **Tim MacLeod**, Halifax County (2011); **John Driscoll**, Community College (2012); **Damian Hall**, Executive Member liaison; **Janine Kerr**, NSTU staff liaison

PENSION COMMITTEE

Glynda Wimmer, Chair, Lunenburg County (2011); **Betty Anne McGinnis**, Hants West (2011); **Donalda Westcott**, Cape Breton District (2012); **Jackie Rankin**, Inverness (2012); **Calvin Peters**, Halifax County (2013); **Kevin Farrell**, Colchester-East Hants (2013); **Albert Johnson**, RTO Representative; **Vince Gillis**, Executive Member liaison; **Joan Ling** and **Allan MacLean**, NSTU staff liaisons

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dan Stephenson, Chair, Colchester-East Hants (2011); **Angela Deagle**, Inverness (2011); **Leon Swinkels**, Halifax County (2011); **Jill Burton**, Richmond (2012); **Krista Moore**, Digby (2012); **Jaylene Chase**, Lunenburg County (2012); **Sue Hannem**, Executive Member liaison; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Susan Noiles, Chair, Halifax County (2011); **Debbie McVeigh**, Community College (2011); **Redmond MacDougall**, Cape Breton District (2011); **Graham MacLeod**, Cape Breton District

(2012); **Deborah Mitchell**, Lunenburg County (2012); **Mark Savoury**, **Allister Wadden**, and **Paul Betuik**, Executive Member liaisons; **Simon Wilkin**, NSTU staff liaison

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Charyl O'Quinn-Wetzel, Chair, Dartmouth (2011); **Garland Standing**, Northside-Victoria (2012); **Wade Van Snick**, Cumberland (2012); **Mark MacPhee**, Halifax County (2013); **Ian Comeau**, Executive Member liaison; **Angela Murray** and **Simon Wilkin**, NSTU staff liaisons

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER COMMITTEE

Gerry Alley, Executive Member liaison; **Grant MacLean**, NSTU Staff liaison
To be appointed October 2010.

TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Terry Doucette, Chair, Queens (2011); **Karen Webber**, Halifax County (2011); **Lynn Corkum**, Halifax City (2011 one-year term replacement); **Michael Landry**, SAA Representative (2011); **Arnold Burke**, Cape Breton District (2012); **Dawn Smith**, Shelburne (2012); **Vince Gillis**, Executive Member liaison; **Danny Eddy**, NSTU staff liaison

STATUTORY

APPEALS COMMITTEE

Krista Oswald, Chair, Digby (2011); **Kendra Hall**, Queens, (2011); **Phil Doucette**, Antigonish, (2012); **Ellen Louth**, Dartmouth, (2012); **Lloyd Taggart**, Cumberland, (2012); **Scott Tilford**, Colchester-East Hants, (2012); **Bobbie Archer**, Executive Member; **Bruce Kelloway**, Assistant Executive Director, NSTU staff liaison

OTHER COMMITTEES

INSURANCE TRUSTEES

Paul Boudreau, Chair, Halifax County (2011); **Jerry Berthiaume**, Antigonish (2011); **Peter Doucette**, Community College (2012); **Adrien Amirault**, Cumberland (2012) two-year term replacement; **Stephanie Black**, Cape Breton District (2013) three-year term replacement; **Thérèse Forsythe**, Kings (2013); **Joan Ling**, NSTU staff liaison

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Cathy Townsend, Chair, (PETA); **Anne Henderson** (ATYA); **Wade VanSnick** (NSSCA); **Steve Ranni** (TAPHE); **Charlene MacDonald** (AST); **Sean McLennon** (NSMEA) **Tammy Landry**, Executive Member liaison; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF) COMMITTEE

Dianne Raoul, Guysborough County (2011); **Colleen Scott**, Shelburne (2012); **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, NSTU staff liaison

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Marlene Boyd, Chair, Executive Member; **John Helle**, Cape Breton District (2011); **Pamela Langille**, Kings (2011); **Lori MacKinnon**, Yarmouth (2012); **Lynette Rankin**, Inverness (2012); **Ron Brunton**, NSTU staff liaison

SHEONORIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Redden, Chair, NSTU Executive Director; **Monica Ryan**, Inverness (2011); **Rima Majaess**, Halifax City, one-year term replacement (2011); **Jennifer Murray**, Dartmouth (2012); **Susan Robinson-Burnie**, Annapolis (2013); **Mary-Claire MacMillan**, Halifax City (2013); **Marlene Boyd**, Executive Member liaison (2009); **Paul Boudreau**, Insurance Trustees; NSTU president **Alexis Allen**; **Betty-Jean Aucoin**, Coordinator, NSTU Executive Staff Officer

AD HOC COMMITTEE: GOVERNANCE RENEWAL COMMITTEE (NEW)

Angela Gillis, Halifax City; **Bobbie Archer**, Tri-County; **Pat Hillier**, Chignecto; **Milton Bonnar**, Cape Breton; **Tammy Landry**, Strait; **Bill Bruhm**, South Shore; **Allister Wadden**, Annapolis Valley; NSTU President **Alexis Allen**; NSTU Executive Director **Bill Redden**

Share Your Expertise with the Substitute Teacher Committee

The NSTU is actively seeking membership for its Substitute Teacher Committee. This committee advises the Provincial Executive on issues affecting and of concern to substitute teachers. To be eligible you must be an Active or Active Reserve member. Download the application form from the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca under the "Substitutes" menu and click on "Committee".

The deadline is noon on October 22, 2010. The Substitute Teacher Committee will be appointed at the October 28, 2010 Executive Meeting.

Congrats to our June FRESH & EQUITY winners!

FRESH: THE BOOK OF AWAKENING

by Mark Nepo

BELINDA FRASER

of Acadia St. Elementary School

EQUITY: THE DREAM-KEEPERS

by Gloria Ladson-Billings

ANNAMARIE TALBOT

of Mulgrave Professional Development Centre

Celebrate World Teachers' Day by helping Ghanaian children go to school

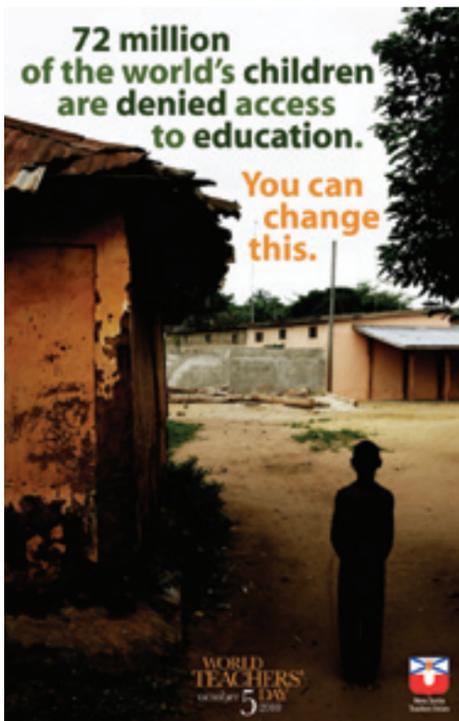
For the sixth year in a row, the NSTU is encouraging members to mark World Teachers' Day (WTD) by making a donation of a toonie or more that will raise funds to help children in Ghana go to school.

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

World Teachers' Day helps to celebrate the vital contribution teachers make to education and development, and the NSTU WTD Ghana project helps mark this. Since 2002, through the Canadian Teachers' Federation, Nova Scotia teachers have worked with the Ghana National Association of Teachers (GNAT) through the Nkabom project. Posters for the Ghana WTD project will be distributed to schools and community college campuses this month. Donations should be forwarded to the NSTU Central Office. Check out the NSTU website for more information and photos on the project. Last year's campaign yielded \$3,601.97.

This year's World Teachers' Day theme *Canadian teachers. Doing it right* aims to honour the work of teachers at a time when the profession faces issues such as standardized tests, merit pay, and the dismantling of labour rights. The poster aims to depict the passion for teaching emanating from the core of an apple—the symbol of the profession. Survey after survey and focus group after focus group have consistently revealed that teachers share a deep-rooted passion for sharing knowledge.

World Teachers' Day on October 5 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.



Leadership development 2010 (cont'd)

Recently retired intermediate staff officer Paul McCormick, closed the conference by looking into the NSTU's past. His plenary *Collegiality and Conflict—Stories that Shaped A Modern Union* outlines important events and activities that have impacted the NSTU in the past couple of decades. McCormick's plenary examines past political terms of Nova Scotia's premiers and outlines the NSTU's influence on important issues like potential sweeping changes to the Education Act in 1993 and the formation of the Community College Local. McCormick is currently working on a history of the NSTU over the past 25 years.



Nathan Orman (Shelburne Local); Peter Day (Northside-Victoria Local) and Natalie MacIsaac (Kings Local), in a meet-by-role session for vice presidents of public affairs, public relations and communications.

Delegates also met by their respective NSTU Local roles—whether as vice-presidents of economic welfare, professional development, public affairs, public relations and communications, or treasurers, secretaries, presidents, provincial executive members, or leaders in professional associations. NSTU executive staff officers Betty-Jean Aucoin, Ron Brunton and Danny Eddy organized the conference along with support staff member Gail Doucette. Next year's conference is scheduled for August 16 to 18, 2011 at St. FX.

NEXT YEAR YOUR STUDENTS' ART COULD BE FLYING HIGH IN CANADA'S CAPITAL AT MAJOR'S HILL PARK.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2010 "Raise Your Voices" Banner Contest and the hundreds of students who participated!

The National Capital Commission (NCC), in partnership with Classroom Connections, is kicking off Year 2 of this exciting **CROSS-CANADA CONTEST AND PUBLIC ART PROJECT.**

Help your students have their voices heard by creating an original banner design that brings youth issues to the capital.

Go to www.canadascapital.gc.ca/bannercontest to get full details, view last year's winners and download an easy-to-use lesson plan for introducing the contest in your class.

The contest is open to Grades 5–8 classes in schools across Canada. The deadline for entries is February 18, 2011.

This initiative is an extension of *The Gathering Place*, a teaching resource for Grades 5–8 Social Science and History. Email us at info@classroomconnections.ca for your free copy.

THE GATHERING PLACE
AN EXPLORATION OF CANADA'S CAPITAL

Sambro Elementary's Fish Fence Art Gallery



Sambro Elementary School revealed its Fish Fence Art Gallery on June 11. This project was supported through a grant from the Halifax County Local's Curriculum Assistance Development Fund (CDAF) and Visual Arts Nova Scotia's PAINTS (Professional Artists in the Schools) program. This collaborative art project was led by artist Kyle Jackson and his son, Jasper, along with art coordinator for J.L. Ilsley family of schools, Sabine Fels, and involved all of Sambro Elementary's teachers and students. Each class contributed to the wall of art by creating paintings of their community of Sambro. Artist Kyle Jackson is shown with the Fish Fence Art Gallery.

ACTIVATE

your free NSTU web account today!

Explore what www.nstu.ca has to offer you!

Contact us to take advantage of a new online registration feature available exclusively to NSTU web account holders.

Once you have logged in to register for your conference, your personal information will be automatically entered into the appropriate fields on the registration form.

While online registration will be open to all NSTU members, this special feature is only initiated by an NSTU web account.

Some additional benefits of holding an account:

- Secure, encrypted, private webmail accessible anywhere;
- Preferred means of communication with our membership;
- Webmail notification, with links to the website, of information that has been sent to the membership via conventional methods;
- An opportunity to join listservs/ mailing lists pertinent to your profession;
- Access to the NSTU Members' Only website, featuring information on such items as salary scales, contracts and benefits;
- Access to current NSTU publications which are posted to the NSTU site as soon as they are published.

To activate your free account, contact Bev Quillan at NSTU Central Office.*

by email: webaccounts@nstu.ca

or by phone: 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788

* Please include your first, middle and last name and professional or NSCC employee number.



executive highlights

July 6

- Approved changes amending the Teachers' Provincial Agreement, Article 16, Teacher Certification;
- Approved changes to the Certification Regulations replacing the Bridging Teachers Certificate;
- Approved changes to the operational procedures—Public Schools and Regional Negotiations to provide for electronic voting;
- Approved a dues increase for the Retired Teachers Organization by \$1 per month.

August 16-17

- Elected 2nd Vice-President: Alison MacPherson;
- Re-Elected Secretary-Treasurer: Dave Jones;
- Personnel Committee: Alison MacPherson,

Chair; Jed Corbett, Marlene Boyd, Gerry Alley;

Nominating Committee: Sue Hannem, Chair, Bill Bruhm, Bobbie Archer, Pat Hillier, Vince Gillis;

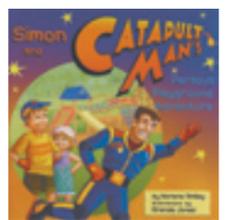
- Approved table officers' report;
- Appointed all standing committees for 2010-2011; Filled a vacancy on the Insurance Trustees; Advertisements to be placed to fill a vacancy on the Comité and for a retired teacher on the Sheonorail Board of Directors;
- Appointed the ad hoc Governance Renewal Committee;
- Revised the operational procedures for Community College negotiations providing for electronic voting;
- Approved the regulatory changes to recognize the Instructional Leadership Program as certification upgrade.

SEPTEMBER GIVEAWAY!

The Teacher has **three copies** of *Simon and Catapult Man's Perilous Playground Adventure* by Norene Smiley with illustrations by Brenda Jones to give away! Send us an email with **CATAPULT MAN** in the subject line by **October 12** to be eligible to win one!

This book is courtesy of Nimbus publishing. To see more books available through Nimbus Publishing go to www.nimbus.ca.

Don't forget to send us your name, complete mailing address (including your postal code) and the name of your school or campus!



Are you a new or returning substitute teacher?

Don't forget to fill out the Substitute Teacher Contact Information Form available on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca (version française disponible) Please complete this form annually to ensure you remain on our mailing list.

AVISO

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

Join the AVISO Team!

Aviso magazine is looking for NSTU members who would be interested in serving on the *Aviso* Content Editorial Team.

Mandate

- To identify magazine article topics and writers.
- To review draft issues of the magazine prior to publication.

Consideration given to

- representation of the range in teaching assignments.
- representation across the province.
- experience in working with print publications.

Time Commitment

- Six (6) half-day meetings per year.
- Two (2) meetings per issue (fall, winter, spring).

To submit an expression of interest include:

- name and contact information;
- work site;
- any other relevant information for consideration.

Deadline for receipt of expression of interest is 4:00 PM, Friday, October 1, 2010 by email to:

Simon Wilkin
Coordinator of Technology and Communications
(swilkin@staff.nstu.ca)

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

Computers for Schools celebrates success

On June 2, Government and industry came together to celebrate the Computers for Schools (CFS) program.

The program has put more than 70,000 computers in Nova Scotia schools, helping students gain skills they need to find good jobs and grow the economy.

During the event, held at the CFS workshop and warehouse in Halifax, Education Minister Marilyn More; Lisa Setlakwe, director National Access Program Directorate, Industry Canada; and Candace Salkey, manager, Bell Aliant Pioneers, recognized the staff and volunteers of the Computers for Schools program.

"This province's students benefit every day from the resources Computers for Schools provide, helping them gain the knowledge needed to build good careers," said Education Minister Marilyn More. "This organization helps provide essential learning tools that complement the new technology resources we are committed to providing each year."

Computers for Schools Nova Scotia is a public/private partnership that provides school boards, libraries, literacy programs and non-profit organizations with refurbished computer equipment. More than half the computers in schools have come from the Computers for Schools initiative, which gets equipment from Government and business. The NSTU has been involved with the program as a member of the steering committee since the program first opened its doors in 1994. NSTU PD staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin has been the NSTU



Stacy Barnes, CFS's program administrator, NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin, David Harding, Coordinator of CFS, and Ryan Weagle, CFS technician are shown standing in front of a piece entitled Hand of Learning. Built by Weagle it is made of re-used hard drives that were damaged and going to be recycled, a used monitor and mother board. Weagle started at CFS through a technical work experience program.

liaison for the last two years. Simon Wilkin, Coordinator of Technology and Communications will now take on that role.

During the event, more than 50 potential partners were offered a tour of the workshop where computers are refurbished and stored, with the goal of making connections to gather more resources to expand services.

Computers for Schools Nova Scotia has provided good job opportunities by hiring recent college graduates as technicians. It is working with the Department of Education to make more connections with students, providing co-op high school students placements in its workshops.

In addition to the refurbished computers, the Department of Education provides more than 1,000 computers and projectors, worth \$900,000, through the Information Economy Initiative Extension.

For more information about how to get involved with Computers for Schools, visit <http://trp.ednet.ns.ca>.

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EDUCATION WEEK April 10-16, 2011

PROJECT OVERSEAS

"Teachers Teaching Teachers"

VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WITH CTF!

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country?
Are you interested in learning more about global education issues?
Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?

If yes, Project Overseas (PO) might be for you!
CTF needs English and French-speaking Canadian teachers who are interested in volunteering during July and August to offer in-services in a wide range of subjects and levels, in various developing countries.

Application criteria include:

- Membership in a provincial teacher organization that supports PO
- Valid teachers' certificate
- A least five years teaching in Canada by program start
- Canadian citizenship
- Excellent health and ability to work in developing country conditions
- Canadian passport valid for 6 months after the placement or proof of a passport application

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members) and CIDA.
No salaries or honoraria are paid.

Further information and application forms are available from Lillian Pottie, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) or www.ctf-fce.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12, 2010

CTF'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: Together We Make a Difference!




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Intégrez LA ZONE à votre plan de cours et courez la chance de gagner un tableau SMART Board.

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>> Inscrivez-vous à laclikeyconomik.gc.ca/lazone avant le 30 novembre : vous pourriez gagner un tableau SMART Board pour votre école, et vos élèves courront la chance de gagner un ordinateur portable.

Entrez le code promotionnel : Nova Scotia FR






coming events

September is...

Arthritis Awareness Month (www.arthritis.ca/novascotia); **Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month** (www.muscle.ca); **Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month** (National Ovarian Cancer Association)

October is...

Autism Month (www.autismsocietycanada.ca); **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** (www.cancer.ca); **Eye Health Month** (www.opto.ca); **Flu Prevention Month** (www.lung.ca); **Influenza Immunization Awareness Month** (http://hc-sc.gc.ca/dc-ma/influenza/index_e.html); **Healthy Workplace Month** (www.healthyworkplacemonth.ca); **Lupus Awareness Month** (www.lupuscanada.org); **Mikmaq History Month** (gov.ns.ca/abor); **Occupational Therapy Month** (www.caot.ca); **Psoriasis Awareness Month** (www.psoriasisociety.org); **SIDS Awareness Month** (www.sidscanada.org); **Women's History Month** (www.swc-cfc.gc.ca).

SEPTEMBER 11, 18 & 25

Medical Walk In Clinic offered for Women

Well Woman/Pap Clinic is being offered every Saturday at the Clayton Park Medical Walk In Clinic located at 278 Lacewood Drive in Halifax on Saturday, September

11, 18 and 25. Appointments may be made by calling 902-445-9600.

SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

Young Neptune Company School Tour Jelly Belly Makes Garbage Delight of Alligator Pie

Entering its 30th year of touring, Neptune Theatre's Young Company Tour has performed to over 350,000 young Nova Scotians since its inception, exposing many to live theatre for the first time. By visiting small communities and performing to students directly at their schools, the Young Company Tour promotes theatre to a wider (and younger) audience, creating and fostering an interest in the performing arts.

This year's Young Neptune Company School Tour, co-sponsored by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, is presenting *Jelly Belly Makes Garbage Delight of Alligator Pie*, by Kim Selody, featuring music by Cathy Nosaty, based on the poems of Dennis Lee. Three kids who live in a dumpster wake up one day to discover the magic in the world around them. With a heavy emphasis on literacy and creativity this play focuses on the power of the imagination and a spirit of cooperation. Dennis Lee's *Alligator Pie* is one of Canada's best-selling children's books of all time and the production is a celebra-

tion of his words through dance, music and mime.

Young Neptune Company Tour will be touring Nova Scotia September 27 to December 3. Performances are \$600 (+HST). To book *Jelly Belly Makes Garbage Delight of Alligator Pie*, please complete an order form on the Neptune Theatre website at www.neptunetheatre.com and the tour coordinator will contact you. If you have any questions regarding the tour, please contact Charlie Rhindress at 902-429-7300 extension 255 or 1-800-565-7345.

SEPTEMBER 12

The Terry Fox Run

In Canada, the annual Terry Fox Run (www.terryfoxrun.ca) is held every September, usually on the second Sunday following Labour Day. This year's run will take place on Sunday, September 12. Fox was only 18 years old when he was diagnosed with bone cancer and forced to have his right leg amputated. Overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients, many of them young children, he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. To date, more than \$400 million has been raised worldwide for cancer research in Terry's name through the annual Terry Fox Run.

The run is a non-competitive event where people get together as individuals, families and groups to raise money in Terry's name. For more information, including a listing of run site locations in Nova Scotia and school programs, visit www.terryfox.org or call 1-888-836-9786.

September to December

SEPTEMBER 18 - 26

Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

This national conservation program encourages Canadians to protect our oceans and waterways by removing litter from along local shorelines. Last fall, over 2,700 Nova Scotians signed up for the cleanup and removed over 6,000 kilograms of litter from our province's shorelines. This year, there are over 30 cleanup sites registered in Nova Scotia. For more information or to register please visit www.shorelinecleanup.ca.

SEPTEMBER 18-26

Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life is a national awareness and fundraising event

that takes place every year in communities all across Canada. Funds raised support direct programs and services for Canadians living with HIV/AIDS in their communities.

Sydney kicks off the province's regional AIDS walks at the Sydney Boardwalk on Friday, September 17. Registration begins at 5 p.m. with the walk getting underway at 6 p.m. Sydney AIDS Walk details are available at <http://www.acb.ns.ca/events.htm> or call Caleigh Rolls at 902-567-1766 or email caleigh.acb@hotmail.com.

Elmsdale's AIDS Walk takes place on Saturday, September 18, starting at the Sobeyes in Elmsdale. Register at 12 noon. Start walking at 1 p.m.

New Glasgow and Truro will each host their AIDS Walks on Sunday, September 19. In New Glasgow, walkers start from the YMCA on South Frederick Street. Registration starts at 1 p.m. The walk begins at 2 p.m. in Truro, the walk starts at the Tourist Bureau on Commercial Street at 1 p.m., with registration at 12 noon.

For more details on the Scotiabank AIDS Walks in Elmsdale, Amherst, New Glasgow and Truro, visit <http://northernaidconnectionsociety.ca>, call 902-895-0931, or email nacs@eastlink.ca.

In Halifax, the Scotiabank AIDS Walk is set for Sunday, September 26, starting at the Halifax Commons. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m., opening ceremonies at 1:30 p.m., with the walk beginning at 2 p.m. A post-walk celebration will be held at 3 p.m.

To register or for more info on the Halifax AIDS walk, contact Chantelle McDonald at the Aids Coalition of Nova Scotia 902-425-4882, ext. 228 or email walk@acns.ns.ca. Or visit www.acns.ns.ca or www.aidswalkforlife.ca/.

SEPTEMBER 20 - 26

Take Me Outside Week

Take Me Outside Week supports families, groups and organizations in Nova Scotia in a growing "back to nature" movement, inviting more children and youth into the great outdoors. You can get your family, group or organization involved and register your activities and events at www.recreationns.ca/takemeoutsideweek to help track the "movement" and to win prizes!

OCTOBER

Walk to School Month

October is International Walk to School Month. Schools and groups can register

Eddie's Litterless Road Tour

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

This interactive presentation is available to grades P-3 and booking enquiries can be made to Kari Riddell at 1800-665-5377 or e-mail riddell@clean.ns.ca. Visit www.clean.ns.ca for all the fun details.

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

Register for a free cleanup kit at www.nspickmeup.ca

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

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

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

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

online at www.saferoutesns.ca (click on the IWALK icon) and qualify for some great prize draws. Walk to School Month is a project of Active & Safe Routes to School, coordinated by the Ecology Action Centre in partnership with the Nova Scotia Department of Health Promotion and Protection as part of the Active Kids Healthy Kids Initiative.

OCTOBER 1

Treaty Day

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

Its purpose is to promote public awareness about the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage for all citizens of Nova Scotia. A poster is produced and numerous events are organized throughout the month in recognition of Mi'kmaq History Month.

On September 30 there will be a Cultural Showcase from 8 p.m. to 12 midnight, at the Baronet Room, Delta Halifax, featuring local and international performers. On October 1 there will be a Treaty Day Church Service at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Basilica in Halifax and a Veterans Parade of Honour, from St. Mary's Basilica to Grand Parade at 11 a.m. for the Flag Raising Ceremony at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Mi'kmaq Gathering Feast at 12:15 p.m. and Observance of Treaty Day in Province House at 1:30 p.m.

On October 2 the Atlantic Council for International Cooperation is hosting a 'First Voices International Indigenous Arts Festival' where international and local indigenous facilitators and performers will be offering workshops in dance, music, visual arts and video at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for youth ages 14-20. First Voices participants will be giving a grand finale evening performance at Saint Mary's University at 7 p.m. (www.firstvoicesproject.ca).

NOTICES

Brickenden Bursary for New Teachers

The Association of Teachers of English Nova Scotia (ATENS) is pleased to offer the Brickenden Bursary for New Teachers to give assistance to individuals in their first five years of the profession. This bursary of \$495 is for English teachers who show initiative, creativity, and school involvement. Teachers may nominate colleagues, or motivated individuals may nominate themselves. Preference is given to non-permanent teachers.

The application deadline is September 30 and the award will be announced at the ATENS Conference in October.

Applicants must be: in their first five years of their teaching career in Nova Scotia; currently employed in a public school in Nova Scotia; and registered for the ATENS conference to be eligible. Applicants must detail their involvement in the school and support it with references and if you are nominating another teacher, that teacher must sign the form.

The Brickenden Bursary is named for Kathy-Lee Brickenden, currently the English Department Head at Halifax West High School. Brickenden has been teaching for over 35 years, and returned to Nova Scotia in 1996 after teaching for 20 years in other Canadian provinces and various countries around the world. She became an active member of the ATENS Executive as the Conference Chair for the October Conference in 1997 and throughout the following 12 years has served in all executive positions of ATENS. Joining ATENS and becoming involved as NSTU rep in her school she cites as two of her most important professional decisions. These organizations helped her to understand the significance and importance of professional development organized by fellow educators. Brickenden feels it is her duty to give back and encourage the next generation of teachers.

Visit the ATENS website to download the application form.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE TEACHER: CHANGE IN FREQUENCY

Starting in the fall of 2010, The Teacher will be published eight (8) times a year from September to June. The November/December and January/February issues will be combined. This change will help streamline The Teacher publication and reduce costs and paper.

The 2010-2011 publication schedule is posted on the NSTU website.

For further information email theteacher@nstu.ca. We apologize if this change causes any inconvenience.

School Bus Safety Awareness Campaign

Safety Services Nova Scotia's annual School Bus Safety Awareness Campaign will be held **October 18-22, 2010**. The official launch will be hosted by the Strait Regional School Board and is scheduled for Monday, October 18, at 10 a.m., at the Mulgrave Memorial Education Centre, 459 Murray Street, Mulgrave, NS. Campaign initiatives include a website (www.schoolbussafety.ca) that features information for teachers and games for elementary school-aged children. The games can be used in the classroom under teacher supervision and may provide assistance with reading and critical thinking skills. Classes may enter a contest after playing the games. Three prizes of \$150 for classroom use will be awarded at the end of the campaign. For more information, contact Safety Services Nova Scotia at 902-454-9621 or kennedy@safetyservicesns.ca.

Holocaust Curricula

On Monday, November 1, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., the Atlantic Jewish Council together with the Azrieli Foundation and the NSTU will present a Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators as part of Holocaust Education Week.

This interactive workshop will launch Series 3 of the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs. The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program collects, preserves and publishes the written memoirs of Holocaust survivors who later made their way to Canada.

The Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators will take place at the NSTU's Central Office in Halifax, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive. The workshop is offered at no charge to all educators. Participants will receive a set of Series 3.

The workshop leader is Anne McLeod, a social studies teacher at Prince Andrew High School in Dartmouth. Her many years of experience in Holocaust education include participating in the International Seminar for Holocaust Educators at Yad Vashem, March of the Living for Educators and teaching and administering the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. She will provide details of her experiences and how she integrated them into her teaching.

To register please contact Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement Atlantic Jewish Council (902) 422-7491 #226 elvine@theajc.ns.ca.

Green Teacher

Green Teacher is a non-profit, quarterly magazine by and for educators. It helps youth educators www.greenteacher.com/contents79.html enhance environmental and global education inside and outside of schools. Green Teacher has fifty pages of perspective and practical articles, ready-to-use activities, resource listings and reviews. Green Teacher also produces Teaching Green teachers' guides for elementary, middle and senior high school as well as other resource materials. Print and online subscriptions are available. www.greenteacher.com.



>> your future here

Join fellow educators

at the **2010 Social Studies Teachers Association Conference**
to learn about **Entrepreneurship in Action**, CEED's new Entrepreneurship 12 curriculum resource

Entrepreneurship in Action

The complete four-part resource has content that directly meets curriculum outcomes.

The resource infuses entrepreneurship into the classroom with a video series component, classroom activities and a facilitator's guide to further assist educators.

The workshop will be co-facilitated by CEED staff and veteran Entrepreneurship 12 educators who piloted the resource.

Free Resource

Free copies of the resource will be provided to all educators attending the session.

"I have been teaching the Entrepreneurship 12 course for 6 years, having delivered it to over 750 students. CEED has been instrumental in providing me with classroom-ready resources, online support, networking opportunities, and professional development avenues to deliver this curriculum to my students. The Entrepreneurship in Action curriculum resource has allowed me to show Atlantic Canadian perspective of entrepreneurship to my students."

- Brad J Boudreau
Charles P. Allen High School

Meghan Cadue
Entrepreneurship Education Advisor
902.421.2333 Ext. 107
mcadue@ceed.ca





NSTU Group Insurance Plans for New Members

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

* IMPORTANT *

The earlier you enroll, the earlier your coverage is effective.

Total Care Medical – This benefit is not automatic. You may apply for this benefit at any time. Coverage will take effect the first of the month following receipt of your application.

Single: 100% paid by the Employer – No cost to member

Family: 100% paid by the Employer – No cost to member

Total Care Dental – This benefit is not automatic. You must apply for this benefit by October 15, 2010. If you elect to participate, coverage will remain in effect for a full twelve (12) month period, provided you remain an active member. Coverage will begin the first of the month following receipt of the application form, provided the form is received before October 15. If not received prior to this date, coverage will not become effective until September 1 of the following year.

Single - Public School/APSEA members: \$17.06 monthly cost to member
- Difference paid by the Employer

Community College members: \$17.46 monthly cost to member
- Difference paid by the Employer

Family - Public School /APSEA members: \$36.08 monthly cost to member
- Difference paid by the Employer

Community College members: \$36.42 monthly cost to member
- Difference paid by the Employer

Provincial Master Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment – You are automatically insured for this benefit. To designate a beneficiary, you must complete a beneficiary designation form.

Public School members, Community College members and APSEA members are insured for **\$50,000** of Life Insurance and **\$50,000** of Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance. There is no cost to the member for this coverage as it is paid 100% by the Employer.

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

1. Plan member is at least 50 years of age and has a minimum of 30 years of pensionable service, or
2. Plan member is in their last year of teaching with one year of accumulated sick leave.

A new member is defined as an NSTU member who has obtained their first contract in Nova Scotia or a member being rehired and has not previously opted out of the Long Term Disability Plan. The NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is cost-shared with the Employer at 50 per cent. Therefore, your portion of the monthly premium is 0.50 per cent of your gross monthly salary. As an example, a new Public School member earning \$47,074 per year will have a payroll deduction of \$19.61 per month.

Other Coverages – There are a number of other optional coverages available to NSTU members through payroll deduction. These coverages are: Optional Life Insurance, Spousal Life Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death and Dismemberment, MEDOC® Group Travel Plan, MEDOC® Trip Cancellation/ Interruption Plan and Home and Automobile Insurance.

Further details of the above plans and information on enrollment is outlined in the Group Insurance Profile. If you have not yet received a copy, your NSTU Rep has a copy on file.

If you have not received a new teacher letter, application form or Group Insurance Profile, please contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll free).

update

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*Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund). CAT.Aug2010

October deadline for *The Teacher* is October 1.
Please contact Sonia Matheson at
theteacher@nstu.ca or call 1-800-565-6788.



International Walk to School and Walk at School Month

in October

Register & qualify your school for great prize draws including:

- A classroom pedometer kit
- A bike
- Bike helmets
- Stickers for all students

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

Atlantic Science Links programs

The Atlantic Science Links Association (ASLA) runs a variety of programs to support Grade Primary to 12 science curricula in Nova Scotia. These include *Scientists and Innovators in the Schools*, *Ask-A-Scientist*, and the *Climate Change Action Pack*. Programs are free and run all year long.

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

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

The popular **SITS Speakers Bureau** brings scientists into the classroom from the academic, industry, government, and non-profit sectors who contribute their time and expertise to help students to see the sciences as a viable career choice, and provide them with role models in a variety of fields. Volunteers are from scientific disciplines taught within the Nova Scotia curriculum, including astronomy, biology, chemistry, computers, earth and environmental science, engineering, geology, health, math, oceans, physical science and technology.

SITS volunteers also judge science fairs, guide workplace visits and field trips, participate in career days, and act as mentors. The relationships formed between the education and science communities through these activities are often long-lasting, with SITS volunteers providing presentations and resources to schools for years following their initial visit.

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

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

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

2010 First Vice-Presidential Campaign Expenses

Eric Boutilier

Posters & Bookmarks	\$151.42
Pens	\$307.96
Bracelets.....	\$198.00
Banner	\$54.12
TOTAL.....	\$711.50

The Teacher Distribution 2010-11 School Year

Beginning with the October issue of *The Teacher* your school or campus will receive the number of copies requested by your NSTU rep or half the amount of NSTU members at your site.

Please share your copy with a colleague. *The Teacher* is available online at www.nstu.ca.

identify the power of words and each vignette includes a positive outcome where children find a way to stand up for themselves and overcome the power of hurtful words. Techniques include: Stand Up for Yourself, Ignore the Bully, Explain How the Words Make You Feel, and Seek Help From an Adult.

7 Ways to Block a Cyberbully (13 min.) Health – Grade 6; Healthy Living 7-9; Bullying

Cyberbullies don't shove kids on the playground or steal lunch money, but they are just as dangerous. They stay hidden behind technology and target students on the Internet and through cell phones. This film details seven effective strategies for dealing with a digital bully and teaches students how to be smart and stay safe in a cyberbully situation.

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

Video Dubbing Resources from Learning Resources and Technology Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW The Great Food Revolution (180 min.) Food and Nutrition 10/12; Physically Active Living 11

This series of four programs takes viewers on a gastronomic journey. Explore how food has been transformed – from the stuff that merely gets us through the day to a \$4 trillion industry, a status symbol, and the subject of myriad magazines, TV shows and websites. Titles in this series: *The great food revolution*; *The battle to get on your plate*; *24 hours, 24 million meals*; *Feeding New York*; and, *Food of the future*.

NEW Caution: Teenager Under Construction (20 min.) Health - Grade 6; Healthy Living 7-8

This fast-paced program uses humour and appealing animations to introduce students in middle school to the many changes that accompany adolescence. Program goes beyond the physical manifestations of puberty and discusses the emotional, social and developmental changes that occur. Likeable teen hosts reassure students of many normal aspects of early adolescence: changing relationships with friends, a new sense of independence from parents, unpredictable moments of emotional upheaval and distraction, and more. What matters most is acceptance of self and others.

Body Systems and Health (80 min.) Health - Grades 5-6; Healthy Living 7-8; Science - Grades 5-8

This video includes four programs: Healthy Circulatory and Respiratory Systems, Healthy Skeletal and Muscular Systems, Healthy Digestive and Excretory Systems, and Healthy Nervous and Endocrine Systems. Each program explores the role of the system, things that we can do maintain the health of the system and some of the most common problems associated with the system.

The Healthy Human Body Series (80 min.) Health - Grades 4-6; Science - Grades 4-6

Introducing the structure, functions and care of their bodies to youngsters, this four-part series covers the skeletal/muscular system, respiratory system, digestive system, and circulatory system. It features live action shots of young people, three-dimensional models, animation, endoscopic cinematography, lab experiments, interactive quizzes and comic interludes. Titles in the series include: *Skeletal & Muscular System*; *Respiratory & Circulatory System*; *Digestion & Nutrition*; and, *Blood, Heart & Circulation*.

The Human Body (90 min.) Health - Grades P-4; Science - Grades P-4

The Magic School Bus is off on a roller-coaster ride through our insides and anybody could be the next field trip! Their valiant vehicle can go anywhere and be anything, so each field trip is an awesome adventure. In *For Lunch*, Ms. Frizzle leads the class on an action-packed journey through Arnold's digestive system; *Inside Ralphie* is a pulsating excursion through Ralphie's bloodstream; and, *Flexes Its Muscles* is an exciting exploration through the Ralphie Robot to learn about bones, joints and muscles.

Bully Smart Series (65 min.) Health - Grades 3-5; Bullying

This four-video set explores positive ways to recognize and deal with bullying situations. Students are encouraged to work together to build a zero-tolerance policy toward bullying, while practicing skills that will both prevent and reduce bullying problems. This series also looks at why people bully and how to spot bullying in oneself. Titles include: *Don't Stand By* (15 min.), *Five Ways to Stop a Bully* (15 min.), *Are You a Bully?* (20 min.), and *Help! I'm a Bully* (15 min.).

You're Mean! When Words Hurt Us (13 min.) Health - Grades P-5; Bullying

This age-appropriate program helps children understand that words can hurt—whether the insults are intentional or the inadvertent result of "trying to be funny." Four vignettes

June 2 Huntley Internship

The fourth installment of John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2009-10 school year took place June 10 and 11 at NSTU's Central Office in Halifax. Six NSTU members spent two days meeting with NSTU staff from member services, professional development, counselling, public relations and the Early Intervention program. They also met with the NSTU president and executive director. Seated are: Terry Ryan (Halifax County Local) a resource teacher at Charles P. Allen High School in Bedford; Kevin Farrell (Colchester East-Hants Local), a science teacher at Cobequid Education Centre in Truro; Korey Millar (Digby Local), a math and social studies teacher at Islands Consolidated School in Freeport; Brenda Zwicker (Lunenburg County Local) a French teacher at Parkview Education Centre in Bridgewater and Gérard Cormier, NSTU Executive Staff Officer in professional development, who coordinates the program. Back row: Paul Betuik (Halifax City Local/provincial executive member), a math teacher at J.L. Ilesley High School in Halifax, and Sonya Pomery-Young (Cumberland Local), a program support, math, and core French teacher at Northport Consolidated School in Northport.



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

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788. The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

2010.10.05

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Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

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

WAREHOUSE SALE OF EDUCATION BOOKS! Seven classroom-friendly titles for elementary and high schools - including Classroom Teacher's Emergency Lesson Plans, Classroom Jukebox, and Let's Talk: 'Learning through Discussion' - now yours for \$6.99 per copy, seven copies for \$39.99 or 21 copies for \$99.99 (S&H and taxes, where applicable, included. Prices apply to Canadian addresses only.) See www.jjohnnypress.com for book descriptions, reviews, sample lessons and to order. Limited time offer - order today!

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FORRENT - 3-bedroom, 1.5 bath 2-story home in West end Halifax fully furnished with 6 appliances. Walking distance to schools, playground, grocery stores and Halifax Shopping Centre, 30-second walk from #1 bus route to downtown Halifax and universities. Close exit to all outgoing highways. Available from November (date negotiable) to April 30, \$1400.00 plus utilities Please phone Mike or Gwen at 902-455-2264 or 902-403-6999 Non Smoking.

FLORIDA VACATION HOME RENTALS - Kissimmee. 2 - 6 bedroom vacation homes with private pool. Five miles to Disney. Family holidays or conferences. Two-bedroom SPECIAL rate until December 11, \$79US/nt. Please call 902-861-4814 or visit www.herderholidayhomes.com or email rherder@eastlink.ca.

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY \$5.00 donation to Canadian Cancer Society for every therapeutic massage covered by Blue Cross. Located up the street from Alderney Landing at 115 Portland St., Dartmouth. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year per family member with Blue Cross, no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension and improving sleep. Chris Bagnell RMT-10-years experience. To contact Chris call 902-464-0606 to book an appointment. "Making a difference great."

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

NSTU Professional Associations Conferences

October 22, 2010

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REGISTRATION DEADLINE OCTOBER 8, 2010



The 2010 Conference Catalogue is available at all public school and Community College educational sites as well as on the NSTU website - www.nstu.ca



Online Registration is open to all NSTU members. It is no longer necessary to login to the Members' only section of the NSTU website (www.nstu.ca) to access online registration. A list of conferences offering online registration will be accessible from the NSTU public home page.

While online registration is accessible without holding an NSTU web account there is a special registration feature available to those members who do. Members who enter the registration form with a username and password will have their personal information automatically entered into the appropriate fields on the registration form.

If you do not already have an account and would like to take advantage of this special feature, please contact Bev Quillan at NSTU Central Office (please include your first, middle and last name and professional or NSCC employee number) by email: webaccounts@nstu.ca or by phone: 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.