



## Province unveils cuts to public education

After months of speculation and proposed budget scenarios, Nova Scotia's Minister of Education Ramona Jennex delivered the actual budget reduction figures to the province's eight school boards on February 8.

Jennex announced the province will reduce funding by \$17.6 million, a 1.65 per cent reduction, with cuts to each school board ranging from zero to 2.47 per cent.

NSTU president Alexis Allen says those numbers are misleading.

"When you consider that boards must also absorb cost increases due to inflation and other cost pressures, that makes the cut closer to five per cent. What's more—if the Province continues this trend over the next couple of years, we're looking at reductions of close to 15 per cent and that will decimate the system."

Other parameters of the budget reduction plan for public education are as follows:

Teacher and support staff reductions must be achieved, as much as possible, through retirements and attrition.

Provincial supports for students with special needs must be protected. The province

will maintain funding for special education at \$125 million, the same as 2010/11.

Boards must target at least a 15 per cent reduction in administration in 2011/12 and plan for a 50 per cent reduction in board consultants over the next three years.

The direct provincial funding for mentors for teachers must be reduced by 50 per cent in 2011/12.

Provincial funding for targeted initiatives (for example IB, O2 and Healthy Living) will remain at 2010/11 levels.

A portion of funds for Reading Recovery, which will be phased out, will be redirected into early reading intervention programs.

The province requires boards maintain the current cap on class size from Primary to Grade 3 at 25. But it will permit boards to add no more than two additional students per class, in cases where this represents the best option to protect the quality of education in the classroom.

"I have always said I want to put children and learning first," said Jennex. "I've instructed school boards to protect students and special education."

Allen says that's unfathomable.

"These reductions are going to lead to fewer teachers, and supports, larger class sizes and the erosion of the public education system as we know it. How can that possibly be putting children and learning first?"

Just one week before Jennex announced the budget cuts to school boards, Nova Scotia's Education Partners launched its *Tales out of School* campaign (nstaletoutofschool.ca), aimed at giving Nova Scotians the opportunity to tell their personal, true stories about the positive impact of the province's education system.

"We're hearing so many wonderful stories," says Allen. "Parents rave about the Reading Recovery program, but that will now be eliminated. People have shared moving stories about students who have made incredible strides thanks to supports. What will happen to those students now?"

On February 23, the South Shore Regional School Board announced positions it will cut to comply with the Province's targets. In that board, the following positions will be eliminated from programs and student services: Coordinator of Community-Based Education, Math Consultant, Literacy Consultant, Active Healthy Living Consultant, Sports Animator, two student support workers, Coordinator of Support and Evaluation, one administrative assistant, Autism Facilitator, one speech-language pathologist and two Severe Learning Disability Specialists.

"We are very concerned about the impact



South Shore Regional School Board Chair Elliott Payzant addresses participants at a public meeting on potential education cuts and 21st century learning hosted by the Board at Parkview Education Centre on February 7.

on schools and students," said Superintendent Nancy Pinch-Worthylake. "While not all of these positions are in front of classrooms, they do provide services that contribute to the education of our students."

Allen shares her concern. "I challenge Minister Jennex to look at that list of cuts and explain how this will not affect children in the classroom."

Jennex says the province is matching funding levels with declining enrollments; that over the next three years, about 1,000 teachers will retire and close to 7,000 fewer students will be attending school. However, Allen points out that the Hogg funding formula already has a provision in place which takes into account the decline in student enrollment.

In a letter to school boards, Jennex wrote: "We must do our part to help the province live within its means. Otherwise, the students who are in the classroom now will be paying for it well into the future."

"We can all appreciate the province's need to exercise fiscal responsibility," says Allen. "But to balance the books at the expense of our students' education is irresponsible and demonstrates poor judgement."



Members of the NSTU leadership are shown at the NSTU Leaders' Forum on Education Funding which took place at NSTU's central office on January 21. The day-long event focused on the status of the cuts to public education funding proposed by the Department of Education.

## NSTU launches new website

The NSTU launched a new website (www.nstu.ca) on March 3. "It's organized according to the structure of the NSTU, making it easier to navigate and find exactly what you need," says NSTU president Alexis Allen.

The NSTU worked with a new website company, immediaC, to create a new and improved site. Based out of Bedford, immediaC has delivered more than 1000 websites, designs and web applications for over a decade.

Under the main heading, *The NSTU*, you will find fundamental information about the organization, including the history, mission statement and code of ethics. In this section information about the NSTU structure is also found with easy access to information about the NSTU president, provincial executive, Annual Council, Locals, RRCs, NSTU reps and committees, as well as contact information and the staff directory.

The *Member Services* section houses everything you'd expect to learn from the NSTU's Member Services Department, from legislation and contracts, to pension and insurance and benefits as well as information on legal protection, counselling services, teachers' rights and the Early Intervention Program.

The *Professional Development* section provides important certification information, as well as a wealth of advice and information on learning opportunities like the John Huntley Internship Program, secondments, Project Overseas and conferences as well as details about grants, awards and fellowships, and PDAF Projects.

The *Communications* section includes the latest news releases, videos and media contact information. "You'll also find our online versions of NSTU publications and pamphlets, including *The Teacher*, *Aviso*, the NSTU Guidebook and *Member Diary*," adds Allen. The Hunter Resource Centre, a virtual library of studies, surveys and other links and resources is also included.

For substitute teachers, or teachers who are fairly new to the profession, the *Early Career* section provides hands-on information—everything from NSTU membership information to job hunting advice. Plans are also underway to integrate social media tools into the site like Twitter, as well as the creation of a virtual research centre.

"We've been working to communicate more effectively through our website, our services for francophone section is now a feature of the main page," adds Allen. "We welcome your feedback on this new site. Please fill out the form found on the new site with any specific comments, concerns or questions."



# people

## Colchester-East Hants, Cumberland and Pictou Locals sign agreement with the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board



The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union signed a new collective agreement on February 14. In an online vote on February 10, members of the Colchester-East Hants, Cumberland and Pictou Locals ratified the tentative agreement. Fifty-three per cent of NSTU members working for CCRSB voted 92 per cent in favour of the agreement. The term of this new collective agreement is from February 14, 2011 to March 7, 2014.

Shown are members of both negotiating teams. Seated are NSTU team members: Colchester-East Hants Local president Robert George, Pictou Local president Cindy MacKinnon, Cumberland Local president Hope Lemoine, and NSTU president Alexis Allen, and CCRSB team members CCRSB Chair Trudy Thompson and CCRSB Superintendent of Schools/CEO Gary Clarke. Standing: NSTU team members Myla Borden (Pictou Local), NSTU executive staff officer Janine Kerr, Kevin Farrell (Colchester-East Hants Local), Chignecto-Central RRC chair John Spurdakes, and CCRSB team members Cobequid Family of School Supervisor Ian MacLeod, CCRSB's Director of Human Resources Services Allison McGrath, CCRSB human resources associate Jessi Taggart, CCRSB board member Kaaren Barkhouse, and CCRSB's Coordinator of Human Resources Frank Lambert.

## Kevin Power joins Canada's outstanding principals

Kevin Power, principal at Beechville Lakeside Timberlea (BLT) School recently joined the ranks as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2011.

"Being recognized as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2011 is humbling, to say the least, as there are many principals in the field that contribute greatly in leading and supporting schools and student learning," says Power. "I am however, deeply honoured and most appreciative. Such recognition, after 34 years, is a wonderful experience."



Now in its seventh year Canada's Outstanding Principals (COP) program, developed by The Learning Partnership, honours principals who have made a measurable difference in the lives of their students and their local communities.

Power worked at the Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) office in student assessment for the five years previous to his three-year stint at BLT. He has been the principal of many HRSB schools including St. Margaret's Bay Elementary, Caudle Park Elementary, R. K. Turner Elementary, and Humber Park Elementary and was the vice-principal at Astral Drive Elementary.

He's clear about a major challenge facing today's administrators. "One thing we face as school leaders is the amount and rate of change," he comments. "Having to deal with that change and support teachers through the change is very important."

"It's nice to be recognized as an outstanding principal but it's important to recognize the teaching and support staff I've been fortunate to be surrounded with over the years—it not's so hard when you have good people to work with."

Becoming one of Canada's Outstanding Principals, Power joins colleagues in the National Academy of Canada's Outstanding Principals, which creates a learning community of principals across the country. "The National Academy will provide a forum for me to continue to grow and develop as an educational leader."

Power values professional development. "I spent a lot of time on the PD committee of the Halifax County Local," he says. He served as vice-president of professional development on the Halifax County Local executive during the presidency of Gordon Steeves and before that John Huntley, in which the NSTU John Huntley Memorial Internship program is named. This internship program provides NSTU members with hands-on learning about the many programs and services offered by the NSTU.

As part of his recognition, Power travelled to Toronto to receive his award along with 31 other outstanding principals across the country in a Gala Awards Ceremony at the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Toronto on February 8. All of the recipients participated in an exclusive five-day management course at the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, where they gained valuable knowledge and learned strategies to help them enhance public education at their school and in their community.

The program included Dr. Joe D'Cruz's session on Co-consulting Lifelines. "This professional problem solving/sharing strategy was developed and used over the five-day sessions in the context of a team project," he says. Other working sessions involved Dr. Michael Fullan, which focused on change, and building capacity and the vital role of relationships play in this context. Dr. Ben Levin presented a session on Leading in a Political World and Brian Woodland, Director of Communications for Peel District School Board presented a very animated and informative session on effective communication from a school leadership perspective.

Other guest speakers included Gerry McCaughey, President and CEO of CIBC and Alan MacGibbon, CEO of Deloitte. Both CIBC and Deloitte are major sponsors of the Learning Partnership. McCaughey spoke on the importance of a strong Canadian public school system that meets the needs of all learners and MacGibbon spoke to nurturing talent in your organization. "What impressed me most with these leaders was the strong sense of social responsibility and their belief in and support of the Canadian public school system."

"This was, to say the least, an outstanding professional learning experience, in which I learned a great deal and will support me as a learning leader. And the great thing about all of this, it was 100 per cent Canadian!"



## It's all in the family

NSTU president Alexis Allen is shown at a meet and greet for the Yarmouth Local, which took place last September. Second from the left is Larry Fitzgerald who is a long-time active member of the Local. All three of his children are teachers currently working for the Tri-County Regional School Board. From left to right are: Sean Fitzgerald (Yarmouth Junior High), Larry Fitzgerald (Arcadia Consolidated School), Megan Fitzgerald (Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High), Nolan Fitzgerald (Drumlin Heights Consolidated School) and Alexis Allen.

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## Teachers in shock over CIDA program rejection

Teachers across Canada and around the world are asking the Harper government to reverse a decision by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to reject participation in a major overseas education initiative.

The request was made by the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), which supports the international proposal to involve tens of thousands of teachers, including those from Canada, in a program to deliver quality education in developing countries.

"The global education community is reeling from the shock after being informed of the CIDA decision," says CTF president Mary-Lou Donnelly.

"We have received an overwhelming number of letters and e-mails from a cross section of Canadian and overseas teachers, ministers of education, partner organizations and global education networks," she says.

"The five-year proposal builds on 50 years of partnership with the government of Canada and overseas partners. Not only are Canadian teachers dedicated as international volunteers, they have the valuable training and essential skills to work with their teacher colleagues and help improve teaching and learning in developing countries."

Canadian teachers have been praised worldwide for their work as pioneers and promoters of quality education. CTF says its international programs have one focus—helping local teachers deliver quality education.

Join the chorus of voices from across Canada and around the world asking that the Conservative government override the bureaucratic decision that rejects the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) International Program proposal by signing the petition found at [www.ctf-fce.ca/petition/Default.aspx](http://www.ctf-fce.ca/petition/Default.aspx).

There is a major impact to CTF's international programs from CIDA's decision to stop funding. Had CIDA contributed its share (approximately \$10 million) on top of the CTF contribution of nearly \$6 million, Canadian teachers would have worked with teacher colleagues to expand the reach of quality education in the following Countries: Ghana, Guinea, India, Mongolia, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Togo.

The CTF proposal rejected by CIDA was planned for the period October 1, 2010 to March 31, 2015. Here are some of the repercussions of the CIDA decision:

- In Ghana, tens of thousands of under-trained teachers serving the most marginalized communities and the most vulnerable children in Ghana will not receive professional development, mentoring and support.

- 550 teachers in Ghana each year will lose the opportunity to receive an intensive week-long professional development course in math, science, languages, school administration, basic technology skills, gender equity, HIV & AIDS and others.

- In Uganda, where teacher organizations work with the Ministry of Education to improve quality education for all children—especially girls, 5,000 teachers in Ugandan schools won't receive professional development.

- In Burkina Faso, 1,000 teachers will not be offered courses in general pedagogy, civic education, teaching methodology for grammar, arithmetic and drawing at the primary level and for math, English and French at the secondary level. Special modules addressed gender equality and HIV/AIDS.

- In Sierra Leone, a country that has witnessed a devastating war and which is seeking alternatives to conflict resolution that do not include violence, the CTF-proposed peace education curriculum will not be developed and piloted.

- Approximately 350 Canadian teachers will lose the opportunity to volunteer their time and skills to deliver in-service training and other professional expertise that reach over 15,200 teachers of which 60 per cent are women. Training of over 2,200 teacher trainers in developing countries would have reached over 23,000 additional teachers plus their students. That translates into millions since classrooms have approximately 60 students or more.

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Alex

## from the nstu president

### Taking Heart During Troublesome Times

On February 8, when the Province released its budget targets for school boards across the province, we were hoping for good news. We were hoping that the government had listened to the legions of Nova Scotians who insisted any cut to the public education budget would be both devastating and unacceptable. It is an understatement to say we are disappointed with the news and confused about the messaging coming from the Department of Education.

The Education Minister has repeatedly said that she wants to protect children and put students and learning first, while at the same time making cuts that will directly affect children in the classroom. Although the Minister of Education has been calling this a two per cent cut in funding, it is actually closer to five per cent when you factor in inflationary pressures that are the boards' responsibility. If you continue this trend over the following two years, it becomes more like 15 per cent—not a significant reduction from the earlier proposed cut of 22 per cent. We must remember that Nova Scotia already had the second lowest funding per pupil in Canada before these reductions. With this development, we will be the province with the lowest funding per pupil. This is hardly a healthy or progressive move for a province wanting to be recognized for its "knowledge economy." It will also become a hard sell for businesses trying to recruit talent from outside the province. We know that a strong public education system is an important factor when people are considering relocating.

The cuts to public education funding could result in a reduction of upwards of 350 teachers. The Education Minister has said "any teacher and support staff reductions must be achieved, to the greatest extent possible, through attrition." The funding formula already has a provision in place which takes into account the decline in student numbers. The loss of up to 350 teachers will affect children in the classroom; it will mean larger class sizes and more combined classrooms. In addition, the Province's plan to reduce the number of administrators, math and literacy mentors from the system over the next few years will affect students in the classroom. These positions not only provide support for the many initiatives and programs offered in the system, they also support teachers.

The Province has also made a significant revision to its class size caps for Primary to Grade 3, allowing up to two additional students per class when it "represents the best option to protect the quality of education in the classroom." At a time when many provinces are investing money in early childhood education initiatives, this is a step backwards for Nova Scotia. It puts yet more pressure on the earlier formative years without any recognition of class composition. I struggle to come up with a scenario in which adding two more students to an already full class would represent "the best option to protect quality of education."

The highly successful Reading Recovery program is being phased out. This is also distressing. We continue to hear rave reviews from parents and teachers about the success of this program and yet we have not been given any clear idea of what will replace it and how we will adequately support our struggling readers.

This government says it wants to keep young people in Nova Scotia. In fact, it has launched a JobsHERE initiative with corporate tax cuts for small businesses to try to help Nova Scotians stay here and work at well-paying positions in this province. Yet, at the same time, teachers graduating this year must leave the province to find jobs!

At a time of such concern and upheaval, I urge you to take heart in knowing that you are playing the most important role in your classrooms every day—educating and inspiring our young people. I continue to be humbled by your professionalism and commitment to your students. The videos and written testimonials about the positive impact of Nova Scotia's P-12 education system on the website for the *Tales Out Of School* campaign ([www.nstalesoutofschool.ca](http://www.nstalesoutofschool.ca)) are undeniable truths and a testament to your hard work and dedication. Please visit the website—and encourage others to add their own personal stories.

### Comment garder courage en ces temps difficiles

Le 8 février, lorsque la province a annoncé ses cibles budgétaires pour les conseils scolaires de la province, nous espérions de bonnes nouvelles. Nous espérions que le gouvernement avait écouté la multitude des Néo-Écossais qui affirmaient que toute réduction du budget de l'enseignement public serait à la fois inadmissible et dévastatrice. Le moins que l'on puisse dire est que nous sommes très déçus par ces nouvelles et déconcertés par le message qui nous vient du ministère de l'Éducation.

La ministre de l'Éducation a répété à maintes reprises qu'elle voulait protéger les enfants et mettre les élèves et l'apprentissage au premier plan, tout en opérant des réductions qui vont toucher directement les enfants dans les classes. Bien que la ministre de l'Éducation ait appelé cela une réduction du financement de 2 %, cette réduction est en fait plus proche de 5 % lorsque l'on tient compte des tensions inflationnistes auxquelles sont soumis les conseils scolaires. Si cette tendance se poursuit au cours des deux prochaines années, la réduction se rapproche des 15 % – ce qui n'est pas si loin de la réduction de 22 % qui avait été initialement proposée. Nous ne devons pas oublier que la Nouvelle-Écosse était déjà à l'avant-dernier rang en termes de financement par élève au Canada avant ces réductions. Cette nouvelle réduction fait de nous la province avec le financement le plus faible par élève. Ceci est loin d'être une mesure progressiste et saine pour une province qui veut être reconnue pour son « économie du savoir ». Cela va également créer des obstacles pour les entreprises qui tentent de recruter des talents à l'extérieur de la province. Nous savons qu'un système d'enseignement public solide est un facteur important pour les personnes qui envisagent de s'installer dans la province.

Les réductions du financement de l'enseignement public pourraient entraîner la perte de plus de 350 enseignants. La ministre de l'Éducation a déclaré : « toute compression du personnel enseignant et du personnel de soutien doit être réalisée, dans la mesure du possible, par le biais de l'attrition ». La formule de financement a déjà une clause en place pour tenir compte du déclin des effectifs étudiants. La perte de près de 350 enseignants va toucher directement les enfants en salle de classe; cela va signifier des classes plus chargées et davantage de classes combinées. De plus, le projet de la province de réduire le nombre des administrateurs et des mentors en mathématiques et en littérature au cours des prochaines années va toucher directement les élèves dans les classes. Non seulement ces postes apportent un soutien aux nombreuses initiatives et aux nombreux programmes offerts au sein du système mais ils apportent également un soutien aux enseignants.

La province a apporté également un changement important aux plafonds de la taille des classes de la maternelle à la 3<sup>e</sup> année, en permettant deux élèves supplémentaires par classe lorsque « cela constitue la meilleure option pour protéger la qualité de l'éducation dans la classe ». À une époque où de nombreuses provinces investissent de l'argent dans des initiatives portant sur l'éducation des jeunes enfants, ceci constitue un sérieux pas en arrière pour la Nouvelle-Écosse. Cela ajoute une tension supplémentaire durant les premières années déterminantes de la vie sans tenir aucun compte de la composition des classes. J'ai du mal à imaginer un scénario dans lequel l'adjonction de deux élèves de plus à une classe déjà bien remplie constituerait « la meilleure option pour protéger la qualité de l'éducation ».

Le programme d'intervention précoce en lecture et en écriture, qui a beaucoup de succès, va être progressivement éliminé. Ceci est également déplorable. Nous recevons constamment des commentaires enthousiastes des parents et des enseignants au sujet de la réussite de ce programme. Nous n'avons cependant pas la moindre idée de ce qui va le remplacer et de la manière dont nous pourrions soutenir convenablement ceux qui ont des difficultés en lecture.

Le gouvernement déclare qu'il veut garder les jeunes en Nouvelle-Écosse. Il a d'ailleurs lancé une initiative appelée JobsHERE qui comporte des réductions d'impôts aux petites entreprises afin que les Néo-Écossais puissent rester sur place et trouver des emplois bien rémunérés dans leur propre province. Et pourtant, les enseignants qui vont recevoir leur diplôme cette année devront quitter la province pour trouver un emploi !

En cette période de bouleversement et de crise, je vous incite à tirer courage du fait que vous jouez chaque jour le rôle le plus important dans vos classes – en éduquant et en inspirant nos jeunes. Je suis sans cesse impressionnée par votre professionnalisme et votre engagement à l'égard de vos élèves. Les témoignages vidéo et écrits au sujet de l'impact positif du système d'enseignement P-12 de la Nouvelle-Écosse qui sont présentés sur le site Web de la campagne *Tales Out Of School* ([www.nstalesoutofschool.ca](http://www.nstalesoutofschool.ca)) constituent des faits indéniables et témoignent de votre courage et de votre dévouement. Je vous invite à visiter ce site Web et à encourager d'autres personnes à y raconter leurs expériences personnelles.

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## Promoting peace in the classroom, and around the world

Article by Les Walker, Special Features Writer

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Equity, peace and social justice will be front and centre at the “Peace...ing it together” conference, April 7 to 9, at the Delta Halifax. The conference will look at ways to promote peace in classrooms, on campuses and in communities.

“The conference will present delegates with interactive, motivational and relevant sessions,” says Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU executive staff officer, professional development. “Our objective is to have attendees gain deeper insight and understanding, plus additional creative ideas, to support peace in their respective schools and communities.”

Sessions were designed, she says, in concert with the NSTU and the Sheonoroil Foundation. The Sheonoroil Foundation was established by the NSTU in the late 1990s, and provides support to teachers for anti-violence projects in schools and campuses.

“Conference planners have set the bar high,” Aucoin adds. “As educators, we require strategies and information we can adapt to meet the varying needs of those we serve.”

NSTU president Alexis Allen adds: “We have drawn conference speakers from among the many exceptional educational leaders in our provincial classrooms—colleagues who have proven talent and expertise, and colleagues eager to share resources and strategies to address the needs of students at every age and education level.”

Keynote speaker is Dr. Samantha Nutt, founder and executive director of War Child Canada. War Child helps children across the world whose lives have been torn apart by conflict. Its mission: to reduce the effects of poverty, provide education, defend and promote the rights of children and deliver the means to build a brighter future.

Dr. Nutt is on staff at Women’s College Hospital, Toronto, and assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto. She has more than 15 years experience working in some of the world’s most violent flashpoints, including Iraq, Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone. She speaks on the impact of war and public engagement in global issues, so as to inspire others to make a difference in the lives of those affected by war.



Bonnie Bobryk Photography

From left: Gerard Cormier, NSTU staff officer, professional development, Betty-Jean Aucoin, NSTU executive staff officer, professional development and Alexis Allen, president, NSTU. They are showcasing books written by three Nova Scotia public school teachers on the themes of peace, equity and social justice, which will be highlighted at the Peacing... it together conference.

Session speakers include three local, active teachers, all of whom are published authors: Nancy Wilcox Richards, Bayview Community School, Mahone Bay; Michael James Isaac, Shipyard Elementary, Sydney; and Dr. Steven Van Zoost, Avon View High School.

Also presenting are teachers Heather Harris and Joe Morrison, Peaceful Schools International; Dan Stephenson, Peace Within; Ron Nugent, 21st Century Families; Mary Ann Alley and Denise Smith, Virtues Project; Debbie Mitchell, Restorative Practice; Meg Ferguson, Drumming for Peace; Sabine Fels, Peace through Art; and school partner Lieghann Wichman, Youth project.

The Sheonoroil Foundation supports projects and interventions that reduce all forms of violence in public schools and community college campuses. It offers financial resources to any active or retired NSTU member, based on an application review process.

## BOOK GIVEAWAY

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD - PEACE in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by March 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month’s PD giveaway is a special package containing four books, all of which will be highlighted at the Peacing...ing it together conference April 7 to 9 at the Delta Halifax.

All four books focus on the themes of peace, equity and social justice and this special PD giveaway package includes: *How the Cougar Came to be Called the Ghost Cat* by Cape Breton public school teacher and NSTU member Michael James Isaac and published by Fernwood Publishing; *How to Handle A Bully* by elementary school teacher and NSTU member Nancy Wilcox Richards, published by Scholastic Canada Ltd.; *21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities: A Youth Inquiry Project* written by NSTU member and public school teacher Dr. Steven Van Zoost and published by Learning for a Cause Publications; and *A Legacy of Love: Remembering Muriel Duckworth, Her Later Years, 1996-2009*, written by Marion Douglas Kerans and published by Fernwood Publishing.

There is still time to register for the Peacing...ing it together conference at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)!

## Call for Art:

The planning committee of the Peacing...ing it together conference is putting forward a call for art in the form of placemats responding to the question, “What does peace look like in our schools, campuses, and communities?”

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



## After Hours Telephone Intake, Crisis Counselling and Referral Service



4:30 PM AST to 8:30 AM AST  
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During these hours, call: 1-800-268-7708

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Public Education affects all of us. Tell us why you're proud of Nova Scotia's public education system.

visit [www.nstalesoutofschool.ca](http://www.nstalesoutofschool.ca)

**YOUR STORY**  
Submit

## Get Hydrated!

by Kimberly London

REGISTERED DIETITIAN, PICTOU COUNTY, N.S.

Do you get the mid-day munchies? Are you exhausted by 2 p.m.? Then get yourself a glass of water—you may be dehydrated!

### Benefits of good hydration:

- dissolves nutrients; breaks down food;
- lubricates your joints;
- keeps you regular;
- quenches thirst;
- helps regulate blood pressure;
- helps maintain a good complexion;
- maintains normal body temperature;
- supports wellness and prevents illness.

We lose fluid by sweating, breathing and removing waste from our bodies. Dehydration is the loss of water and electrolytes (sodium and potassium), which are needed for normal body function. It is said that if you experience even a small amount of thirst then you are already dehydrated. Other early signs of dehydration include tiredness, irritability, headache, dizziness, dry lips, depression, confusion, and strong smelling urine. Over time, chronic dehydration can lead to a change in mental status, increase in falls, constipation,

poor wound healing, urinary tract infections, seizures, and in extreme cases death. As you can see, water is very important!

So how much should we be drinking? Men 19 years or older require 12 cups of fluid per day, while women of the same age require nine cups. It is best to sip your fluids throughout the day, as opposed to drinking them all at once.

### You may need more fluid if:

- you are at a high elevation;
- the environment is dry;
- you are active;
- you are pregnant or breastfeeding;
- you are in a hot climate;
- you are using diuretics, laxatives, or alcohol;
- you are sick—especially with vomiting and diarrhea.

Although water is definitely the “gold standard” when it comes to hydration, all fluids can fit—so drink up! Milk, water, juice, and soups can all hydrate you (just watch out for extra calories). Caffeinated beverages, such as coffee and tea, used

to be “shunned” from the hydrating fluid list as it was believed they had a diuretic effect. However, these beverages can now be counted towards your daily fluid requirements. Just don’t go overboard! Drink water, too.

As we get older, our thirst mechanism is reduced. This can increase the risk of dehydration. Older people must remember to drink throughout the day, even if they aren’t thirsty, to maintain good hydration.

### Energy Drinks

There has been an excessive use of energy drinks over the past few years in Canada and the rest of North America. These drinks contain sugar, water, caffeine, and taurine (an amino acid). Not only are they poor hydrators, they could be dangerous, depending on their use and your health status. If you drink too many you may be in for trouble.

Not all energy drinks are regulated, and some adverse effects have been reported in Canada (but note that negative effects were only seen when guidelines were not followed).

Energy drinks should **NEVER EVER** be given to children.



If you choose to consume energy drinks, follow the recommendations on the can. Best advice – get a good night’s sleep, eat well, exercise, and live a healthy lifestyle. Then you won’t need energy drinks to get through the day!

### Should you be drinking sports drinks?

Sports drinks are made with a balance of sugar, sodium and potassium (electrolytes), and are used to replenish the body after extreme activity.

It is not necessary to consume a sports drink after less than one hour of activity. Water is best. The body does not lose enough electrolytes before one hour of activity to merit the extra sugar and calories in a sports drink. So save yourself a few dollars and grab a good old glass of H<sub>2</sub>O!

We can live weeks without food, but only a few days without water.

### did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at [Be\\_Well@nstu.ca](mailto:Be_Well@nstu.ca).

Please contact Erin at [ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca) to provide her with your NSTU email address. The [Be\\_Well@nstu.ca](mailto:Be_Well@nstu.ca) list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



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## The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

*The remaining deadline for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2010-2011 school year is **April 15**.*

*Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.*

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

**Nova Scotia Teachers Union**



## Parents, Students & Teachers have Greater Access

Students and parents of some schools now have *real-time* access to their attendance, grades, assignments, teacher comments, and school bulletins.

A new student-parent portal is replacing those that existed in some schools, offering the same features—and more—in a more user-friendly way. This portal can be accessed at home, work, school, or the public library—where ever there is an Internet connection.

Teachers are enjoying the benefits of this new portal. They’re now able to record and communicate marks instantly, and have the flexibility to perform certain tasks from home.

“Grading will be a lot easier,” explains Erick Lee, registrar and teacher at J.L. Ilsley High School in Halifax. “It’s online and web-based, so if I’m at home marking, I can enter marks directly into the system and post them for students and parents to see, all at once.”

In the fall of 2010, the same 80 schools in Nova Scotia began registering and managing student information on one common system. And, parents and students of these Phase I schools received the same provincial report card format that will eventually be used by all schools in the province.

It’s all part of iNSchool, a province-wide program aimed at leveraging technology to better support student achievement. iNSchool is being led by our province’s eight school boards and the Department of Education.

To view a demonstration video of the student-parent portal or learn more about iNSchool, simply log onto [www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca](http://www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca). Keep in mind that plans to roll-out the portal will vary among schools. Meaning, many Phase I schools will start by publishing attendance and school bulletins only, adding grades and assignments at a later date.

iNSchool will gradually be introduced to all schools in the province over the next couple of years.

## Sexual Health Teacher Workgroup

The Department of Education is launching a new curriculum outcome framework for Health Education Primary to 9. One of the six priority health areas within the scope and sequence of this learning outcomes framework is sexual health.

To that end, the Department developed a Sexual Health Teacher Workgroup, which brought together a group of teacher representatives from around the province in the fall of 2010 who teach Grades Primary to 6 to form a professional learning community with the focus on sexual health education. Members of the NSTU's Equity Committee were also included in this group. The workgroup was facilitated by Natalie Flinn, the Department's Active Healthy Living Consultant, English Program Services.

The Department of Education provided learning and teaching resources to this group of teachers appropriate to their teaching assignment. This group of teachers then provided feedback on student response to the resources and to share best practices as they addressed sexual health outcomes with their students in developmentally appropriate ways. They lead discussion and sharing sessions at their respective schools among their staff, and in some cases parents, highlighting student and teaching resources to support sexual health education in schools. This group of elementary teachers also contributed to writing the draft of the *Let's Talk about... Healthy Sexuality* which will be published and distributed to schools this year.

The annotated list for the Sexual Health Primary to 6 School Collection arrived in all P to 6 schools in February. The titles contained within the list were among the titles the teacher workgroup shared with the students in their classroom and were the catalyst for rich learning experiences, which address the new health education specific curriculum outcomes.

The following is a list of titles as part of the Sexual Health Primary to 6 School Collection. Annotations for each title have been provided to schools, along with the intended grade level curriculum fit, with reference to the book bureau stock code number should schools wish to order more titles. Each title in this collection was extensively reviewed and approved by teachers and consultants and are developmentally appropriate for the grade level specified.

### Health Education Primary

*The Bare Naked Book* (18649)  
*Amazing You!: Getting Smart about Your Private Parts* (18640)  
*Molly's Family* (18648)  
*A Tale of Two Daddies* (1000434)  
*And Tango Makes Three* (18790)  
*Who's in a Family?* (1000124)

### Health Education Primary and 1

*Do You Have a Secret?* (18368)  
*My Body Belongs to Me* (1000433)  
*It's Not the Stork!: A Book about Girls, Boys, Babies, Bodies, Families, and Friends*



Above are members of the Sexual Health Teacher Workgroup which met at the NSTU building on January 20. From left to right: John MacKay, NSTU provincial executive liaison to the Equity Committee, Bev Roy, Equity Committee member (Kings Local) (Northeast Kings Education Centre), Michelle Bollivar (Mill Village Elementary), Anne Martin (Tatamagouche Elementary School), Lisa Tobin (Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, Sexual Health Coordinator), Natalie Flinn (Active, Healthy Living Consultant, English Program Services), Chris Cocek (Westmount School), and NSTU executive staff officer and Equity Committee staff liaison Gérard Cormier.

### Health Education 1

*I Can Be Safe* (18371)  
*William's Doll* (1000137)  
*Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer* (1000127)

### Health Education 2, 3, 4, and 5

*It's So Amazing!: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families*

### Health Education 4

*The Girl's Body Book: Everything You Need to Know for Growing up You*  
*The Boy's Body Book: Everything You Need to Know for Growing up You*

### Health Education 4 and 5

*How the Cougar Came to be Called the Ghost*

### Health Education 5 and 6

*The Remarkable Maria*

### Health Education 5

*In Our Mother's House*

### Health Education 6

*It's Perfectly Normal—Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex and Sexual Health*

### All staff, School administrators and guidance counsellors

*The Right Touch: A Read-Aloud Story to Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse*

## Parliament of Canada



Ottawa, October 30 to November 4, 2011

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The Parliament of Canada has free educational resources available for your use.

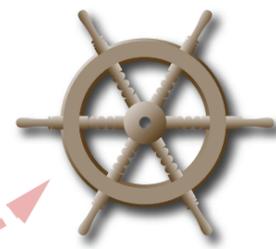
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# Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## Professional Learning is Instructional Time

by Ron Brunton

EXECUTIVE STAFF OFFICER, RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL INITIATIVES

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union has been working with the Department of Education and Board partners to develop a collective understanding of what makes up an effective professional learning community (PLC). Across the province we see teachers who are enthusiastic about their PLC. Those teachers and administrators reflect on how the professional conversations among colleagues have enhanced their own empowerment to effectively address the learning needs of students in their classes. We also hear from teachers and administrators for whom the term “Professional Learning Community” only conjures up feelings of resentment and frustration. For these teachers any thought of expanding the role and presence of PLCs only represents an added burden that detracts from both student learning and rewarding teaching.

The partners’ working group reached a clear understanding that effective Professional Learning Communities can only exist amidst an environment of trust, collegial collaboration and support that enables teachers and administrators to talk about their practice in non-evaluative ways and try new approaches without any fear of censure or reprimand if success is not immediate or obvious. For many in our schools, classrooms have isolated teachers from both colleagues and administration. We are not encouraged to cooperatively teach, to engage in conversation with fellow teachers about the strengths and weaknesses of our approach to a lesson topic or specific student needs. Admission that we don’t have all the answers or know everything is seen as failure and as something upon which a negative evaluation can be based.

To ensure effective Professional Learning Communities, two critical components must be provided. First of all, there must be a cultural shift that enables and encourages an environment of trust and collegiality. Secondly, we must find the time for people to participate in these learning communities. It is very important to note that because effective PLCs require the cultural changes, they cannot simply be mandated.

### FINDING THE TIME

One of the major impediments to enabling Professional Learning Communities within the Nova Scotia framework has been the regulatory requirement of a minimum of 300 minutes of instruction each day. Some parents have argued that early dismissal of students to allow teachers to meet, discuss and learn with respect to instructional strategies, assessment, differentiated instruction, etc. violates this regulatory requirement. However, this problem is based on a false categorization of teachers’ professional learning communities as outside the

definition of “instruction”. While there may have been a time when “instruction” was synonymous with being under the direct supervision of a teacher, our understanding of learning, pedagogy and education has discarded this simplistic viewpoint.

Research clearly establishes that teacher learning, focused on the learning needs of the teachers’ students, is directly related to student learning. It is therefore clear that teacher learning is not separate from instruction, but an integral component of it. However, it is important to distinguish between some broad categories of teacher learning that fit under the general umbrella of “professional development” and this much more focused aspect of teacher learning that is most effectively captured within our understanding of Professional Learning Communities. The former, while it may also assist with student learning, is not part of the instructional day and specific time has been negotiated to provide opportunities for teacher professional development. The latter is new in Nova Scotia. This new form of teacher learning is a part of the instructional process and effective instruction cannot be separated from it.

If we hope to see Professional Learning Communities succeed in Nova Scotia, it is imperative that we communicate to students, parents, government and the public in general that what takes place within the framework of PLCs is intimately bound with what and how students learn. Teachers who better understand new approaches, the learning challenges, assessment *for* learning and differentiated instruction improve and expand what students are learning. The time used for this professional learning does not take away from student learning; this time actually improves student learning.

We also need to understand the minutes that define the instructional day are not minimum and maximum along a continuum of quality. The time to deliver a viable curriculum is defined by that curriculum and that is the time required. The inclusion of a range of time allows for the logistics of a provincial education system and it does not follow that a school with a 300-minute instructional day is inferior to a school with a 315-minute instructional day.

It will be difficult for most teachers to see the addition of PLC time as anything other than an addition to an already demanding workload, even if they understand the underlying theoretical justification. Adding to the school day for teachers is counter-productive to the efforts to engage teachers in Professional Learning Communities.

### THE CULTURAL SHIFT

We must also recognize some political dimensions to efforts to realize professional learning communities in Nova Scotia schools. While we all agree that time is



required for teachers to engage in this focused professional learning, we also have recognized that there is a cultural shift that is required. The provision of time is a necessary condition for an effective PLC, but it is not a sufficient condition.

Two major cultural changes must take place. The first is a move away from individual practice to shared practice. For teachers accustomed to conducting their classrooms as independent entities, within the structure of the PSP, the shift to accepting the input from colleagues about teaching and assessment practice is a significant change. Developing common assessments among a group of teachers will inevitably come up against favourite and treasured assessment strategies and tools. Having colleagues and administrators observe, participate and suggest in a teacher’s classroom will generate disequilibrium. While we will certainly find schools in which this change is well underway, the structure of the school day, classrooms and the conventional model of school provide a great deal of inertia.

The second cultural change is to an atmosphere of trust; trust of colleagues and trust of and among administrators. This clearly happens in many schools, at least to some degree, across the province. However, it is not true systemically. There is confusion, and suspicion, concerning the role of mentors and coaches. When a principal or department head “observes” a class, the anxiety level increases. Making the shift from “evaluation” to a focus on teamwork will take time and dedicated effort from all participants. The underlying premise of mutual respect and of working together must be continually emphasized at every opportunity. The two cultural changes together, shared teaching and trust, transform the experience of someone else in the classroom from one of evaluation to one of support and learning.

### EFFECTING CHANGE

In order to produce sustainable organizational change, research clearly identifies three critical components—confidence, competence and motivation; confidence that the change is achievable

because it is supported by the system with time and material resources; competence is the belief by the participants that they have the personal resources to make the change; and motivation is the desire to make the change.

Motivation itself has three essential components – autonomy, mastery and purpose. Autonomy is essential for teachers’ motivation. There is no incentive to be engaged in a change if teachers have no authority over that change; if it is simply “top down” and mandated by someone else. Teachers must have the opportunity to develop competence in the areas of change. Nothing detracts more from a person’s motivation than the knowledge that he or she will be expected to carry out a task for which they are poorly prepared. Finally, teachers need to understand what the intrinsic benefit of the change will be. Why are we doing this or that? The answer must be seen as worthwhile, not just expedient or to benefit bureaucratic obligations. Teachers do not oppose accountability provided they are held accountable for those things over which they have control.

These change components mean a very messy process. It is much easier for experts to determine the best model and tell everyone to carry it out. Unfortunately, this approach will fail. If we want to change the system culture in education we must be prepared to implement a process that engages teachers in that process and gives them ownership of the results. This is not quick and it’s not easy, but it is the only way to be successful.

One of the most effective strategies for addressing the need for PLC time, one that will be seen as inviting rather than imposing, is to allocate whatever PLC time is needed from within the existing school day, however that may be defined in each individual school. This will require a sustained and effective communications effort to educate students, parents, politicians and the general public that this time is the most effective approach to enhancing and improving student learning. However, that effort is one that will provide an excellent *return on investment*.

# 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](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by March 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's FRESH giveaway is *Teaching with Fire: Poetry that Sustains the Courage to Teach*, edited by Sam M. Intrator and Megan Scribner and published by Jossey-Bass. *Teaching with Fire* is a collection of 88 poems from well-loved poets such as Walt Whitman, Langston Hughes, Billy Collins, Emily Dickinson and Pablo Neruda. Each of these poems is accompanied by a brief story from a teacher explaining the significance of the poem in his or her life's work. This book also includes an essay that describes how poetry can be used to grow both personally and professionally. *Teaching with Fire* was written in partnership with the Center for Courage & Renewal and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.



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## EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by March 25 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's equity book giveaway is *Sister to Courage: Stories from the World of Viola Desmond, Canada's Rosa Parks*. This book was written by Viola Desmond's sister Wanda Robson and published by Breton Books. Viola Desmond was a civil rights icon and pioneer African-Nova Scotian businesswoman. In *Sister to Courage*, Robson takes us inside the world she shared with Viola and ten other brothers and sisters. She traces the roots of courage and ambition, good fun and dignity, of the household that produced Viola Desmond. Tough and compassionate, Viola shines through beyond the moment she was carried out of the Roseland movie theatre for refusing to sit in the blacks-only section. Viola emerges as a defender of family and a successful entrepreneur whose momentum was blocked by racism.



## Congratulations to our BOOK WINNERS from January/February!

**FRESH:** Becoming a WIN-WIN Teacher

**Erin McPhee** from Etoile de l'acadie in Sydney

**EQUITY:** Millions of Souls

**Pam Patterson-Hill** from Brooklyn District Elementary School in Newport

**PD:** Curriculum 21

**Danielle Aucoin** from Malcolm Munroe Junior High, Cape Breton

**PD:** African Chronicles—A Memoir

**Kathy Kerr** from Atlantic Memorial Elementary, Halifax County

## Census jobs

### The 2011 Census is staffing 35,000 jobs across Canada

**Period of employment:**

early March to end of July (start date varies by assignment)

**Rate of pay:**

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**Requirement:**

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## GOT A GOOD IDEA FOR RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL?

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**Project Application Mailing Address**  
Sheonorail Foundation Project Review Committee  
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**Our mandate**

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

**Our purpose**

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

**Our pledge**

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

**DEADLINE—MARCH 25, 2011**



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Canadian Teachers' Federation  
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

# NOTICES

## Math On Competitions 2011



The Math On Olympiad competitions are back! Is your school up for the challenge? On May 9, the fourth annual Math On Provincial competition will be held at Sexton Memorial Gym, Dalhousie University. Students can earn the right to represent their schools by winning at Math On Zone competitions throughout the province on **March 29**. They will test their ability to solve problems – accurately and efficiently, of course!

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

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

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

## Faculty of Science FUN AND DISCOVERY DAYS

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

**Here are planned events for 2011: Psychology and Neuroscience Days, May 4-5; Math Fun Days, May 16-21, 2011; Physics Fun and Discovery Days, May 9-13; Discover Chemistry Days, May 17-19, 2011 and Biology Fun Days, June 8.**

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

## Monument for the Halifax School for the Blind

A group of alumni of the Halifax School for the Blind (HSB) are looking for financial assistance for the purchase and installation of a granite memorial and plaque to be placed at the corner of South Park Street and University Avenue in Halifax, the former site of the school. The monument will include a photo of the school, accompanied by large print and Braille engraving. The proposed cost of the memorial is \$30,000. The group has applied for charitable registration from the federal government to issue receipts for income tax purposes. An account—the Halifax School for the Blind (HSB) Memorial Fund—has been opened at the Toronto Dominion Trust, George and Barrington Street, Halifax.

During the period 1868 to 1984, HSB was the temporary residential and educational centre for hundreds of blind and visually impaired children, mainly from Atlantic Canada, but also from Bermuda and Trinidad. At its peak, the school had an enrollment of 200 pupils. Blind children from the age of five—some of whom were unable to speak English—left small villages and towns to spend nine months a year at the school. In the early 1920s, partially sighted students were admitted when they were unable to cope within the sighted community. HSB also provided temporary refuge for a number of survivors of the 1917 Halifax Explosion. During World War II, HSB provided temporary lodging for child evacuees from England.

For more information, please contact Shirley Trites at 1-902-453-0912, or email her at [shirleytrites@eastlink.ca](mailto:shirleytrites@eastlink.ca).

# executive highlights

## February 3-4, 2011

- Filed table officers report;
- Received the personnel committee report approving a sabbatical leave request for Angela Murray, public relations and communications;
- Discussed the Governance Renewal Committee Report approving five resolutions to be forwarded to Annual Council 2011 amending by-laws and standing orders; and revising operational procedures to add a standing committee on governance and policy;
- Approved four amendments to the regulations governing Disability Pensions under the Teachers' Pension Act;
- Approved provincial executive meeting dates for 2012-2014;
- Approved six resolutions to Annual Council 2011 regarding council elections;
- Approved two resolutions to Annual Council 2011 regarding standing order 6 – committees of council;
- Approved a resolution to Annual Council 2011 regarding Standing Order 5(b) – Resolution Procedures;
- Elected the awards selection committee;
- Approved that as part of the regular Policy review process of the NSTU curriculum policy, any resolutions that simply reaffirm existing policy not be forwarded to Annual Council 2011;
- Processed the 2011 Policy Review on NSTU Curriculum for Council 2011: reaffirmed 12 policies; amended 13 policies; and rescinded one policy;
- Approved a recommendation that there shall be no pre-council vote for Annual Council 2011;
- Approved out-of-province conference grants and education research awards for \$475. each;
- Approved that Mike Isaac be nominated by the NSTU to receive the CTF Outstanding Aboriginal Award.

**FINANCIAL FITNESS Challenge 2011**

Hey Teachers!  
Looking for a fun and interactive way of engaging your students in financial learning?  
Try the Financial Fitness Challenge, and students aged 15-21 could win an Apple iPad, or \$2000.

FREE classroom resources available on the website.  
Contact Nova Scotia Securities Commission for in-class presentations: 424-8586 or [maclein@gov.ns.ca](mailto:maclein@gov.ns.ca)  
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NOVA SCOTIA Securities Commission | CSA/ACVM

2010-2011 Pre-Retirement Seminars SCHEDULE	
DATES	LOCATIONS
March 24 & 25 (Thursday & Friday)	CCRSB (Holiday Inn, Truro)
March 28 & 29 (Monday & Tuesday)	HRSB (NSTU Building, Halifax)
April 20 & 21 (Wednesday & Thursday)	CBVRSB (Delta Sydney)

Dates/locations subject to change

**BREAK OUT**

**DARE 2 MOVE** your own generation. Spread the word about youth inactivity.

Did you know that 93% of today's teens aren't active enough? Seriously? We have an inactivity crisis of epic proportions here. The good news is that you can do something about it, by participating in the **Dare2Move ParticipACTION Teen Challenge**. Create a message that encourages teens to move for their lives, upload it onto our website, and your ideas could help change your generation's future, while winning you some sweet prizes! For more info, visit: [www.participACTION.com/Dare2Move](http://www.participACTION.com/Dare2Move).

DARE 2 MOVE PARTICIPATION TEEN CHALLENGE

## NSTU/ViewFinders workshops focus on student absenteeism

The NSTU continued 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.

“We’re looking forward to seeing the results of this year’s NSTU/ViewFinders partnership,” says NSTU president Alexis Allen. “Through the partnership, students and teachers worked with local filmmakers to create 30-second video messages that address the issue of student absenteeism.”

“We are extremely grateful to the Nova Scotia Teachers Union for seeing the incredible value in this project and for continuing to partner with the Atlantic Film Festival’s ViewFinders,” says Jason Beaudry, ViewFinders Director.



Photo credit Chris Geworsky

*Students shoot a scene during the January 14 to 16 NSTU/ViewFinders workshop.*

Outhit and Jeff Sheriko; lighting mentors Jason Grant and Matt Lynds and writing mentor Jeff MacKay.

The three PSAs will premiere at the ViewFinders International Film Festival for Youth **April 12 to 16**. They will also be viewed at the annual NSTU Communications Conference in April and screened for delegates at Annual Council 2011. The intention is for the three finished PSAs to be used as television advertising for the NSTU during the 2011-12 school year.

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 30-second PSAs from the 2010 March Break camp centred around the theme “Teachers Make a Difference” and were broadcast on CBC, CTV, and Global Television as well as the Eastlink listings channel throughout the month of September for NSTU’s back to school fall campaign. They were also shown on the same stations during the month of February. To view the videos created during the March Break camp 2010, visit the NSTU website.

## ViewFinders celebrates 10 years

ViewFinders: International Film Festival for Youth is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year from **April 12 to 16** in Halifax. The program will include an extensive range of films, workshops and special events commemorating a decade of ViewFinders programming in Atlantic Canada. Whatever your class’s subject or grade level, they have a program that will educate, engage and entertain your students.

The majority of the events take place at Empire Theatres Dartmouth Crossing. ViewFinders dedicates each weekday at the Festival to highlighting education and curriculum elements for each age group—from Elementary Day and French Day to Junior High and High School Day. An accompaniment to the film program is the NSCC Educators Pack, which provides SCO-compatible lesson plans in the form of pre and post screening classroom activities developed for each film presentation.

In addition to the films and workshops, ViewFinders also facilitates a youth video contest.

If you know of any students who are making movies or if you have been incorporating video production into your classroom, ViewFinders would love to see what you’ve been working on. Submissions for the ViewFinders Film Challenge are due **March 11, 2011**. ViewFinders is looking for videos that are five minutes under in length and all Atlantic Canadian youth, ages 18 and under, are eligible to apply.

For more information on ViewFinders, please visit the website at [atlanticfilm.com/view](http://atlanticfilm.com/view) or email ViewFinders Director Jason Beaudry at [jasonb@atlanticfilm.com](mailto:jasonb@atlanticfilm.com).



# ViewFinders

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR YOUTH

A resolution to support a ViewFinders camp or similar activity with the theme of “the importance of school attendance,” was passed during Annual Council 2010.

With no common school break this school year, due to the Canada Winter Games, the NSTU/ViewFinders collaboration took place over three weekends. The weekend workshops took place December 3 to 5, 2010, and January 14 to 16 and 28 to 30, 2011.

“As always, it seems as though we are able to attract the most incredible teachers and students on the planet to participate in ViewFinders activities and a special thanks goes out to them for taking part,” continues Beaudry.

Four teachers and 17 students from across Nova Scotia participated in the NSTU/ViewFinders PSA workshops. The goal of the workshops is to provide students with a video-based curriculum with a focus on commercial marketing. The workshops are mentored by top Nova Scotia film industry professionals and facilitated by teachers. This year’s teacher participants were: Stephen Turner, Northumberland Regional High School; Pam Mason, Halifax West High School; Dan Hennigar, Prince Andrew High School and Andrew Stickings, Grosvenor Wentworth Elementary School.

The student filmmakers were Gwyneth Christoffel-Ferrier, Rebecca Smith, Ryan Kelly, Artem Lebedev, Shawn LePage, Sarah Smith, Kayla Bernard, Alec Cook, Alina Michi, Silja Petersen, Juliana Pulido, Ben Sutherland, Ryan Holland, Alissa LeClerc, Sam McGowan, Devon Pennick-Reilly and Zachary Rice. The filmmakers/directors involved were Eva Madden-Hagen and Jason Levangie. Other crew members included: camera mentors Scott Thorne and Darcy Fraser; sound mentors Graham Colwell, Steve



*Above are participants from the January 14 to 16 NSTU/ViewFinders workshop.*



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## Nova Scotia students establish snow angel world record

Students, teachers and parents across the province hit the snow on Thursday, February 10 at 1 p.m. to try to set a new world record for most snow angels made simultaneously in multiple locations.

The Guinness World Record Snow Angel Challenge is part of Recreation Nova Scotia's 2010-2011 *Take the Roof off Winter* campaign. The current record of 15,851 snow angels was made on February 2, 2004 at 2 p.m. by 60 schools in the London District Catholic School Board, Ontario.

"The support we've received from schools and communities across the province has been incredible," says Rhonda Lemire, Executive Director of Recreation Nova Scotia. "We had over 200 locations that participated across Nova Scotia."

The unofficial word was that the world record was achieved, based on the preliminary sign up and other numbers. No official record will be broken until Guinness gives it their stamp of approval.

Whether the record was achieved or not, it was a great winter activity for all involved. *Take the Roof off Winter* is a physical activity promotions campaign designed to help Nova Scotians of all ages improve their health and quality of life by getting outdoors and being more active in the winter. The campaign runs until March 20. For more information, please visit [www.taketherooffwinter.ca](http://www.taketherooffwinter.ca)



Brian Doue, principal of Macdonald Elementary School in Dominion, makes a snow angel while students cheer him on. Schoolchildren across Cape Breton participated in the *Take the Roof off Winter* initiative, hoping to land themselves in the Guinness Book of World Records by making a record number of snow angels. Photo: courtesy of Sharon Montgomery-Dupe/Cape Breton Post.



Students at Aldershot Elementary School in Kentville were some of thousands who participated in the *Take the Roof off Winter* Snow Angel Challenge.



Students at Felix Marchand Education Centre in Louisdale get ready to make their snow angels as part of the Snow Angel challenge.



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## Seeking Part-Time Principal

King's View Academy is seeking a part-time principal to provide overall leadership and direction to school staff and students.

The ideal candidate is a detailed oriented administrator, committed to the excellence of King's View Academy, with a proven track record of achievement in challenging situations.

Responsibilities include: implementing educational programs in the school, being a key role in educational development, and day-to-day business administration.

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2011**



Tel 429 5434 | 6199 Chebucto Road, Halifax B3L 1M7 | [KingsViewAcademy.com](http://KingsViewAcademy.com)

## NEW for 2011 CONFERENCE



ATENS recognizes that in the past we have not necessarily offered an even representation of professional development for all levels of English Language Arts teachers in the province. We have changed this for 2011 and will have an equal number of sessions suited for elementary, junior, and senior classroom teachers.

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Created exclusively for teachers who educate children about, healthy eating. Rated by teachers such as you as one of THE best sites for nutrition education support!



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Power4Bones is a **FREE** cross-curricular **GRADE 5** program.

It is designed to make teaching healthy living easy while meeting your provincial curriculum expectations across many subjects.



Join the 7,500 classes that have already participated in this exciting program.

*"It's probably the best laid out program I have seen in 30 years. The interactive components allow kids to apply the concepts to their own lives. Tasks integrate language, arts, science, health and computer skills. That demonstrates what an incredible program it is!"*

— Grade 5 teacher, Ottawa (ON)



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DAIRY FARMERS OF CANADA

teachnutrition.org

# coming events

**March is...** National Nutrition Month ([www.dietitians.ca](http://www.dietitians.ca)), National Epilepsy Month ([www.epilepsyns.com](http://www.epilepsyns.com)), Help Fight Liver Disease Month ([www.liver.ca](http://www.liver.ca)), Red Cross Month ([www.red-cross.ca](http://www.red-cross.ca)), Kidney Health Month ([www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca)), Youth Science Festival Month ([www.ysf-fsj.ca](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca)), National Engineering Month ([www.apens.ns.ca](http://www.apens.ns.ca)) and National Colorectal Cancer Month ([www.colorectal-cancer.ca](http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca)).

## FEBRUARY 28 TO APRIL 18

### Neptune Theatre School Adult class

Neptune Theatre School is offering an Intro to Acting for Adults from February 28 to April 18, 2011. This class is the perfect introduction to the world of theatre. Designed for educators, those looking to improve public speaking skills, as well as those interested in a future in acting, students will use theatre exercises as a way of exploring story telling, characterization and loosening up body

and voice so they can be used creatively. The class is Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. in Halifax. The fee is \$150. Please call 429-3750 or register at [www.neptunetheatre.com/classes.php?class\\_id=55](http://www.neptunetheatre.com/classes.php?class_id=55).

## MARCH

### National Engineering Month

National Engineering Month is a month-long celebration and promotion of the profession of Engineering in Canada. This year's theme is *Design the Future*. Engineers create and design structures so small you can't even see them with your eyes, yet they all also design huge structures like skyscrapers. Engineers mix their creative skills with

math, sciences and technology to come up with things that were once thought impossible. National Engineering Month activities give Canadians of all ages a chance to explore, discover and appreciate how engineering, science and technology contribute to our quality of life. For more information on Nova Scotia events being organized for National Engineering Month, please visit [www.apens.ns.ca/events.asp?PageID=2091](http://www.apens.ns.ca/events.asp?PageID=2091).

## MARCH 8

### International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of International Women's Day, with special events taking place around the world. Here are some events taking place around International Women's Day:

#### March 5

##### *A Celebration of Women in Film & TV*

This symposium for registered delegates is being held in cooperation with Women in Film & TV Atlantic. It will take place at Mount Saint Vincent from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, please email [info@wift-at.com](mailto:info@wift-at.com).

#### March 5

*Cheap Seats Saturday Night* at the Park Lane Cinemas features films directed by women. Movies start at 8 p.m. with a ticket price of \$5.

#### March 6

##### *A Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies at the Mount*

This event will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the MSVU Art Gallery. Seating is limited, so please RSVP. Call 902-457-6581 or email [nancys-chair-25th@msvu.ca](mailto:nancys-chair-25th@msvu.ca).

#### March 7

##### *A Recognition of the 35th Anniversary of "Atlantis"*

"Atlantis" is a Women's Studies journal at MSVU. The time and place for this event of recognition are yet to be announced. Email [atlantis@msvu.ca](mailto:atlantis@msvu.ca) for more information.

#### March 8

##### *Pancake Breakfast*

This special pancake breakfast to mark the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day takes place from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at MSVU's Seton Faculty Lounge, 404-405.

#### March 8

##### *Smoked Glass Ceiling*

*Smoked Glass Ceiling* takes place from 4:30 to 8 p.m. at MSVU's Rosaria Multi-Purpose Room. It will include a one-woman theatre piece written and performed by Rita Shelton Deverell; poets; musicians; food and fun! This event is free and open to the public. A \$5 donation is suggested to benefit the Mount's Student Refugee Program.

## NSTU CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

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

### 7. VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

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

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

### 8. COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

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

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

### 9. GENERAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES - ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CAMPAIGNING

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

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

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[continued from page 14]

### March 8

#### Voices of Celebration: International Women's Day @ 100

Join the Halifax Action Circle of Amnesty International in celebrating women as storytellers, musicians and dancers give voice to women's stories. Performances are from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Mount Saint Vincent University auditorium. A champagne reception will follow. Performers and storytellers include: Shauntay Grant, spoken word artist and poet laureate; Catherine Banks, Governor-General Award winning playwright; Susan Crowe, singer and songwriter; Chelsea Nisbett; Catherine Martin, filmmaker, drummer, educator; Savannah Simon, traditional dancer; Dawn Sloane, HRM councillor; Rene Ross, Executive Director of Stepping Stone; Renee Black, member of UNIFEM and Rita Clare LeBlanc, founder of MYST. Your freewill offering will support Amnesty International's women's human rights campaigns. For more information, contact the Halifax Action Circle of Amnesty International at <http://aihaliifax.blogspot.com/>.

### MARCH 21

#### International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 21 is recognized by the United Nations as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. March 21 kicks off the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination from March 21 to 28. On March 21, 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws. Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

The March 21 campaign heightens awareness of the harmful effects of racism and encourages the fostering of respect, equality and diversity. It has mobilized youth across Canada to rise up and take a stand against racism. To help stop racism, you can plan an activity or project in your school or community and continue to promote the concept throughout the year. For more information, please visit [www.cic.gc.ca/English/multiculturalism/march21/index.asp](http://www.cic.gc.ca/English/multiculturalism/march21/index.asp).

### MARCH 25 & 26

#### Green Roots Symposium: Tools for Change in a Changing Environment

The goal of the *Green Roots Symposium* is to inform attendees about tools for making changes to be more sustainable at home, at work, in the classroom and in the community. Designed for educators, students, business owners and representatives, government representatives and agencies interested in the pursuit of a sustainable Nova Scotia, it will be held at NSCC's Waterfront Campus at 80 Mawiomi Place in Dartmouth. This symposium is the collaborative effort of SENSE: Sustainability Education in Nova Scotia for Everyone, a working group of the Nova Scotia Environmental Network, Nova Scotia Department of the Environment, Nova Scotia Department of Education, and BALLE Nova Scotia: Business Alliance for Local Living Economies. For more information or to register, go to [www.gov.ns.ca/nse/greenroots/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse/greenroots/). For more information on SENSE, visit [www.nsen.ca/education.php](http://www.nsen.ca/education.php).

### MARCH 26

#### Wear Purple Day for Epilepsy

Founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, with the help of the Epilepsy Association of Nova Scotia, Purple Day is an international grassroots effort dedicated to increasing awareness about epilepsy worldwide. On March 26, people from around the globe are asked to wear purple and spread the word about epilepsy. Epilepsy affects over 50 million people worldwide. That's more than multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and Parkinson's disease combined. Why purple? Lavender is the international colour for epilepsy. Getting involved is easy. Wear purple and encourage others to do the same. Host a Purple Day party or fundraising event at your home, school or business. For more information, please visit [www.purpleday.org](http://www.purpleday.org) and [www.epilepsymatters.com](http://www.epilepsymatters.com).

### APRIL TO JUNE

#### Healing Hands Workshops

Healing Hands Mental Health Association of Nova Scotia will be offering a series of

Saturday morning workshops this spring dealing with childhood/adolescent disorders. These workshops will be starting on April 2 at the Bloomfield Centre, 2681 Agricola Street in Halifax. The presenters are university professors, psychiatrists, psychologists and other noted researchers in their respective areas. The workshops, which will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on each scheduled date, are open to the general public, parents, grandparents, teachers, school counsellors, resource teachers and other health care providers who work with children and adolescents. The cost is \$10 per workshop or \$50 for all six sessions.

The schedule of workshops is as follows:

**April 2** — Dr. Stanley Kutcher, psychiatrist with the IWK Hospital — *New Resources to Improve Youth Mental Health Services in Nova Scotia*

**April 9** — Carole Shirley, psychologist with Roth Associates — *Learning Disabilities: Identification and Remediation in School Going Children*

**April 16** — Dr. S.S. Sodhi, retired Dalhousie University professor and psychologist with Roth Associates —

*Making School Going Children Resilient: A Review of the Research*

**May 7** — Dr. Penny Corkum, professor with the Dept. of Psychology, Dalhousie University — *Attention Deficit Hyperactive Child (ADHD) in School Going Children: Identification and Remediation; Issues and Treatment*

**May 14** — Dr. Sabina Abidi, psychiatrist with the IWK Hospital — *Depression in School Going Children*

**June 4** — Dr. Virginia Walford, psychologist with Roth Associates — *Grieving and Grief Therapy For School Going Children*

To register for this series of workshops or for individual sessions please email [hmhans@gmail.com](mailto:hmhans@gmail.com) or phone 479-4656 (voicemail).

Please remember to include your own contact information, and whether you want to register for the entire series or specific sessions. Payment may be sent by cheque or given at registration on the first session date. The venue has a limit of 120 persons, so pre-registration is recommended. Those attending will be given a Certificate of Attendance.

[continued on page 17]

## NEW DISCOUNT FOR NSTU MEMBERS

**Raylene Hopkins, Franchise Owner**

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## NEW! The Nimbus Teacher Box

Welcome to our brand new teacher box program!

Get free books, bookmarks, and posters for your classroom and preview quality, local books delivered right to you twice a year.

Please share this with your fellow teachers so they can get free books too!

#### The Details:

Sign up using the order form below and twice a year (in Spring and Fall), we will send you a package of materials for your classroom including bookmarks, posters, and other fun things, as well as one free copy of a new local book.

When you sign up, we'll also put you on the list to receive our travelling box of samples. Twice a year, you'll have a box of new books delivered to your classroom. You'll have a week to preview them and share them with your class before the box is picked up and passed on to the next teacher on the list. The box will come with an order form so you can easily place an order via fax, email or phone for the books you wish to have in your classroom or you can find them at your local bookstore.

#### The Cost

The program is free for teachers in the Maritimes. If you wish to order books from the catalogue or the sample box, you will get 20% off the cover price plus free shipping. (Shipping of the sample box is also free).

#### The Books

Nimbus publishes children's picture books, middle-reader novels, and young adult novels as well as history, nature, biography, and more. All of our books have Atlantic Canadian content and most are written by authors from the region. You may be familiar with our books from the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award program or maybe one of our authors has visited your school. Nimbus also distributes books from many of the smaller Atlantic publishers, such as PEI's Acorn Press, and New Brunswick's Goose Lane Editions so the box could include things from them as well.

#### Questions?

If you have any questions about the program or our books, please contact our Sales Manager, Terrilee Bulger:  
Phone: 902-455-2963  
Toll-free: 1-800-646-2879  
Email: [tbulger@nimbus.ca](mailto:tbulger@nimbus.ca)

Find us on Facebook and Twitter

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Any special interest: \_\_\_\_\_



Browse our books at [www.nimbus.ca](http://www.nimbus.ca)

Open only to schools in the Maritime provinces of this time. Fax your completed form to (902) 455-5440.

## SPRING BREAK ... DELTA STYLE



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Reservations: [www.deltahotels.com/nstu](http://www.deltahotels.com/nstu)



[www.deltabarrington.com](http://www.deltabarrington.com) [www.deltahalifax.com](http://www.deltahalifax.com)  
For reservations and information call 1-888-423-3582 (toll free)

## Champlain Elementary's papier-mâché haven

As you walk into Champlain Elementary School in Granville Ferry, you are immediately struck by the art that surrounds the perimeter of the open lobby—whether it's the life-size figure of Samuel de Champlain snuggled in his boat, or the cod fish that adorn the walls, or the seagulls that fly throughout the space. The school is nestled close to the shores of the Annapolis Basin, and the water and sea theme is evident throughout the main entrance with the sea monster sculpture, the silk "peace" sails that hang in the corner and the descriptive signage throughout—Adventurer's Alley, Good Cheer Passage, and Explorer's Approach.



*A sea monster ornaments the front inside upper wall of the school's main entrance.*



*Tiny mice scamper below the sun and clouds.*

The large papier-mâché pieces are part of a project that began in January 2010, which saw students, teachers and community members spend the next six months creating the incredible sculptures that adorn the brightly lit lobby. "It was set up as a group enrichment project within the school," says Champlain Elementary School principal Lynn Winter.

The school had the great fortune to work with a local artist Rion Microys who runs PMS (papier-mâché studios). According to her bio, Microys started digging through her career as an archaeologist and questioned how she was contributing to the joy of life and in 1994 she changed course and began to sculpt attitudinal animals doing ridiculous things in a colourful world. Inspired by doodles, cartoons and the other stuff of childhood, she creates quirky mixed media papier-mâché pieces, and this is evident in the sculptures she created with the 182 P to 5 Champlain Elementary students.

Winter procured a \$500 grant from the Annapolis Valley Regional School Board to create the masterpieces. "We had to get extra funding for her," comments Winter. "She spent an incredible amount of time on the project. She designed all the pieces and worked with the whole school to build the pieces. Each classroom/grade worked on a specific piece."

Jeannie Robinson's Grade Primary class worked on the Sea Monster, Sherri Johnstone-Robinson's P/1 class created the moon and stars, Eileen Fry's Grade 2 class created the cod fish, Mary Helen Gallagher's Grade 3 class worked on the seagulls, Amy Lewis' Grade 3/4 class created the cat and mice, Grade 4/5 MacIntosh and Grade 5 Gaudet worked on Samuel de Champlain.

Another local artist Asha Croggon designed the Samuel de Champlain figure that sits in the dory in the middle of the lobby. "Students helped Asha make the clothing for Champlain.

What started as an enrichment project has turned into a lasting visual legacy for the school.



*Cod fish swim in Good Cheer Passage.*



*Seagulls, a moon and stars provide the backdrop for Explorer's Approach.*



*Champlain himself provides the centrepiece of the school's lobby.*

### Yoga in Schools

Summer Teacher Training Intensive



**Summer Institute Yoga Teacher Training Intensive:** empowering educators to teach with inspiration, connection and peace.

This program will provide teachers with module 1 & 2: an introduction to Yoga, Yoga II, Special Needs and Yoga for Autism, with physical practice and experiential activities. These hours are part of the optional 200hr certification, which is required to teach Yoga II in schools (graduates of the 200hr Teacher Training will receive all yoga programs designed by Jenny).

Be one of the growing number of teachers bringing this transformational yoga experience to their students!

*"This program created and lead by Jenny and Blair, has revitalized and prepared an inspired group to deliver the new PSP Yoga II curriculum. The joy and gratitude is palpable throughout the journey. This course has and will change many lives, having lasting effects within the education system."* —Sue Stevenson

*"I have felt for quite some time that I have been missing something and through this program, I have come to realize that something was me."* —Megan Grant

**This PD workshop will leave you feeling refreshed, renewed and inspired.**

**Leader(s):** Jenny Kierstead is a former Phys. Ed teacher and the founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studios. She was the contributing designer of the Yoga II, co-author of Yoga for Autism and Special Needs. She created the Yoga Posters for Elementary and Secondary levels published through Thompson Publications and has trained and mentored the many teachers introducing yoga to their schools.

**Blair Abbass** was the first teacher to bring Yoga II to the HRSB. He is a contributing designer of the Yoga II curriculums in the area of meditation.

Date(s): July 18-21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax

Fee: \$ 500.00 + HST (check local PD for funding)

Register early to secure your spot!

Contact: Jenny Kierstead and Blair Abbass 444-YOGA (9642)

info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca

[continued from page 15]

## APRIL 11

### Healthy Schools Day in Canada 2011

The countdown has started for 2011 Healthy Schools Day in Canada—Journée des écoles saines du Canada.

This year it is April 11, 2011. Start planning your activity to promote good Indoor Air Quality in your school(s). Please encourage others in your province or area to plan and register projects. Healthy classroom and school building environments is the focus. Use less toxic cleaning materials, building materials, and classroom materials. Use safe alternatives for pest control. Improve indoor air quality. Stop bus and car idling. Control and remove indoor mould growth.

Want to register a project to mark the day? Check out last year's great projects at the official Healthy Schools Day (HSD) website: [www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay](http://www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay).

Projects don't necessarily have to be on that exact day. They can be ongoing projects

or take some other form. They just need to be designated as a project to draw attention to Healthy Schools Day.

If you want, we can help you by editing a draft text to include on the new Project Registry. All you need to register your project is provide the information requested on the HSD web page at [www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay](http://www.casle.ca/HealthySchoolsDay).

**The deadline for  
April's issue  
of *The Teacher* is  
March 18.  
Call 1-800-565-6788  
or email  
[theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)**

**Vantage Auto Glass Claims**

Our trained Vantage Point glass specialists covering Atlantic Canada can repair or replace your windshield your way, right away at your home or office.

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For a FREE quote, fill in the form online or call toll free and one of our team members will contact you with the information you need.

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## 2011 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS



*All regional elections will be conducted by electronic vote.*

Region	To be elected	Date of Election
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	1 member	May 3
Cape Breton District	1 member	April 5
Community College	1 member	TBA
Cumberland	1 member	April 12
CSANE	1 member	TBA
Digby-Yarmouth	1 member	April 27
Halifax City	1 member	TBA
Halifax County	1 member	TBA
Northside-Victoria	1 member	TBA
Pictou	1 member	April 5
Shelburne-Queens	1 member	May 4

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## SuperNOVA's In-Class Workshops

Bringing science and engineering concepts to Your Classroom!



SuperNOVA's workshops are developed to meet general and specific curriculum outcomes through creative, engaging and hands-on activities, projects and demonstrations.

Instructors will be traveling to schools and communities throughout Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in May and June delivering classroom workshops.

To view workshop topics and request instructors in your school, head to the SuperNOVA website:

[www.supernova.dal.ca](http://www.supernova.dal.ca)

By booking workshops with SuperNOVA you get access to online lesson plans and hands-on activities you can explore with your students to enhance their understanding!

**SUPERNOVA**  
at Dalhousie University

P: 902.494.6220 | E: [supernova@dal.ca](mailto:supernova@dal.ca) | F: 902.429.4274



update

## NSTU MEDOC® GROUP TRAVEL PLAN & TRIP CANCELLATION / TRIP INTERRUPTION PLAN

For many years now, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees have made available to both active and retired members, a competitively priced Out-Of-Country/Province Travel Insurance Program. The MEDOC® Travel Insurance Plan offers NSTU members complete coverage for your travel insurance needs.

The Provincial Health Insurance Plan provides limited basic coverage while members travel outside of the Province. However, this coverage is not enough. If you have a medical emergency while travelling out of Province or out of Canada, costs can easily escalate and it can cost thousands of dollars.

Covered expenses under the NSTU MEDOC® Group Travel Plan include prescription drugs, x-rays, nursing services, air emergency transportation or evacuation, emergency dental services, bedside transportation, repatriation, return of vehicle, and board and lodging.

The MEDOC® Group Travel Plan provides year-round coverage. With a 35-day annual Base Plan, you are covered for an unlimited number of trips up to 35 consecutive days per trip during the policy year. For longer periods of travel, you can purchase a Supplemental Plan for additional protection to cover the period of time that you will be away. The Supplemental Plan provides coverage for one single trip longer than 35 days and includes the annual Base Plan coverage. Premium payments are made through monthly payroll deduction to the policy renewal, which is September 1.

### NSTU Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Plan

For over two years now, a Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Plan has been available to active and retired NSTU members. This plan helps protect travelers against unforeseen circumstances that may prevent or discontinue a trip. Coverage highlights of this plan are:

#### Annual Plan

Trip Cancellation - up to a maximum of \$5,000 per insured person per annual coverage period.

Trip Interruption - up to a maximum of \$5,000 per insured person for each covered trip.

Up to a maximum of \$3,500 for lodging, meals, car rental, telephone calls and taxi costs (\$350 per day).

Up to a maximum of \$1,000 for loss of, or damage to, baggage and personal effects during a covered trip.

Personal effects - actual cash value or \$500, whichever is less.

Document replacement - up to a maximum of \$200.

Baggage Delay - up to \$400.

You must be enrolled in the MEDOC® Group Travel Plan in order to apply for Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption coverage. For members purchasing Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption coverage for the first time, premiums will be pro-rated from the date your coverage is effective until the policy renewal date (September 1). Like the MEDOC® Group Travel Plan, coverage will renew automatically on September 1 of each year. The monthly premium is very competitive with the convenience of year-round coverage.

It is easy to enroll!! Just contact Johnson Inc. at the numbers below for the application form(s).

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

## AIR MILES Contest Winner

What would you do with 15,000 AIR MILES® reward miles? Marilyn MacGibbon of Hammonds Plains, N.S. recently asked herself that very question after winning a contest that was held by Johnson Insurance for members and retired members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

Marilyn's entry was amongst the many received in the nine month contest period. The 15,000 AIR MILES® reward miles contest ran from March 1<sup>st</sup> to December 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and was open to NSTU members who requested no-obligation quotes and to existing policyholders.

Pictured here is Marilyn MacGibbon (left) with Johnson Service Supervisor, Roxanne Jollimore. Congratulations Marilyn and happy AIR MILES® reward miles shopping!

Johnson Inc. is pleased to be the preferred provider of home-auto insurance to NSTU members. For more information visit [www.johnson.ca/nstu](http://www.johnson.ca/nstu) or call 1-800-563-0677.



Exclusively for Active and Retired NSTU Members

# What would you do with \$1,000?



Would you finish off some home renovations?  
Buy yourself that new TV? Plan a little getaway?

Simply request a home or auto insurance quote between March 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> and you could WIN 1 of 5 \$1,000 Gift Cards for a retail store of your choice.

1.800.563.0677

[www.johnson.ca/nstu](http://www.johnson.ca/nstu)

## NSTU SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

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

To obtain the secondment application form:

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



**Johnson Inc. Insurance**

Proud to be One of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2011.

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Contest runs from March 1st to December 1st, 2011. No purchase necessary. Existing policyholders are automatically entered in the contest. The contest is open to active and retired NSTU Members. One (1) \$1000 gift card will be awarded to each winner. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Certain conditions may apply. Visit [www.johnson.ca/nstu](http://www.johnson.ca/nstu) for full contest details. LRP/01.11

# resources

## Last Chance: Social Studies/Health Titles 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](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 limited numbers; once they're gone, they will no longer be available from our dubbing collection.

### **O Canada (3 min.)** *Canadian Geography; National Identity*

This video comes alive as the use of contemporary and archival footage combines with a stunning rendition of the national anthem performed by a 57-piece orchestra. Appropriate for all grade levels.

### **Suzuki Speaks (45 min.)** *Sociology 12; Economics 12; Global Geography 12; Environmentalism*

Suzuki Speaks captures the passion and vision of world-renowned scientist and environmentalist Dr. David Suzuki, who delivers the most important message of his career: humans and our place in the universe.

### **DNA and Dollars (48 min.)** *Biology 11-12; Sociology 12; Global Geography 12; Bioethics*

This film takes the viewer behind the scenes in clinics and laboratories to meet some of the major players in Canadian genetic research and into the homes of patients who have donated their DNA in the hope of finding treatments or cures for diseases. The biotech industry rightly claims that it takes a decade or more and millions of dollars to get a discovery from the lab to the drugstore but the public concerns about the manipulation and commercialization of human genes, cloning, and genetic privacy seem to be lost as science marches onwards.

### **If the Weather Permits (28 min.)** *Sociology 12; Global Geography 12; Canadian History 12; Inuit Culture*

Elisapie Isaac, a young filmmaker born in Nunavik, decides to return to her roots on this breathtaking land and as the fundamental question: Can Inuit culture survive in the modern world? To bridge the gap between the young and old, she lets Naalak, an elder, and Danny, a young policeman from Kangirsujuaq, tell us what they think.

### **In Other Words (27 min.)** *Healthy Living 9; Sociology 12; Bullying; Stereotypes*

This film explores the homophobic language heard in schools and other youth hangouts--the words themselves, their origins, how young people feel about them, and how to overcome the hurt and anger they cause. Moving interviews with gay, lesbian and transgender teens provide first-hand accounts. The video is designed to foster change, to ensure that schools are safe places where youth can learn in a climate of respect. Teacher preview recommended.

### **One of Them (26 min.)** *Healthy Living 9; Sociology 12; Bullying; Stereotypes*

Freedom from bullying, name calling and violence motivates the high school seniors in this school-based drama. Set firmly in the context of human rights, and with a focus on homophobia and discrimination, not sexual behavior, this film prompts students to examine their own responses and promote a safe school environment for all students.

### **Fundamental Freedoms (48 min.)** *Canadian History 11; Political Science 12; Law 12*

This documentary examines the history of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the struggle surrounding the ratification of the document and the importance of the Charter in today's multicultural society. The program reviews the evolution of the Charter of Rights and each of its guarantees: the fundamental freedoms, democratic rights, mobility rights, legal rights, equality rights, language rights. Interviews with government officials, educators, the legal community and recent immigrants feature prominently in the program.

### **This is Daniel Cook (60 min.)** *Social Studies P-2*

This 2-DVD series features six-year old Daniel Cook. Inquisitive and intelligent, Daniel explores the world around him through his own candid questions which quickly disarm everyone he meets, resulting in a show that entertains as well as it teaches. Simple, pure, and honest, this is a series that allows children to view everything from Daniel's perspective, seeing what he sees and learning what he learns. Each episode consists of five six-minute segments.

Education Media Library, P.O. Box 578, Halifax, B3J 2S9; 902-424-2440; 902-428-3176 (fax); Email [mediacir@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:mediacir@ednet.ns.ca). Visit the website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

## RESOURCES

### *High School and Mental Health Curriculum*

Teenmentalhealth.org, a project of the Sun Life Financial Chair in Adolescent Mental Health (a partnership between Sun Life Financial, Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre) has been working in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association to develop, review and revise a teen mental health curriculum guide. The guide, the first of its kind in Canada, is built based on best-evidence research and filled with information and facts relevant to Canadian teens. The guide contains a self-study teachers training series, as well as six classroom modules that can be used independently or together. Each of the modules includes activities, visuals and videos that teachers can use in the classroom to make learning easier. The High School and Mental Health Curriculum uses a variety of interactive sessions that help to promote dialogue among students, as well as with their teachers, parents and health care providers. Discussing mental health in a supportive, familiar environment helps youth to feel safe, ask questions, gain knowledge, combat stigma, seek help and develop their own opinions of the world around them. The guide is available on [teenmentalhealth.org/curriculum](http://teenmentalhealth.org/curriculum).

### *SHANNEN'S DREAM*

*Shannen's Dream* is a new short educational DVD documentary created by Heartspeak™. Shannen Koostachin had a dream that all First Nation children would have an education in safe, "comfy" schools. In her short life, Shannen has inspired national interest to carry on the fight for equitable education rights for all First Nation children and youth. Heartspeak™ encourages the use of this DVD in classrooms (Grades 3 and up) and the educational community as you explore themes and topics related to: social justice and diversity; environmental issues and safe and healthy schools; issues of Aboriginal Peoples; human rights and education rights and letter writing/communications skills/creative expression. For more information on Shannen's Dream or to order a DVD, please contact [info@heartspeak.ca](mailto:info@heartspeak.ca).

For an up-to-date copy of  
**DEALS & DISCOUNTS**  
for NSTU members,  
please contact [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)  
or phone 1-800-565-6788 or visit [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca).

## French Proficiency Institute

July 4-15, 2011

### Join Us This Summer

for an exciting opportunity to boost your French speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. This two-week summer institute, part of our **Certificate in French Proficiency**, can be a powerful part of your professional and personal development.

- Begin at a skill level that fits your learning needs, from beginner to advanced.
- Qualify for an Advanced Teacher's Certificate 1 (ATC 1), upon approval from the NS Department of Education.
- Complete your Certificate in French Proficiency over the course of several summer institutes. Flexible online courses are also available.

Register today!  
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# classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words; 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional number.

Non-teachers pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word.

To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca).

**JOB SHARE** - Elementary Teacher looking to job share in HRSB or CCRSB (Nova). Any percentage. [cherwal2008@hotmail.com](mailto:cherwal2008@hotmail.com). 902-499-6575.

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

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

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

**JOB SHARE** - Elementary teacher looking to job share in the HRSB. Any percentage. Please contact [thayes@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:thayes@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

**JOB SHARE** -Mature teacher with several years experience seeks elementary position at any percentage for 2011-2012 in the area of downtown Halifax. Phone Margot 902-471-8301.

**JOB SHARE** - French Immersion Teacher looking for job share 2011/12 in HRSB (Dartmouth area preferred). 15 years experience. Currently in a job share and enjoying the opportunity. Any percentage. Contact [cjillard@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:cjillard@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**JOB-SHARE** - Fifteen year sub looking for elementary share teaching position. Term experience in resource, learning centre and upper elementary. To see full resume, [m1staple@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:m1staple@ns.sympatico.ca).

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

**JOB SHARE** - Experienced elementary term teacher seeking a 40% plus job share opportunity for the 2011/2012 school year. I have had consistent term contracts with ample experience running my own classroom. If you are a permanent teacher looking to share your class please contact me at [stevensn@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:stevensn@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

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

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - An elementary resource teacher with the HRSB is looking for the same with the CBVRSB for the 2012-2013 school year. A permanent exchange is also possible. If interested, please email [dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca).

**TEACHER EXCHANGE** - Special Education teacher with the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board looking for teacher exchange with the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board OR the South Shore Regional School Board for the 2011-12 school year. If interested, please contact [teachermove@yahoo.ca](mailto:teachermove@yahoo.ca).

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

**HISTORIC HALIFAX ACCOMMODATIONS** - HINS Halifax Heritage House. Experience downtown

Halifax; shopping, waterfront trail, and live theatre. Private, family or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-422-3863 to book today.

**WENTWORTH COUNTRY HOSTEL** - Experience nature; bird watching, hiking trails, star gazing, and open space. Private, family, or dormitory rooms. Kitchen use available. Please phone 902-548-2379 or email [wentworthhostel@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:wentworthhostel@ns.sympatico.ca) to book today.

**SUMMER RENTAL** - Dartmouth - in Brightwood area, 2-3 bedroom home on quiet cul-de-sac. Available June through September 2011. For details, please contact [hollyj12@gmail.com](mailto:hollyj12@gmail.com).

**FRENCH TEACHERS NEEDED** - Home-based extra income. Online Elementary Reading Program. Evenings and weekends. Flexible hours. [www.teachercertifiedtutoring.com](http://www.teachercertifiedtutoring.com).

**BUYING A NEW CAR?** Contact us before you do anything else! [www.buninsautoassist.com](http://www.buninsautoassist.com), [abunin@eastlink.ca](mailto:abunin@eastlink.ca), or 902-792-1777. \*NSTU members are offered a 10% discount on all services.

**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](http://www.paulbehne.on.ca) for complete details.

**AVAILABLE** - For Professional Development sessions on HUMOUR and/or ART go to [www.SusanCarterComic.com](http://www.SusanCarterComic.com) for more information.

**FOR SALE** - Sunsprite portable kerosene heater with 4 gallons of kerosene included. Originally \$299, asking \$150. Phone 902-252-5131.

**BUYING A NEW CAR?** Save time, money and stress. Bunin's Auto Assist will work for you to ensure a positive, money-saving vehicle purchase. [www.buninsautoassist.com](http://www.buninsautoassist.com), [abunin@eastlink.ca](mailto:abunin@eastlink.ca), or 902-792-1777. \*NSTU members are offered a 10% discount on all services.

**REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY AT ALLURE**, 115 Portland St., Dartmouth, just up the street from Alderney Landing. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year per family member with Blue Cross, no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension, fibromyalgia, improving sleep. **Chris Bagnell RMT**, 10 years experience. To contact Chris for an appointment, call 902-464-0606.

Check out the **Deals & Discounts** section for updates on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)

# education week

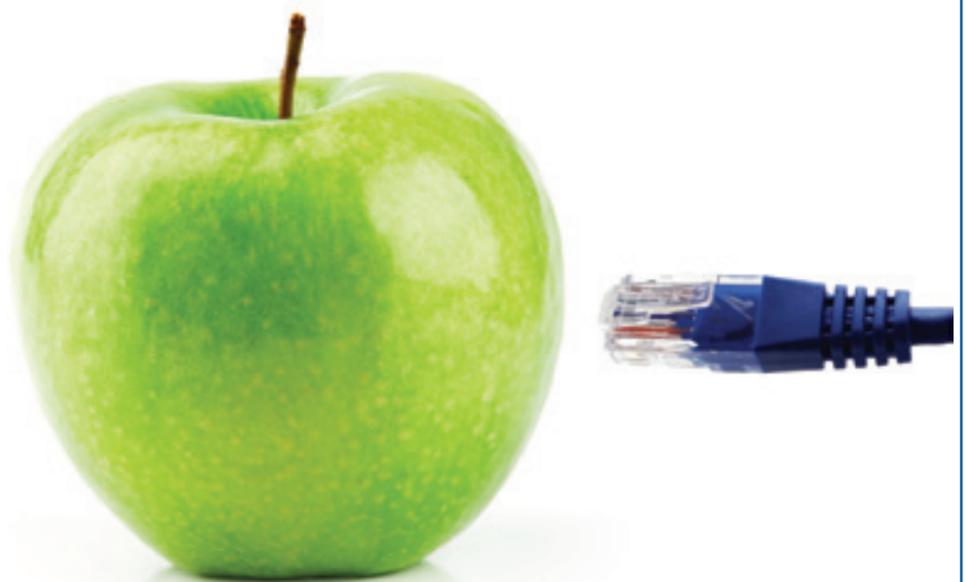
April 10 to 16 2011

## Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century

Nova Scotia educators are combining 21st-century methods with core subjects to provide the tools students need to be successful in their studies and beyond graduation.

Thanks to innovative teaching, paired with digital and web-based resources, students are approaching learning and innovation in a new way. Students are also gaining the competencies required of citizens in the information age, including media and technology literacy, and life and career skills.

Nova Scotia public school teachers are going above and beyond in this effort, positioning students to excel in their future careers. Thanks to the dedication of Nova Scotia's teachers and education partners, the province's students are among the best and brightest in the country.



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