



The CHECK IN

April 20, 2026

Issue 32



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

With Earth Day just around the corner, it's a timely reminder that caring for our planet is something we can all take part in, every day. Whether it's making small, mindful choices or supporting broader environmental efforts, each action contributes to a healthier, more sustainable world. Together, we can help protect and preserve our environment for today and for future generations.



IMPORTANT DATES

Apr 22 Pre-Council meeting for delegates/alternate delegates

Apr 24 Halifax County Local Conference Fund and Local Reserve Conference Fund application deadline

Apr 29 Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development and High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day

Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant application deadline

Article 60 Conference Grant application due

Apr 30 Article 60 PD (Course) Grant application deadline

“ I'm not the only one who feels it... this place is our home. We have to take care of it ~ Wall-E ”



CONTACT 2026 is being hosted by the NSTU and will take place at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville NS, from August 4-7, 2026.

Application is now open! Apply at: <https://forms.gle/rvZA4EU3n1UozHkC7>

Further CONTACT information can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/view/contact2026intentionaleducator/home>

The Nominations Chair will randomly draw a conference attendee and an alternate and notify them. Halifax County Local will reimburse the conference attendee for travel, accommodations, and meal costs with receipts. Application deadline is **May 5/26 at 4 p.m.** Any questions about CONTACT, please email hfxconominations@nstu.ca or halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca (the Local President).

Education Week
May 10–16, 2026

Semaine de l'éducation
du 10–16 mai, 2026

Fostering Empathy Cultiver l'empathie

Learning and Leading with Kindness

Apprendre et diriger avec gentillesse

Education Week 2026's theme is "Fostering Empathy: Learning and Leading with Kindness"

This year, we celebrate teachers, school staff, and community partners who show how kindness can make a big difference in learning. When schools focus on fostering empathy, they create safe and welcoming spaces where everyone feels included. Empathy helps students build strong friendships, work well together, and grow into leaders who care about others. By learning and leading with kindness, we prepare students not just for success in school, but for making their communities better places.

We are proud to celebrate **Chantal Pye**, Science / Art / Literacy Intervention Teacher at Oyster Pond Academy as the Halifax County recipient of the 2026 Education Week Award!

NSTU Provincial President Election

Peter Day has been re-elected as NSTU president by acclamation for the 2026 - 2028 term. "I'm incredibly honoured and humbled to have been acclaimed as president of the NSTU," says Day. "I am grateful for the confidence members have placed in my leadership and for their continued support and look forward to continuing to advocate for teachers and specialists while safeguarding their rights and benefits. We remain committed to improving working conditions to support student learning in safe and positive environments."



Day's new two-year term will begin August 1, 2026, and run until July 31, 2028. He was first elected in June 2024 as the NSTU's 47th president, becoming the ninth president elected by universal suffrage

Excerpt from communication via email on April 16/26*



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Halifax County Local Bursary Application 2026

Halifax County bursaries are given to the children/stepchildren of Halifax County Local members (not PSAANS members) who are currently (2025-2026) teaching in a term, probationary or permanent position. Applicants must be graduating from High School in 2026. This bursary must be used for enrollment in post secondary education in September 2026 and cannot be deferred to another school year. The amount received by each recipient will be dependent on how many applications are received in total. The deadline for applications is **Friday, May 16th, 2026.**

Successful applicants will be notified by email after the deadline of Friday, May 16th, 2026. Due to confidentiality, all correspondence will be between the applicant (not a parent) and the Halifax County Local Treasurer only. Applicants are responsible for keeping the confirmation notification that is received once the Google Form is completed. Successful applicants will be asked to supply their Confirmation of Enrollment for a September 2026 start by September 25th, 2026 in order to receive the funds. Failure to submit the required document by the deadline will forfeit the funds to be shared amongst the applicants who completed the requirements. **Please note: A child of two Halifax County Teachers does not qualify for two bursaries.*

If you have any questions, feel free to email our treasurer, Paul Murphy at halifaxcountylocaltreasurer@nstu.ca

Please pass the Google Form link on to your child to apply which opens at 4:00pm on Friday, March 6, 2026.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoNUDTL1dHI4XLM7oS6-WuN3TxJfJwauCGFsluTP_888-B9Q/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Halifax Local Executive Elections 2026

The Nominating committee will open the following application forms on Monday, April 20th at 4pm and close on Friday, May 14th at 4pm.

Vice-President Communications -
<https://forms.gle/8fB95PbPy3sKnty6>

Vice-President Nominating -
<https://forms.gle/8pjjj9ssRkrbS2TZ8>

Vice-President Professional Development -
<https://forms.gle/8EUnALhRV3uTVz2B6>

Vice-President Social Wellness -
<https://forms.gle/BaDihb2Cbx1p3D1DA>

Applicants will receive an email from the Nominating chair soon after the close of nominations. Each applicant will be given the option to submit a photo and a 150-word informational statement that will be published in the weekly memo. Please keep an eye on your emails.

Local Executive elections will be held at the **June 3, 2026 AGM.**

NOTES: It is advised to complete & submit all forms using a desktop or laptop computer and not a cell phone to make sure the Nominating Chair receives the form submission! Please keep the confirmation email you will receive as proof of submission. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Erica Ans (hfxconominations@nstu.ca)



Reminder: the deadline to apply to the Deferred Salary Leave Plan is **April 30th** - submit your application on time!



Substitute and Term Teacher staffing session

The HRCE is delivering a one hour virtual session for substitute and term teachers on **Wednesday, April 29th at 4pm** when they will answer the following questions including:

- What is teacher status?
- How do I determine my status?
- What choices could impact my status?

The three Local Presidents (Dartmouth, Halifax City and Halifax County) have been invited to be present on-line. A recorded video with captions of the 2025 session can be found on Sharepoint under Additional Resources and Information (NSTU).

No registration is required. The link for the session will be made available in your HRCE email.

Halifax County Local Standing Committees 2026-2027

The expression of interest form for members of Halifax County Local NSTU wishing to serve on one of the Local standing committees for the 2026-27 school year will **open on April 20th at 4pm** and **close on May 15th at 4pm**.

Committees include Nominating, Finance, Social Wellness, Equity & Reps, Economic Welfare & Resolutions, Communication and Professional Development. Please fill out the form using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/H3ycuWRuwDFVWJtD7>

NOTES: Current committee members must reapply for the upcoming year. It is advised to complete & submit all forms using a desktop or laptop computer and not a cell phone to make sure the Nominating Chair receives the form submission! Please keep the confirmation email you will receive as proof of submission. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Erica Ans (hfxconominations@nstu.ca)

We NEED Your Help!!!

Some Halifax County members still need to update their preferred non-employer email in the NSTU Member Registry. This is how you'll get key updates on negotiations, grants, bursaries, meetings & more!

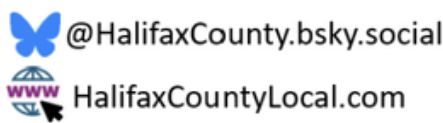
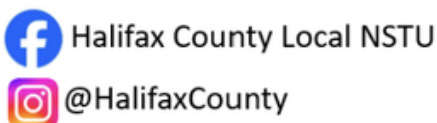


Update here:

<https://nstu.ca/the-nstu/communications/nstu-account>

(No HRCE, gnspes, or sepnes emails please!)

Keep Connected: Update Your E-mail today!



Three quick, practical tips to help us recharge, stay balanced, and thrive—each one takes just a few minutes!

- Visit a local park or trail you've never explored before
- Bring your coffee or tea outside and slow down while drinking it
- Get morning sunlight to help regulate your sleep and mood

Do you have any tips that work well???

If so, please feel free to send into halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca to be included in an upcoming Check In.



CONTACT

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Tim MacLeod (Bedford/Sackville)
NSTU Executive Staff Officer
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Member Engagement Conference 2026



New to union events?
Start here:

ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE 2026

Our Members' Conference on April 18 is built for first-time attendees who want a clear, engaging introduction to their NSTU.

Free to attend. Space is limited.

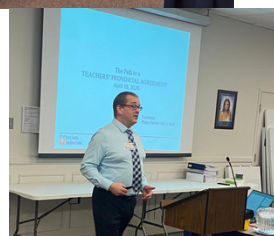
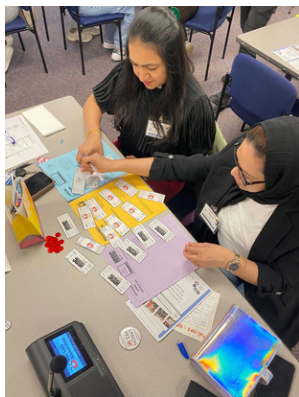
Link to website & registration form

NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

REGISTER NOW!



It was inspiring to see so many members take an active role in connecting with the NSTU, gaining a deeper understanding of how the organization operates and the wide range of benefits available to them. Throughout the conference, members participated in sessions on local committees, professional development grants, negotiations, insurance, and much more. Beyond the learning opportunities, the event also fostered a strong sense of connection and community among attendees.



A sincere thank you to the Communications Committee for their dedication and care in organizing and delivering this year's Member Engagement Conference.

Local PD Opportunities for April

Halifax County Local Conference Fund

Amount: Up to \$800 CDN

Members can use to attend a conference, workshop, seminar, clinic, symposium, institute or other approved PD opportunity. Can receive once every 2 years.

Eligibility: Must be a permanent, probationary or term teacher of the Halifax County Local only.

Please note: NSTU Professional Development Day (October Conference) and credit courses are not funded by this grant. For such funding, go to HRCE Internal Sharepoint for more information.

Deadline: Last Friday of each month – August to June

Article 60 Upcoming Deadlines

The 2026-27 Article 60 Guidelines are available via Sharepoint. Members are responsible to read and follow guidelines. Members must ensure they have completed all sections/boxes of the Sharepont applications when applying. Members are responsible to verify documents are attached and deadlines are met.

***All documents must be received electronically via Sharepoint by 4pm. All attachments should be visible so please ensure all documenation is attached.

Education Leaves Less than One Year: May 1, 2026 (leaves from Sept to Dec 2026)

Conference, In-service and Course Pre-approval:

The START DATE for Conferences and Courses must take place 10 Calendar days AFTER the committee meeting dates (first Wednesday of each month). In-services can take place 30 Calendar Days after.

Conference and In-Service Application Due Dates: APRIL 29 and MAY 27

Course Reimbursement Deadlines:

Course Completed During the Following Dates	Deadline Date via SharePoint. No Later than 4pm
January 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026	April 30, 2026
April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026	July 31, 2026

HRCE has asked that when submitting documents for course reimbursements and use “snipping tool” from university websites, to please ensure members include their name in the snip to prove the receipt/course grade, etc belongs to the applicant.

Article 60 Education Leave - Less Than One Year

May 1, 2026 4pm for leaves beginning in September through December 2026

Local PD Opportunities for April

Continued...

Upcoming Provincial NSTU Deadline Dates 2025-26 (nstu.ca)**

All applications must be received at the NSTU Central Office by 4pm on the date specified. If the deadline falls on a holiday, applications will be accepted until 4pm the next business day.

<https://nstu.ca/nstu-members/professional-development/grants-opportunities/study-and-research-grants>

Conference Grants	First Wednesday in May
Travel Fellowship	First Wednesday in May
PDAF	April 1, June 1, August 1

****These dates are a guide only. Members are responsible to reconfirm deadlines on the various websites. Halifax County Local is not responsible for incorrect/missed deadlines.**



Travel Fellowship (sponsored by Belairdirect)

Belairdirect sponsors these Travel Fellowships in the amount of three-thousand dollars (\$3,000) in order to provide support to Members engaged in educational travel. In order to assist the greatest number of Members, individual Fellowships will be limited to five-hundred dollars (\$500). Eligible travel period is generally over the summer break for members; however, exceptions can be made for Members assigned to work during that period.

Application form - [English](#)
Application form - [French](#)

belairdirect.
car and home insurance

REGIONAL AGREEMENT (HRCE) - ARTICLE 10 - STAFFING

Surplus Teachers

- 10.06** (i) Where staff reduction becomes necessary within a school, such reduction shall be accomplished as follows:
- (a) First, a probationary teacher(s) with the least seniority shall be declared surplus to the school.
 - (b) Secondly, a permanent teacher(s) with the least seniority shall be declared surplus to the school.
- (ii) Notwithstanding Article 10.06 (i), a teacher with greater seniority may request to be declared surplus to the school provided this request prevents a teacher in Article 10.06 (i) from being declared surplus to the school.
- 10.07** All permanent and probationary teachers in one-year positions shall automatically be declared surplus to that position in the following year.
- 10.08** If a Principal, Vice Principal or department head would be subject to being declared surplus pursuant to Article 10.06, then the staff member, other than the Principal, Vice Principal or department head, with the least seniority shall be declared surplus.
- 10.09** Notwithstanding Article 10.06, the Regional Centre may determine that a program taught by the teacher with the least seniority is essential to that school's overall program(s).
- (i) The school Principal in consultation with Human Resource Services shall endeavor to fill the declared essential program(s) within the existing staff of the affected school;
 - (ii) If in the judgment of the Regional Centre the quality of the declared essential program(s) cannot be maintained through a rearrangement of staff in the school, then the next junior teacher in the school shall be declared surplus.
- 10.10** Teachers declared surplus shall be eligible to apply for any available posted positions.
- 10.11** (i) (a) A meeting shall be held with all permanent and probationary teachers declared surplus and without a position for the following school year and early hires pursuant to Article 10.02 (i) and term teachers pursuant to Article 10.02 (ii) who do not have a position. A list of all vacancies and one (1) year positions will be made available. All permanent and probationary teachers declared surplus and without a position for the following school year must accept a permanent vacancy for which they are qualified if they accepted a one year only position in each of the two previous school years, provided the permanent vacancy is not more than fifty (50) kilometers one way from the teacher's current residence.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

REGIONAL AGREEMENT (HRCE) - ARTICLE 10 - STAFFING

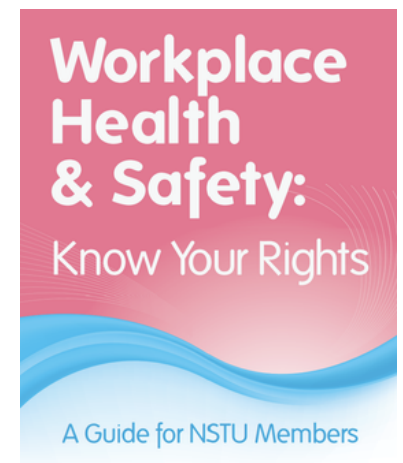
Vacant positions shall include positions that were available on the last posting round and were not filled by a permanent or probationary teacher and vacancies resulting from permanent and probationary teachers selecting vacancies on the last posting list. These positions will be offered by the Regional Centre as permanent positions to teachers who do not have a position in order of seniority subject to qualifications and experience.

- (b) Notwithstanding 10.11 (i) (a), the Regional Centre and the Union may agree, in exceptional circumstances, to waive the requirement for a teacher to accept a permanent vacancy.
- (ii) After the meeting held in Article 10.11 (i), vacancies and one (1) year only positions which become available prior to September 1 may be offered to teachers identified in Article 10.11 (i) or early hires where appropriate as one (1) year only positions.
- (iii) The placement of early hires and term teachers in Article 10.11, (i) and (ii) shall be governed by provisions set out in Article 10.02 (iv), (v) and 10.03.
- (iv) For any term vacancies after the meeting in Article 10.11, preference in hiring may be given to term teachers defined in Article 10.14 (a) (vi) who worked at the school in the current school year, without posting. Where more than one term teacher who worked in the school in the current school year expresses interest in the position, the position will be awarded based on an assessment of qualifications and competencies.

Occupational Health and Safety

The NSTU is here to assist members with occupational health and safety matters and members should be encouraged to contact their NSTU Staff Officer for assistance if they are concerned about a health or safety hazard in the workplace.

<https://nstu.ca/nstu-members/member-services/protection-other-services/occupational-health-and-safety>



Halifax Regional Representative Council (HRRC)

Economic Welfare Virtual Sessions

~~Pregnancy, adoption, and parental leave~~

~~February 24, 2026 @ 6 pm~~

~~Presenter: Tim MacLeod, NSTU~~



~~Retirement income~~

~~March 26, 2026 @ 6 pm~~

~~Presenter: Jack MacLeod, NSTU~~



Term teacher contracts and benefits

April 28, 2026 @ 6 pm

Presenter: Wally Fiander, NSTU



Pensions 101

May 5, 2026 @ 6 pm

Presenter: Wally Fiander, NSTU



PRIZES

Sessions open to members of:

Halifax County • Halifax City • Dartmouth

Once registered, the Zoom link will be sent to you the day of the session.

To register, e-mail: economicwelfaresessions@gmail.com

Please specify which session you are registering for.