



The

# CHECK IN

Dec. 8, 2025

Issue 15



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Wow - it's the second week of December! This time of year brings a gentle shift as our days fill with seasonal traditions and meaningful moments in our schools. From upcoming winter showcases to cheerful classroom activities and our end-of-year gatherings, there's so much to look forward to as we come together to

celebrate. As we move toward the close of 2025, I'm grateful for the way our school communities continue to support one another and create memorable experiences for our students. Thank you for all you do to make this season bright.

## Annual Council 2026 Delegate Expression of Interest

NSTU Annual Council will be held on **May 1-3, 2026**. The Google form for the Halifax County selection of delegates will open at **4pm on November 27, 2025** and **close at 4pm on January 8th, 2026**. Everyone who has filled out the form by the closing date will be scored using the rubric on the form (see below). It is preferred that you fill out the form using a computer. Please read through the information on the form before filling it out. Use this link:

<https://forms.gle/A4WVYGmtgHPR6qh4A> If you have any questions, please contact [hfxconominations@nstu.ca](mailto:hfxconominations@nstu.ca).

	5	3	1
Attendance at Halifax County Local General Meetings	Attended 3 meetings this school year	Attended 2 meetings this school year	Attended 0-1 meetings this school year
Positive contribution at annual council as a delegate or alternate	Greater than 5 years' experience	1-5 years' experience	0 years' experience
School rep/Local Committee Involvement	Rep/Committee member	Local member who attends meetings	Local member only
Other	At our discretion, for tie-breaking situations, the committee will consider: provincial committee participation, John Huntley Internship participation, CONTACT participation, resolution submissions, Professional Association activities, and participation in NSTU activities.		

## IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 22 Teacher Professional Practice Day  
No Class *ALL SCHOOLS*

Dec 23-31 Holiday Break  
Jan 1-4 Holiday Break

Jan 5 Return to school

Jan 7 Teacher or School Initiated Inservice  
Promotion Grant application deadline

Article 60 Conference Grant application due

Jan 15 EDU Wellness Grant application due

Jan 21 General Meeting

“December has the clarity, the simplicity, and the silence you need for the best fresh start of your life  
~ Vivian Swift”

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to remind you to mark your calendars for the following upcoming initiative:

## EDUWellness Grants – For Members by Members

### What is the purpose of the EDUWellness Grants?

The For Members by Members EDUWellness Grants have been established to support initiatives that promote the well-being of our plan members in an effort to recognize the tremendous work and efforts put in by you every day. For more information, visit the NSTU Group Insurance Trust website at <https://nstuinsurance.ca/grants/the-eduwellness-grant/>.

### Who is eligible for the grants?

To be eligible, the individual must have a permanent, probationary, or term contract and be a member of the NSTU, PSAANS, or RTO at the time of application. Please be advised that applicants that have received a grant within the last 2 years will not be eligible.

### What is the selection process for the EDUWellness Grants?

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees will award 10 grants valued at up to \$1,500 each. Grants will be scored following the rubric that can be found at <https://nstuinsurance.ca/grants/the-eduwellness-grant> and awarded to the applicants with the highest overall scores. Please be advised that not all applications will be awarded grants.

### What is the deadline to submit applications for the EDUWellness Grants?

Applications must be submitted on/or before 11:59pm on January 15, 2026. Completed projects are due no later than May 31, 2026.

**For Members by Members**  
**EDUWellness**

**Purpose**  
The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees will fund original ideas that support the mental health and well-being of plan members across Nova Scotia.

**Deadline**  
January 15th.

**Grant Amount**  
Up to \$1,500 each.

For more information:  
<https://nstuinsurance.ca/grants/the-eduwellness-grant/>

NSTU GROUP INSURANCE TRUST

**Grant**



<https://nstuinsurance.ca/grants/the-eduwellness-grant>

Dec. 8, 2025

Issue 15

## Connect Hfx County Campaign

Let's grow our Local together! Our Social Media Campaign is now live on Facebook and Instagram. Follow us, read the official rules, and get involved for your chance to win while helping build a stronger communication network for all Hfx County Local members.

Link to official rules:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ai987JVgpnCiE9pSP81xsHGDo3BVlh-bue-r-9oLDv6c/edit?usp=sharing>

**THE WIZARD of OZ**

Neptune THEATRE

GET 10% OFF\*  
USE PROMO CODE 2526NSTU

FEATURING PENNIA MATHURU & SOPHIE  
DIRECTED BY MICHELLE LANGILLE

NOV 4-  
JAN 4  
2026

NEPTUNETHEATRE.COM

BY L. FRANK BAUM WITH MUSIC AND LYRICS BY HAROLD ARLEN AND E. Y. HARBURG | BACKGROUND MUSIC BY HERBERT STOTHART

BMO Berkeley Eastport Wilsons

## 2026 Prime Minister's Awards

Consider nominating an educator and/or colleague for a 2026 Prime Minister's Award! Download your nomination package today by visiting the [website](#)

Help celebrate those who go above and beyond to create safe spaces for their students, continue to work hard to make learning fun, and inspire the next generation to be bold innovators and creators.

Prime Minister's Awards recipients can receive:

- A certificate from the Prime Minister
- National recognition and promotion of their best teaching practices

The Nomination deadline is January 14, 2026 – 3:59 p.m. Atlantic Time.

Halifax County Local NSTU

@HalifaxCounty

@HalifaxCounty.bsky.social

HalifaxCountyLocal.com

<https://nstu.ca>

# John Huntley Internship

## Purpose

The purpose of this program is to honour the contribution to the NSTU of John Huntley, who was an active Local leader as well as an Executive Staff Officer in 1993-94 and 1998-99.

Through the provision of an internship experience for active members, this program helps fulfill Mr. Huntley's desire that all members develop a thorough understanding of the NSTU.

## A few days in the life of your Union...

This internship enables 18 teachers per year to spend two days at the provincial office connecting with executive and professional services staff to learn more about their roles and responsibilities.

The Fellowship is not intended as a precursor to employment with the NSTU. Rather, it is intended to provide active members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU by increasing their awareness and knowledge of the workings of the organization.

## Application Process

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:


- Interest in Union affairs
- Reasons for applying
- Benefit to the Union
- Regional representation

Applications must be received at the NSTU Central Office by **February 1, 2025** and **April 1, 2025**.

## Application:

## English and French

*Application Deadlines:*  
*October 1, February 1 & April 1*



---

*The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program*

---

**A few days in the life of your Union...**


The purpose of the internship is for participating Members to gain insight into the inner workings of the NSTU. The program was developed to honour the contribution to the NSTU of John Huntley, who was an active Local leader as well as an Executive Staff Officer in 1993-94 and 1998-1999. Mr. Huntley's vision was for all members to develop a thorough understanding of their union.

It is not intended as a precursor to employment with the NSTU. Rather, it is intended to provide active members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU by increasing their awareness and knowledge of the workings of the organization.

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:


- Interest in Union affairs
- Reasons for applying
- Benefit to the Union
- Regional representation

For further information or to obtain applications, see your school rep or visit [www.nstu.ca/PD](http://www.nstu.ca/PD)



**NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION**  
3106 Joseph Howe Drive  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7




Phone: 477-5621 Toll Free: 1-800-565-6788 Fax: 477-3517  
Email: [nstu@nstu.ca](mailto:nstu@nstu.ca) Website: [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)





## Three to Thrive

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

-  Eat a nutritious snack mid-morning
-  Be kind to yourself: progress, not perfection
-  Step outside and breathe deeply

Do you have any tips that work well???

If so, please feel free to send into [halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca](mailto:halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca) to be included in an upcoming Check In.



## CONTACT

Desiree Daniele  
Local President  
P(cell): 902-499-0933  
P(office): 902-468-6788  
E: [halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca](mailto:halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca)

202 Brownlow Av. Suite 320  
Dartmouth NS B3B 1T5

Wally Fiander  
NSTU Executive Staff Officer  
P(office): 902-477-5621  
E: [wfiander@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:wfiander@staff.nstu.ca)

Tim MacLeod (Bedford/Sackville)  
NSTU Executive Staff Officer  
P(office): 902-477-5621  
E: [tmacleod@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:tmacleod@staff.nstu.ca)

# **KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)**

## TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA)

### **ARTICLE 63 CLASS CLIMATE**

**63.01** The parties under this Agreement recognize the educational desirability of having classroom climate conducive to creating conditions under which teachers are able to carry out their duties pursuant to the Teachers' Provincial Agreement.

**63.02** A teacher who considers that her/his class climate is inconsistent with Article 63.01 may report the facts of the situation in writing to the Principal who shall investigate, take appropriate action, and report in writing within ten (10) school days to the teacher the action taken.

**63.03** If the Principal is unable to resolve the concerns of the teacher, the teacher and/or Principal may report, in writing, the facts of the situation to a Classroom Climate Review Team. A Classroom Climate Review Team shall be comprised of a representative designated by the Regional Executive Director/Superintendent, and a representative designated by the Union.

**63.04** The Team shall meet with the teacher and the Principal within ten (10) school days to review the teacher's written concerns. The teacher may be accompanied by a representative of the Union.

**63.05** The Team's considerations shall include but not be limited to: (i) the physical limitations of the instructional area; (ii) the resources available to the classroom; (iii) the range of educational and behavioural needs of the students in the teacher's class.

**63.06** The Team shall examine all options available within the Education Entity and make recommendations within ten (10) school days of the meeting with the teacher and the Principal or such longer period as may be agreed by the Union and the Director. The recommendation(s) of the team shall be reported to a Director determined by the Regional Executive Director/Superintendent, with a copy to the teacher and the Principal.

**63.07** The Director will review and assess the recommendation(s) of the Review Team and will report back within ten (10) days to the Review Team to identify which recommendations will be implemented, if any, and will provide status updates when accepted recommendations have been implemented. The Director's decision as to whether or not to implement the recommendation(s) is final and non-grievable.

**63.08** The parties recognize the sensitive nature of class climate issues, and accordingly agree that the process is to be kept confidential.

# Local PD Opportunities for December

## Cash for Classrooms Receipts are Due February 27th

The PD Committee has processed all Cash for Classroom applications. Those who have received an approval email are reminded to verify the instructions on the attachments. **Make sure the purchase is DATED NOVEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> or later and not before. All EXPENSE FORMS AND RECEIPTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

**Remember to take a photocopy (or picture) of the expense form and receipts in case they are lost.**

**Return your completed form and receipts either by:**

**Mail to: Halifax County PD Committee  
202 Brownlow Ave, Suite 320  
Dartmouth, NS B3B 1T5**

-Drop it off at the local office (address above – mail slot to right of the door if the office door is locked). **Please note the building itself is locked after 5pm and on weekends.**

-Give it to your School Rep to give to Jodie MacIlreith at the next General Meeting on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>

**REPS or Members:** If you collect forms and receipts for your school, please ensure all receipts are stapled to the appropriate form before collecting and put in a large envelope. Have each member sign a form stating they have given you their forms with receipts but that they have taken copies of said forms and receipts for their own records in case something happens.

We appreciate your patience while we process over 500 expense forms and receipts. Cheques will be issued as soon as the committee is able to verify the expense forms/receipts and the Treasurer/Finance committee is able to process them. Any receipts processed in December/early January will be mailed to members.

## 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**

Halifax Regional Representative Council (HRRC)

# Economic Welfare Virtual Sessions



## ~~Retirement Income~~

~~November 6, 2025 @ 6 pm~~

~~Presenter: Wally Fiander, NSTU~~



## ~~Pregnancy, adoption, and parental leave~~

~~November 13, 2025 @ 6 pm~~

~~Presenter: Tim MacLeod, NSTU~~

## ~~Introducing New Members to the NSTU~~

~~November 25, 2025 @ 6 pm~~

~~Presenter: Tim MacLeod, NSTU~~



## Contracts and the hiring process

December 9, 2025 @ 6 pm

Presenter: Tim MacLeod, NSTU



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](mailto:economicwelfaresessions@gmail.com)

Please specify which session you are registering for.