



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



I want to acknowledge the tragic events that occurred last week in Tumbler Ridge, BC. that has deeply affected communities across Canada and within our own education community. Our hearts are with all those impacted. Please know that we are here for you, If there is anything we can do to support you or your colleagues during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out.

## Nova Scotia Heritage Day Feb 16, 2026

Celebrated the third Monday in February, Nova Scotia Heritage Day is an annual reminder of our storied past and an opportunity to honour the remarkable people, places and events that have contributed to this province's unique heritage.

This year, we honour Joseph Willie Comeau, one of the longest-serving politicians in Canadian history.

A proud Acadian Nova Scotian from Clare, Digby County, Mr. Comeau was first elected in 1907 to represent that area in the legislative assembly, using his position to advocate for Acadian communities and culture. He was elected nine times before being appointed to the senate in 1948, serving until his death in 1966 at age 89.

Mr. Comeau was also an educator and entrepreneur, a husband and father of 16 children.

Access Heritage Day Education Resources

[HERE](#)



## IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 16 Nova Scotia Heritage Day
- Feb 25 Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant application deadline
- Article 60 Conference Grant application due
- Feb 27 Cash for Class Expense Forms Due
- Halifax County Local Conference Fund and Local Reserve Conference Fund application deadline
- Mar 4 Local General Meeting
- Mar 6 Hfx Co Local Student Bursary Applications Open

“Some people wait for things to happen, but I say we must all be willing to lead the change you want to see in your world  
~ Senator Wanda Thomas Bernard”

# Member Economic Welfare, Health & Safety & Working Conditions Conference



Member Economic Welfare, Health & Safety & Working Conditions Conference will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, and Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Delta Hotels Halifax Downtown (formerly Hotel Halifax), Scotia Square, 1990 Barrington Street, Halifax. Halifax County is entitled to send one delegate who self-identifies under NSTU Operational Procedure 9.

For clarity, in instances where there are references to terms such as Equity-Owed, Equity-Deserving, or Equity-Seeking in NSTU documents these terms are defined as: a traditionally underrepresented in Union Leadership individual who self-identifies as being Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqew, First Nations, Indigenous, Inuit, or Métis; Black, African Nova Scotian, or of African Descent; Acadian; Person of Colour or Racialized; Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, or additional sexual orientation or gender identity; a person with a Disability; a woman; or an individual from any other group traditionally underrepresented in union positions.

If you are interested in attending as Halifax County Local's delegate, please indicate your interest by **Friday, February 20, 2026 at 3:00pm** using the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/UzgLKyxuM7N39cv79>. This conference provides an important opportunity to engage in discussions and advocacy related to members' economic welfare, health and safety, and working conditions.

"The NSTU Insurance Trustees are aware of some prescription medications dispensed at Shoppers / Loblaws / Superstore pharmacies in the province may have been charged above the \$5.00 prescription drug co-pay. While this may have occurred, there have not been any changes to the prescription drug co-pay under the NSTU Total Care Medical plan. This issue has occurred due to a pharmacy system error and Medavie Blue Cross is working diligently with these pharmacies to resolve the issue. Rest assured, members who have been charged above the \$5.00 co-pay will be reimbursed by Medavie Blue Cross as soon as possible."

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## NSTU Benefits at a glance...




**Paramedical Practitioners: What Services Do They Provide And What Coverage Do You Have?**

**Podiatrist/Chiropodist** — *To let your feet do the talking and the walking!*


Podiatry is a field of medicine that focuses on preventing, diagnosing, and treating conditions associated with the foot and ankle by medical, surgical, or other means. Some common issues that are treated by podiatrists are problems of the feet including bunions, corns, ingrown toenails, and plantar warts. Podiatrists prescribe orthotics when needed, treat plantar fasciitis, flat feet, hammer toes and club feet. Circulation problems in the feet due to diabetes can also be treated by a podiatrist.

*The plan reimburses you for 80% of the usual and customary charges per treatment to a maximum of twenty (20) visits per calendar year.*


*For more information on the benefits and programs available under the NSTU Group Insurance Program, please visit the NSTU Group Insurance Trust website at <https://nstuinsurance.ca/>.*




**Halifax County Local NSTU**



**@HalifaxCounty**



**@HalifaxCounty.bsky.social**



**HalifaxCountyLocal.com**

<https://halifaxcountylocal.com>

# Local PD Opportunities for February

## 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 now available via Sharepoint. Members are responsible to read and follow guidelines.

## Article 60 Education Leave - Less Than One Year

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

## Course Reimbursement Deadlines

For courses taken between **January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>**, are due via Sharepoint by **April 30, 2026**.

For courses taken between **April 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>**, are due via Sharepoint by **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.**

## 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>

NSTU Full Time Study Grants:	Second Wednesday in April
Conference Grants:	First Wednesday in May
Travel Fellowship:	First Wednesday in May
Program Development Assistance Fund:	April 1, June 1, August 1
John Huntley:	April 1
Sheonoroil Foundation:	Second Friday in April

**\*\*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.**



# Cash for Classrooms Receipts DEADLINE is COMING SOON!

Deadline for receipts and expense forms is **Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Please verify the instructions in the approval email.

**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:

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

B. 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 5:30pm and on weekends.**

C. Give it to your School Rep to give to Jodie MacIlreith at the General Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>. **THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE RECEIPTS AT A REP MEETING.**

**REPs or Members:** If you collect forms and receipts for your school, make sure all receipts are stapled to the correct form and placed together in a large envelope. Each member must sign a form confirming they submitted their forms and receipts to you and that they kept copies for their own records in case anything 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.**



## Important Notice:

There have been reports of spam emails appearing to come from me, Desiree Daniele. Please double-check the sender's actual email address.

If it's not the **official halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca** email address, please report it as phishing/spam in your email app and then delete it.

This helps prevent similar messages in the future.

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## KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

### TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA)

#### **ARTICLE 5 EMPLOYER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.01** The Employer and/or the Education Entity(s) is/are vested with the responsibility of managing the Public School System and of operating its services. The responsibilities, subject to any Professional Agreement, include but are not limited to the following:

- (i) hiring, promoting, demoting, transferring, disciplining, or suspending teachers, or terminating teachers' contracts;
- (ii) enforcing safety, health, and fire regulations;
- (iii) changing existing facilities;
- (iv) laying off teachers because of lack of work or discontinuance of a function;
- (v) planning and controlling the quality of educational programs and services.

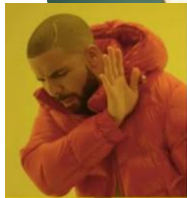
**5.02** It is agreed that the exercise of the responsibilities enumerated in 5.01, is subject to the provisions of any Professional Agreement between the Employer and the Union or between the Union and an Education Entity and that the Employer or Education Entity shall not in the discharge thereof act in a manner contrary to any said provision.

**5.03** An Education Entity shall enter into the appropriate term, probationary, or permanent contract with every teacher in its employ in accordance with the contracts set forth herein.

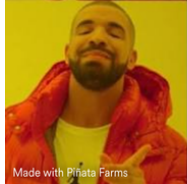


# Caption the Meme

**Congratulations to the top 4 from Group B, who will move on the March Madness (March 2)!**



No more snow!!!



Ah... Snow day!!!



Next round of memes to caption open now until Thursday at 5pm. Caption 1, 2, 3, or all of the pics for your chance to be crowned Meme Champion of Halifax County!

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## Three to Thrive

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

- Compliment a colleague sincerely today
- A five-minute walk can spark new ideas
- Limit negative news and social media exposure

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

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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](mailto:economicwelfaresessions@gmail.com)

Please specify which session you are registering for.

# Membership Registry

NSTU reps should be updating the Membership Registry online and in real time. When an NSTU rep updates the site list, the changes are immediately made to the database ensuring the Union's membership information is current and accurate.

How To: Click on "Edit Site", you will be presented with the site list.

If the listed member is no longer at the site, click on "Employment Status" and select the reason. If the member has retired please check the "Retired" box. If you are uncertain of the reason they are no longer at the site you may select "Unknown" from the dropdown list.

If you select "New Site" from the dropdown list, another field will appear. Once you begin to type a site name into the field it will present you with options. Click on the name of the site and it will populate the field.

If a member is **MISSING** from the site:

- enter their professional number into the field above the list that says "start typing to search".
- The system will present you with a list of names which will narrow down to a single name once all the digits have been input.
- When you see the name to be input, select it. Once it replaces the number in the box select "Add". This will add the member to the bottom of the list. Will move to alphabetical order when saved.

If a member is **NOT** in the system (no match found):

- please ensure that the member completes a "Membership Information" form ([English/French](#)) and submit it to Central Office so that the member is put them into the system.
- Once they have been entered they will automatically appear on your site.
- **Until the member completes and submits the "Membership Information" form, that person will not be included in the membership database and; therefore, not in the Local's membership numbers.**

To save any changes, you **must click the "Save" button** at the top of the page. When satisfied that all the necessary changes have been made to the list simply select the box for "submit completed information" then click the "Save" button. Changes **MAY** be made after these steps.

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## Registry cont...

**Membership figures will be pulled from the Registry on Monday, March 30, 2026.**

NSTU representatives are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the site information within the Membership Registry. All site updates should be completed at **least one week prior to the above-mentioned dates** and may be completed any time prior to that point. Should you require additional information please contact NSTU Central Office by phoning (902)-477-5621, or toll free at (800) 565-6788 or by emailing [registry@nstu.ca](mailto:registry@nstu.ca)



## Trouble Accessing Your NSTU Account?

Having issues with your username, password, or registration?

Email [webaccounts@nstu.ca](mailto:webaccounts@nstu.ca) from a non-employer email. Be sure to include a description of the issue and your professional number.