



# The **CHECK IN**

**Jan 26, 2026**

Issue 21

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Happy Monday. Can you believe it's the last Monday of January already?! ❄️ Winter isn't ready to let go just yet, with more snow on the way, but a slight warm-up might be coming too. Wishing everyone a smooth week ahead, especially those wrapping up assessments and saying goodbye to semester one students. You've got this!

## **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.**

**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.

## IN

## IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 28	Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant application deadline
	Article 60 Conference Grant application due
Jan 30	High School Assessment and Evaluation Day/Semester 1 ends No Classes <i>HIGH SCHOOL ONLY</i>
	Halifax County Local Conference Fund/ Local Reserve Conference Fund application deadline
	Article 60 PD (Course) Grant application deadline

“

Lesson plans are ready, but we're still watching the weather... (take 2)  
~ Anonymous

”

# Annual Council Attendance Opportunity: Wait List Reopens

We're reopening the wait list!

The Google Form (<https://forms.gle/hhNjDdpkwZAzDB9p9>) will be open **January 22 at 4:00 PM through January 29** at 4:00 PM. Everyone who submits the form by the deadline will be evaluated using the rubric included in the form.

Applicants from this round will be added to the wait list **after current wait-listed delegates**. If you're interested, now's the time to put your name forward!

**NOTE:** It is advised to complete & submit all forms using a desktop or laptop computer and not a cell phone to make sure the Nominations Chair receives the form submission! It is also recommended that applicants take a screenshot/photo of confirmation with time/date stamp of submission should any issue arise with the form. All questions or concerns should be directed to Erica Ans ([hfxconominations@nstu.ca](mailto:hfxconominations@nstu.ca))

## Halifax County Local President Election 2026

The Expression of Interest form for the Local President Election will open on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and will close on February 16<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

Please read the roles, responsibilities and election guidelines on the form.

Link to the form: <https://forms.gle/43SJXsBRxYaosT3D9>

**NOTE:** It is advised to complete & submit all forms using a desktop or laptop computer and not a cell phone to make sure the Nominations Chair receives the form submission! It is also recommended that applicants take a screenshot/photo of confirmation with time/date stamp of submission should any issue arise with the form. All questions or concerns should be directed to Erica Ans ([hfxconominations@nstu.ca](mailto:hfxconominations@nstu.ca))

## NSTU Benefits at a glance...

### Hospital Cash

A daily benefit of \$20.00 will be payable to you, the member, when such insured member is in a hospital and under the regular care and attendance of a physician, but only in such period of hospitalization:

1. Is necessary for the treatment of injury and,
2. Begins while insurance under the policy is in force as to that member.

The daily benefit will be paid from the first day of hospitalization (one night admission), but in no event for more than three hundred and sixty-five (365) days per injury or sickness, provided the member is in hospital and under the care of a physician.

### Some exclusions apply.

Contact belairdirect Agency Inc.:  
Phone: 902-453-9543/1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

email: [insurance@nstu.ca](mailto:insurance@nstu.ca) or [GroupBenefitsNS@belairdirect.com](mailto:GroupBenefitsNS@belairdirect.com) (please write "hospital cash" in the subject line)

\*\*\*Updated application information will be added to <https://nstuinsurance.ca/members/active/hospital-cash> as the application process is currently being updated.

# EDUWellness Grants



Maximum \$1500/grant for a total of 10 grants

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees 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 members every day. Must be a permanent, probationary or term teacher, be a member of the NSTU, PSAANS, or RTO at the time of application and can receive every 2 years.

**Deadline: January 15, 2026**

Please see <https://nstuinsurance.ca/grants/the-eduwellness-grant> for application process, deadlines and all other pertinent information.

## Participate in the biggest global survey on the health and well-being of education workers

Improving the physical and mental well-being of education workers everywhere is a prerequisite for ensuring quality education for all.

This is why the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) is once again joining forces with MGEN and Education International to launch the 3rd edition of the International Barometer of Education Staff (I-BEST) in Canada.

I-BEST is an international survey that focuses on the health and well-being of all education personnel.

This is a unique opportunity for Canadian educators to inform advocacy for better education policies in Canada and around the world.

**Complete survey**

## Your Voice Matters

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

We're inviting all County members to take a few minutes to complete our feedback form for Halifax County Local. This is your chance to share what's working well, highlight strengths you're seeing, and offer thoughtful suggestions on how we can continue to support members and work effectively together.

Your input helps guide future priorities and improve how we serve you.

Participation in the gift card draw is completely optional. A built-in process ensures that **all feedback remains anonymous**, regardless of whether you choose to enter the draw. The form is **open until Wednesday, Feb. 11/26**. We encourage you to share your thoughts.

<https://forms.gle/b9DqmMgdsp5ACuSd6>



Improving life with...

# The Winter Wellness Challenge!

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are pleased to bring you this five-week event starting Feb. 2nd to challenge you to discover what wellness looks like for you.



When most of us think about wellness, we think of physical fitness and healthy eating. While those are components of health, there are many other factors that affect our well-being and quality of life. This event will encourage you to incorporate many different aspects of wellness into your life, including physical, nutritional, psychological, intellectual and social/community wellness.

As a registered participant, you will input your daily activities with just a few clicks of the mouse. Keep a log of your activities and enter them at the end of the week or take a few minutes at the end of each day and watch your points add up to a healthier you! Join the winter wellness challenge and have fun getting healthy with us!

## Individual & Team Challenge

Open to active members (term, probationary & permanent contract) of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union & PSAANS

## Prizes to be won for:

- Highest Score
- Random weekly prizes
- Random draw for registering before Feb. 1st, 2026

Registration begins Jan. 19th [www.healthycommunity.ca/lifestyles/NSTUChallenge](http://www.healthycommunity.ca/lifestyles/NSTUChallenge)

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

- Walk a different route in the school today
- Start meetings with a quick check-in or deep breath
- Compliment someone sincerely

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)

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

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.



# KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

## TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA)

### **ARTICLE 29 LEAVE FOR BIRTH OF CHILD**

**29.01** On the occasion of the birth of the teacher's child, the non-birth parent who is a teacher shall be granted special leave with pay up to a maximum of two (2) days.

**29.02** The leave may be divided as follows:

- (i) one (1) day within one (1) week of the date of birth;
- (ii) the remainder of the leave shall be granted within six (6) weeks of the date of birth.

## Local PD Opportunities for January

### **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.**

### **Course Reimbursement Deadline**

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

**Full Year Education Leaves Deadline is** **February 13, 2026** via Sharepoint.

## Get Creative — Caption the Meme!

Think you've got the perfect caption?

Show off your wit in our upcoming Caption the Meme Contest! Keep an eye out for the meme, add your best caption, and you could win a prize.

Bragging rights (and laughs) guaranteed – don't miss it! 😊



# Frosty Friends Pub Event

Join your fellow Halifax County Teachers for a late afternoon of fun and camaraderie !

Date: February 6<sup>th</sup> 2026

Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Where: Porters Lake Pub

5228 Highway #7 Lakeview Shopping Plaza

Details: One beverage ticket  
and shared appetizers per table!



Brought to you by your Halifax County  
Local Social Wellness Committee

[Register Here](#)



# NOTICE OF REGIONAL, AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN, AND INDIGENOUS PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS

## Spring 2026

### BACKGROUND

NSTU By-Law Article I – Membership sub-article 2 defines eligibility to hold office:

*The rights of Active Membership shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the right to vote and hold office at the local and provincial level.*

NSTU By-Law Article II – The Council sub-article 1 defines the Provincial Executive as:

*The Executive of the Council as described in the Teaching Profession Act shall be the Provincial Executive.*

NSTU By-Law Article III – The Provincial Executive sub-article 1 outlines the composition of the Provincial Executive as:

### 1. COMPOSITION

- (a) *The composition of the Provincial Executive shall be: the President, the First Vice-President, the Immediate Past-President, twenty-one (21) Regional Members, one (1) African Nova Scotian Member, and one (1) Indigenous Member. African Nova Scotian as self-identified and Indigenous as self-identified.*
- (b) *The number of Regional Members and the regions from which they shall be elected are as follows:*

(i) Annapolis/Hants West/Kings	2 Members
(ii) Antigonish/Guysborough	1 Member
(iii) Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA)	1 Member
(iv) Cape Breton Industrial	2 Members
(v) Colchester/East Hants	1 Member
(vi) Conseil syndical acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CSANE)	2 Members
(vii) Cumberland	1 Member
(viii) Dartmouth	1 Member
(ix) Digby/Shelburne County/Yarmouth	2 Members
(x) Halifax City	2 Members
(xi) Halifax County	2 Members
(xii) Inverness/Richmond	1 Member
(xiii) Lunenburg County/Queens	1 Member
(xiv) Northside Victoria	1 Member
(xv) Pictou	1 Member
- (c) *A Provincial Executive Member must be an Active Member of the NSTU.*
- (d) *A Provincial Executive Member shall not concurrently hold office at the Local, Regional, or Professional Association Level.*
- (e) *Pursuant to 1 (b) where some regions elect more than one (1) member, one (1) of the two (2) elected Members shall be designated for an individual from an Equity-Owed group, Equity-Owed as defined in NSTU Operational Procedures. If no Equity-Owed Member(s) offers to run as a candidate in the first round of nominations a subsequent nomination period shall be open to all Active Members.*

NSTU By-Law Article III – The Provincial Executive sub-article 4 outlines the election process of the Provincial Executive as:

### 4. ELECTIONS

- (a) *The President shall be elected by a majority vote of the entire Active and Reserve Membership following the process outlined in Operational Procedures.*
- (b) *The First Vice-President shall be elected by a majority vote conducted at Annual Council following the process outlined in Operational Procedures.*
- (c) *The Second Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Provincial Executive at a meeting prior to the commencement of the term of office from amongst the Regional Members who will be Members of the Provincial Executive on August 1<sup>st</sup> of that year. The election shall be by majority vote.*
- (d) *Regional Members shall be elected by a plurality vote of the entire Active and Reserve Membership of the regions defined in 1. (b), following the process outlined in Operational Procedures.*
- (e) *The African Nova Scotian Member and the Indigenous Member shall be elected by a plurality vote of the entire Active and Reserve membership who self-identify as African Nova Scotian or Indigenous respectively following the process outlined in Operational Procedures.*

NSTU By-Law Article III – The Provincial Executive sub-article 8, C outlines the duties of the Provincial Executive as:

### 8. DUTIES

- C. *The Provincial Executive functions in the name of Council between sessions; it shall perform its duties in a manner that is consistent with the will of Council as expressed through resolutions passed by Council. In addition, the Provincial Executive shall carry out duties imposed specifically by the Teaching Profession Act, these By-Laws, Standing Orders, and Operational Procedures. The Provincial Executive will have, but not necessarily be limited to, carrying out the following duties:*
  - (i) *appoint and dismiss an Executive Director and such other paid employees of the Union as it may deem necessary and determine their duties, remuneration, and terms of employment, including bonding;*
  - (ii) *provide suitable offices and equipment for carrying on the work of the NSTU;*
  - (iii) *direct and supervise the business, property, and affairs of the NSTU between Council meetings, and all decisions that are deemed policy by the Provincial Executive shall be forwarded to the upcoming Council as resolutions;*
  - (iv) *determine the place and date and make arrangements for workshops and special Council meetings;*
  - (v) *issue a post-Council press release;*
  - (vi) *provide assistance with organizing Locals, Regional Representative Councils, and Professional Associations;*

- (vii) shall ratify constitutions of Locals, Regional Representative Councils, and Professional Associations by following regulations outlined in the NSTU Operational Procedures;
- (viii) determine the boundaries of the Locals;
- (ix) publish a magazine or other official publications;
- (x) cause the books and accounts of the Council to be audited annually by a chartered accountant and cause the report of the auditor to be submitted to Council;
- (xi) have the power to convene an emergency meeting of a Local or a meeting of the NSTU Members in a given area; and,
- (xii) is empowered to exercise on behalf of the Union, as the Provincial Executive deems advisable from time-to-time, the powers of the Union under the Teachers' Pension Act and report thereon to the Council at the next following meeting of the Council.

## REGIONAL, AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN, AND INDIGENOUS PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN THE SPRING OF 2026

### Regions Elections

	Number of Members to be Elected
Annapolis/Hants West/Kings*	1 Member
Antigonish/Guysborough	1 Member
Cape Breton District*	1 Member
Colchester/East Hants	1 Member
Conseil syndical acadien de la Nouvelle-Écosse (CSANE)*	1 Member
Dartmouth	1 Member
Digby/Shelburne County/Yarmouth*	1 Member
Halifax City*	1 Member
Halifax County*	1 Member
Inverness/Richmond	1 Member
Lunenburg County/Queens	1 Member

### Provincial Elections

	Number of Members to be Elected
African Nova Scotian	1 Member
Indigenous	1 Member

\* Indicates a Region where one (1) of the two (2) elected Members shall be designated for an individual from an Equity-Owed group, Equity-Owed as defined in NSTU Operational Procedures. If no Equity-Owed Member(s) offers to run as a candidate in the first round of nominations a subsequent nomination period shall be open to all Active Members.

### DEFINING EQUITY

NSTU Operational Procedure 9 defines equity as:

### 9. DEFINING EQUITY

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.

## PROCEDURE AND TIMELINE OF ELECTION PROCESS FOR REGIONAL MEMBERS

NSTU Operational Procedure 10 – Election Procedures subsection B outlines the voting procedures for Regional Provincial Executive Members as:

### B. Elections/By-Elections for Regional Provincial Executive Members

#### I. Notice of Pending Election

- a. Notice of all pending Regional Provincial Executive elections shall be posted on the NSTU website and advertised in an issue of *The Teacher* at least thirty (30) days prior to the closing of nominations. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Wednesday, January 14, 2026)
- b. Notice of a pending Regional Provincial Executive election shall be sent to NSTU leaders (Local President(s), RRC Chair (if applicable), and Provincial Executive Member(s)) from within the boundaries of the region as defined in NSTU By-Laws Article III – The Provincial Executive at least thirty (30) days prior to the closing of nominations. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Wednesday, January 14, 2026)
- c. Notice shall include the process for nominations.
- d. Notice shall include the requirements regarding Equity-Owed Provincial Executive seats.

#### II. Nominations

- a. Nominations for the office of Regional Provincial Executive shall be submitted on the official Nomination Form.
- b. The official Nomination Form may be found on the NSTU website.
- c. Individuals may nominate themselves.
- d. A candidate's Nomination Form must be completed and returned to the Executive Director or designate no later than 4:00 p.m. on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Friday of February (the closing of nominations). (for Spring 2026 elections this means Friday, February 13, 2026)
- e. In the event that no nominations are received in a given region, the close of nominations shall be extended by four (4) weeks, and notice shall be sent to NSTU leaders from within the boundaries of the region. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Friday, March 13, 2026)
- f. In electoral regions with two (2) Provincial Executive seats, one (1) of the two (2) elected Members shall be designated for an individual from an Equity-Owed group. If no Equity-Owed Member(s) offers to run as a candidate in the first round of nominations a subsequent nomination period shall be open to all Active Members.

#### III. Campaigning

- a. Campaign guidelines are as set out in NSTU Standing Orders and these Operational Procedures.
- b. Active campaigning for the office of Regional

*Provincial Executive Member may begin no sooner than the close of nominations.*

- c. *A one-page (8 ½ x 11) poster will be printed and circulated to NSTU Representatives within the Region by NSTU Central Office upon receipt from a candidate. An electronic copy of the poster shall be circulated, by NSTU Central Office, to members in the region.*
- d. *If a Local invites candidates to attend a Local meeting or event, the invitation must be extended to all candidates.*
- e. *Campaign spending by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200). Candidates are solely responsible for all campaign spending.*
- f. *All candidates shall submit an official financial statement report form to the Executive Director or designate within sixty (60) days from the conclusion of the election. This report is to include an itemized list of expenditures.*
- g. *Suspected violations to these campaign guidelines shall be resolved in the following manner:*
  - i. *suspected violations shall be reported to the Regional Electoral Officer, in a timely manner, for resolution;*
  - ii. *the Regional Electoral Officer will attempt to resolve the issue informally;*
  - iii. *if the Regional Electoral Office is able to resolve the issue informally no further action is required;*
  - iv. *if the Regional Electoral Officer is unable to resolve the issue informally the suspected violation shall be referred to the Executive Director or designate for resolution;*
  - v. *the Executive Director or designate will attempt to resolve the issue informally;*
  - vi. *if the Executive Director or designate is able to resolve the issue informally no further action is required;*
  - vii. *if the Executive Director or designate cannot resolve the issue informally the Executive Director or designate shall make a ruling and inform candidates and the Regional Electoral Officer regarding this ruling, the ruling shall be final; and,*
  - viii. *rulings may include but are not necessarily limited to:*
    - 1. *a written warning,*
    - 2. *a notice of censure to other candidates,*
    - 3. *a public notice of censure to the membership, or*
    - 4. *removal from ballot.*

**IV. Voting Day**

- a. *The voting day shall be the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday in April. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Wednesday, April 15, 2026)*

## **PROCEDURE AND TIMELINE OF ELECTION PROCESS FOR AFRICAN NOVA SCOTIAN AND IN- DIGENOUS MEMBERS**

NSTU Operational Procedure 10 – Election Procedures subsection C outlines the voting procedures for Regional Provincial Executive Members as:

### **C. Elections/By-Elections for African Nova Scotian and Indigenous Provincial Executive Members**

#### **I. Notice of Pending Election**

- a. *Notice of pending African Nova Scotian and Indigenous Provincial Executive election(s) shall be posted on the NSTU website and advertised in an issue of The Teacher at least thirty (30) days prior to the closing of nominations. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Wednesday, January 14, 2026)*
- b. *Notice of pending African Nova Scotian and Indigenous Provincial Executive election(s) shall be sent to NSTU leaders (Local Presidents, RRC Chairs, and Provincial Executive Members) at least thirty (30) days prior to the closing of nominations. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Wednesday, January 14, 2026)*
- c. *Notice shall include the process for nominations.*

#### **II. Nominations**

- a. *Nominations for the office of African Nova Scotian and Indigenous Provincial Executive shall be submitted on the official Nomination Form.*
- b. *For the African Nova Scotian Provincial Executive position, nominations are open to individuals who self-identify as being African Nova Scotian. For the Indigenous Provincial Executive position, nominations are open to individual who self-identify as being Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqew First Nations, Indigenous, Inuit, or Métis.*
- c. *The official Nomination Form may be found on the NSTU website.*
- d. *Individuals may nominate themselves.*
- e. *A candidate's Nomination Form must be completed and returned to the Executive Director or designate no later than 4:00 p.m. on the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Friday of February (the closing of nominations). (for Spring 2026 elections this means Friday, February 13, 2026)*
- f. *In the event that no nominations are received, the close of nominations shall be extended by four (4) weeks, and notice shall be resent to NSTU leaders. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Friday, March 13, 2026)*

#### **III. Campaigning**

- a. *Campaign guidelines are as set out in NSTU Standing Orders and these Operational Procedures.*
- b. *Active campaigning for the office of African Nova Scotian and Indigenous Provincial Executive Member may begin no sooner than the close of nominations.*
- c. *A one-page (8 ½ x 11) poster will be circulated*

electronically to NSTU Representatives by NSTU Central Office upon receipt from a candidate. An electronic copy of the poster shall be circulated, by NSTU Central Office, to members.

- d. If a Local invites candidates to attend a Local meeting or event, the invitation must be extended to all candidates.
- e. Campaign spending by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200). Candidates are solely responsible for all campaign spending.
- f. All candidates shall submit an official financial statement report form to the Executive Director or designate within sixty (60) days from the conclusion of the election. This report is to include an itemized list of expenditures.
- g. In cases where a vote is required a virtual All Candidates Forum shall be organized by the NSTU in the following manner:
  - i. The Forum shall take place at least one (1) week prior to Voting Day at a time selected by the Table Officers.
  - ii. The Forum shall consist of seven (7) minute presentations by each Candidate followed by a question-and-answer period of up to thirty (30) minutes. Candidates will be offered up to two (2) minutes each to provide an answer to questions. Candidates will alternate turns in answering questions.
  - iii. The order of the Candidates' presentations shall be chosen by lots.
  - iv. The Forum will be moderated by the Regional Electoral Officer. The Regional Electoral Officer may extend the question-and-answer period at their sole discretion.
- h. Suspected violations to these campaign guidelines shall be resolved in the following manner:
  - i. suspected violations shall be reported to the Regional Electoral Officer, in a timely manner, for resolution;
  - ii. the Regional Electoral Officer will attempt to resolve the issue informally;
  - iii. if the Regional Electoral Office is able to resolve the issue informally no further action is required;
  - iv. if the Regional Electoral Officer is unable to resolve the issue informally the suspected violation shall be referred to the Executive Director or designate for resolution;
  - v. the Executive Director or designate will attempt to resolve the issue informally;
  - vi. if the Executive Director or designate is able to resolve the issue informally no further action is required;
  - vii. if the Executive Director or designate cannot resolve the issue informally the Executive

Director or designate shall make a ruling and inform candidates and the Regional Electoral Officer regarding this ruling, the ruling shall be final; and,

viii. rulings may include but are not necessarily limited to:

1. a written warning,
2. a notice of censure to other candidates,
3. a public notice of censure to the membership, or
4. removal from ballot.

#### IV. Voting Day

- a. The voting day shall be the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday in April. (for Spring 2026 elections this means Wednesday, April 15, 2026)
- b. The Regional Electoral Officer shall be the NSTU First Vice-President or designate as selected by the Table Officers.

#### NOMINATIONS

The official Nomination Form is submitted online at: <https://nstu.ca/the-nstu/communications/online-forms/provincial-executive-nomination-form>. Confirmation of receipt of the Nomination Form will be emailed to the Candidate upon submission. Candidates will be contacted soon after the close of nominations regarding election procedures.

#### CONTACT PERSON

For further information regarding the 2026 Regional Provincial Executive Elections, contact Louis Robitaille Executive Staff Officer Research, Governance, and Policy at [lrobitaille@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:lrobitaille@staff.nstu.ca) or 1-800-565-6788 (local 902-477-5621).

## Deadline for nominations for NSTU President Friday, February 27, 2026

The deadline for nomination forms for NSTU President is Friday, February 27, 2026. Forms are available through the NSTU Executive Director, Bethany MacLeod by calling the NSTU office at 902-477-5621 or via email at [executivedirector@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:executivedirector@staff.nstu.ca).

Any active NSTU member is eligible to run for NSTU President. Potential candidates need to obtain the signatures of 25 Active or Reserve Members of the NSTU and each nomination form must be signed by the candidate. The nomination forms must be received by the office of the NSTU Executive Director, on the official nomination form, by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2026. Forms must be delivered via mail, courier, or in person. Nomination Forms received by telephone, fax, or other electronic means will be considered invalid.

Official campaigning for the NSTU Presidential election will begin on Monday, March 23, 2026.

The term of office for the next NSTU President will begin on August 1, 2026.