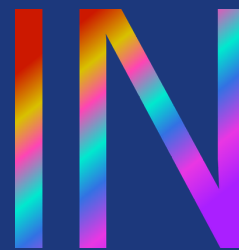




# The CHECK

June 15, 2026

Issue 40



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



As we approach the end of June, I want to acknowledge the tremendous work being done in schools across our region. From finalizing reports and assessments to preparing classrooms and graduation ceremonies, this is one of the busiest times of the year. Thank you for your continued professionalism, dedication, and care for students and colleagues alike.



This June, we proudly celebrate Pride Month as part of the broader Pride Season, which is the wide range of Pride events that take place from June to September, when 2SLGBTQI+ people and their allies come together to highlight resilience, celebrate talent, and recognize the many contributions of 2SLGBTQI+ communities. While special attention is given to Pride events during the summer months, celebrations and community-building activities take place throughout the year in many communities.

Pride has its roots in the fight for equality and human rights. In Canada, the first large-scale demonstrations for 2SLGBTQI+ rights took place in Ottawa and Vancouver in 1971. By 1973, Pride events were being held in cities across the country laying the foundation for the vibrant Pride celebrations we see today. As we celebrate Pride Month, we honour the history, resilience, and achievements of 2SLGBTQI+ communities while reaffirming our commitment to fostering an inclusive environment where everyone feels respected, valued, and empowered to be their authentic selves.

Happy Pride Month!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- June 17 First Term posting opens (12pm)
- June 21 National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 22 First Term posting closes (12pm)
- June 26 High School Assessment and Evaluation Day (No school high school ONLY)
- Halifax County Local Conference Fund and Local Reserve Conference Fund application deadline
- June 30 Last day of school (day 195)

“ June: when teachers become expert countdown specialists

~ Anonymous

”



## 2026 Staffing Timelines

June 17 (12pm)	First term posting goes live
June 19	Priority Placement staffing
June 22 (12pm)	First term posting closes
July 8 (12pm)	Summer term posting goes live
Aug 17 (12pm)	Summer term posting closes
Aug 19 (12pm)	Weekly Term postings resume

## Inspire Awards 2026

Last week, we were delighted to host our annual Inspire Awards dinner, celebrating the exceptional educators and school representatives whose dedication, leadership, and service make a lasting difference in our schools and communities. The awards honour the legacy of two outstanding former Halifax County Local members, Preman Edwards and Susan Noiles, whose commitment to public education continues to inspire our work today.



The Preman Edwards School Representative Award honours Preman's enduring commitment to advocacy and leadership within the NSTU. Throughout his career, he served in a variety of roles, including as a staff officer, and was widely respected for his dedication to supporting members and strengthening the profession.

The Susan Noiles Educator Award commemorates Susan's lasting impact as a devoted school counsellor at Lockview and a passionate supporter of her colleagues. Her compassion, commitment to student success, and unwavering support of fellow educators continue to serve as an inspiration to those who knew and worked with her.

## **Preman Edwards Award: Jodie MacIlreith (Leslie Thomas Junior High)**

Jodie MacIlreith is the kind of teacher we all aspire to be. She is always willing to share math resources, especially with new teachers. Her bubbly personality and generosity have made her a go-to person for many staff members. "Ask Jodie" is a popular phrase. Jodie is also the reason I became active in our union. She brought me to my first meeting, even brought me a clipboard and pen, and has guided countless new reps and NSTU members in the same way. She understands the union's impact and inspires teachers to get involved. She encouraged me to put my name forward for Finance and Property so I could contribute provincially. Jodie herself has served on several provincial committees, including the Pension Committee and Finance and Property. Jodie always reminds colleagues to attend union meetings—"We'll feed you," as she likes to say. Jodie has served as a school rep, Finance Committee member, Local Treasurer, and most recently as VP of Professional Development. Her dedication, even as she nears retirement, is remarkable. Beyond her professional contributions, Jodie makes amazing staff connections. Each year, she and her husband organize an elaborate Survivor Challenge to bring colleagues together. What began as a simple year-end gathering has become a highly anticipated event, reflecting her commitment to community, collaboration, and team building. This year, she passed the torch to a new group to continue this tradition, leaving a lasting legacy of connection and spirit.

## **Susan Noiles Award: Peter Balcom (reserve member)**

Peter Balcom has long demonstrated educational leadership as an elementary teacher & administrator (prior to PSAANS) as well as through his ongoing involvement with Hfx Co Local. Even after retiring, Peter continues to show his commitment to both education and the Local by maintaining a Reserve Membership, substituting in Hfx County schools, and remaining actively engaged in Local meetings and events. His presence reflects a deep belief in the importance of strong schools, strong educators, and a strong union. This sage mentor has been a valued mentor to many educators throughout his career. Whether in schools or within union spaces, he generously shares his knowledge and experience with colleagues. Peter remains a highly respected community member of our Local. As a former Local Executive member and passionate participant at Rep Meetings & Annual Council, he continues to contribute meaningfully to discussions that shape our collective work. His thoughtful approach helps foster trust, collegiality and thorough dialogue. Peter promotes spirit, goodwill, connections, and excellence in education as one who is still engaged, whose thoughtful contributions consistently elevate discussions and decision-making. When Peter speaks, colleagues listen. His words & deeds demonstrate deep institutional knowledge, humility, and commitment to educational excellence. Even in retirement, Peter continues to contribute to the wellbeing of educators and the strength of our union.

## **Susan Noiles Award: Andrew James (Waverly Memorial)**

Andrew is what exemplifies the importance of an elementary physical education teacher to a school and its students' lives. He is a highly educated, professional and dedicated educator. He touches the lives of hundreds of students both inside and outside the classroom each and every year. As a veteran teacher with two decades of service, he has touched thousands of lives. He not only has a PE program that is second to none, he also volunteers at his school and within his family of schools. Andrew coaches his school's cross-country team; and organizes its Zone Cross Country meet that has multiple schools in attendance. In addition to this, Andrew also runs the Field Day at Waverly Memorial annually for its students to participate in its own "mini-Olympics" and is an event the students look forward to all year. Andrew also gives back to his community as a volunteer coach for both Fall River's minor hockey (Girls) and Lacrosse (Girls) associations. Showing his commitment to both life long learning and the importance of sport in a child's life. I cannot think of a better recipient for this award.

## **Susan Noiles Award: Rebecca Engram (West Bedford High)**

Rebecca Engram embodies the qualities of an inspired educator. Through her commitment to both students and colleagues, she consistently promotes spirit, goodwill and excellence in education. She builds trust, sparks curiosity, and fosters strong relationships that support meaningful student engagement and self-discovery. Highly responsive to diverse learners, she commits to deeply understanding student needs through inclusive practices. Rebecca leads by example as an outstanding role model. In her Oceans 11 course, she integrates environmental stewardship by collaborating with local fishers to collect discarded rope that would otherwise go to landfill. She enriches learning through experiential opportunities, including trips to Dal for touch tanks, the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, and fossil studies at Blue Beach. As a mentor, Rebecca supports colleagues by sharing resources, offering guidance, and fostering collaboration. Her leadership in the science department inspires both new and experienced teachers. She models creativity and sustainability through initiatives like Felting Club and student projects using reused materials to create models of cells, neurons, and ocean topography. Rebecca strengthens the school community through coaching and supporting opportunities like SHAD Futures. Her classroom is a dynamic space where students feel supported and are consistently drawn to learn. Her passion and leadership create a lasting ripple effect across the WBHS community.

Congratulations to this year's Inspire Award recipients, whose dedication, leadership, and commitment to public education exemplify the values these awards represent. We also extend our sincere thanks to everyone who joined us in celebrating their achievements and the spirit of service and excellence that continues to strengthen our schools and communities.

**END OF YEAR TEACHER  
SOCIAL**

Join your colleagues and celebrate  
the end of  
the school year!

*Let's  
Celebrate!*

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER**

**MONDAY, JUNE 15 @ 12 PM**

**EVENT IS FRIDAY, JUNE 19**

**3:30 PM - 6:00 PM**

**The Big Leagues Pub, Cole Harbour, Dartmouth**

**REGISTER HERE**

*Complimentary beverage ticket &  
appetizer buffet included!*



# CUTS TO EDUCATION WON'T IMPROVE OUTCOMES



**CONTACT YOUR MLA & EXPLAIN WHY**



# ACT FOR EDUCATION





## Be a Site Rep Next Year!

We encourage you to consider volunteering for one of the important positions at your school or site. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who stepped up this year. Your dedication is truly appreciated and made a significant impact. Your ongoing support of both the Local and the NSTU as a whole makes a real difference.

As we approach the end of the school year, it's a great time to think about running for the School/Site Union Representative position in September. While many current Reps will continue in their roles, retirements and transfers often create openings that need to be filled. During Organization Day in September, NSTU members at your school/site should expect a call for nominations – a perfect opportunity to get involved and help shape our Local.

### C. NSTU REPRESENTATIVE

- I. A NSTU representative is an active member of the NSTU assigned to an educational site within the geographical or educational site boundaries of the Local.
- II. Each educational site shall elect a minimum of one (1) NSTU representative. Educational sites with up to twenty-five (25) members shall elect a maximum of one (1) NSTU representative. Educational sites with twenty-six (26) to fifty (50) members may elect a maximum of two (2) NSTU representatives. Educational sites with fifty-one (51) to one hundred (100) members may elect a maximum of three (3) NSTU representatives. Educational sites with over one hundred (100) members may elect a maximum of four (4) NSTU representatives. The educational site shall be entitled to an equal number of alternate representatives.
- III. Notwithstanding C II above, under exceptional circumstances, a Local may at a Local General Meeting approve additional NSTU representatives at an individual educational site for an academic year.

## Rep Roles and Responsibilities

- c. NSTU Representative – duties for NSTU representatives include, but are not limited to:
  - i. The timely distribution and posting of NSTU information received through the provincial NSTU representative network.
  - ii. The timely distribution and posting of information received from the NSTU Local.
  - iii. Directing members' requests to the appropriate Local or provincial support persons.
  - iv. Coordinating the collection of annual membership registry data in his/her educational site.
  - v. Requesting time on the staff meeting agenda for NSTU updates.
  - vi. Calling other meetings as necessary.
  - vii. Assisting new members to become informed NSTU members.
  - viii. Identifying themselves to all members new to their educational site.
  - ix. Ensuring all members understand the NSTU representatives' roles and duties.
  - x. Conducting other functions as outlined in these Operational Procedures.

# Halifax County Retirement Event

SATURDAY

27

JUNE 2026

5:00 - 11:00 PM

DELTA HOTELS DARTMOUTH

240 BROWNLOW AVENUE



**REGISTRATION  
NOW OPEN**

Retiree registration

Paying Guest Registration

FEES

Retiree &  
One Guest  
Complimentary

All Others  
\$60.00

# Halifax County Local Executive

Thank you to each member who answered the call to leadership by running for an Executive position. Your involvement, enthusiasm, and commitment to our membership help build a stronger and more vibrant Local for everyone.

Please join me in congratulating both the incoming and outgoing members of our Executive team:

## Incoming Executive Members:

- **VP Communications:** Sarah McCann
- **VP Nominating:** Christine Emberley
- **VP Professional Development:** Turk MacDonald
- **VP Social Wellness:** Jennifer Moriarty
- **Provincial Executive:** Melanie Kennedy Conrad



## Outgoing Executive Members:

- VP Communications:** Meg Ferguson
- VP Nominating:** Erica Ans
- VP Professional Development:** Jodie MacIlreith
- VP Social Wellness:** Gale Doyle

**Provincial Executive:** Grant Frost



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

- Stretch your arms and shoulders several times throughout the day
- Smile more often; it releases feel-good hormones
- Limit caffeine in the afternoon to sleep better

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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# Local PD Opportunities for June

## Halifax County Local Conference Fund

Amount: Up to \$900 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**

**\*\*New application for 26-27 has been posted on the Halifax County Local Website\*\***

## Halifax County Local C.D.A.F. (Curriculum Development Assistance Fund)

Amount: 10 projects up to \$750

This fund was initiated to financially support Halifax County teachers to develop long term project ideas that align with grade/teaching assignment. These projects must be self-sustaining and contain non-consumables. As a result of this support, students benefit from enhanced learning experiences. Once per year.

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

**Deadline: Opens Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and closes Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm**

## Halifax County Local Cash for Classrooms

Amount: 500 applicants up to \$100

For Halifax County members to purchase items to improve some aspect of their teaching their profession, once per year as long as the budget has the funds.

Eligibility: Must be a permanent, probationary or term teacher of the Halifax County Local only. Cannot have received the CDAF in the same school year. **MUST be pre-approved. DO NOT BUY AHEAD OF APPROVAL.**

**Deadline: Opens Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> and closes when the limit of 500 applications is reached**

## 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 Sharepoint 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.**

# Local PD Opportunities for June

Continued...

## Conference, In-service and Course Pre-approval 2026-27

### Application Deadline Dates (no later than 4:00 PM)

September 2, 2026  
 September 30, 2026  
 October 28, 2026  
 November 25, 2026  
 January 6, 2027  
 January 27, 2027  
 February 24, 2027  
 March 31, 2027

### Committee Meeting Dates

September 9, 2026  
 October 7, 2026  
 November 4, 2026  
 December 2, 2026  
 January 13, 2027  
 February 3, 2027  
 March 3, 2027  
 April 7, 2027

### Please note:

For conferences and Course Pre-Approvals, **the start date** must take place at least **10 calendar days AFTER the Committee Meeting Date.**  
 For In-Services, **the start date** must take place at least **30 calendar days AFTER the Committee Meeting Date.**  
*Applications for conferences ending April 1, 2027-March 31, 2028 will be accepted beginning in January 2027.*

## Course Reimbursement Deadlines 2026-27:

Course Completed During the Following Dates	Deadline Date via SharePoint. No Later than 4pm
April 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026	July 31, 2026
July 1, 2026 – September 30, 2026	October 31, 2026
October 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	January 31, 2027
January 1, 2027 – March 31, 2027	April 30, 2027

**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.**

**\*\*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.**



## NSTU Building Shutdown

Please be advised that the Annual NSTU building shutdown will take place from **July 20 to July 31, 2026**. Further details will be shared as they become available from NSTU Central Office.



### KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

#### **REGIONAL AGREEMENT (HRCE) - ARTICLE 24 - TEACHER IN CHARGE**

**24.01** A teacher may be appointed by the Regional Centre or its agent as a Teacher in Charge in accordance with this Article.

**24.02** In the event that all administrative personnel assigned to the school are absent from the school, the Teacher in Charge may be requested to assume the duties specified in this clause. Teachers in the school will be informed when a teacher has been requested to be Teacher in Charge.

**24.03** The Teacher in Charge, when requested to act, shall attend to ensuring that routine supervision is adequate to secure the safety of students and security of the school is maintained, and shall deal only with emergent matters as they may arise, with required assistance from the Regional Centre Office.

**24.04** While acting as a Teacher in Charge, the teacher is covered by all terms and conditions of this Agreement.

**24.05** Where absences of administrative personnel continue for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, the Teacher in Charge will be advised that they will assume all administrative duties, excluding only formal evaluation of instruction and personnel, and that they will be working under the terms and conditions of employment for administrators.

**24.06** Whenever possible the Teacher in Charge shall be selected from those teachers who have expressed an interest in performing this function. Teacher application to be a Teacher in Charge must be made to the Principal by September 15 of each school year. A teacher has the right to refuse to act as a Teacher in Charge except in emergencies.



JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES  
IN CELEBRATING

**HFx PRIDE**



More details in our  
Facebook event:

"Hfx Pride Parade  
- NSTU Members"



**#NSTUpride**

**SAT. JULY 18, 2026**

**MEET AT 11:30AM**

Bring a colleague, friends, or  
family (pets, too!) and walk with us



Invites  
You  
To  
The...

# Labour Day Rally '26!



**MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER  
7TH, 2026**

**Save The  
Date!**

Meet At:  
NS Labour Board  
1601 Lower Water St.

March To:  
Peace And  
Friendship Park

More details to come!  
Follow our socials  
or email  
halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca  
with any questions

