



The

CHECK IN

Nov. 24, 2025

Issue 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Get ready to join us for Introducing New Members to the NSTU, a welcoming and informative session led by Staff Officer Tim MacLeod.

Whether you're brand new to the union or looking to strengthen your understanding of the NSTU's supports, rights, and opportunities, this session is designed to start your journey on

the right foot. We're excited to help you connect, learn, and feel confident as part of our NSTU community! See the poster below to sign up.

Teacher Professional Practice

These days are for teachers to **complete professional duties as determined by the teacher, including but not limited to marking, preparation and professional collaboration.**

Teachers are entitled to determine what professional duties they undertake during this time and the employer cannot mandate meetings or the performance of any particular task.

If you are being asked by admin to attend meetings or anything other than what is stated in the contractual language above, please contact Wally Fiander, Tim MacLeod (Bedford/Sackville schools) or myself.

Self-directed PD days for HRCE:

Dec 4/25: - Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day No Classes All Schools -1/2 day Teacher Professional Practice for everyone

Dec 22/25 -full day Teacher Professional Practice for everyone

Apr 2/26: - Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School PD (No Classes All Schools) - 1/2 day Teacher Professional Practice for Elementary and Middle Level Only

Apr 29/26: - Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes All Schools) -1/2 day Teacher Professional Practice for high schools only.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 26 Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant application deadline

Article 60 Conference Grant application due

General Meeting

Nov 28 Teaching Together application due

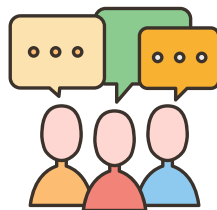
Halifax County Local Conference Fund and Local Reserve Conference Fund application deadline

Dec 1 NSTU PDAF (Program Development Assistance Fund) application due

“Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else”
~ Mister Rogers”

General Meetings:

General Meetings are held at the Royal Canadian Legion located at 45 Sackville Cross Rd, Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2M2. **Arrival 5:30pm (dinner) for 6:00pm start.**



November 26
January 21

March 4
April 8

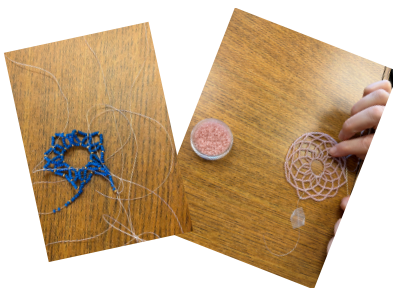
May 6
June 3

Rep Forum @ General Meetings

This is the time to ask questions that may be affecting multiple schools or to gather information from other reps – general issues, questions or concerns.

Please email questions/concerns to the President the Wednesday prior to each General Meeting so that as much information can be shared with the members as possible. Information will be provided via email response as well as during Rep Forum. Anything that has arisen before or after this date can still be brought before the membership at the General Meeting.

Beaded Holiday Ornament Workshop



Our second beading workshop on Sunday, November 16th was a wonderful success! Thank you to everyone who joined us.

Participants were guided by Priscilla (Cilla) Babin-Halsey as they created their own holiday ornaments. Cilla, a member of the Millbrook First Nation and the Acadian community, teaches at Astral Drive Elementary and represents the school within our Halifax County Local. Beading is an

important way she connects with and expresses her Mi'kmaq identity, and we were grateful she shared her knowledge and artistry with our members.



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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/1ai987JVgpnCiE9pSP81xsHGD03BVIh_bue-r-9oLDv6c/edit?usp=sharing

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Regional Agreement (HRCE) **ARTICLE 4 SPECIAL LEAVES**

4.09 A teacher shall be entitled to special leave to a maximum of ten (10) days with pay to be a living donor. This leave would allow a teacher the time required for testing, counseling, consultation, extraction and recovery.



Halifax County Local NSTU



@HalifaxCounty



@HalifaxCounty.bsky.social



HalifaxCountyLocal.com

<https://nstu.ca>

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.

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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.		

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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!

-  Try a 5-minute body scan before sleep
-  Smile at someone — it boosts both your moods
-  Take 5 deep breaths before starting marking and preparation activities

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.

Early Retirement Incentive Program

Any member who is retiring this year and interested in an Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) must apply by December 31, 2024. Any retiring teacher should reach out to the Local's NSTU Executive Staff Officers, Wally Fiander and Tim MacLeod, for details. ERIP is located under Article 38 as well as Appendix A and is found in the Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA). The Appendix explains the application process, conditions and other pertinent information.



CONTACT

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Tim MacLeod (Bedford/Sackville)
NSTU Executive Staff Officer
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Local PD Opportunities for October

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 11th or later and not before. All EXPENSE FORMS AND RECEIPTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday, February 27th, 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 a General Meeting (Nov 26th and Jan 21st)

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.

November 26 Rep Meeting:

Please note that due to Rep metrage cheques being written at the November 26th meeting, Cash for Class cheques will be processed only after Rep cheques are complete. Any Cash for Classroom receipts processed at the General Meeting will be mailed out.

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

THUNDERBIRDS

NIGHT

**DECEMBER
5TH
7:00PM**

**SUBSIDIZED
TICKETS**

2 tickets per Hfx
County Member

Brought to you by Halifax County
Social Wellness Committee

GET YOUR TICKETS/DETAILS HERE: <https://forms.gle/LJ3CwUiN9t42JtG38>



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 are pulled from the Registry on the **first Monday in December** and the **last Monday in March** each year. 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 each of 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



Trouble Accessing Your NSTU Account?

Having issues with your username, password, or registration?

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

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

Please specify which session you are registering for.



CTF/FCE Initiative

Sponsored by



Nova Scotia
Teachers Union



Teaching Together



NSTU sponsors 2 members to collaborate with colleagues in economically emerging countries to improve teaching & learning through co-planning and co-delivering professional learning.

Brochure



CTF Info



NSTU Info



DEADLINE

Friday November 29

