



The

# CHECK IN

Oct. 6, 2025

Issue 6

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



🍁 October Greetings!

It's the first full week of October, and there's so much to celebrate! Yesterday we marked World Teachers' Day, a moment to recognize the incredible dedication and impact of educators everywhere. Today, we continue the momentum with Member Engagement Day — a chance to celebrate you, our valued members, and the vital role you play in our Union. Wishing you a wonderful week ahead!

## 🎉 Member Engagement Day! 🎉

Today we're celebrating you — our valued members! Member Engagement Day is all about strengthening connections and recognizing the important role you play in our Union. Take a moment to explore, connect, and engage with what matters most to you.

Thank you for being an essential part of our Union and our Local. We couldn't do it without you!

Don't forget to email us at [hfxcocommunications@nstu.ca](mailto:hfxcocommunications@nstu.ca) or [halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca](mailto:halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca) and share your favorite moments!



## New to the NSTU?

Take a minute to fill out your NSTU member registration form—it keeps you connected, ensures access professional support and programs, and the latest updates.



Make the most of your membership.  
Complete your **form** today!

## IMPORTANT DATES

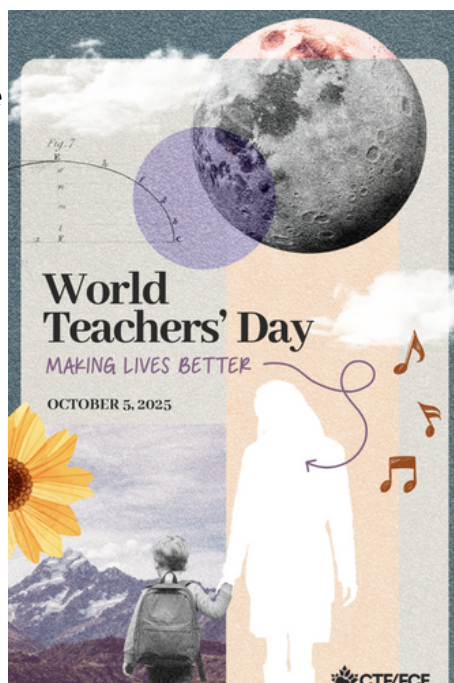
- Oct 5 World Teachers' Day
- Oct 6 Member Engagement Day
- Oct 13 Thanksgiving Day
- Oct 15 Student Mental Health & Wellness Grant application due
- Oct 17 CASH for Class - Applications open
- Oct 22 General Meeting
- Oct 24 NSTU (Professional Associations) Conference Day
- Oct 29 Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant application deadline
- Article 60 Conference Grant application due

“ So this is what we truly believe. This is what reinforces our spiritualities: that no one being is greater than the next, that we are part and parcel of the whole, we are equal, and that each one of us has a responsibility to the balance of the system  
~ Albert Marshall ”

# World Teachers' Day

October 5 is a global celebration of the teaching profession. Since its inauguration in 1994, World Teachers' Day (WTD) has highlighted the vital contributions of teachers and the immense value they bring to our lives.

Teachers' influence extends far beyond the classroom—they support students, strengthen families, and enrich our communities. On October 5, please honour the educators who show up every day with care, courage, and creativity, leaving a profoundly positive impact on society.



## Mi'kamq History Month

This year marks the 32nd anniversary of Mi'kmaw History Month. In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaw Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw culture and heritage.



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

Visit <https://www.mikmawaydebert.ca/sharing-our-stories/education-and-outreach/school-curriculum/> for teaching resources.

## Economic Welfare Survey Open Now



We want to hear from you! The Economic Welfare Committee is gathering input on your concerns and suggestions for the next collective agreement. Your feedback is vital in helping us represent your interests effectively at the bargaining table and will also assist in shaping resolutions for Annual Council 2026.

Please take a few minutes to complete our [Google Form](#) survey. As a thank-you, you'll be entered for a chance to win one of 15 Sobeys gift cards.

Make sure your voice is heard—fill out the survey today!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1J\\_uIkw5GeGjXfPIOYwl8zql6nQqf63D\\_VMBOH3e9NAk-M/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1J_uIkw5GeGjXfPIOYwl8zql6nQqf63D_VMBOH3e9NAk-M/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit_requested=true)



## New Member or Substitute?

For new members and substitutes in Halifax County, Desiree Daniele, Local President, is the go-to contact for support and guidance.

## Asking Package Submission Request



If you have any ideas which could improve teacher work, or if you think there are things which should be changed in your provincial agreement, please submit your ideas to the Committee through email at [askingpackage@nstu.ca](mailto:askingpackage@nstu.ca).

Submissions to be considered in the upcoming round of negotiations should be submitted prior to October 15, 2025.



## Important Notice: Mail Strike and Cheque Distribution

Due to the ongoing Canada Post mail strike, we will not be mailing out cheques at this time. Members can make arrangements to **pick up cheques at the Local office** or **receive them at the next Local meeting on October 22nd**.

To arrange pickup or for more information, please contact:

✉ **Desiree Daniele** – [halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca](mailto:halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca)

✉ **Paul Murphy** – [halifaxcountylocaltreasurer@nstu.ca](mailto:halifaxcountylocaltreasurer@nstu.ca)

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

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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!



Reflect on a recent classroom success



Stretch your back and neck for 3 minutes



Write down 3 things you are grateful for today

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  
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# Membership Registry

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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.

## 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](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.



# Take Action - Expansion of Student Loan Forgiveness Program

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Dear colleagues,

The Federal government promised in Budget 2024 to expand the student loan forgiveness program to include teachers, early childhood educators, social workers, and specialists in rural and remote areas across Canada. This program would help many Nova Scotia communities attract and retain the professionals they desperately need. Unfortunately, it still hasn't been implemented.

We're asking you to take a moment to add your voice. Please visit <https://www.actforeducation.ca/action/> and send a message to your Member of Parliament.

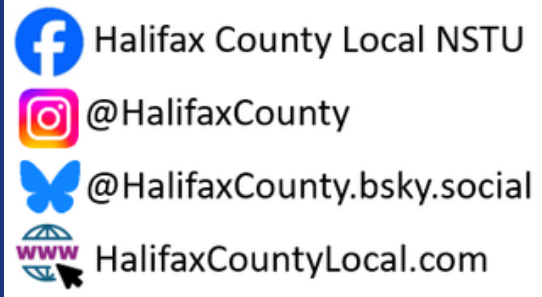
The email is already drafted; all you need to do is fill in a few personal details. You can also personalize or edit the message if you wish.

Together, we can urge the Federal government to act now and deliver on its promise. Every message makes a difference in ensuring all students have the teachers and specialists they deserve.

Thank you for speaking up.

Peter Day

The deadline for Dental Plan enrollment for the year is **October 15th**. Additionally, any new teachers hired after October 1st have 31 days to enroll. Those who were enrolled last year will be automatically renewed.



**Deals & Discounts**

## Optional Insurance Benefits available to all members

There are a number of optional benefits available to Public School Members, PSAANS and APSEA Members that can be purchased through payroll deduction, including:

- optional group life/spousal life insurance
- voluntary accidental death & dismemberment (AD&D)
- NSED travel insurance
- NSED trip cancellation / interruption insurance
- voluntary critical illness insurance • home/auto insurance.

These coverages are 100% paid by the member and are offered at competitive premium rates. Details on these programs are contained within the Group Insurance Profile via the NSTU Group Insurance Trust website at <https://nstuinsurance.ca/members/active>

# Local PD Opportunities for October

## Halifax County Local Cash for Classrooms

Opens October 17th

Amount: 500 applicants up to \$100 each

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. First come, first serve basis. **MUST be pre-approved.**

**Deadline:** Opens Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm and closes when the limit of 500 applications is reached

**Please note:** That because it is a google form, members will need to use Google as their web browser and not Firefox or another browser. A desktop is preferable to a handheld device.

## 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

## KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA)

### Marking and Preparation Time


**59.04** A teacher who is required by the Principal to fill in when a substitute is not hired pursuant to Article 32.23 (Substitute Teachers) of this Agreement can bank the missed marking and preparation time until such time as the bank reaches 150 minutes at which time the teacher, in consultation with the Principal, can schedule a half day to engage in marking and preparation activities as required or other professional development activities. This work must be performed at the School or another work location as agreed. The Principal, in consultation with the teacher, will keep track of the amount of banked marking and preparation time that a teacher has in accordance with this sub-article. The bank shall not carry over to the next school year.

### Update:



A policy grievance was filed on the removal of banked time due to a snow day and has since been referred to arbitration. An arbitrator has been appointed, and we are now awaiting hearing dates

# WHO HELPED SHARPEN YOUR SMILE THIS BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON?



- **Recognize a colleague** and tell us how they made you smile
- **Fill out the Google Form** Deadlines: Friday September 26, October 3, October 10, October 17 at 4:00pm
- **Win prizes** If your nomination is drawn both you and your colleague win a gift card

Nominees will receive a message with what their colleagues said about them!

**BACK THIS YEAR!**

Entries for all give aways will be entered into a final grand prize draw in June.



**Must be a member of  
Halifax County Local**



# Student Mental Health and Wellness Grant

## Frequently Asked Questions



The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees, with support from belairdirect, have established a grant for members to support innovative initiatives that promote the mental health and well-being of students in the schools across Nova Scotia.

### Q: What is the purpose of the Student Mental Health and Wellness Grant?

A: The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees will fund projects that support and promote the mental health and well-being of children and youth in the schools across the province. This could consist of programs in classrooms, schools, or communities. The ultimate goal is to help our students in coping with the pressures of growing up in today's world.

### Q: Who is eligible to apply for the Student Mental Health and Wellness Grant?

A: To be eligible, the individual must have a permanent, probationary, or term contract and be a member of the NSTU or PSAANS at the time of application.

### Q: How do I apply for the grant?

A: You can apply for the grant by going to the NSTU Group Insurance Trust website at <https://nstuinsurance.ca/grants/student-mental-health-and-wellness-grant/> and clicking the application link. The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees will be awarding up to six (6) grants valued at up to \$600 once per year. The criteria will include the purpose addressed, project description, number of students benefiting, and evaluation of impact on students. **Please be advised that not all applications will be awarded grants and incomplete applications will not be considered.**

### Q: What is the deadline to apply for the Student Mental Health and Wellness Grant?

A: Applications must be submitted on/or before **11:59pm on October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Completed projects are due no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>.

For more information on the Student Mental Health and Wellness Grant or any of the benefits and programs available under the NSTU Group Insurance Program, please visit the NSTU Group Insurance Trust website at <https://nstuinsurance.ca/>.