

The CHECKIIN

Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Welcome back! I hope your summer break was both restful and filled with activities that brought you joy and fulfillment. Whether you traveled, explored new hobbies, or simply enjoyed some quiet time, I hope it provided the rejuvenation you deserve.

As we return for a new school year, I'm excited to continue working together, not just for our students, but for each other. Our union remains committed to supporting every member, advocating for fair conditions, and ensuring that your voice is heard. Together, we make our schools stronger and more equitable, and your dedication, creativity, and passion are what make that possible.

Let's approach this year united, energized, and ready to face the challenges ahead. Here's to a school year of collaboration, growth, and collective success!

NSTU REP ELECTIONS

Being a NSTU Representative is an excellent introduction to the NSTU and also a great way to meet colleagues and share as professionals. On the Organization Day in September there should be a call for nominations among the NSTU members at your school/site.

Election Guidelines:

Educational sites with up to 25 members = 1 Rep Educational sites with 26-50 members = 2 Reps Educational sites with 51-100 members = 3 Reps Educational sites with over 100 members = 4 Reps

The educational site shall also be entitled to an equal number of alternate representatives.

If there are more nominations than spots available, election via secret ballot vote should be held.

Site Representatives are asked to fill out the Form located on our website please.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 2 School Organization

Day

Sept 3 Professional

Development Day

First Day for Students Sept 4

Stand Up Against Sept 11

Bullying Day

Sept 15 Halifax County Local

> C.D.A.F. (Curriculum Development Assistance Fund)

applications open

NSTU Professional

Associations Conferences

Registration Opens

Sept 24 Teacher or School Initiated Inservice **Promotion Grant**

application due

Article 60 Conference Grant application due

General Meeting

Deals & Discounts

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE:

First Vice President (Economic Welfare):

Tina Broderick hfxcoecwel@nstu.ca

Vice President of Communications:

Meg Ferguson hfxcocommunications@nstu.ca

Vice President of Professional Development: Jodie MacIlreith halifaxcountyPD@nstu.ca

Vice President of Nominating: Erica Ans hfxconominations@nstu.ca

Vice President of Social and Wellness:

Gale Doyle hfxcowellness@nstu.ca

Vice President of Reps and Equity:

Shelley Rigby hfxcoreps@nstu.ca

Treasurer: Crystal Patterson hfxcofinance@nstu.ca (interim)

Secretary: Deidra Peverill hfxcosecretary@nstu.ca

MAL: Jonathon Sproul halifaxcountymal@nstu.ca

Provincial Executive:

Angela Ewing
Grant Frost
(emails to be provided soon)



Management Teacher

In keeping with the NSTU Regional Agreement, our first Management Teacher meeting of the 2025-2026 school year has been scheduled. These meetings are an important part of ensuring open communication and to share perspectives between management and members in support of teaching and learning across our schools.

This is an opportunity to discuss matters that are pressing in your schools/sites. Please send topics or suggestions to the President for consideration at the first meeting on September 23rd.

Pre-Retirement Seminars



If you are within five (5) years of retirement then this is for you! (Article 67.01 in the TPA)

Topics			
Pension structure	Wills and Estate Planning	Transitioning to Retirement	
Retire on Purpose (Teachers Plus Credit Union)	NSTU Group Insurance	Retired Teachers Organization (RTO)	
Retirement Income			

Members **MUST** register through HRCE (contact your principal/supervisor on how and when to submit names to attend) and receive approval to attend.

HRCE is responsible for advising members of approval to attend, which seminar approved for and appropriate absence code.

October 7-8, 2025 - Nova Scotia Teachers Union - Halifax December 9-10, 2025 - Nova Scotia Teachers Union - Halifax February 11-12, 2026 - Nova Scotia Teachers Union - Halifax February 18-16, 2026 - Nova Scotia Teachers Union - Halifax

Local Treasurer By-Election

There will be a by-election for the interim position of Treasurer at the first Local General meeting on September 24th. The interim position will be until July 31st, 2027. You can find the duties of the treasurer at this link: https://immediac.blob.core.windows.net/nstuhfxcounty/pdf/2018-Treasurer.pdf

During the election item on the agenda, nominations will be taken from the floor. Each candidate will then be allowed a 5-minute speech. The election will take place at the end of the speeches.

Campaigning or publicity cannot happen prior to the close of nominations, as per Halifax County's Operational Procedures, so candidates will not be allowed permitted to distribute any campaign materials.

Today is the first blank page of a 195 page book.
Write a good one!

Brad Paisley (adapted)

https://nstu.ca

Welcome Back, Wally – and Welcome, Tim!

We're excited to share some great news on the staffing front. First, please join us in welcoming back Wally Fiander, who has returned as our Executive Staff Officer. Wally's leadership, knowledge, and commitment have always been invaluable, and we're thrilled to have him back on the team.

We're also fortunate to have recently welcomed Tim MacLeod, Executive Staff Officer, back to the County team. Tim is no stranger to us, and we're delighted to have his experience and perspective with us once again.

With these changes, our team's representation has shifted slightly. See below for the updated breakdown of school site representation.

Tim MacLeod Halifax County	Wally Fiander Halifax County Local	Wally Fiander Halifax County Local
A. J. Smeltzer Junior High	Ash Lee Jefferson Elementary	Island View High
Basinview Drive Community	Astral Drive Elementary	Joseph Giles Elementary
Bedford & Forsyth Education Centre (Bedford)	Astral Drive Junior High	Lockview High
Bedford South Elementary	Atlantic Memorial-Terenice Bay Elementary (AM)	Marine Drive Academy
Bedford South High	Atlantic Memorial-Terenice Bay Elementary (TB)	Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre
Caudle Park Elementary	Atlantic View	Musquodoboit Rural High
Cavalier Drive	Auburn Drive High	Nelson Whynder Elementary
Charles P. Allen High	Bay View High	Ocean View Elementary
Hammonds Plains Consolidated Elementary	Beaver Bank-Kinsac Elementary	O'Connell Drive Elementary
Harry R. Hamilton Elementary	Beaver Bank-Monarch Drive	Oldfield Consolidated Elementary
Hillside Park Elementary	Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Jr. Elementary	Oyster Pond Academy
Kingswood Elementary	Beechville-Lakeside-Timberlea Sr. Elementary	Porters Lake Elementary
Leslie Thomas Junior High	Bell Park Academic Centre	Prospect Road Elementary
Madeline Symonds Middle	Brookside Junior High	Reserve Members - Halifax County
Millwood Elementary	Caldwell Road Elementary	Ridgeoliff Middle
Millwood High	Colby Village Elementary	Robert K. Turner Elementary
Rocky Lake Junior High	Cole Harbour District High	Ross Road
Sackville Heights Elementary	Colonel John Stuart Elementary	Sambro - Ketch Harbour Consolidated
Sackville Heights Junior High	Dutch Settlement Elementary	Seaside Elementary
Sackville High	East St. Margaret's Elementary	Shatford Memorial Elementary
Smokey Drive Elementary	Eastern Passage Education Centre	Sir John A. Macdonald High
Sunnyside Elementary - Eaglewood Drive	Eastern Shore District High	Sir Robert Borden Junior High
Sunnyside Elementary – Fort Sackville	Five Bridges Junior High	St. Margaret's Bay Elementary
Sycamore Lane Elementary	Gaetz Brook Junior High	Tantallon Junior Elementary
West Bedford	George Bissett Elementary	Tantallon Senior Elementary
	Georges P. Vanier Junior High	Upper Musquodoboit Consolidated Elementary
	Graham Creighton JH	Waverley Memorial
	Halifax County Local	William King Elementary
	Halifax Regional Arts Centre (c/o CHHS)	
	Harold T. Barrett Junior High	
	Harrietsfield Elementary	
	Herring Cove Junior High	
	Holland Road Elementary	
	Horizon Elementary	
	Humber Park Elementary	

Sept 2. 2025 *Issue 1*

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.**



September 24 October 22 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.

The email address for our Treasurer has officially changed.

- Please update your records and use the new address:
- halifaxcountylocaltreasurer@nstu.ca

Don't miss important communications — be sure to save the new contact today!



Attendance at the September, October, and November General Meetings will be used as part of the criteria for selecting Halifax County delegates to Annual Council 2026.

Halifax Regional Representative Council (HRRC)

Regional Representative Councils (RRCs) represent the interest of NSTU Locals within the jurisdiction of Regional school centres, and include executive participation from the Local. They are responsible for maintenance of professional development and economic welfare benefits from each school centre.

Your HRRC meets on:

Mon. Sept. 29, 2025 Mon. Oct 20, 2025 Mon. Nov. 24, 2025 Mon. Jan 19, 2026 Mon. Mar 30, 2026 Mon. May 25, 2026 Mon. June 22, 2026



CONTACT

Desiree Daniele Local President P(cell): 902-499-0933 P(office): 902-468-6788 E: halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca

202 Brownlow Av. Suite 320 Dartmouth NS B3B 1T5

Tim MacLeod NSTU Executive Staff Officer P(office): 902-477-5621 E: tmacleod@staff.nstu.ca

Wally Fiander
NSTU Executive Staff Officer
P(office): 902-477-5621
E: wfiander@staff.nstu.ca

Local PD Opportunities for September

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

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

Amount: 10 projects up to \$750 each

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 15th at 4pm and closes October 3rd at 4pm

Halifax County Local Cash for Classrooms

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 preapproved.**

Deadline: Opens Friday, October 17th and closes when the limit of 500 applications is

reached





Time For Organizational Purposes (Article 25.05(i))

Beginning August 2024, teachers are entitled to a minimum of 240 minutes each school year to organize themselves and their classrooms in preparation for the school year. This time must be provided prior to the first instructional day for students and it must be uninterrupted, but not necessarily consecutive. In other words, the employer may schedule the 240 minutes over the 2 workdays that precede students' arrival. 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.

Asking Package

Although the Teachers' Provincial Agreement and Regional Agreement were recently signed, it's never to early to think about what may be important for the next rounds of negotiations.

The <u>online form</u> as well as askingpackage@nstu.ca are GREAT places to submit those ideas!



Standing Proud Together

This summer, our members and students joined the local Pride Parade to celebrate diversity, inclusion, and love in all its forms. Taking part in Pride was a meaningful way to show that we are committed to creating safe, welcoming spaces for everyone in our schools and community. We were proud to walk together in support of our LGBTQ2S+ students, members, families, and allies.





KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

<u>Teachers' Professional Agreement</u> (TPA) **School Year**

- 25.05 Days pursuant to 25.04 shall, with the approval of the Education Entity and the Regional Education Officer, be designated for use as follows:
- (i) up to two (2) days per teacher per year for organization purposes;
- (ia) two hundred forty (240) minutes for organization purposes of the school year shall be uninterrupted time (not necessarily consecutive) allocated for professional duties as determined by the teacher prior to the first instructional day for students.

*Excerpt. Refer to TPA for entire Article

Sept 2. 2025 Issue 1



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.



The Halifax County Local General Meetings are held 8 times per year and are open to ALL active and reserve county members. They are a great opportunity to learn more about union matters, network with colleagues and get engaged.

INTERESTING FACT

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Regional Agreement (HRCE) **Daily Plan Book**

18.01 The staff of each school shall, at the Regional Centre's expense, annually decide the Plan Book to be used and ordered by the Principal.

Three to Thrive

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

- Stand up and stretch every hour.
- Reflect on one thing you learned from your students today.
- Drink a cup of tea, coffee or water without multitasking.

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.



employer email in the NSTU Member Registry. This is how you'll get key updates on negotiations, grants, bursaries, meetings & more!

Many Halifax County members still need to update their preferred non-

We NEED Your Help!!!

Update here:

https://nstu.ca/the-nstu/communications/nstu-account (No HRCE, gnspes, or sepnes emails please!)

Keep Connected: Update Your E-mail today!

Yesterday (Sept. 1/25), NSTU members proudly took part in the annual Labour Day Rally, joining unions, families, and community members in a strong show of solidarity. Together, we celebrated the gains of the labour movement while highlighting the achers Union ongoing fight for fairness, respect, and the rights of workers. The event was a spirited reminder of the strength we have when we stand together.









@HalifaxCounty.bsky.social



HalifaxCountyLocal.com

2025 NSTU Professional Associations Conferences FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24



Online Registration

Opens - Monday, Sept 15 (members) Friday, October 3 (non-members) Closes - Friday, October 10 (no refunds after October 10)

For registration and conference details go to www.nstu.ca

An NSTU email address is NOT required for registration. Members may register utilizing any email address. (NSTU Webmail accounts will be retired and active only until July 18, 2025)

Association des enseignantes et enseignants acadiens (AEA)

Theme Repensons nos pratiques: inclure,

innover, inspirer

Location Virtuel

NSTU Members: \$100 Fees

Substitutes: \$50

Pre-Service Teachers: \$30

Retirees: \$50 Affiliates/Other: \$75

Stephanie MacLean Contact

aeaconference@nstu.ca

Association of Science Teachers (AST)

Theme Time for Science Location Halifax West

NSTU Members: \$100 Fees

Substitutes: \$50

Pre-Service Teachers: \$100

Retirees: \$100

Affiliates/Other: \$100

Shelley Walsh Contact

astconference@nstu.ca

Art Teachers Association (ATA)

Theme Make Your Mark: Handmade in Nova

Location Sackville High School, and CB Centre for

Craft & Design

Fees NSTU Members: \$100

Substitutes: \$60

Pre-Service Teachers: \$60

Retirees: \$60

Affiliates/Other: \$60

Contact Jessie Tasker

ata.nstu@gmail.com

Association of Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC)

Voices from the Heart of the Classroom Theme Location Scotiabank Theatre Halifax (Bayers Lake,

190 Chain Lake Drive)

Fees NSTU Members: \$100

Substitutes: \$80

Pre-Service Teachers: \$60 Retirees: \$80

Affiliates/Other: \$100

Theresa Jennings

Contact

atecconference@nstu.ca

Association of Teachers of English of Nova Scotia

(ATENS)

Exploring Inquiry in the English Theme

Language Arts Context

Lighthouse Arts Center 1800 Argyle St, Location

Halifax

Trevor MacKenzie Keynote Fees NSTU Members: \$100

Substitutes: \$90

Pre-Service Teachers: \$90

Retirees: \$90

Affiliates/Other: \$125

Contact Liam Timmons

atenspresident@nstu.ca

Association of Teachers of Young Adolescents

(ATYA)

Theme "ATYA" tude is Everything!

Location Riverside Education Centre, 6 Riverside

Drive, Milford, NS

Chris Gilham, PhD Keynote

NSTU Members: \$100 Fees

Substitutes: \$90

Pre-Service Teachers: \$90

Retirees: \$100

Affiliates/Other: \$100

Mary Barrington George Contact

atyaconference@nstu.ca

Business Education Teachers Association (BETA)

Proudly Local: A closer look at some of Theme

the businesses that make us proud to

be Nova Scotian

Wolfville Location

Fees NSTU Members: \$100

Substitutes: \$100

Pre-Service Teachers:\$100

Retirees: \$100

Affiliates/Other: \$100

Contact Dionne Reid

beta@nstu.ca

Career & Technology Educators Association of NS

(CTEANS)

Ed-YOU-cation: Supporting Your Theme

Innovation in CTE

Location West Bedford School NSTU Members: \$100 Substitutes: \$20 Pre-Service Teachers: \$20

Retirees: \$20 Sarah Barrette

cteansconference@gmail.com

Education Drama Association of Nova Scotia

(EDANS)

Location

Contact

Theme Every Stage, Every Age Woodlawn High School Location

Keynote Logan Robins

NSTU Members: \$100 Fees

Substitutes: \$55

Pre-Service Teachers: \$55

Retirees: \$55

Affiliates/Other: \$55 Kasi Humber Contact

kasihumber@gmail.com

Family Studies Teachers Association (FSTA)

Theme Nurturing Skills, Inspiring Dreams

St. Matthew's Church, Barrington Street,

Nova Scotia's Wandering Wilsons, Hope Keynote

Blooms, and The EYM (Empower Youth

Music) Project

Fees NSTU Members: \$ 100

Substitutes: \$60

Pre-Service Teachers: \$60

Retirees: \$60

Affiliates/Other: \$100

Contact Krista Slmm

FSTAConference@nstu.ca

Mathematics Teachers Association (MTA)

Making Connections: Ideas and Theme

Innovation

Location Charles P. Allen High School Keynote Pam Harris, and Dr. Marian Small

NSTU Members: \$90 Fees

> Substitutes: \$50 Pre-Service Teachers: \$50

Retirees: \$50 Affiliates/Other: \$90

Contact Erick Lee

mtaconference@nstu.ca

2025 NSTU Professional Associations Conferences FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24



Online Registration

Opens - Monday, Sept 15 (members) Friday, October 3 (non-members) Closes - Friday, October 10 (no refunds after October 10)



Nova Scotia Association of Teachers for Equity in Education (NSATEE)

Supporting Newcomer Students and Theme their Families

Hants North Rural High Location NSTU Members: \$85 Fees Substitutes: \$45

Contact

Contact

Contact

Pre-Service Teachers: \$45 Retirees: \$45 Affiliates/Other: \$45 Jeff Purchase

nsateeconference@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Language Teachers Association (NSLTA)

Language Learning in Diverse Theme Classrooms

Location Dartmouth South Acadamey

Jeff Ward, Director of Community Culture Keynote and Heritage Wagmatcook First Nation

NSTU Members: \$90 Fees

> Substitutes: \$50 Pre-Service Teachers: \$50

Retirees: \$50 Affiliates/Other: \$90 Caroline Higgins nsltaconference@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Music Educators Association (NSMEA)

Inspiring Voices: Cultivating Theme Leadership in Music Education

Lockview High School Fall River Location

Keynote Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser Fees NSTU Members: \$100

Substitutes: \$60 Pre-Service Teachers: \$15

Retirees: \$60 Affiliates/Other: \$60 Noelle Wadden

nsmeaconference@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia School Counsellors Association (NSSCA)

Theme Everyday Impact: Pragmatic Practices

for School Counsellors

Citadel High School Location NSTU Members: \$105 Fees

Substitutes: \$65 Pre-Service Teachers: \$65

Retirees: \$65

Affiliates/Other: \$105 Contact

Amy Barry

nsscaconference@nstu.ca

Nova Scotia Teachers Association for Literacy and Language (NSTALL)

Theme **Beyond Words**

Location Cobequid Education Centre, Truro

NSTU Members: \$85 Fees Substitutes: \$45

> Pre-Service Teachers: \$45 Retirees: \$45 Affiliates/Other: \$45

Stephanie Deagle Contact nstall@nstu.ca

Primary Elementary Teachers Association (PETA)

Mentor Texts Matter: Inspiring Theme

Stronger Writers

Cedar Event Centre Location Keynote Carl Anderson NSTU Members: \$120 Fees Substitutes: \$120

Pre-Service Teachers: \$100

Retirees: \$100 Affiliates/Other: \$100 Contact Beth Lamb-Hamilton petaconference@nstu.ca

Psychologists in Schools Association (PISA)

Theme Our Journey Through the Developing

Nervous System as We Rewire Our Perceptions of Discipline

Location MSVU

Contact

Keynote Dr. Lori Desautels Fees NSTU Members: \$100

> Substitutes: \$100 Pre-Service Teachers: \$80

Retirees: \$80 Affiliates/Other: \$100

Chantal LeBlanc pisaconference@nstu.ca

Speech - Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)

Comprehensive Literacy for All: Theme

Supporting Diverse Learners Best Western Plus Dartmouth Location

NSTU Members: \$100 Fees Substitutes: \$75

Pre-Service Teachers: \$75 Retirees: \$75 Affiliates/Other: \$75 Meghan MacNeil

Contact spaaconference@nstu.ca

Social Studies Teachers Association (SSTA)

Cultivating Creative Connections Theme Location Saint Mary's University, Louisbourg, and

> Millbrook Centre NSTU Members: \$110

Substitutes: \$50 Pre-Service Teachers: \$50

Retirees: \$50 Affiliates/Other: \$50 Holly Schaller Contact

Fees

hollyann323@gmail.com

Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education (TAPHE)

Strive to Thrive in 2025: Le bien-être et Theme

la santé est notre priorité!

École secondaire du Sommet Location

Dr. Tina Atkinson Keynote Fees NSTU Members: \$90 Substitutes: \$35

Pre-Service Teachers: \$35 Retirees: \$35 Affiliates/Other: \$35

Kaelin Tingley Contact

tapheconference@nstu.ca