



# The CHECKIIN

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

As we begin the first full week of the school year, it's inspiring to see the energy, dedication, and new opportunities across our schools. My hope for the year is simple: that we continue to support one another, stand together as a strong union, celebrate our successes, and advocate for the resources and conditions that help our students,

and our schools, thrive.

I'm excited to hear from you, understand your perspectives, and collaborate on making this a strong and successful year! Site Reps - please get in touch to welcome me into your schools. I'm looking forward to meeting members where you work and sharing ideas together!

Here's to a great year-take care of yourselves and each other!

### **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 or during the first week 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 11 Stand Up Against

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

Sept 26 Hfx Co Local

Conference Fund/ Local Reserve Conference Fund application due

Sept 29 Professional

Development Day no classes all schools

**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 halifaxcountylocaltreasurer@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)

### Asking Package Submission Request

In preparation for the next round of bargaining, the NSTU Provincial Economic Welfare Committee is seeking member input for the creation of our Asking Package.



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.

Submissions do not need to be on a specific form and do not need to be written in contractual language. The email including your submission must come from a non-employer email and should include your name, Regional Centre or Board and your professional number.

Submissions to be considered in the upcoming round of negotiations should be submitted prior to October 15, 2025. The Committee will consider each submission carefully before deciding which submission will be included in our presentation to the employer.

### **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 (<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/08C93QLCDh">https://forms.office.com/r/08C93QLCDh</a>) and receive approval to attend.

Please ensure your session preferences, substitute required, and bringing spouse selections are correct before submitting the form. No changes will be accepted after the **deadline** on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**. Registration must be completed by filling out the form at the above link. Email registration will not be accepted.

HRCE will advise by email if you have been accepted and which session you have been placed in.

Oct. 7-8/25, Dec. 9-10/25, Feb. 11-12/26 or Feb. 18-16/26

# 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: <a href="https://immediac.blob.core.windows.net/nstuhfxcounty/pdf/2018-Treasurer.pdf">https://immediac.blob.core.windows.net/nstuhfxcounty/pdf/2018-Treasurer.pdf</a>

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.

In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn.

~ Phil Collins

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	

### **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.** 



September 24 October 22 November 26 January 21 March 4 April 8 May 6 June 3

## Save 20% on Staples Copying

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NSTU members can now enjoy 20% off copying services at Staples—both in-store and online-which is perfect for personal projects! Just use your exclusive discount code at checkout.



### 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

### **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.

### **Local PD Opportunities for September**

### 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 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 Cash for Classrooms**

Amount: 500 applicants up to \$100 each

For Halifax County members to purchase items to improve some aspect of their teaching and 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 17<sup>th</sup> and closes when the limit of 500 applications is reached



### 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!



### Calendars and Agendas are

Ready!

Calendars and agendas are now ready for pick-up by Reps at the Local office! If you can't grab yours beforehand, they'll be available at the General meeting on September 24/25. Big thanks to the Communications

Committee for their hard work preparing them!



### **Pick-up Dates:**

Wed. Sept 10: 2:00 - 6:00 Thurs. Sept 11: 2:00 - 5:30 Mon. Sept 15: 2:00 - 6:00 Tues. Sept 16: 2:00 - 5:30 Wed. Sept 17: 2:00 - 4:30

### **KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)**

Regional Agreement (HRCE)

Special Leaves

**4.05** Teachers shall be entitled to temporary Leave of Absence for a maximum of ten (10) days with pay in each school year for serious illness in the teacher's immediate family or the teacher's spouse as defined in Article 4.01. The Regional Centre may grant two (2) additional days for travel.

"Immediate family" shall include grandparents, parents, husband or wife, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, co-habiting partner in a recognized relationship and common-law spouse.

**4.06** Upon approval from the principal/supervisor (or designate), teachers shall be entitled to use up to a maximum of three (3) days each year from the teacher's Serious Illness Leave in Article 4.05 to attend to a member of the teacher's immediate family who is ill and the teacher is required to provide them with personal care. Such approval shall not be unreasonably denied. For the purpose of this article, immediate family is defined as mother, father, children, and an individual for whom the teacher is a legal guardian. For greater clarity, these three (3) days will be deducted from the maximum ten (10) days contained in Article 4.05.

### **Medical and Dental**

Under the TPA, the Employer pays for 100% of the NSTU Total Care Policy (Medical) for each active member, both single and family policies.

**NEW MEMBERS** - this is not automatic. Coverage begins the first month after receipt of application.

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.

### **Highlights for New Members:**

- Provincial Master Life 100% Employer paid
- Provincial Master Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) - 100% Employer paid
- Long Term Disability cost shared with the Employer at 50%

#### Ouestions?

Please contact the Administrator at belairdirect Agency Inc. by calling (902) 453-9543/1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

email: insurance@nstu.ca or GroupBenefitsNS@belairdirect.com www.belairdirect.com/nstu

### **KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)**

Teachers' Provincial
Agreement (TPA)
Supervision of Pupils

13.03 Teachers shall not be required to perform supervision of pupils during any period of time that pupils are on lunch and noon hour break.



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

- Share a laugh with a colleague.
- Pause to check your posture during the day.
- Take a short mindful break during planning.

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.



Many Halifax County members still need to update their preferred nonemployer email in the NSTU Member Registry. This is how you'll get key updates on negotiations, grants, bursaries, meetings & more!

### Update here:

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

### **Keep Connected: Update Your** E-mail today!

### **NSTU Professional Associations Conference Day** 2025 - Registration

Registration for the 2025 Professional Associations conferences for NSTU members ONLY will begin at 12pm noon on Monday, September 15th, 2025 and will close on Friday, October 10th, 2025\*. Registration for non-NSTU members will begin on Friday, October 3rd, 2025.

### \*\*Important\*\*:

To register beginning September 15, 2025, you will be required to enter your NSTU username (without @nstu.ca) and password. If you require assistance, please contact webaccounts@nstu.ca as soon as possible.

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation of your registration to the email address with which you registered. Please flag this email for future reference. This is also where you will receive your receipt.



### 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