Halifax County Local NSTU

The CHECK IN

Nov 16, 2026

Issue 12

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



National Child Day, observed across Canada on November 20th, reminds us of the important role we play as educators in protecting children's rights and creating safe, caring spaces where every child feels valued, supported, and able to thrive. Learn more and explore ways to celebrate through the link in the graphic above Important Dates.

In solidarity, Desirée Daniele

Pan-Canadian Educator Survey on Artificial Intelligence

Educators are on the frontlines of digital disruption, but are shoved to the side when it comes to making decisions about the place of AI in K-12 schools. We'd like to change that by making it a national priority to advocate for solutions that reflect educators' experience and expertise, to ensure that their voices are central to the future of AI policy for K-12 public education in Canada.

While protecting human-centred education and the teacher-student relationship in the AI age is increasingly a priority for teacher unions across Canada, and globally, there's currently no national picture of how AI systems are impacting educators and students in Canadian public schools. Understanding educators' experiences will help us fill that gap to ensure we advocate for systemic change at the federal level and will also support teacher organizations with advocacy at the provincial and territorial level.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE) is leading the survey in collaboration with our Member Organizations, and in partnership with the Dais at Toronto Metropolitan University and the Dialogue on Technology Project (DoT) at Simon Fraser University.

Take the **SURVEY** today!!!!



IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 18	Local General Meeting
Nov 20	Elem/Middle/Jr Evaluation Day *No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY*
Nov 25	Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant application deadline
	Article 60 Conference Grant application due
Nov 27	Teaching Together (formally Project Overseas) application due
	Halifax County Local Conference Fund and Local Reserve Conference Fund application deadline

> There is a calmness to a life lived in gratitude, a quiet joy
>
> ~ Ralph H. Blum



Representative Training 2026



What an incredible weekend of learning, collaboration, and connection at our Annual Representative Training!

This year, we were especially excited to welcome an increased number of new Site Representatives, alongside our returning Reps and Alternates. The energy, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn from one another made this year's event truly special!



Hosted by the Equity and NSTU Representatives Committee, the two days provided meaningful opportunities to share experiences, build confidence, strengthen connections, and grow together as advocates for our members. Learning sessions included Robert's Rules of Order, Setting Boundaries and Assertiveness, exploring the updated Member Registry, Occupational Health ad Safety, and gathering ideas for the Regional Asking Package, along with many other valuable topics and conversations. The collaboration, shared experiences, and collective learning were a wonderful reminder of the strength of our NSTU community.

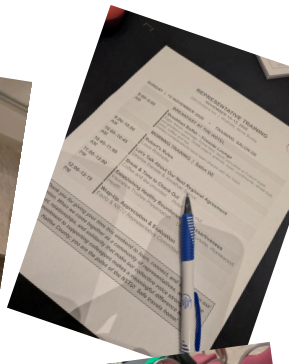


A heartfelt thank-you to Vice-President of Equity and NSTU Representatives Shelley Rigby and the committee members (pictured to the left) for their dedication, thoughtful planning, and leadership in bringing this event to life over the past several months.

To all our Reps and Alternates, both new and returning, thank you for showing up, sharing your voices, and investing in one another. The learning was incredible, the connections were invaluable, and we left the weekend feeling inspired, supported, and more connected as a collective!











1st VP, Economic Welfare & Resolutions

Introducing the candidates!

Jonathan Sproul



It's with great enthusiasm that I confirm my candidacy for 1st Vice President of Halifax County. After serving on our local executive for the last three years, I once again ask for your support with the same message, this time attached to a new position: #HalifaxCountyStrong!

During my time as Member At Large, I've prioritized initiatives with direct impact on members. As your 1st VP, I will stay member-focused, helping with all economic welfare matters. Whether it's your working conditions, resolutions for Council or asking package items, I'll be your voice and take action to move County forward.

I've occupied this role as an interim position and have already developed much of the skill set it requires. I've worked regionally and locally to ensure our members' voices are heard; to make sure we become stronger, together. I remain committed to representing our Local with pride, and ask for your support and your vote on November 18th.

Jessica Wells

I'm Jessica Wells, and I've been teaching for 11 years and involved with our Halifax County Local for the past 7 years. Through my work as a school representative, Annual Council delegate, and in local and provincial NSTU roles, I've seen how important strong economic advocacy is to our members.

I'm running for First Vice-President – Economic Welfare & Resolutions because I want to help ensure our members understand their rights, have a strong voice when it comes to working and economic conditions, and feel supported when navigating issues that affect them. I'm someone who listens, asks questions, and gets involved, and I'm ready to bring that approach to this role.



Have your say!

Vote at the General Meeting on November 18th, 6 pm

Sackville Legion 45 Sackville Cross Rd, Lr. Sackville

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

HRRC
Halifax City • Halifax County • Dartmouth



JOHS

Hosted by ourown
NSTU StaffOfficer & InHouseLegalCounsel

November17th,2026
Time: 6:30-7:30pm

Zoom / Virtual

Learn from our in house specialist and network / ask questions, sharing what's happening at your site(s).

Sign up here! Scan QR or click on link...

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/1NFKKcLCVb?origin=lprLink







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From the Nominations Committee!

Consideration for members to attend Annual Council begins early! If you think you might want to apply, please be aware that attendance at the Local Rep meetings is a contributing factor for success.

See the excerpt from the rubric below, and mark your calendars for Sept 23, October 21, and November 18. 5:30 pm for supper, 6:00 pm start. Sackville Legion, 45 Sackville Cross Rd, Lower Sackville. See you there!

	5	3	1
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

General Meetings:



General Meetings are open to all active and reserve County members and 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 18	March 3	May 5
January 20	April 7	June 2

The Rep Forum is for 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.



Halifax County Local NSTU
@HalifaxCounty
@HalifaxCounty.bsky.social
HalifaxCountyLocal.com



Halifax County Local - Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Bring a colleague.
Build our Local.

School Representatives:bringamember who has never been to a General Meeting.New anddiversevoicesmake our conversations richer — and our union stronger.



Where & when

Royal Canadian Legion
45 Sackville Cross Rd, Lower Sackville, NS
5:30 pm — arrival, dinner, networking and time to read reports
6:00 pm — meeting starts

Gift card draws

Bring a colleague and you're **both** entered in the gift card draw that night — one entry for you, one for your guest.

General Meeting Dates

2026-2027

- Nov 18 2026
- Jan 20 2027
- Mar 03 2027
- Apr 07 2027
- May 05 2027
- June 02 2027

Welcome to Halifax County Local – NSTU

Updates & information:

https://halifaxcountylocal.com/



Local PD Opportunities for November

Cash for Classrooms Receipts are Due January 20th

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 10th or later and not before. All EXPENSE FORMS AND RECEIPTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Wednesday, January 20, 2027.**

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 Turk MacDonald at a General Meeting (Nov 18th and Jan 20th)

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 18th Rep Meeting:

Please note that due to Rep metrage cheques being written at the November 18th Local 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 $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

Deals & Discounts

Parental Leave & Benefits



23 NOVEMBER 2026

Presented by an NSTU Staff officer via Zoom at 6PM

Sign up by scanning the QR code or following the link below:

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/d9hDdtCBSS?origin=lprLink

HRBRC
Halifax City • Halifax County • Dartmouth

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

ATTENTION MEMBERS! GET READY TO UNBOX!

HALIFAX COUNTY LOCAL MEMBERS

UNBOXING VIDEO CONTEST

Show Us What's Inside Your Lunch Bag, Members!

📹 Video Details

- Create a fun unboxing video (max 2 minutes)
- Share your lunch, snacks, & hidden treasures
- Show us your unique style & energy!

🎁 Win Amazing Prizes!

- **Gift Cards**
- **Brand New Lunch Tote**

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY

NOVEMBER 17TH

11:59 PM EST

HOW TO ENTER

Step 1
Pack your lunch!

Step 2
Film your unboxing!

Step 3
Submit your video online!

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY HERE:
https://forms.gle/twhHVqQsdtWZ9FAA6

SCAN TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

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DID YOU KNOW?!?

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, 2026. Any retiring teacher should reach out to the Local's NSTU Executive Staff Officers, Tim MacLeod and Jeff Morse, 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.

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.





CONTACT

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E: tmacleod@staff.nstu.ca

Jeff Morse
NSTU Executive Staff Officer
P(office): 902-477-5621
E: jmorse@staff.nstu.ca

Please visit our website for a breakdown of Executive Staff representation for our County school sites.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4SzegHHTShgri8Jqk_VN3yFgbppBl6Y-H4_Mmii4Q90L-Cg/viewform

Membership Registry

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Introducing the New & Improved Member Registry!!

We think you are going to like this new user experience.

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.

.If the listed member is no longer at the site, click the arrow under "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:

- click on the + add member button to enter their professional number.
- 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 and click the blue Add button.

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.**

All changes will be saved as you make them. When satisfied that all the necessary changes have been made to the list simply select the box for "Approve & lock this list".

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 webaccounts@nstu.ca

Registry Representative Guide is available on the NSTU website to assist with updating.

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.

Have an idea about something the HRRC should change, improve, or address through regional negotiations?

Have Your Say:

Scan the QR Code or follow the link to create a suggestion for the regional negotiating team.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/HxWEsCqyMm

Presented ByYour:

HRM
Halifax City • Halifax County • Dartmouth

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Pension 102

December 1st, 2026,
6:00-7:00pm

Presented by,
NSTU Staff Officer

Zoom / Virtual



Scan the QR Code To Sign Up

All things pension!
Come learn all you need to know about the TPP!



Click Here!

Direct Registration Link:
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/dv3EEGeyUf?origin=lprLink



Are you looking for a larger, more global view of education?

As a teacher, do you feel you have more to offer and more to learn?

Are you ready for a professional and personal adventure?

If yes, Teaching Together might be for you!

Volunteer for Teaching Together with the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE)

The CTF/FCE is seeking English- and French-speaking Canadian teachers at the elementary and secondary levels who are interested in volunteering their time, knowledge, and skills to co-facilitate professional development in-service programs in partnership with teaching organizations in Africa and the Caribbean. Each year, over 50 Canadian teachers are chosen to volunteer in the program, which takes place in July.

All candidates must:

- Hold a Canadian passport valid until at least six months following the volunteer program. (Proof that a passport application has been made will be accepted);
- Be a member of a provincial or territorial teacher organization that supports Teaching Together;
- Hold a valid teaching certificate;
- Have completed at least five years of teaching in Canada by the time of departure for the program;
- Be in excellent health and be able to work in potentially challenging conditions;
- **Have high standards of professionalism and personal conduct;**
- **Show evidence of flexibility and mature judgment;**
- **Be willing to put the team and program needs above personal needs.**

Please note:

Teaching Together is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are covered by the CTF/FCE and its Member Organizations. No salaries or honoraria are paid to volunteer participants. No family or friends are permitted to accompany participants during pre-departure orientation or overseas programs.

To apply please contact Amanda O'Regan-Marchand at amarchand@staff.nstu.ca

Deadline to apply is November 27, 2026

www.ctf-fce.ca