Halifax County Local NSTU

The CHECK IN

Nov 23, 2026

Issue 13

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



As November draws to a close, I'm pleased to hear that our CUPE colleagues reached a tentative agreement over the weekend. This is welcome news, and we hope for a positive outcome as they move through the next steps in the process.

As we head into the last month before the holiday break, I encourage everyone to take a little time for themselves and look out for one another.

In solidarity, Desirée Daniele

Celebrating Leadership: Thank You, Tina, and Welcome, Shelly!

A sincere thank you to Tina Broderick for her dedication and service as our First Vice President. Tina is a strong, passionate Unionist who always has the best interests of County and our members at heart. Thank you, Tina, for your leadership, commitment, and hard work!

We are also pleased to extend a warm welcome to Shelly Bembridge as our new First Vice President! We look forward to working alongside Shelly and wish her much success as she takes on this important role.



IMPORTANT DATES

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
Dec 1	NSTU PDAF (Program Development Assistance Fund) application due
Dec 2	NSTU Education Research Award application due

> "Find out who you are and do it on purpose"
>
> ~ Dolly Parton

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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!!!!





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





Kick off 2027 with an evening of creativity, fun, and connection! Join us for a relaxing night to get inspired, try something new, and let your creativity shine!

📅 Friday, January 15, 2027
🕕 6:00 – 8:00 PM
🎟️ Just $20! Pay your co-pay at registration, and we'll take care of the rest!
🍪 Light refreshments will be served.
✨ Only 20 spots available!

Don't miss out — register early and start the New Year with a creative spark!

https://www.countryroadsrusticdecor.com/product-page/nstu-workshop

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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 Tim MacLeod, Jeff Morse or myself.

Self-directed PD days for HRCE:

Dec 4/26: - Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day No Classes All Schools
Dec 21/26 - Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes All Schools)
Apr 2/27: - Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School PD (No Classes All Schools)
Apr 30/27: - Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes All Schools)



Apply to Annual Council!

Every year, the NSTU holds Annual Council to debate and decide on major policy, action, and financial decisions for the upcoming year. Each local may send a contingent of delegates, according to the NSTU Guidebook, Article II.2.

Halifax County Local chooses delegates, alternates, and an observer through an application and scored rubric process.

If you're interested in applying for Annual Council 2027, please apply by 4 pm on January 8th, 2027. You can access the application form here.

The meetings will take place at the Westin Nova Scotian, April 30 - May 2, 2027. Successful delegates receive accommodations at either the Westin or a nearby overflow hotel. Meals are covered by daily stipends.

Apply for your chance to shape NSTU's future, network and collaborate with members from all across NS, and learn more about what the NSTU does for you!

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

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 (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.

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

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KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Regional Collective Agreement (HRCE)
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.

DID YOU KNOW?!?

Secondments at the NSTU

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union is updating its resource file of active members interested in short-term secondment to NSTU staff.
Seconded staff supplement the work of permanent Union staff, and increase staff available when the demand exceeds the capacity of the organization.
Individuals may be seconded to provide a service or program over a period of weeks, to serve as a resource person or liaison with a Union committee or group or to initiate and /or implement a specific program, project or task.
Secondments may be in member Services, professional services, public relations, public affairs or organizational support.
Active members interested in being listed in the resource file are requested to print and fill out an application form available online at https://nstu.ca/the-nstu/about-us/staff/secondments

CONTACT

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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.

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

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



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