



The

CHECK

IN

Oct 5, 2026

Issue 6



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



October is off to a great start! This week, we're celebrating the dedication of educators and the strength of our members.

After recognizing World Teachers' Day, we're keeping the celebration going with Member Engagement Day. Your voice, involvement, and connection help make our Union and our Local stronger. Here's to a great month ahead!

In solidarity, Desirée Daniele

Member Engagement Day!

Mon. Oct 5, 2026

Today is the perfect day to celebrate what makes our Union special: our members!

Member Engagement Day is all about getting involved, making connections, sharing ideas, and celebrating the community we've built together. Whether you're a familiar face at Union events or someone who's just starting to get connected, your voice, your experiences, and your participation matter.

So, take a little time today to connect with your Union, catch up with a colleague, discover something new, or share what being part of our Local means to you.

And while we're celebrating, we want to hear from you! Have a moment you'd love to share? Send it our way at

hfxcocommunications@nstu.ca or
halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca.

Here's to our members, our Local, and the connections that keep us strong!

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct 5 World Teachers' Day
Member Engagement Day
- Oct 7 NSTU Conference
Grants application due
- Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day
- Oct 15 Student Mental Health
& Wellness Grant
application due
- Oct 16 CASH for Class
application open

Cash for Wellness
application open
- Oct 21 Local General Meeting
- Oct 23 NSTU Conference Day
- Oct 28 Teacher or School
Initiated Inservice
Promotion Grant
application deadline

Article 60 Conference
Grant application due

“
Teaching for me is not a
career it is a privilege
~ Anita Louise Keith
”

First Vice President - Economic Welfare and Resolutions By-Election

Halifax County Local has a vacancy on the Executive for First Vice-President, Economic Welfare and Resolutions. An Expression of Interest form is now open for anyone who would like to offer for the position. Information on the duties and responsibilities is available at the top of the form. Questions about the position should be directed to the **Local President**. The form closes November 2nd at 4 pm, and the election will take place at the General Meeting on November 18th.

Expression of interest Google Form: <https://forms.gle/u5nQdy2JQh28u1h5A>

Campaigning or publicity cannot happen prior to the close of nominations, as per Halifax County Local's Operational Procedures.



World Teachers' Day: Thank You for Brightening Our Future

This World Teachers' Day, we're celebrating the incredible impact teachers have on students, schools, and communities. The 2026 Canadian Teachers' Federation theme, "Thank You for Brightening Our Future," recognizes the countless ways teachers help shape what comes next.

Every day, teachers spark curiosity, inspire confidence, encourage possibility, and help students discover their potential. One student, one classroom, and one moment at a time, teachers are helping build a brighter future for us all.

Today, we celebrate and thank you for the knowledge you share, the encouragement you give, and the difference you make every day.



October is Mi'kmaq History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich culture, history, language, and traditions of the Mi'kmaq people.

We are fortunate to live and work in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As we mark this month, we invite everyone to take time to learn more about Mi'kmaq history and the enduring presence and contributions of Mi'kmaq communities.

The Peace and Friendship Treaties remind us that these lands are shared through relationship and responsibility. We are all Treaty People, with a role to play in building understanding, respect, and stronger relationships.

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

Halifax County Local

Meet a
Member
Monday



MEET AREN!

Aren Morris is an educator, mentor, author, and creative force who brings her very best to everything she does. She is known for going above and beyond to create new and innovative opportunities for her students, while also being an incredible mentor and a kind, thoughtful colleague.

In her "spare" time, Aren has authored and published the novel *We Happy Few*, serves as Author Coordinator for Read By The Sea, co-hosts the Fantastic Grown Up Book Fair, and is the co-creator and Artistic Director of BRAVO!, a children's theatre festival celebrating theatre, music, dance, puppetry, and storytelling.

Clearly, "spare time" is a relative term for Aren! We're thrilled to celebrate a member whose creativity, generosity, and commitment make such a positive impact on students, colleagues, and the wider community.

Local PD Opportunities for October

Halifax County Local Cash for Classrooms

Opens October 16th

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 16th 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 \$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

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA)

Assessment

69.01 When a classroom teacher is required to perform Provincial or Education Entity mandated student assessments that require extended one-on-one student-teacher time, including, but not limited to, Oral Reading Assessments and Observation Surveys, supervision of the remaining students shall be provided by a substitute teacher unless the hiring of a substitute teacher is not operationally required. The obligation to hire a substitute shall be deemed to have been met in the event a substitute is not available after the Education Entity has made every reasonable effort to hire a substitute.



Ready to invest a little in you? We are excited to introduce the new Cash for Wellness Grant, designed to help members purchase items that support and improve their personal wellness. What's available?

- 💰 Up to \$100 per approved applicant
- 👥 First 600 approved applicants
- 📅 Opens **Friday, October 16, 2026** and applications will close once 600 applications have been received.

This grant is open to permanent, probationary, and term teachers in the Halifax County Local. Members who have received a CDAF or Cash for Class grant during the same school year are not eligible.

⚠️ **Important: Pre-approval is required before making any purchases.** Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis, so don't wait!

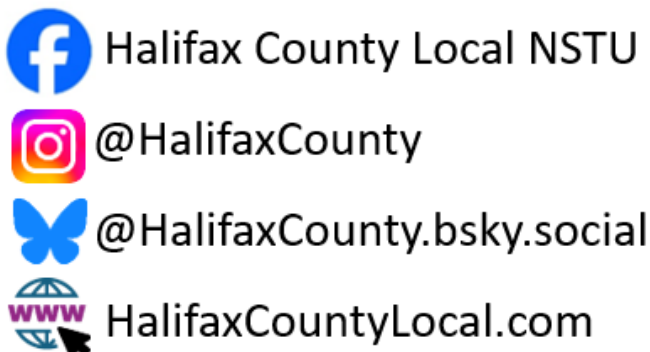
A quick application tip: The application is a Google Form, so please use Google Chrome rather than Firefox or another browser. A desktop computer is recommended over a phone or other handheld device.

Take a little time for yourself, support your wellness, and make your \$100 work for you!



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.



NSTU GROUP INSURANCE TRUST	Halifax Region Trustee Krissy Brewer HalifaxTrustee@nstu.ca
	NSTU Staff Liaison Kyle Marryatt kmarryatt@staff.nstu.ca
	NSTU Staff Liaison Paul Boudreau pboudreau@staff.nstu.ca
	belairdirect. 902-453-9543 or 1-800-453-9543
Remember to check out the Trustee's website! www.nstuinsurance.ca	
Health & Wellness	Travel

The NSTU has a podcast!



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The purpose of the podcast is to speak to the realities of public education and create another way for us to communicate directly with members and the broader public. With the loss of local news programs and outlets such as Global Halifax and News Radio 95.7, there are fewer opportunities for meaningful public conversations about what is happening in our schools.

While the podcast is produced by the NSTU, it isn't intended just for teachers and specialists. We want to build an audience that includes parents, students, families, and members of the public who have an interest in public education.

Building that audience now is important. It gives us an established platform to share information, celebrate public education, and discuss important issues. It also means that if we find ourselves in a more contentious environment with government in the future, we already have a way to communicate directly with Nova Scotians and help them understand the issues affecting our members and public education.

We're also looking for ideas from members. If they have an issue or question that would make for a good public discussion, someone they think would be an interesting guest, or a topic they would like us to explore, I encourage them to send it to me at president@nstu.ca.

We have also introduced a segment where we share positive, funny, heartwarming, or feel-good stories from our schools. We don't always get the opportunity to celebrate the many great things happening in public education, so we would love to hear stories from teachers, specialists, parents, or students that we could share.

All episodes can be found on YouTube and Spotify by searching "[NSTU Podcast](#)."

One of the easiest ways members can help is simply by liking, commenting on, and sharing the podcast posts from the NSTU social media accounts. With nearly 10,000 members, our collective engagement can help these posts reach beyond our own membership and into the broader public conversation.

*Excerpt from communication from your Provincial President, Peter Day.



CONTACT

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Please visit [our website](#) for a breakdown of Executive Staff representation for our County school sites.

NSTU Webmail has ended...

but let's stay in touch



Visit <http://www.nstucentral.ca> and update your member registry profile with a preferred non-employer email

Don't know your username?
Email webaccounts@nstu.ca for help



<https://nstu.ca>

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

Social Wellness Feedback

We're committed to creating engaging and beneficial social wellness events for all members of the NSTU Halifax County Local. Your insights are invaluable in helping us understand what's working well and where we can improve. By taking a few moments to complete our feedback survey, you directly contribute to shaping a more vibrant and supportive community for everyone.

We want to ensure our events meet your needs and interests. Whether you attended a recent event or have ideas for future programming, your perspective is crucial. Your feedback will guide our planning and help us tailor future offerings to be even more impactful.

Here's the Link!



Deals & Discounts

Political Action/Public Relations Conference: Engaging through Political Action

The Political Action/Public Relations Conference will be held on Friday, November 13, 2026, and Saturday, November 14, 2026, at Courtyard by Marriott Dartmouth, 35 Shubie Dr, Dartmouth, B3B 0L6. Halifax County is entitled to send one delegate who self-identifies under NSTU Operational Procedure 9.

For clarity, in instances where there are references to terms such as Equity-Owed, Equity-Deserving, or Equity-Seeking in NSTU documents these terms are defined as: a traditionally underrepresented in Union Leadership individual who self-identifies as being Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqew, First Nations, Indigenous, Inuit, or Métis; Black, African Nova Scotian, or of African Descent; Acadian; Person of Colour or Racialized; Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, or additional sexual orientation or gender identity; a person with a Disability; a woman; or an individual from any other group traditionally underrepresented in union positions.

If you are interested in attending as Halifax County Local's delegate, please indicate your interest by **Friday, October 9, 2026 at 3:00pm** using the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/yTC68w78xwCWYT9h6>



Professional Development Conference 2026

The biennial Professional Development Conference will be held on November 6th and 7th, 2026. This conference will take place at the Courtyard Marriott Dartmouth Halifax, located at 35 Shubie Drive in Dartmouth. Halifax County is entitled to send one delegate who self-identifies under NSTU Operational Procedure 9.

For clarity, in instances where there are references to terms such as Equity-Owed, Equity-Deserving, or Equity-Seeking in NSTU documents these terms are defined as: a traditionally underrepresented in Union Leadership individual who self-identifies as being Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqew, First Nations, Indigenous, Inuit, or Métis; Black, African Nova Scotian, or of African Descent; Acadian; Person of Colour or Racialized; Two-Spirited, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, or additional sexual orientation or gender identity; a person with a Disability; a woman; or an individual from any other group traditionally underrepresented in union positions.

If you are interested in attending as Halifax County Local's delegate, please indicate your interest by **Friday, October 9, 2026 at 3:00pm** using the following Google Form:

<https://forms.gle/NpS7RJDxMownzzBbA>



Student Mental Health and Wellness Grants

Deadline – October 15, 2026

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 15th**. Completed projects are due no later than May 31st.*

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/>.



KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Regional Agreement (HRCE)

Educational Change

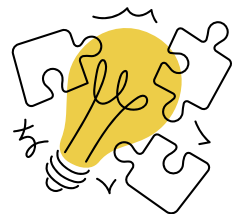
20.01 Educational change refers to the introduction of methods, theories and practices that are intended to continually improve teachers' professionalism and student learning. Such change may include new teaching practices and strategies, the use of new equipment and materials and changed teaching responsibilities.

20.02 Both parties recognize that continual improvements of educational process relies on the need to change and adjust and both parties recognize the importance of dialogues not only at the initial but at subsequent stages as a way of preparing for and encouraging change and adjustment.

20.03 The Regional Centre shall provide reasonable notice, where possible, to the chair of the Halifax Regional Representative Council of any significant impending changes referred to above.

20.04 Either party may convene a meeting of the Management/Teacher Committee to discuss significant impending changes referred to above. Such discussions shall include consideration of the impact on teaching staff, the re-training needs and the in-service needs of teachers.

Economic Welfare Survey Open Now



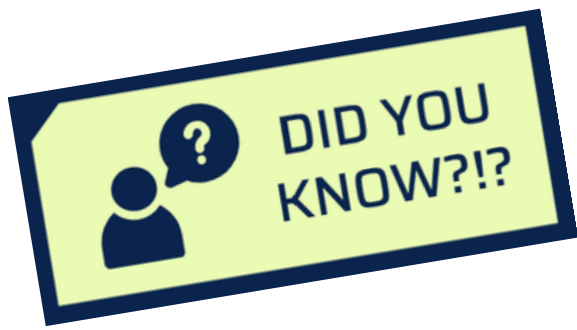
We want to hear from you!

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 a Sobeys gift card. Amount of gift cards will be determined by number of individuals who submit suggestions.

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





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>

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.**



October 21
November 18

January 20
March 3

April 7
May 5

June 2

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.



Bring a colleague. Build **our** Local.

School Representatives: bring a member who has never been to a General Meeting. New and diverse voices make 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

Oct 21 2026

Nov 18 2026

Jan 20 2027

Mar 03 2027

Apr 07 2027

May 05 2027

June 02 2027

2026-2027

Welcome to Halifax County Local – NSTU

Updates & information:

<https://halifaxcountylocal.com/>



Membership Registry

Oct 5, 2026

Issue 6

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.