



The

CHECK IN

Sept 21, 2026

Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



As September begins to settle into its routine, please take a moment to check in with yourself and with one another. The year may bring its share of challenges, but remember that you don't have to face them alone.

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out. Your Local is here to support you.

Wishing everyone a positive start to the week ahead!

In solidarity, Desirée Daniele

Local Service Awards 2026

There is so much to celebrate when we recognize members who give their time, energy, and passion to make a difference for their colleagues. The Local Service Awards are a wonderful opportunity to shine a light on NSTU members whose dedication, leadership, and willingness to step up help make our Local stronger.

This year, we are delighted to celebrate Yvonne LaPierre, Crystal Patterson, Gale Doyle, and Jonathon Sproul, our Halifax County Local Service Award recipients. Each has made meaningful contributions through their commitment to their colleagues, their Local, and the work of our union.

Their service reflects the care, generosity, and sense of community that make our union what it is. We are grateful for all they do and proud to recognize their contributions with this well-deserved honour.



IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 23 Local General Meeting

Sept 25 Professional Development Day - *no classes all schools*

Hfx Co Local Conference Fund/ Local Reserve Conference Fund application due

Sept 29 Orange Shirt Day

Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - *no classes all schools*

Teacher or School Initiated Inservice Promotion Grant/ Article 60 Conference Grant application due



“Reconciliation is not a single act, nor does it have an end date. It is a lifelong journey of healing, respect and understanding.”
~ Mary Simon

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.



John Huntley Internship

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to honour the contribution to the NSTU of John Huntley, who was an active Local leader as well as an Executive Staff Officer in 1993-94 and 1998-99.

Through the provision of an internship experience for active members, this program helps fulfill Mr. Huntley's desire that all members develop a thorough understanding of the NSTU.

A few days in the life of your Union...

This internship enables 18 teachers per year to spend two days at the provincial office connecting with executive and professional services staff to learn more about their roles and responsibilities. The Fellowship is not intended as a precursor to employment with the NSTU. Rather, it is intended to provide active members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU by increasing their awareness and knowledge of the workings of the organization.

Application Process

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

- Interest in Union affairs
- Reasons for applying
- Benefit to the Union
- Regional representation

Applications **must be** received at the NSTU Central Office by **October 1, 2025** February 1, 2026 and April 1, 2026.

Application:

English and French

Save the Date: Representative Training Conference 2026

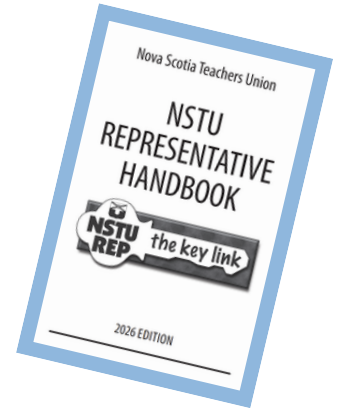
November 14–15 | Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville

Ready to connect with fellow representatives/alternatives and expand your knowledge? You're invited to a weekend dedicated to supporting you in your role. We hope to see you there. Use the link below to complete an expression of interest to attend!

Now collecting responses - <https://forms.gle/K9jrQ1aXeSiJavmV9>

~ Your Equity and NSTU Representative Committee

The NSTU Representative Handbook is now available in the [Representatives section](#) of the NSTU website



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

Local PD Opportunities for September

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

Application is located on our website - [CLICK HERE](#) to download

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: October 2nd at 4pm

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

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 profession. Once per year as long as the budget has the approved 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 and closes when the limit of 500 applications is reached

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:

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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.**



September 23
October 21

November 18
January 20

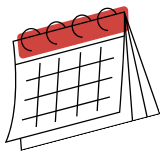
March 3
April 7

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.



Calendars and Agendas

Calendars and agendas will be available to take with you at the General Meeting on Sept. 23rd. Please bring a reusable bag(s) as there will be other items to bring back to your school.

Do you have new NSTU members at your site? Knowing how many there are at your site will be helpful so you can pick up a little Welcome to the NSTU gift for each.





Halifax Region Trustee
Krissey 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

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S) - TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA)

One Day Paid Leave (Article 31.12)

Article 31- Other Absences provides each teacher with 1 day of paid leave each school year for personal use. A teacher accessing this leave is not required to justify the need for the day or identify what activities they have planned. Teachers are required to appropriately plan for a substitute teacher to work with their students for any day they access this leave. This leave may be denied by the employer, but only where that teacher's presence is an operational requirement for that day. The employer cannot arbitrarily deny the leave, nor can it deny the leave without being able to demonstrate that the teacher's presence would be an operational necessity. Unused personal leave days cannot be carried over to the following school year.



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

2026-2027

Sep 23 2026

Oct 21 2026

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/>



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!

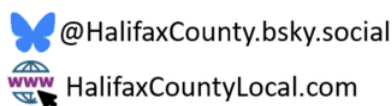
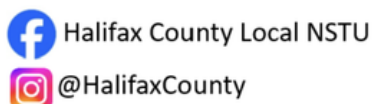


🎓 HFX County Local Bursary Reminder

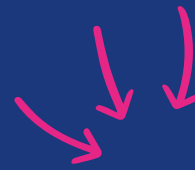
Students who received a HFX County Local bursary in June: don't forget to submit your Confirmation of Enrollment (COE) by **Friday, September 25th!**

Parents/guardians, please give your child a friendly nudge to **email their Confirmation Of Enrollment to our treasurer.**

Questions? Reach out anytime at
halifaxcountylocaltreasurer@nstu.ca



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Local Committees

Expressions of Interest for Local Committees is now open! We have some spots to fill, and we keep a running waitlist in case members' commitments change.

Google form to apply:
<https://forms.gle/gqjftPc7LgpB5j9n7>



Application closes on
September 25/26 at 4:00pm

**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>

Halifax County Local NSTU

MERCH

Now available



Scan the code or
visit

https://hfxcountynstu.fundytextile.com/halifax_county_local_nstu/shop/home



KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Regional Agreement (HRCE)

Bereavement/Special Leaves

4.01 Teachers shall be entitled to temporary Leave of Absence for a maximum of five (5) days with pay for each death, in the teacher's immediate family or the immediate family of the teacher's spouse, or other legal dependents. "Immediate family" shall include grandparents, parents, husband or wife brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, co-habiting partner in a recognized relationship and common-law spouse. The Regional Centre may grant up to two (2) additional days for travel.

Where the interment or memorial service is scheduled on a date not adjacent to the approved leave pursuant to Article 4.01, one (1) day from the total approved leave days in Article 4.01 may be taken on the date of the interment or memorial service.

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

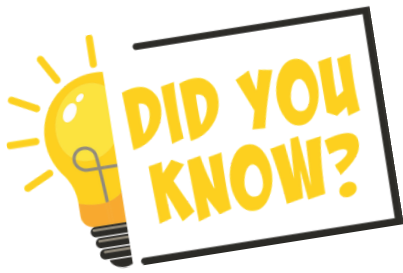
Registry Representative Guide is available on the **NSTU website to assist with updating.**



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.



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%

Questions?

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

Health & Safety 2026 Conference

The Health & Safety 2026 Conference will be held on Friday, November 27, 2026, and Saturday, November 28, 2026, at the Westin Nova Scotian, 1181 Hollis St, Halifax, NS B3H 2P6. 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 **Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 12:00pm** using the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/2BvNkvmE2a7Ud3bN6>.



Class Cap Compliance Guidelines abr.

Definitions:

Soft cap is defined as the stated cap.

Hard cap is defined as the stated cap + 2 students.

What are the Class Size Guidelines?

Grades Primary to 2 - soft cap: 20 students, hard cap: up to 22 students*

Grades 3 to 6 - soft cap: 25 students, hard cap: up to 27 students*

Grades 7 to 9 - soft cap: 28 students, hard cap: up to 30 students**

Grades 10 to 12 - soft cap: 30 students, hard cap: up to 32 students**

*Creating combined classes or multi-age groupings are appropriate to meet this cap

**Creating combined classes may be appropriate to meet this cap.

Combined classes have multiple grade levels in one room. The cap for a combined class shall be the cap for the lowest grade level. Class caps are applicable to all classes, at the applicable level, in all education entities.

Hard cap **may be exceeded** in the following circumstances:

School capacity: When, in order to meet the class size cap, the creation of an additional class or classes is necessary and the school does not have the space to accommodate the additional class(es), the class cap shall not apply.

Exceptional circumstances: The class size cap can be exceeded in exceptional circumstances in order to accommodate issues of class configuration or class composition.

Procedures when exceeding hard cap:

1. Principal reviews school's situation and rationale with the affected teachers following review with their immediate supervisor.
2. If there is agreement with the group of affected teachers, the principal will review the situation and rationale with the School Advisory Council (or recognized equivalent).
3. If there is not agreement with the group of affected teachers, the principal contacts their immediate supervisor to discuss ways in which classes do not exceed the hard cap.

Class caps must be in place by September 30 of each school year - [Class Cap Compliance Guidelines](#)

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New Member or Substitute?

For new members and substitutes in Halifax County Local, Desiree Daniele, Local President, is the go-to contact for support and guidance.

Contact information below:



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

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.

Introducing
Meet a
Member Monday



ABOUT

Each week, we'll be introducing and spotlighting our amazing Halifax County Local Members!

It's a chance to celebrate the people who make up our Local and recognize the many ways they contribute – at school, in our Local, in their communities, with their families, or simply by being themselves.

Nominate yourself or another Local Member to be featured.

We want to hear about the people who make our schools, workplaces, communities, and Local a little better – no huge accomplishment required!

See details below!

We're excited to launch this new initiative from the Halifax County Local.

Each week, we'll be introducing and spotlighting one of our amazing Local Members through our social media and weekly Check-in. It's a chance to celebrate the people who make up our Local and recognize the many ways they contribute – at school, in our Local, in their communities, with their families, or simply by being themselves.

And here's the best part: you don't need to have done anything extraordinary to be featured! Maybe you're proud of something you've accomplished recently. Maybe a colleague has gone above and beyond. Maybe someone is quietly making a difference every day. Or maybe you just think someone deserves a little recognition.

Send us a short submission via the Google Form below telling us:

- Who you're nominating.
- What makes them worth celebrating.
- Anything else you'd like us to know.

Let's get to know the people behind our Local and celebrate the amazing members who make up our NSTU community.

Nominate yourself or another Halifax County Local member today!

<https://forms.gle/NnAr1HfWKqeBo7xG8>