



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



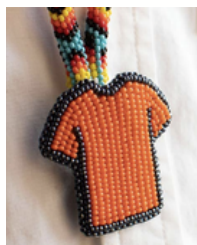
It's hard to believe we're already in the last week of September and one-tenth of the school year is behind us. Time sure flies!

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Local meeting this past Wednesday. It was fantastic to see so many new faces and welcome new members to our Local. Your participation and involvement make us stronger. Have a great week ahead.
In solidarity, Desirée Daniele

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters began in Williams Lake, British Columbia, on September 30, 2013. Established to honour Residential School Survivors, their families, and those who never returned home, it serves as a powerful reminder of the lasting impacts of the Residential School system. What began as a grassroots initiative has since evolved into a nationally recognized movement, with individuals, organizations, and communities across Canada participating in acts of remembrance, reflection, and reconciliation each year.

*Excerpt from Canada.ca National Day for Truth and Reconciliation



This year, HRCE observes Orange Shirt Day on Tuesday, September 29th. Wearing orange is a way to show support and remind one another that every child matters.

IMPORTANT DATES

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

Oct 1 Treaty Day

NSTU PDAF application due

John Huntley Internship application due

Oct 2 CDAF application due

Article 60 Education Leave - Less Than One Year application

“Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining mutually respectful relationships
~ Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada”

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

The NSTU has a podcast!



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.

Sept 28, 2026

Issue 5

CDAF Applications Are Still Open!

Have a big idea you've been wanting to bring to life?

The Professional Development committee is looking for long-term projects that connect with your grade level and teaching assignment.

Whether it's a new classroom initiative, an innovative approach, or a project you can grow throughout the year, we want to hear from you!

Application closes October 2, 2026. Apply Today!

Application

**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>

Save the Date: Representative Training Conference 2026

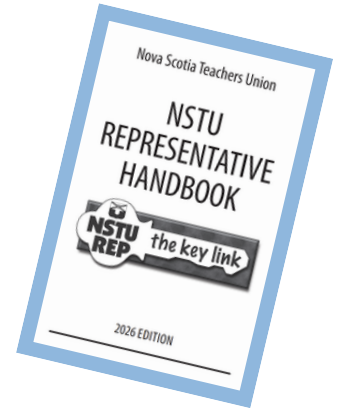
November 14–15 | Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville

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

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.

13.04 Notwithstanding 13.03, teachers shall be scheduled on an equitable basis for the purpose of providing emergency on-call service to persons other than teachers who are engaged to provide supervision of pupils during lunch and noon hour break. The schedule shall provide not more than one (1) teacher per school building. School building shall mean each building under the jurisdiction of one (1) principal.

Halifax County Local NSTU

MERCH

Now available



Scan the code or
visit

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



Economic Welfare Survey Open Now



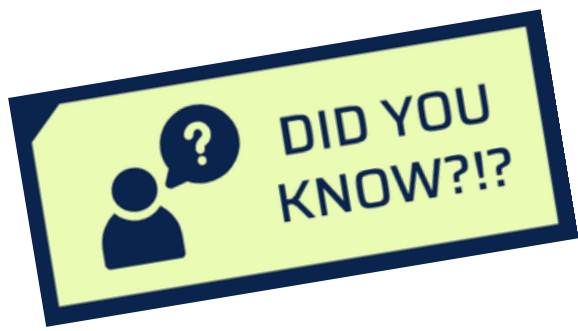
We want to hear from you!

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!





Meet Wellnify — Our New Wellness Partner!

The NSTU Insurance Trustees are excited to welcome Wellnify, a local tech company with a fun, easy-to-use wellness platform. This fall, we're inviting members to give it a try and get comfortable using it before our big Winter Wellness Challenge!

You can keep track of your activity using a smartwatch or simply enter it online — whatever works best for you!

Wellnify is an engaging wellness platform designed to support everyday health and well-being. Whether you want to become more active, develop healthy habits, connect with colleagues or find new ways to care for yourself, Wellnify offers tools and activities to help you stay motivated. Through the platform, members can:

- Track their steps and set daily activity goals.
- Complete daily quests focused on movement, learning and unwinding.
- Participate in community challenges with fellow NSTU members.
- Explore a library of holistic wellness content.
- Use the in-app AI Wellness Coach for support and ideas.
- Track progress and celebrate achievements.
- Watch for opportunities to win prizes throughout the year.

Supporting women's health through midlife and menopause

The program will also include women's health resources designed to support women navigating midlife and menopause. This program is developed in partnership with Three Wise Women, an organization focused on educating, empowering and connecting women through midlife and beyond.

The women's health experience will include:

- Trusted educational content and programming led by a certified menopause practitioner.
- A menopause symptom tracker to help monitor and better understand changes over time.
- Practical resources addressing the mind, body, spirit and community.
- Supportive opportunities to connect with others experiencing similar changes



Watch the
[video](#)
to learn more!



Membership Registry

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".

Sept 28, 2026

Issue 5

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.

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.

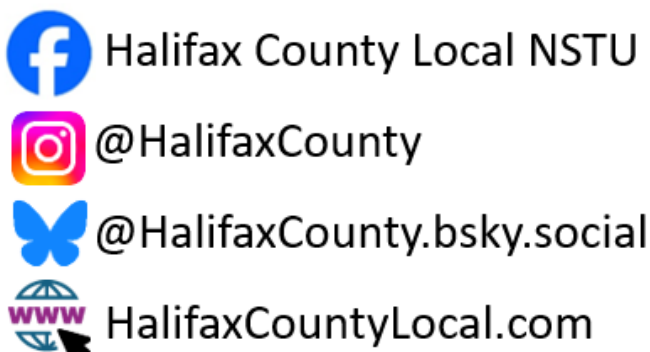
For clarity, in instances where there are references to terms such as Equity-Owed, Equity-Deserving, or Equity-Seeking in NSTU documents these terms are defined as: a traditionally underrepresented in Union Leadership individual who self-identifies as being Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqew, First Nations, Indigenous, 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>.



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

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](#)

Sept 26, 2026

Issue 5



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>