

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



Can you believe we're already halfway through the school year? Time has flown by, and I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your impact is truly felt, and I appreciate everything you do for your students and fellow colleagues.

I know the last few weeks haven't been easy with the directives, and I truly appreciate your patience and flexibility during this time. Please continue to reach out with questions/concerns.

African Heritage Month

"This year's African Heritage Month provincial theme is **"Legacy in Action: Celebrating Black Brilliance."** This theme highlights the living legacy of Black Nova Scotians, honoring the impact and perseverance of the long-standing community. It highlights the greatness we hold, the paths we lead through our deep connection with our elders, storytelling, the rhythms of change, and the ability to look back to move forward.

The theme also aligns with a reflection of Empowerment and Leadership over the past decade of the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent (DPAD) 2015-2024. The goal of DPAD was to strengthen global cooperation in support of people of African descent, increase awareness, and progress towards presence in all aspects of society.

Nova Scotia has 52 historic African Nova Scotian communities with a long, deep, and complex history dating back over 200 years. African Heritage Month allows us to celebrate our culture, legacy, achievements, and contributions our people - past and present" (Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia)



IMPORTANT DATES

- Feb 3 Semester 2 begins (*High School only*)
- Feb 3 PDAF applications due
- Feb 17 Nova Scotia Heritage Day (**no classes**)
- Feb 21 Inspire Award Nominations Open

“African Heritage Month is an opportunity for all Nova Scotians to deepen their understanding of the rich history and celebrate the enduring contributions of African Nova Scotians. This year's theme reflects the brilliance and legacy of our communities and their essential role in shaping Nova Scotia”
~ Twila Grosse, Minister of African Nova Scotian Affairs

[Organizations and Educational Resources for African Heritage Month](https://halifaxcountylocal.com/)

<https://halifaxcountylocal.com/>

Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF Grant)

In a contractual agreement between the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Nova Scotia Department of Education, an annual sum of \$200,000 is allocated for the purpose of encouraging innovative and unique program development in Nova Scotia's schools. Projects funded or assisted under PDAF must be directly related to the Public School Program.

PDAF is intended to encourage innovative ideas at the local school level which significantly and directly enhance the delivery of programs and services to students. Innovation may include, but is not limited to, taking an established curriculum practice or program and using this in a new and unique way. PDAF provides teachers with financial support to initiate creative and innovative teaching practices. As a result of this support, students benefit from enhanced learning experiences.

Applications must be received by the first day of **December**, February, April, June, August and October.

See the [NSTU website](#) for further info including application, FAQ's, Guidelines, Selection criteria and Successful project profiles.



GRANTS
OF UP TO \$500
FOR YOUTH-LED
CLIMATE
ACTION PROJECTS.

- A meaningful cross-curricular project for your learners!
- Open to grades P-12 and community youth groups
- Apply by: February 28, 2025

Apply [HERE!!!!](#)



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

Wally Fiander
NSTU Executive Staff Officer
P(office): 902-477-5621
E: wfiander@staff.nstu.ca

The logo for NSTU Webmail features a red envelope icon with a white letter 'U' inside, next to the text "NSTU Webmail" in blue and red.

NSTU Webmail

NSTU email addresses retiring July 18, 2025

After July 18, 2025, NSTU email addresses will no longer exist. At Annual Council 2024 delegates voted to remove the obligation of the NSTU to provide an [nstu.ca email address](#). This came about in response to concerns raised through an independent IT review conducted during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The [nstu.ca](#) accounts will remain active until **July 18, 2025**. The service will be retired and no longer accessible. Please remove from the [nstu.ca account](#) any email content you would like to keep before July 18. After this, you will receive NSTU-related information to your preferred non-employer email address or via text message.

We are urging all members to visit [www.nstucentral.ca](#) and update your membership registry profile with your preferred non-employer and non-nstu.ca email address. You may also want to update your cell phone number if you are interested in receiving text updates.

For additional guidance on how to update your profile here is a link to a very short video: <https://youtu.be/Q4DU58vhVig>

ATEC Student Bursary

Association of Teachers of Exceptional Children (ATEC) is an association that has consistently strived to improve the learning environment of those students who have come under the umbrella of Special Education or Student Services.

In keeping with this goal, one bursary valued at \$1000 and two bursaries valued at \$500 will be awarded to students who, through personal sacrifice and effort, have made great strides in realizing their potential. The recipients of this bursary will be chosen by members of the ATEC executive using the criteria listed below. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. Please ensure you submit all supporting documentation along with the completed application.

Criteria:

- A Nova Scotia resident.
- Enrolled in a recognized educational institution within the last 12 months.
- Documented learning difficulty or disability.
- A positive role model to other students experiencing academic challenges.
- A student who has made a concerted effort to become involved in extra-curricular school activities.
- A student who has consistently met or surpassed educational goals collaboratively set by the student, parents and all educators involved.
- A student whose personal situation clearly shows a need for financial assistance.
- Accepted by a post-secondary institution.

How to Apply:

1. Make a copy of the application form (**English** or **French**) (rename the document to include your name).
2. Submit your application and supporting documentation (listed in Section 7 of the application) to the ATEC committee by email: atec.nstu@gmail.com

Applications are due by the last Wednesday in April.

NSTU Benefits at a glance...

Provincial Master Life Policy

Cost Sharing:

Under the Teachers' Provincial Agreement/APSEA Agreement, the Employer pays 100% for all active members. New members are automatically insured for this benefit.

Coverage:

- Life Insurance \$50,000
- Accidental Death and Dismemberment \$50,000
- Critical Illness – \$2,000 Lump sum payment – (Heart attack, coronary artery by-pass surgery, stroke, life threatening cancer)
- Hospital Cash Benefit, outside the insurance contract
- Waiver of Premium if totally disabled prior to age 60
- If retired prior to age 65, coverage continues to age 65 with the monthly premium deducted from your Nova Scotia Teachers' Pension.
- Spouse covered for \$3,000 and dependent children covered for \$1,500.
- Conversion option available when your insurance terminates.
- Retiree Life policy available after age 65 to death.

Any questions?

www.johnson.ca

453-9543 / 1-800-453-9543

insurance@nstu.ca/nstu@johnson.ca

[Johnson Inc. Members-Only website.](#)

REGIONAL AGREEMENT (HRCE)

ARTICLE 12 JOB SHARING (*excerpt*)

12.01 A Job Sharing Plan agreed by the Regional Centre and the Union as outlined in Article 12.03, shall be continued.

12.02 The Plan shall not be amended except by mutual agreement of the Regional Centre and the Union.

12.03

(i) **DEFINITION**

Job sharing is an arrangement which involves sharing the duties and responsibilities of a permanent teaching position on a part-time basis with another teacher. The Regional Centre and Union agree that job sharing is a feasible and desirable employment option for some teachers.

(ii) **ELIGIBILITY**

Participation in shared teaching is available to teachers in the employ of the Halifax Regional Centre for Education at least one (1) of whom must be on Permanent Contract. The position designated as a shared teaching position shall be currently held by a Permanent Contract Teacher.

(iii) **CONTRACT**

Teachers sharing a teaching position shall be employed on a Term Contract as provided by the Teachers' Provincial Agreement. The teachers shall also sign a Shared Teaching Contract.

(iv) **APPLICATION**

The application for shared teaching and the supporting documents **must be submitted on or before March 31**. Approval of the application is at the discretion of the Centre; such discretion will not be applied in a manner that is unreasonable, discriminatory or in bad faith. The Regional Centre shall notify the teachers concerned of the approval or denial of this prior to the start of job postings in Article 10 for the ensuing school year. If the application is denied, the Principal/Director or designate shall provide the reasons for the denial in writing upon request of the permanent teacher who owns the position. Where the application is approved, the permanent teacher will remain at that site for the ensuing school year so long as the allocation exists.

(v) **DURATION AND REAPPLICATION**

Each Shared Teaching Contract is for one (1) year period after which time the sharing teachers shall be offered their original positions where practicable, or comparable positions within the system, or positions mutually agreed upon. To continue a shared teaching arrangement beyond a one (1) year period, both teachers must inform the Director of Human Resources or designate in writing on or before March 31. Approval or denial must be given prior to the start of job postings in Article 10 for the ensuing school year. Upon approval, both teachers must sign a new Shared Teaching Contract.

*****Please see the Regional Agreement for Article 12 in its entirety*****



winter Wellness Contest

What do you do for
winter wellness?

Fill out the Form
below to let us know!



Weekly Giveaway

February 1-28

3 \$15 Gift Cards Every Week

Plus Entry to the Grand Prize Draw

[Enter Here](#)



Click [HERE](#) to fill in the form