



The CHECK IN

Jan 13, 2025
Issue 18

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



We're excited to kick off the first general meeting of 2025 this week and can't wait to see everyone there! A huge thank you to all our reps and members for the incredible turnout at our meetings this past year. Your engagement and participation truly make a difference, and we're looking forward to another year of collaboration and shared success. See you soon!

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.

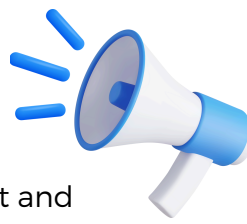
See the [NSTU website](#) for further info including application, FAQ's, Guidelines, Selection criteria and Successful project profiles.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 15 General Meeting
- Jan 27 - 30 High School Summative Assessments
- Jan 31 High School Assessment and Evaluation Day **(No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)**
- Feb 1 John Huntley applications due
- Feb 3 PDAF applications due

“The year's first month is like a blank canvas. Let your actions be the brushstrokes that create your masterpiece”
~Unknown”

Cash for Class - UPDATE



The Cash for Classrooms receipts are coming in fast and furious! Some reimbursement cheques have been mailed out and others will be distributed at this week's General Meeting.

Members are reminded that the deadline for receipts has been extended to March 31st. Members are also reminded that to complete the form with **their full mailing address (including apartment number if applicable), their professional number and to attach their receipts.**

Amazon receipts/invoices do not have to be in the member's name. Please have patience when expecting your refund as the receipts have to be approved by the PD committee and then go to the Treasurer.

If any difficulty is had purchasing items, you are encouraged to reach out to Jodie MacIlreith(halifaxcountypd@nstu.ca) or the President (halifaxcountylocal@nstu.ca) for assistance.

Questions? VP of PD, Jodie MacIlreith, at halifaxcountypd@nstu.ca.

The Cross Canada Fitness Adventure Challenge!



As we kick off the new year, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees are excited to announce the Cross Canada Fitness Adventure Challenge brought to you by your Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) Provider, Homewood Health.

We encourage all active plan members of the NSTU (term, probationary & permanent contract) and PSAANS to join the challenge that starts on February 3rd and runs until March 2nd. Over the course of four weeks, you will be tracking your daily activity and/or steps and race with your fellow colleagues across Canada with the goal of achieving 10,000 steps per day. There will be weekly random draw prizes as well as a prize for first to the finish line and highest score!

You can get in on the action by registering today at www.healthycommunity.ca/lifestyles/NSTUCCFA

NSTU Benefits at a glance...

Out of Province/Canada Emergency Medical Insurance Plan

Cost Sharing:

Member pays 100%. Annual Plan – renews automatically each September 1st. As per the policy wording, there are no refunds available under the base plan.

Coverage:

Base Plan allows unlimited travel up to a maximum of 35 calendar days per trip during the policy year. Supplementary Plan provides coverage for trips in excess of 35 calendar days on a per trip basis up to 210 days and includes the Base Plan coverage.

- Pre-existing medical conditions clause
- CanAssistance including a 24-hour emergency help line

Full policy wording - [NSED Travel Out of Province/Canada Emergency Medical Insurance Plan](#).

Any questions?

453-9543 /1-800-453-9543
insurance@nstu.ca/nstu@johnson.ca

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 **February 1, 2025** and **April 1, 2025**.

Application:

English and French

New (to us) website!!!



Home Check Ins Calendar PD Funding About Us Members NSTU

Halifax County Local
Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU)

Welcome to the Halifax County Local website!
With 85 school sites across the Halifax area and nearly 2,400 members, we are a dynamic and growing Local dedicated to supporting and empowering our members. Whether you're here to find resources, connect with others, or learn more about how we assist, we're glad you've joined us! Thank you for being part of Halifax County Local.

Upcoming Events



County is thrilled to unveil our brand-new look! After months of hard work and planning, we're excited to share a fresh, user-friendly experience that makes it easier than ever to connect with us.

Whether you're browsing our latest offerings, learning more about what we do for you or simply exploring our new design, we hope you enjoy the updated look and feel. Check it out today and let us know what you think!

<https://halifaxcountylocal.com/>

Deals & Discounts




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

Application Deadlines:
October 1, February 1 & April 1



The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

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


The purpose of the internship is for participating Members to gain insight into the inner workings of the NSTU. The program was developed 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 1998-1999. Mr. Huntley's vision was for all members to develop a thorough understanding of their union.

It 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.

Applications will be considered based on the following criteria:

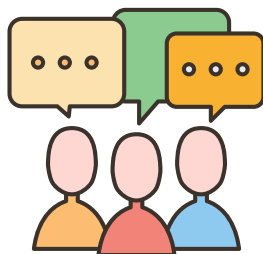
- Interest in Union affairs
- Reasons for applying
- Benefit to the Union
- Regional representation

For further information or to obtain applications, see your school rep or visit www.nstu.ca/PD



NOVA SCOTIA TEACHERS UNION
3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7
Phone: 477-5621 Toll Free: 1-800-565-6788 Fax: 477-3517
Email: nstu@nstu.ca Website: www.nstu.ca

GENERAL MEETINGS:



General Meetings 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.**

January 15
March 5
April 9
May 7
June 4

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 and should still be brought before the membership at the General Meeting.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA) **ARTICLE 31.01 Other Absences**

31.01 (1) Except for school closures caused by inclement weather, teachers may be required to report for work at their assigned school or other location when schools are closed to attendance by students in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Letter of Understanding – School Closures. When a school is closed for inclement weather teachers will be required to work remotely from their home or another location mutually agreed to by the teacher and their immediate supervisor. The required work is limited to marking, planning and preparation.



Conference - UPDATE

Many of our Halifax County Local members are attending excellent upcoming conferences this winter and spring. Members are reminded that when attending their conference to exercise discretion with social media activity during the conference and ensure that posts uphold the professionalism expected of an NSTU member.

Once a member returns, they must submit original itemized receipts (no photocopies, credit or debit slips) to the Professional Development Committee within four (4) weeks of the end date of the conference. Approved members are reminded to check their approval letter for more detailed instructions.

Halifax County has the budget for 156 people to attend a conference (up to \$800 reimbursement) and the committee has received 98 applications. Members are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for Professional Development Learning.



Halifax County Local ART CONTEST

HOW TO SUBMIT

It's Time For A REFRESH In Our Local County Office!

Prizes to be won!
All art submissions will be displayed at our County Local Office.
(All entries will go into a draw for prizes!)

Contest Open To:
Hfx County Members & Friends And Family
(of County Members)

Submissions Due By:
March 31st, 2025
(send to jonathonsproul@nstu.ca)

Accepted Forms:
Any and ALL Art!
Digital Designs, Canvas, Textiles, Sculptures, etc.

Create a piece of art to be displayed in our Local office and email it to Jonathon Sproul!

Digital art? ...attach file directly to the email.
Physical art? ...please take a picture of the art and attach to email.
(Pick-up / delivery of art arranged later, via email)



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>