

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



We know that January doesn't always arrive with the fresh energy we hope for. If you're running a little low on it, you're not alone—and we're here for you.

The Check In has updates, resources, and reminders to help reinvigorate your spirit and support your work.

As always, if you need anything or just want to connect, don't hesitate to reach out.

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 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

“January is the perfect time to reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and look forward to the future.”
~ Unknown

Article 60 Message from HRCE

The HRCE has directed that no more paperwork is needed to be delivered to HRCE. Members are to complete the SharePoint Application. Once you have received your confirmation, that is sufficient. Any questions, please reach out to article60pd@hrce.ca.

Cash for Class - UPDATE



The PD Committee has received over 300 members' Cash for Class receipts so far. Reimbursement cheques will be mailed going forward. 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 PD and then go to the Treasurer and they are being done in bulk. If a member is having difficulty purchasing their items, you are encouraged to reach out to Jodie MacIlreith at halifaxcountypd@nstu.ca or the President at halifaxcountylocal@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

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NSTU Benefits at a glance...

Trip Cancellation/Trip

Interruption

Cost Sharing:

Member pays 100% – Annual Plan – renews automatically each September 1st

Coverage:

Available to all members who are enrolled in the NSED Travel Out of Province/Canada Emergency Medical Insurance Plan.

Trip Cancellation – up to \$5,000 per insured person per annual coverage period

Trip Interruption – up to a maximum of \$5,000 per insured person for each covered trip

- Up to a maximum \$1,000 for baggage and personal effects during a covered trip
- Pre-existing medical conditions clause
- Worldwide Travel Assistance including a 24-hour emergency help line

Did you know that the insured days of your trip starts when you leave your residing province and not when you leave the country?

Full policy wording: [NSED Travel Insurance Trip Cancellation/Interruption Plan](#).

Any questions?

453-9543 /1-800-453-9543

insurance@nstu.ca/nstu@johnson.ca

<https://nstu.ca>

NSTU Supports

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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



Counselling Services offers support to NSTU members, their partners, and dependents, helping improve personal and professional well-being. Short-term assistance is provided, and for longer-term needs, referrals to community-based professionals are made after an initial assessment. Crisis intervention for trauma and grief is available upon request. All counselling is confidential, requires client consent, and is available by appointment, which can be scheduled at a convenient time and location across the province.

To book, please call Counselling Services at NSTU Central Office at 902-477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 pm weekdays or counselling@nstu.ca. **These services are offered at no cost to members.**

The Homewood Pathfinder Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) is available to active NSTU members with permanent, probationary, or term contracts. Through EFAP, you can access experienced counsellors who will listen, offer advice, and help you create an action plan.

Services include:

- Counselling
- Lifestyle and Specialty Coaching
- Stress Solutions
- Depression Care
- Trauma Care
- Grief and Loss Coaching
- Support for Acts of Violence

The Homewood Pathfinder EFAP also offers an educational online platform and mobile app with:

- eLearning, articles, videos, and podcasts tailored to your interests
- 24/7 live chat with counsellors
- E-counselling and E-therapy

To get started, visit www.homeweb.ca, register, and create an account. It's recommended to use a personal email. Once registered, you can download the mobile app.

Contact:

- English: 1-877-955-NSTU (6788) or French: 1-514-875-0720

Available 24/7 or online at www.homeweb.ca. Counselling is available in-person, by phone, or online.

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

Annual Council Update for Delegates

Jason Jennings, the coordinator of the Local's delegation for Annual Council 2025, has recently sent the members of the delegation a contact email. Delegates and alternates are asked to reply to the message as soon as possible, indicating its receipt. Council delegates and alternates are reminded to check their email once or twice per week for important AC 2025 updates.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

REGIONAL AGREEMENT (HRCE)

ARTICLE 23 SCHOOL CLIMATE

- 23.01** (i) The parties agree that acts of unacceptable behavior in this article shall be as defined in the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy.
- (ii) The parties acknowledge that a positive and inclusive school climate where acts of unacceptable behavior are addressed pursuant to the Provincial School Code of Conduct Policy is essential to educational achievement and a positive school climate. The parties will act in an expeditious and appropriate manner in dealing with acts of unacceptable behavior in accordance with the Provincial School Code of Conduct.
- 23.03** When a teacher believes that a student(s)' reported unacceptable behavior has not been resolved by the school administration, the teacher may bring the concern to the school administration's attention within ten (10) working days of the unacceptable behavior for resolution. The school administration shall respond to the teacher's concern within ten (10) working days.
- 23.04** When a concern regarding a student(s)' unacceptable behavior is unresolved at the school level, a teacher(s), accompanied by the President of the Local if so desired shall have the right to address the issue with the appropriate School Administration Supervisor within ten (10) working days of receiving a response from the school administration in 23.03. The School Administration Supervisor shall respond to the teacher within ten (10) working days.
- 23.05** If the concern regarding a student(s)' unacceptable behavior remains unresolved the teacher shall have the right, accompanied by the President of the Local if so desired, to address the issue with the appropriate Coordinator within ten (10) working days of receiving a response from the School Administration Supervisor in 23.04 to the appropriate Coordinator. The Coordinator shall respond to the teacher within ten (10) working days.

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>