

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



I hope everyone enjoyed the past weekend, despite all of the rain! Just a few quick points this week that I wanted to draw your attention to. The upcoming contract session (Dec. 3/24) will provide valuable insight into the steps to securing contract status within HRCE, allowing you to navigate the steps effectively. See below for how to register.

As the Canada Post (CUPW) strike enters its second week, workers are fighting for fair wages and stronger job security. Show your support by dropping by a picket line if you can. Any and all support would be greatly appreciated.

Teacher Professional Practice

In our current contract, **our members gained two self directed PD days** - an ask that members have been requesting for years. Our first of these days is approaching and I want to make sure that everyone is aware of the contractual language. It is important that new contract items are followed.

These days are for teachers to **complete professional duties as determined by the teacher, including but not limited to marking, preparation and professional collaboration**. Teachers are entitled to determine what professional duties they undertake during this time and the employer cannot mandate meetings or the performance of any particular task.

If you are being asked by admin to attend meetings or anything other than what is stated in the contractual language above, please contact Wally Fiander at wfiander@staff.nstu.ca or myself.

Self-directed PD days for HRCE:

Dec 5 - Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day
No Classes All Schools -1/2 day Teacher Professional Practice for everyone

January 2 -full day Teacher Professional Practice for everyone

April 3 - Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School PD (No Classes All Schools) - 1/2 day Teacher Professional Practice for Elementary and Middle Level Only

April 30 - Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes All Schools) -1/2 day Teacher Professional Practice for high schools only.

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 27	General Meeting
Nov 30	Cash for Class applications close
Dec 5	Progress Conference/Teacher Professional Practice Day- no classes
Dec 20	Last Day of Classes Before Holiday Break
Dec 22-31	Holiday Break
Jan 1	Holiday Break

“I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework.”
~ Lily Tomlin”

Contract Session



What: Ask questions regarding contracts and hiring processes.

- Facilitated by NSTU Executive Staff Officer Wally Fiander.

Who: Members from Halifax County, Halifax City and Dartmouth Locals are welcome to join us on Zoom.

When/Where: Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00pm via Zoom.

How: Register by e-mailing Turk MacDonald, tdmacdonald@nstu.ca by **Friday November 29th, 2024** and please specify the session title of the session. Registered members will be emailed the Zoom link the day of the session.

Cash for Class



Amount: up to \$175.00

Who: Halifax County members

What: to purchase items to improve some aspect of their teaching profession, once per year.

Eligibility: Must be a permanent, probationary or term teachers of the Halifax County Local only. Cannot have received the CDAF in the same school year. MUST be pre-approved.

Opens: November 1, 2024

Deadline: 4:00pm November 30, 2024

Receipts/Expense Forms: due January 15/24

"Due to the overwhelming response and limited budget, any applicants at who apply now before the closing date of November 30th will go to a waitlist. The PD committee will begin the slow process of vetting the applicants in the near future and members are reminded not to purchase anything before they receive a confirmation email from the VP of PD. Please reach out to Jodie Macllreith with any questions or concerns at halifaxcountypd@nstu.ca

Receipts & Expense Forms are due January 15, 2025

Education Research Award



Educational Research Awards are provided to support, encourage, and recognize Members who engage in professional inquiry and research focused on educational inquiry. The Awards will be given out once per year at a ceremony at the Local level. In order to encourage the greatest number of Members, individual Awards will be limited to five-hundred dollars (\$500).
***No individual shall receive more than one Educational Research Award in any three (3) consecutive school year period.

Applications must be received at the NSTU Central Office by 4:00p.m. on the first Wednesday in December

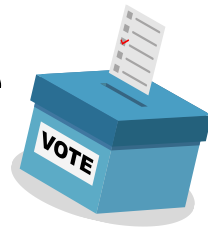
Application: English or French

Great news!
The NSTU has started to compile the academic research in education by our members in our repository. Check it out [HERE!](#)

Postal Strike & PD Submissions

If you have Halifax County Conference receipts or CDAF receipts to return to the PD committee chair, please be aware you can put them in an envelope and drop them off at the Burnside office 202 Brownlow Ave, Suite 320 (2nd floor of the RBC building) from 9-5pm Monday to Friday (subject to Local President's being in office). The Local office has a private **mail slot on the second floor to the right of the office door** after hours. Once receipts are received, every effort will be made to avoid mailing cheques. Arrangements can be made to drop off or meet up by the President or the VP Chair. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jodie MacIreith at halifaxcountypd@nstu.ca.

NS Election Questionnaire



Dear NSTU Members,

Provincial election day is less than a week away on Tuesday, November 26th. To help inform your decision at the ballot box, the NSTU provided a list of questions to the leaders of the province's major political parties.

Here is a link to the responses we got back, unedited:

<https://shorturl.at/Kgx5d>.

Please thoughtfully consider these responses before casting your vote. I also encourage you to reach out to your local candidates in person, via email or on social media to gauge their positions on the key issues impacting public education. To help facilitate this, we have provided links to the various candidates on our Act for Education Web site at this link: <https://www.actforeducation.ca/news/election-engagement/>.

The NSTU is a non-partisan union and historically we have refrained from providing political endorsements. That said, members should feel comfortable taking part in the political process on an individual basis in the best interests of quality public education.

Most of all, please take the time to vote.

- Peter Day

Early Retirement Incentive Program

Any member who is retiring this year and interested in an Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) must apply by December 31, 2024. Any retiring teacher should reach out to the Local's NSTU Executive Staff Officer, Wally Fiander, for details. ERIP is located under Article 38 as well as Appendix A and is found in the Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA). The Appendix explains the application process, conditions and other pertinent information.



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

GENERAL MEETINGS:



November 27
January 15
March 5
April 9
May 7
June 4

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.**

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 68 TEACHER PROPERTY - LOSS OR DAMAGE

68.01 A teacher shall receive compensation for loss from theft of or damage to personal property used for instructional purposes within the school and/or extracurricular activities sponsored by the Education Entity /school in which the teacher is employed:

68.02 Where personal property of a teacher is lost or damaged, the teacher may make a written claim subject to the following:

- The teacher has taken appropriate steps to protect the property from loss or damage;
- The teacher has written authorization of school based administration prior to the use of such property;
- The teacher carries a homeowner insurance policy on the teacher's personal property and the property being claimed is not covered by the policy. The claim shall be made within three (3) working days of the effective knowledge of the theft or damage.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA)
ARTICLE 68 TEACHER PROPERTY - LOSS OR DAMAGE

d. A compensation claim shall be limited to:

- the replacement cost of the article;
- a maximum payment by the Education Entity on any claim of one thousand two hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) or if the article is covered under a teacher's home owner insurance policy a compensation claim shall be limited to the deductible portion of the teacher's insurance policy;
- claims of less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) will not be considered.

68.03 The Education Entity shall reimburse teachers for eyeglasses that are damaged in the course of a teacher's duties, provided the teacher can demonstrate that she/he acted in a responsible manner. The teacher shall be reimbursed to a limit of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) for a claim and the teacher must first access their NSTU medical insurance policy on eyeglasses if available.

Halifax County Local NSTU
CONSEIL SYNDICAL ACADÉMIEN de la NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE
HALIFAX CITY LOCAL NSTU
Dartmouth Local NSTU

Teacher Appreciation Night

Halifax Mooseheads vs. Charlottetown Islanders
Saturday, December 14th
7:00 PM
Scotiabank Centre | Sections 35 & 36

Special NSTU Discount
Tickets only \$15.25 *Plus \$4 handling fee per order

BUY Your Tickets Now!
*LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE

Don't miss this night to celebrate with Halifax County, Halifax City, Dartmouth, and CSANE teachers & enjoy the thrill of hockey!

NSTU Halifax County will be giving away 5 pairs of tickets in a random draw. **ENTER HERE**

Join us on Saturday, December 14th at 7 PM for an unforgettable Teacher Appreciation Night with the Halifax Mooseheads as they take on the Charlottetown Islanders! It's a night to bring out your families and friends to celebrate you, with teachers from Halifax County, Halifax City, Dartmouth, and CSANE NSTU locals all coming together.

Hope to see many of you at the game!
Gale Doyle,
VP Social Wellness Committee
hfxcowellness@nstu.ca

Ticketmaster -
<https://www.ticketmaster.ca/event/3100611D90F334EB?did=1z5p29uan1t>

Ticket Draw -
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1xjTSNW6S61H9KfN1w4XBg2cT7SHsPfGKnIAVm9ggKel/viewformts=6741e0c7&edit_requested=true

Hello Fellow Plan Members,

Before we get too far into the new school year, your NSTU Group Insurance Trustees want to take this opportunity to provide you with some important information related to your accounts with Medavie Blue Cross and Johnson Insurance.



As you may be aware, the @nstu.ca email address will be phased out and go offline effective July 14, 2025. This will require you to provide a new email address to Medavie Blue Cross as the insurer for your Total Care Medical and Total Care Dental benefit plans and Johnson Insurance as your group benefit plan administrator. The process to update your email address is as follows:

Medavie Blue Cross

As a NSTU plan member, you can update the email address for your existing MBC account by going through the Mobile App/Member Services Site under "My Account". **Please note, this is the only way to update your email address with Blue Cross, as calling them will require you to re-register / create a new account.**

Johnson Insurance

To change your email address with Johnson Insurance, you simply need to e-mail pbadminns@johnson.ca or call 1-800-453-9543 to advise of your new email address. **Please note, if sending an email, please ensure to include your certificate number and name in the body of the email.**

We trust the information outlined above is helpful. Please don't forget to visit our website at www.nstuinsurance.ca, to review the many benefits and programs available to you through the NSTU Group Insurance Plan.

Take care!

Your NSTU Group Insurance Trustees

NSTU Webmail

The NSTU Webmail system is being retired on July 18, 2025. To stay up-to-date please visit <http://www.nstucentral.ca> and update your member registry profile.