

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



I know that Thanksgiving reminds me of the importance of connection and support for one another and I hope that everyone found some time to rest and recharge over the long weekend.

Just a reminder that our second General meeting is coming up next week as well as NSTU Conference Day on October 25, 2024. Have a wonderful week everyone!

## International Collaboration for Education (ICE)

Attention Nova Scotia Teachers Union Members! Are you interested in working with teachers from another country during the summer of 2025? If so, perhaps the International Collaboration for Education



**INTERNATIONAL  
COLLABORATION FOR  
EDUCATION**

DEADLINE:  
NOVEMBER 29, 2024



[APPLY HERE](#)



(formerly Project Overseas program) is for you! This is a program organized by the CTF - FCE along with a number of teacher organizations in different parts of the world.

Please be sure to submit your application in time to the Professional Learning team at [apl@nstu.ca](mailto:apl@nstu.ca) as the **deadline is November 29, 2024.**

The NSTU has three (3) spots available this year!  
[Details and application forms](#)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct 23 General Meeting
- Oct 25 NSTU Conference Day
- Oct 31 CDAF grant deadline (4:00pm)
- Nov 1 Cash for Class applications open

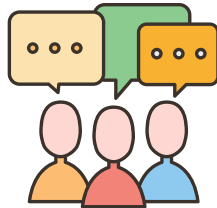


The deadline for Dental Plan enrollment for the year is **October 15th.**

Additionally, any new teachers hired after October 1st have 31 days to enroll. Those who were enrolled last year will be automatically renewed.

“For me, the most important Mi'kmaw promise made by our ancestors was to live in peace and friendship with our non-Aboriginal brothers and sisters”  
~ Dan Christmas”

## 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.**

October 23  
November 27  
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.



## Asking Package

Thanks to you, last year we had a banner number of resolutions and submissions. Both the Regional and Provincial contracts were signed last spring with many gains in both contracts. So, we will need to begin again by building an even larger bank of submissions for the Provincial Economic Welfare Committee (PEWC) and Regional Economic Welfare Committee (REWC) to put together for the next set of asking packages. As well as, bringing forward to Annual Council 2025 a number of resolutions for Council to be considered. Submit your ideas (until Oct. 15th) using the Google Form below:

<https://forms.gle/ExuxKDgRyQYntNrx7>

## Halifax County Local C.D.A.F. (Curriculum Development Assistance Fund)

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.

**Availability:** Once per year.

**Amount:** Up to \$750

**Eligibility:** Must be a permanent, probationary or term teacher of the Halifax County Local only.

**Deadline: 4:00pm October 31, 2024**



**Deals & Discounts**

<https://nstu.ca>

# Early Retirement Incentive Program



## EasyConnect

EasyConnect is HRCE's new automated dispatch and absence management system for all casual and substitute employees (replacing AESOP). It has been acknowledged that there are growing pains with the system and employees are asked to send questions/concerns to [easyconnect@hrce.ca](mailto:easyconnect@hrce.ca) and a response will be provided. The email is monitored regularly (although the volume is high at times). Please feel free to send concerns to myself as well, as I will continue to bring forward to Management/Teacher.



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Wally Fiander  
NSTU Executive Staff Officer  
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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.

## Counselling Services Available through NSTU

Counselling Services works to strengthen and support the quality of personal and professional life for NSTU members, their partners and dependents throughout all school districts and community college campuses.

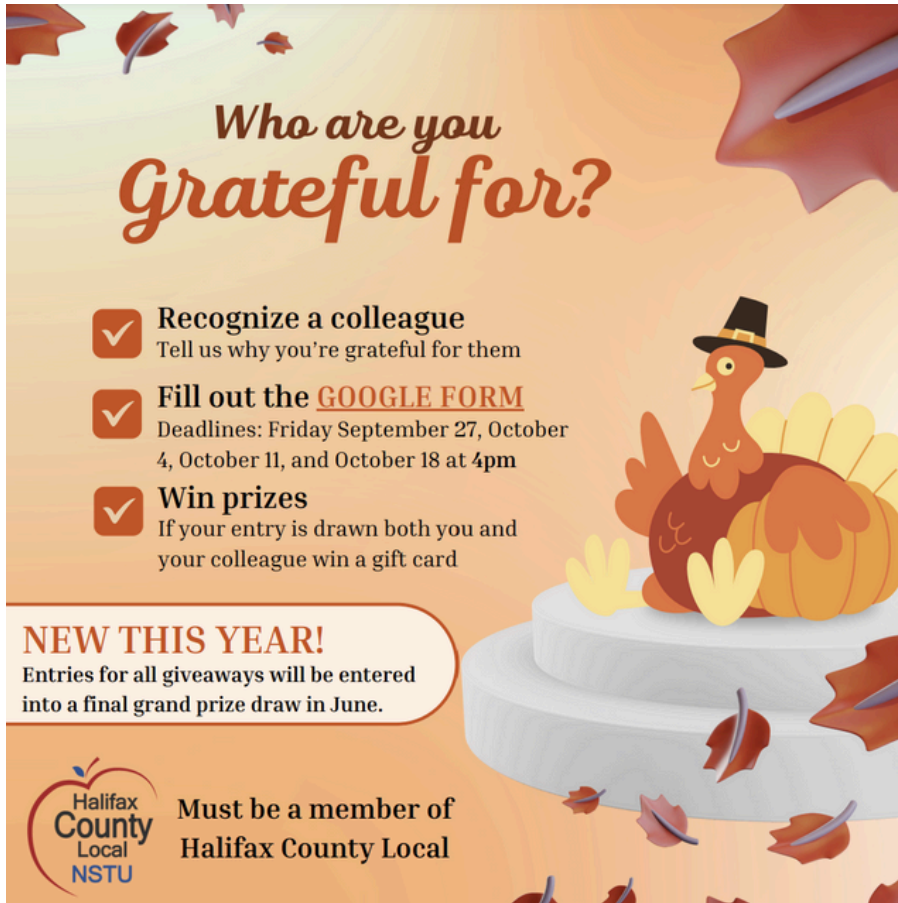
Counselling Services provides short-term assistance. Those requiring longer-term intervention are, after an initial assessment, assisted by referral to an appropriate community-based professional.

Workshops for school/campus staffs are offered, as requested, on issues such as wellness, managing workplace stress, balancing home and career, conflict management and transition into retirement.

Crisis intervention for staff members to address trauma and grief situations is available on request, all counselling requires the consent and participation of the client regardless of the referring circumstances and all information given to Counselling Services will be confidential.

Any release of information requires the signed consent of all parties involved who are over the age of 12. Exceptions to this apply if subpoenaed by the court or required under legislation. Counselling sessions are made by appointment only.


Appointments are available at a mutually acceptable time and place throughout all regions of the province. To arrange an appointment, please call Counselling Services between 8:30 am and 4:30 p.m. at the NSTU Central Office, 1-902-477-5621, or 1-800-565-6788 (toll free). **NSTU provides these services to members at no additional charge.**



Who are you  
*Grateful for?*

- ✓ **Recognize a colleague**  
Tell us why you're grateful for them
- ✓ **Fill out the GOOGLE FORM**  
Deadlines: Friday September 27, October 4, October 11, and October 18 at 4pm
- ✓ **Win prizes**  
If your entry is drawn both you and your colleague win a gift card

**NEW THIS YEAR!**  
Entries for all giveaways will be entered into a final grand prize draw in June.

 Must be a member of  
Halifax County Local

The poster features a turkey wearing a pilgrim hat sitting on a stack of three white round cakes. There are several autumn leaves scattered around the scene. The background is a warm orange gradient.

[Who Are You Grateful For? Google Form link](#)

Regional Agreement (HRCE)

**Leave of Absence 5.05**

An unpaid Leave of Absence of less than one (1) year may be granted at the discretion of the Regional Centre.

**Leave of Absence 5.06**

Applications for an unpaid Leave of Absence of less than one (1) year duration shall be delivered in writing to the Regional Centre not less than two (2) months prior to the anticipated date of commencement of leave. In exceptional circumstances the Regional Centre may grant a leave with less than two (2) months' notice.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL  
AGREEMENT (TPA)  
**SCHOOL YEAR ARTICLE 25**

(v) a total of two (2) days per school year for teachers to work in their school or worksite as scheduled by the employer. This time is to be used for work as determined by the teacher, including but not limited to marking, preparation and professional collaboration.

HRCE Dates:

**Dec 5/24:** Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)

**Jan 2/25:** Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)

**Apr 3/25:** Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences/ Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School Professional Development (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)

**Apr 30/25:** Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/ Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)