

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



NSTU Conference Day is just around the corner! The Professional Associations are yet again offering a wide variety of member initiated professional development around the province. This yearly event brings together thought leaders, industry experts, and passionate learners for a day filled with engaging sessions, networking opportunities, and interactive workshops. The program offerings demonstrate a breadth of curriculum-based and other professional development opportunities that are designed to ensure Nova Scotia's students benefit from the latest pedagogical advances. Wishing everyone a fantastic NSTU Conference Day filled with inspiration and connection!

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
- Nov 11 Remembrance Day (no classes)
- Nov 15 Local Executive Training
- Nov 16/17 Representative Training

HAVE A GOOD IDEA FOR SUPPORTING PEACEFUL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES?


We can help you turn your idea into a useful practical program!

If you, your class, or your colleagues have ideas to share with other teachers and classrooms in Nova Scotia, get a Sheonorail Project Application Form from sheonorail.nstu.ca.

Our Mandate is simple. The Sheonorail Foundation will extend financial resources to any active or retired member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, to any group of active or retired NSTU members, or to any group of public school students working in cooperation with a teacher advisor(s).

Our purpose is to support research, inquiry, reflection, writing, distribution of information and interventions which focus on all forms of peaceful schools initiatives.

Our Pledge is to award funding grants for peaceful school programs that have a direct and immediate impact on public school classrooms, students, administration and community.



PROJECT APPLICATION MAILING ADDRESS
Sheonorail Foundation Project Review Committee
3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

DEADLINES
November 8, 2024
April 11, 2025

SHEONORAIL FOUNDATION

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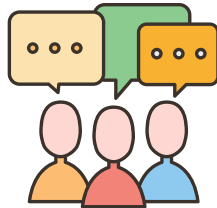
"I wasn't there for myself. I was there for my people."
~ Donald Marshall Jr.

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Application available at:
<http://sheonorail.nstu.ca/grants/applications>
Applications close: November 8, 2024

<https://halifaxcountylocal.com/>

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.

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

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

Homewood Pathfinder Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)

Oct 21, 2024
Issue 8

The Homewood Pathfinder Employee and Family Assistance Program is for active NSTU members who have a permanent, probationary or term contract. Through the Homewood Pathfinder EFAP you can reach a team of experienced counsellors from Homewood Health™ who will listen to your issue, offer sound advice and help you create an action plan to address issues.

Services:

Counselling Services
Lifestyle and Specialty Coaching Services
Stress Solutions
Depression Care Services
Trauma Care
Grief and Loss Coaching
Experiencing Acts of Violence

Homewood Pathfinder EFAP also has a very educational online platform and mobile app which offers:

- Easy access to content, such as eLearning, articles, videos and podcasts on a wide range of topics, based on your profile and interests.
- 24/7 live chat with Homewood Health™ counsellors
- E-counselling and E-therapy

To get started or to find out more information visit www.homeweb.ca. Once there, you can register by completing the required fields and click "Sign up".

*It is strongly recommended to use a personal email and not a work related email when dealing with matters relating to the EFAP. You must create an account on the EFAP website platform first before downloading the mobile app.

Contact:

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

24 hours, seven days a week or www.homeweb.ca

Counselling can be provided in a way that is most convenient and comfortable: in-person, by phone, or through a secure online service.

Homewood Pathfinder Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP)



Cyber Security Awareness Training

I have received several emails regarding the Cyber Security Awareness Training (CIRA) program that you all have been asked to complete within a 30 day time frame. The NSTU has been informed that time is to be provided at the schools to complete this training. As a follow-up to that communication, I have inquired with HRCE about reminding school administration of this.



CONTACT

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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.

REGIONAL AGREEMENT (HRCE) Teacher In Charge Article 24

24.01 A teacher may be appointed by the Regional Centre or its agent as a Teacher in Charge in accordance with this Article.

24.02 In the event that all administrative personnel assigned to the school are absent from the school, the Teacher in Charge may be requested to assume the duties specified in this clause. Teachers in the school will be informed when a teacher has been requested to be Teacher in Charge.

24.03 The Teacher in Charge, when requested to act, shall attend to ensuring that routine supervision is adequate to secure the safety of students and security of the school is maintained, and shall deal only with emergent matters as they may arise, with required assistance from the Regional Centre Office.

24.04 While acting as a Teacher in Charge, the teacher is covered by all terms and conditions of this Agreement.

24.05 Where absences of administrative personnel continue for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, the Teacher in Charge will be advised that they will assume all administrative duties, excluding only formal evaluation of instruction and personnel, and that they will be working under the terms and conditions of employment for administrators.

24.06 Whenever possible the Teacher in Charge shall be selected from those teachers who have expressed an interest in performing this function. Teacher application to be a Teacher in Charge must be made to the Principal by September 15 of each school year. A teacher has the right to refuse to act as a Teacher in Charge except in emergencies.

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 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.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

TEACHERS' PROVINCIAL AGREEMENT (TPA) EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ARTICLE 24

While the parties consider it desirable that teachers participate in extracurricular activities, it is recognized by the parties bound by this Agreement that any involvement, such as participation, supervision, administration, direction, coaching, by a teacher in extracurricular activities shall be on a voluntary basis.