



The

CHECK IN

Sept 9, 2024

Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:



As we kick off a new school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for your incredible hard work and dedication in welcoming our students back. Your commitment to creating a positive and engaging environment is truly commendable and makes a significant difference in their lives.

I am eager to connect with you, learn about your experiences, and explore how we can work together for a successful year ahead! Site Reps - Please reach out to invite me into your schools. I look forward to connecting with members in their spaces!

MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE:

Past President: Shawn Hanifen
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First Vice President (Economic Welfare): Turk MacDonald
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Vice President of Communications:
Suzanne Rohland
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Vice President of Professional Development: Jodie MacIlreith
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Vice President of Nominating:
Jason Jennings
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Vice President of Social and Wellness: Gale Doyle
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Vice President of Reps and Equity: Shelley Rigby
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Treasurer: Crystal Patterson
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Secretary: Angela Ewing
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MAL: Johnathon Sproul
jonathonsproul@nstu.ca

Provincial Executive:
Duncan Cameron
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IMPORTANT DATES

Sept 12 Stand Up Against Bullying day 

Sept 16 NSTU Professional Associations Conferences Registration Opens

Sept 25 General Meeting

Sept 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct 1 Treaty Day (Culturally Significant Day) All Schools OPEN

Oct 4 Member Engagement Day



“ Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best they can possibly be. ~ Rita Pierson ”

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.

September 25
October 23
November 27
January 15
March 5
April 9
May 7
June 4



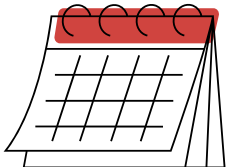
Rep Forum @ General Meetings

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.

CHANGE IN FORMAT

Questions are to be **e-mailed** to the President **the Wednesday prior to each General Meeting**. Anything that has arisen after this date, can still be brought before the membership at the General Meeting.

Calendars and Agendas



Please know the number of required desk calendars and/or agendas for your members before you arrive at the Sept 25th meeting. Numbers are limited so please take only that amount.

Halifax County Local C.D.A.F.

(Curriculum Development Assistance Fund)

This fund was initiated to financially support Halifax County teachers with the development of 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 and not be in receipt of Cash for Classrooms in the same calendar year.

Deadline: 4:00pm October 31, 2024

Application

Medical and Dental

Under the TPA, the Employer pays for 100% of the NSTU Total Care Policy (Medical) for each active member, both single and family policies.

NEW MEMBERS - this is not automatic. Coverage begins the first month after receipt of application.

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.

Highlights for New Members:

- Provincial Master Life - 100% Employer paid
- Provincial Master Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D) - 100% Employer paid
- Long Term Disability - cost shared with the Employer at 50%

If you have any questions about the above information, please contact the Administrator at Johnson Inc. by calling (902) 453-9543 or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free). Additionally, for more details on these and other available benefits and programs, you can visit the NSTU Group Insurance website <https://nstuinsurance.ca/>

Deals & Discounts

Class Cap Compliance Guidelines abr.

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Definitions:

Soft cap is defined as the stated cap.

Hard cap is defined as the stated cap + 2 students.

What are the Class Size Guidelines?

Grades Primary to 2 - soft cap: 20 students, hard cap: up to 22 students*

Grades 3 to 6 - soft cap: 25 students, hard cap: up to 27 students*

Grades 7 to 9 - soft cap: 28 students, hard cap: up to 30 students**

Grades 10 to 12 - soft cap: 30 students, hard cap: up to 32 students**

*Creating combined classes or multi-age groupings are appropriate to meet this cap

**Creating combined classes may be appropriate to meet this cap.

Combined classes have multiple grade levels in one room. The cap for a combined class shall be the cap for the lowest grade level. Class caps are applicable to all classes, at the applicable level, in all education entities.

Hard cap **may be exceeded** in the following circumstances:

School capacity: When, in order to meet the class size cap, the creation of an additional class or classes is necessary and the school does not have the space to accommodate the additional class(es), the class cap shall not apply.

Exceptional circumstances: The class size cap can be exceeded in exceptional circumstances in order to accommodate issues of class configuration or class composition.

Procedures when exceeding hard cap:

1. Principal reviews school's situation and rationale with the affected teachers following review with their immediate supervisor.
2. If there is agreement with the group of affected teachers, the principal will review the situation and rationale with the School Advisory Council (or recognized equivalent).
3. If there is not agreement with the group of affected teachers, the principal contacts their immediate supervisor to discuss ways in which classes do not exceed the hard cap.

Schools work diligently to meet cap guidelines by September 30th - [Class Cap Compliance Guidelines](#)

NSTU WEBMAIL



In order to ensure you continue to receive timely and important information from the

NSTU, all NSTU members are urged to visit

www.nstucentral.ca to 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.

DID YOU KNOW?



You can now access the President's schedule (subject to change) on our [webpage](#). Feel free to drop by!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



CONTACT

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Code of Conduct Survey



The NSTU has also advocated that the voice of NSTU members be heard in the development of the new Student Code of Conduct policy. It is imperative that members take the opportunity to participate in the Code of Conduct survey that was circulated at their schools. The Survey will be open until September 16, 2024. This is an opportunity for educators to voice their concerns and offer suggestions. The NSTU continues to advocate for additional school-based resources and system responses to address the issue of school violence. As new information and action becomes available it will be shared.

Survey



Marking and Preparation Time (Article 59)

How much time should I receive?

The new collective agreement provides that every teacher will receive 15% of their scheduled instructional minutes for time to mark and prepare for classes. To calculate your marking and preparation time, first determine your school's daily number of instructional minutes. Then, multiply the daily instructional minutes by the number of days in one cycle at your school. When you have the total instructional minutes in a cycle, multiply by fifteen percent (0.15) to determine how many minutes of marking and preparation time you should be scheduled for each cycle.

For example, a 5-day cycle with 312 instructional minutes per day has 1 560 instructional minutes per cycle. When 1 560 is multiplied by .15, the result is 234 minutes of marking and preparation time required per cycle.

When can Marking and Preparation time be scheduled?

Marking and Preparation Time can only be scheduled during instructional minutes. It cannot include the 20 minutes prior to the start of the instructional day, your students' lunch break nor the twenty minutes following the end of the instructional day. Marking and preparation time must be scheduled in blocks of at least 30 minutes*. (*Itinerant teachers may have marking and preparation time scheduled in blocks shorter than 30 minutes where the employer has made all reasonable efforts but is unable to schedule it in blocks of at least 30 minutes.)

What can the employer assign me during my Marking and Preparation time?

Teachers are entitled to use their professional judgement as to what work they undertake at school during marking preparation time. The employer cannot schedule meetings or direct that any particular tasks be done during marking and preparation time.

What happens if I lose my Marking and Preparation time?

Where a substitute teacher has not been hired to replace an absent teacher, another teacher can be required to temporarily give up scheduled marking and preparation time to cover. However, the covering teacher and principal should closely keep track when this occurs. Once a teacher has covered for absent teachers for a total of 150 minutes, they can then schedule themselves, in consultation with the principal, to have a half day of marking and preparation time, above and beyond their regularly scheduled marking and preparation time. (Consultation with the principal is for operational reasons to ensure that a substitute is arranged.)

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT(S)

Teachers' Provincial Agreement (TPA)
Length of Instructional Day
(Letter of Understanding 8)

The employer has agreed not to extend the length of the instructional day during the life of this Teachers' Provincial Agreement. Meaning, a school's daily instructional minutes **cannot** increase (as compared to the school's 2023-24 instructional day) during the life of this collective agreement which expires July 31, 2026.

The NSTU needs teachers to be attentive in monitoring instructional minutes, particularly at the beginning of the school year and at any time where the instructional day may change. **Please report immediately any issue to the NSTU.**

Regional Agreement (HRCE) **Special Leaves 4.0**

A teacher shall be entitled to special leave to a maximum of ten (10) days with pay to be a living donor. This leave would allow a teacher the time required for testing, counseling, consultation, extraction and recovery.