

news



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N O V A S C O T I A T E A C H E R S U N I O N

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Teachers gather for CONTACT 2016

Almost 80 teachers from across Atlantic Canada will gather at St. F.X. University in Antigonish for the annual CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching) starting today through August 5, 2016.

“This conference brings teachers together and allows them to share best practices and ideas, to reflect on experiences and to celebrate teaching,” says new NSTU president Liette Doucet. “Teacher driven on-going professional development is imperative for effective teaching, and this opportunity allows teachers autonomy in participating in PD that best suits their classroom and school need. It’s also a great way for classroom teachers to network with their Atlantic Canadian colleagues.”

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU) is hosting this year’s conference presenting the theme *Teach Like a Jedi*. Highlights of the event include the plenary session: *Awaken the Force! Innovative Teaching from a Multicultural Perspective*, presented by Holly Shaffner and Leah Matheson, both teachers at Duc d’Anville Elementary School. Shaffner and Matheson will be relaying their insight into teaching diverse communities in a school in which English is not the first language of almost 50 per cent of the students. Another plenary session will feature *Mindful Practice for Teachers*, facilitated by NSTU executive staff officer Adela Njie.

In addition to the plenary sessions, workshops focus on providing practical, effective techniques to address classroom environment issues such as student mental and emotional health. Principles of restorative practice for schools and developing culturally responsive teaching are other topics being explored.

CONTACT is a regional conference organized by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, the New Brunswick Teachers’ Association, association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick, Prince Edward Island Teachers’ Federation and the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers’ Association. It provides teachers with the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with colleagues from the Atlantic region.

For more information about CONTACT 2016 visit the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca and click on the CONTACT banner.

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