

# 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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**Date:** October 22, 2015    **For Release:** Immediately    **Contact:** Angela Murray

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## **Educators organize over 500 curriculum workshops for province-wide PD day October 23**

This Friday, October 23, Nova Scotia Teachers Union members will be attending class across the province marking the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Provincial Professional Development Day.

This day sees the province's classroom teachers, specialists, administrators, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, school guidance counsellors, APSEA teachers and Community College faculty and professional support staff—all members of the NSTU—participate in one of 22 conferences.

"This incredible professional development opportunity enables teachers to receive resources, learn new strategies and come to new understandings of practice to support students," says NSTU president Shelley Morse. "It also provides a forum that reinforces teacher professionalism, experience and expertise, and enables teachers to have their voices heard in the planning and development of relevant professional development."

To date, some 7,000 NSTU members will attend conferences in the Lunenburg, Milford, Truro, Port Hawkesbury, and many locations in the Halifax area featuring over 500 keynotes, plenary sessions, panel discussions and workshops. Each conference — organized for elementary and young adolescent teachers, math, science, social studies, English and French teachers, or for adult educators, school guidance counsellors and other specialists—is planned, developed and implemented by volunteer educators. "This conference is organized by educators for educators. The planning and organization of these teacher-initiated conferences in partnership with various organizations represent our teachers' devotion to the improvement of public education in Nova Scotia," adds Morse.

Some of this year's many conference highlights include:

- Education, and human behaviour expert Alfie Kohn returns for primary and early elementary teachers with: *Beyond Threats and Bribes: Why Control of the Classroom can Never be our Goal*;
- Dr. Ester Enns, professor of applied linguistics at Saint Mary's University will focus on experiential learning and teacher development for the Social Studies Teachers Association;
- Film and TV director Phil Comeau will join the Association des enseignants acadiens (AEA) and relay his expertise in his promotion of Acadian culture across Canada;
- Dave Kung, professor of mathematics at St. Mary's College of Maryland is the featured speaker at the Math Teachers Association conference. He has published articles on topics in harmonic analysis and mathematics education and is the recipient of a Mathematical Association of America teaching award;
- Dr. Deborah Graham, professor at St. F. X., joins the Family Studies Teachers Association. Her presentation will focus on the critical role of stories and how they forge connections and promote humanism and empathy.

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Detailed information on Professional Development Day is available on the NSTU website at <http://www.nstu.ca/nstu-members/professional-development/professional-associations/pa-conference-descriptions/> and clicking on the specific professional association.

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