

SCHOOLS CLOSED AMID COVID-19 VIRUS SPREAD

On Sunday, March 15, government announced that public schools across Nova Scotia would remain closed until at least April 6, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Schools are breeding grounds for disease and as many health experts have pointed out, closing them is a key component to flattening the curve of infections,” says NSTU president Paul Wozney. “This was a positive decision by the Premier and Dr. Strang and we thank them for keeping teachers, students and their families safe.”

At press time, and via social media, the Department of Education and Early Childhood has indicated it is exploring ways for teachers to support students from home during this shut down. “As of right now we don’t have any information, but as I have said publicly, the NSTU is prepared to work with government to ensure that students are supported.”

Since Dr. Strang has also recommended that Nova Scotians limit crowds and social interaction as much as possible on March 16, the NSTU closed its offices and NSTU staff began working from home until at least April 6.

Also, all meetings/events at Joseph Howe Drive and all NSTU Provincial, Regional and Local meetings/events, regardless of location, are cancelled until at least Sunday, April 5.

The cancellation includes Pre-Retirement Seminars, Member Services Conference, Status of Women Conference, Local President’s Conference, EIP, and the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program.



NSTU president Paul Wozney was interviewed by CBC Nova Scotia’s Tom Murphy on Friday, March 13 about school closures due to COVID-19 virus. Wozney was calling for the province to close schools, which it did on March 15.

Essential services will continue to be available to members by email. Voicemail will be checked several times per day and referred to the appropriate staff. Scheduled counselling appointments will be cancelled or conducted by phone. No new appointments will be scheduled.

The NSTU Provincial Executive, meeting by conference call as required passed motions on March 17 postponing the NSTU presidential campaign timeframe. It also voted to postpone upcoming provincial executive elections for Cape Breton District, Halifax City, Digby-Shelburne-Yarmouth, and Lunenburg County-Queens.

“Our staff are currently engaging with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to help provide you with answers on a timely basis,” continues Wozney. “However, this is an unprecedented and fluid situation, and I so I ask for your continued patience.”

The NSTU has developed an FAQ to provide up-to-date information as it becomes available:

<https://immediac.blob.core.windows.net/nstuwebsite/data/covid19/20200317-FAQ.pdf>.

A fact sheet for substitute teachers is also available: https://immediac.blob.core.windows.net/nstuwebsite/data/covid19/20200317_SubstituteTeacherInformation.pdf

(En Francais):

https://immediac.blob.core.windows.net/nstuwebsite/data/covid19/20200317_SubstituteTeacherInformation_FR.pdf

“We are continuing to monitor federal announcements to the Employment Insurance Program,” adds Wozney.

NSTU’s Insurance Trustees have also created a document outlining what supports are available to you during this trying period: <https://nstuinsurance.ca/members/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/>

“I have also written to the Minister of Labour Relations, Mark Furey and suggested that we suspend negotiations as well,” continues Wozney. “While the decision to close public schools was a critical component to reducing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping you, your students and your families safe, I know for many it has led to considerable uncertainty that staff at the NSTU are trying to address.”

More updates will be provided as information becomes available. Please check NSTU email, go to the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca and monitor our social media feeds.

people

Education Week Committee

Above are members of the Provincial Education Week Committee, who have been meeting bi-weekly since the fall to facilitate and plan Education Week 2020.

This year's theme, **Student Well-Being = Success/Bienêtre des élèves = réussite** aims to recognize educators, school support staff and education partners for their outstanding work in helping students

learn and adopt healthy lifestyles that support their physical and mental growth and development. Helping students in their cognitive, socio-emotional and physical development are key to well-being, which supports success and achievement in school, and helps students be active members of their communities.

The NSTU is one of

eight organizations that comprise the Education Week Committee. Education Week is a cooperative project between public education stakeholders in Nova Scotia. The awards ceremony is made possible through collaborative efforts of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and these other education partners – Nova Scotia Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Nova Scotia Federation of Home & School Associations (NSFHSA), la Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse (FPANE), the Public-School Administrators Association of Nova Scotia (PSAANS), Council on African Canadian Education (CACE), and the Council on Mi'kmaq Education (CME). This school year, the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) are also represented on the committee. FPANE is chairing this year's committee.



Shown (seated): secretary Janet Walsh, (NSFHSA); committee chair Véronique Legault (FPANE); and treasurer Angela Murray (NSTU). Standing: Tim Simony (PSAANS); Glenda Parsons (APSEA); JoAnn Alberstat (EECD). Missing: April Hiltz (CME), and Jill Piers (EECD), and Carlotta Weymouth (CACE).

Teachers Plus Credit Union supports student well-being through Education Week sponsorship

Teachers Plus Credit Union (TPCU) is continuing its support of Education Week this year. Since 2003, TPCU's sponsorship has helped raise the profile of the Week while demonstrating its commitment to public education and Nova Scotia's teachers.



*Above is TPCU CEO Steve Richard, shown with TPCU's board vice-chair Jim MacFarlane. Both are holding this year's Education Week poster designed by NSTU's graphic designer Paul Hamer. It features this year's theme **Student Well-Being = Success/Bienêtre des élèves = réussite**.*



ISSN 0382-408X
Managing Editor: Angela Murray
Assistant Editor: Mark Laventure
Advertising & Circulation: Nancy Day



Published eight times a year
(September-June)
by the **Nova Scotia Teachers Union**
3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7
Phone: 902-477-5621
Fax: 902-477-3517
Toll free: 1-800-565-6788
Email: theteacher@nstu.ca
Website: www.nstu.ca

Submission deadlines for 2019-2020:

ISSUE DEADLINE
April April 7
May May 6
June June 10

The opinions expressed in stories or articles do not necessarily reflect opinions or policy of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, its staff or elected provincial representatives. We assume no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited articles or photographs. We welcome your comments and suggestions: 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca.

© Nova Scotia Teachers Union 2020

NSTU holds Town Hall meetings with specialists

Following continued non-compliance from government in restoring union rights of speech language pathologists (SLPs), school psychologists and social workers employed in our public education system, NSTU president Paul Wozney hosted a telephone Town Hall on February 19 and a face-to-face meeting at the NSTU office in Halifax on February 24 for all NSTU specialists.

“Since Arbitrator Eric Slone determined that the McNeil government acted in bad faith, and ruled that the union rights of these members must be restored, EECD continues to ignore this ruling,” says NSTU president Paul Wozney.

The NSTU wants to provide information firsthand to specialists and provide support for ongoing concerns. “We are doing everything legally and providing NSTU leaders and NSTU reps with the information about the current situation.”



Specialists—union and those wrongly referred to as “12-month employees” we have been sharing stories on Facebook. “These specialists are taking a stand to ensure the McNeil government does not take away their union rights, while at the same time, working to restore the rights of their newer colleagues who were excluded from the NSTU starting in 2018,” says Wozney. “There has been a considerable amount of static on this issue in recent months which has made its way into the media. In a time of professional uncertainty, many specialists have decided to speak out proactively in the hopes of persuading the McNeil government to back off its current position.”

Here are a couple of posts that have appeared: <https://bit.ly/2TmwO7Y> and <https://bit.ly/2vijKZr>.

“These specialists want to remain members of the NSTU and I encourage all NSTU members to step up for specialists by sharing, liking and commenting on these posts.” Wozney is also encouraging members to go to actforeducation.ca and send letters to MLAs urging them to support specialists remaining in the NSTU. “Please feel free to express your support for these individuals on social media using the hashtag #StepUp4Specialists.”

A #StepUpForSpecialists Facebook profile frame has been created and can be downloaded at this link: <https://bit.ly/2SWpJMz>. NSTU also shot videos for specialists who wanted to share their stories. They can be found on NSTU’s YouTube station: <https://www.youtube.com/user/nstuwebcast>

Continued on page 14

What is your Financial Fitness plan?

We have a Financial Fitness plan for you! Meet with an advisor and start to see results! Special rates apply for new deposits.

1-800-565-3103
teachersplus.ca





from the nstu president

NSTU Members Take the Lead

One of the joys of serving as NSTU president is seeing and hearing about the incredible work that teachers do across the province. It is a constant source of pride to learn how our members lead in the classroom, in the profession and in our communities.

Our members have a deep passion to create a better world by teaching children and building community. Part of the work I try to do every day is help members understand how they can participate in the change they know needs to happen. I'd like to share how two of our members, just like you, are taking the lead and creating a better world.

Nova Scotia's long and inglorious history of systemic racism is undeniable — Africville, Sipekne'katik and Alton Gas, street checks and police brutality, and residential schools. These only scratch the surface of current realities that impact members, students and our communities. Sadly, these aspects of our history are often minimized or omitted from the history we teach and our students learn.

One of our siblings has been recognized for her leadership in creating and delivering anti-racism programs in her classroom. Megan Neaves, who teaches at Astral Drive Junior High School in Cole Harbour, NS, created the *Empower Change by Conversation* program in 2018.

Megan has engaged leaders from within the African Nova Scotian and Indigenous communities to meet with students in her classes. Her students conduct research about these leaders and prepare questions to address during their visits.

Megan's program brings first voice perspectives of how racism affects Nova Scotians and the communities where students live to the classroom. Equally important is how her program empowers students with lived experiences of racism during their young lives to connect their own stories and realities to those shared by leaders and role models.

This work is one piece of a larger, growing movement of youth activism in Halifax that is boldly challenging longstanding prejudice and discrimination. As an early career teacher, Megan is already leaving a mark on our profession and how each of us can address racism in our teaching practice.

Megan was chosen to represent the Nova Scotia Teachers Union at the Canadian Teachers' Federation inaugural Social Justice Symposium in Ottawa. In addition, Megan is set to serve as the first

Des membres du NSTU prennent l'initiative

L'une des satisfactions de la fonction de président du NSTU est de voir et d'entendre parler du travail incroyable qu'accomplissent les enseignants partout dans la province. C'est une source constante de fierté d'apprendre comment nos membres prennent l'initiative au sein de leurs classes, de la profession et de nos collectivités.

Nos membres sont extrêmement enthousiastes à la perspective de créer un monde meilleur en enseignant aux enfants et en édifiant la collectivité. Une partie du travail que j'essaie de faire chaque jour consiste à aider les membres à comprendre comment ils peuvent participer au changement qui doit indéniablement se produire. J'aimerais vous faire part de la façon dont deux de nos membres, tout comme vous, prennent l'initiative pour créer un monde meilleur.

La longue et infâme histoire de racisme systémique en Nouvelle-Écosse est indéniable. Africville. Sipekne'katik et Alton Gas. Les contrôles policiers de routine et les brutalités policières. Les pensionnats indiens. Cette liste ne fait qu'effleurer la surface des réalités actuelles qui ont un impact sur les membres, sur les élèves et sur nos collectivités. Malheureusement, ces aspects de notre passé sont

souvent minimisés ou omis dans l'histoire que nous enseignons et que nos élèves apprennent.

Une de nos collègues s'est vu rendre hommage pour son leadership en matière de création et de prestation de programmes de lutte contre le racisme dans sa classe. Megan Neaves, qui enseigne à l'école secondaire de premier cycle Astral Drive à Cole Harbour, en Nouvelle-Écosse, a créé le programme *Empower Change by Conversation* (faciliter le changement par le biais de la conversation) en 2018.

Megan a invité des leaders des collectivités afro-néo-écossaises et autochtones à rencontrer les élèves de ses classes. Ses élèves effectuent des recherches au sujet de ces leaders et préparent des questions à aborder lors de leurs visites.

Le programme de Megan apporte à sa classe des perspectives de personnes ayant une expérience de première main de la façon dont le racisme touche les Néo-Écossais et les collectivités où



Megan Neaves is shown with one of the special guests who were at a day-long event at the school for her students at the 2019 version of the Empower Change by Conversation program on March 10.

president of a new NSTU professional association, the Nova Scotia Association of Teachers for Equity in Education, dedicated to supporting justice in classrooms across the curriculum. Megan and members of the executive will deliver a conference this October that will offer teachers opportunity to learn about creating a more just world, starting with our classrooms and students.

I also want to highlight the amazing work of Wendie Poitras. In addition to serving as a beloved grade 4 teacher at Chebucto Heights Elementary, Wendie's passion for art and culture have elevated her as an expert voice on African Nova Scotian heritage, art and food.

Nova Scotia's black community is Canada's oldest indigenous black community, filled with immense pride and excellence. Recognizing a need for a symbol to celebrate this, Wendie designed an African Nova Scotian flag. The NSTU had the privilege of flying her prototype at Annual Council 2019. Now that it is in production, we will have one of our own for Council 2020 and for all meetings held at the Tom Parker Building.

Wendie's leadership reaches far wider than this. She was featured in a *Saveur.com* article that both highlighted recipes drawn from African Nova Scotian heritage and wove in first-voice stories that showcased the pride and pain of being black in our province.

Before *Hair Love* won the Oscar for best short film this year, Wendie organized an innovative study about how black women see and feel about their hair. Her study, in partnership with African Nova Scotia Affairs, connected black hair to wider issues of economics, segregation and social attitudes about beauty and identity.

Wendie's contributed to Dalhousie University's replacement of its traditional ceremonial mace, a problematic symbol of colonialism in a year where it acknowledged Lord Dalhousie's ownership of slaves. In its place, Wendie helped create the New Dawn Staff, a new ceremonial piece to be used in graduation ceremonies that exemplifies inclusivity and diversity, incorporating West African, Mi'kmaq and other cultural symbols.

vivent les élèves. Et, ce qui est tout aussi important, c'est que son programme permet aux élèves ayant fait l'expérience du racisme au cours de leur courte vie d'établir un lien entre leurs propres histoires et leurs propres réalités et celles de ces leaders et ces modèles de rôle.

Ce travail fait partie intégrante d'un mouvement grandissant et plus vaste d'activisme parmi les jeunes à Halifax, mouvement qui remet audacieusement en cause les préjugés et la discrimination de longue date. En tant qu'enseignante en début de carrière, Megan laisse déjà son empreinte sur notre profession et montre comment chacun d'entre nous peut aborder le racisme dans sa pratique de l'enseignement.

Megan représentera la Nova Scotia Teachers Union au premier symposium sur la justice sociale de la Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants, qui se tiendra à Ottawa pendant les congés de mars. En outre, Megan fera office de première présidente d'une nouvelle association professionnelle du NSTU, la NS Association of Teachers for Equity in Education, qui a pour objectif de soutenir la justice dans les classes dans l'ensemble du programme d'études. Megan et les membres du bureau de son association organiseront une conférence en octobre prochain afin de donner aux enseignants la chance d'apprendre à créer un monde plus juste, en commençant par nos classes et nos élèves.

Je tiens également à souligner le travail extraordinaire de Wendie Poitras. En plus d'être une enseignante très aimée de 4e année à l'école primaire Chebucto



photo crédit: Rachel McGrath

Wendie Poitras is shown with the African Nova Scotian flag she designed.

Heights, la passion de Wendie pour l'art et la culture a fait d'elle une experte du patrimoine, de la cuisine et de l'art afro-néo-écossais.

La collectivité noire de Nouvelle-Écosse est la plus ancienne communauté noire indigène au Canada et elle révèle une immense fierté et une excellence exceptionnelle. Reconnaissant la nécessité d'un symbole pour célébrer cela, Wendie a conçu un drapeau afro-néo-écossais. Le NSTU a eu le privilège d'arborer le prototype de ce drapeau lors de l'AGA

du Conseil 2019. Maintenant qu'il est en production, nous aurons notre propre drapeau pour l'AGA du Conseil 2020 et pour toutes les réunions qui se tiendront dans l'édifice Tom Parker.

Le leadership de Wendie va bien au-delà de cela. Elle a été mise à l'honneur dans un article de *Saveur.com* qui présentait des recettes issues du patrimoine afro-néo-écossais et y intégrait des histoires de première main qui mettaient en avant la fierté et la douleur d'être noir dans notre province.

Avant que son film *Hair Love* ne remporte l'Oscar du meilleur court métrage cette année, Wendie a organisé une étude novatrice sur la façon dont les femmes noires perçoivent et ressentent leurs cheveux. Son étude, en partenariat avec African Nova Scotia Affairs, a établi un lien entre les cheveux des Noirs et les enjeux plus larges de l'économie, de la ségrégation et des attitudes sociales concernant la beauté et l'identité.

Wendie a contribué à l'abandon par l'Université Dalhousie de sa masse de cérémonie traditionnelle, symbole problématique du colonialisme, datant d'une époque où elle reconnaissait le fait que Lord Dalhousie possédait des esclaves.

Continued on page 13

Continued on page 13

Empowering our silent majority

Shelley L. Morse, President Canadian Teachers' Federation



With nearly three out of every four teachers in Canada identifying as a woman, one could easily make the assumption that with women leading the way in the classroom they must also be leading the unions that represent them. Unfortunately, even with the odds seemingly in women's favour, the reality doesn't match the math. In fact, the opposite is true. Although the teaching profession is dominated by women, the statistics plainly show that we are significantly underrepresented among education unions' leadership ranks.

Despite the encouraging, though misleading, optics of being a woman president of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF/FCE), there are far too few women heading up locals and filling positions on provincial and territorial structures throughout the country. The reasons for this vary, and much has been researched and published to get to the bottom of why more women are not holding leadership roles within their unions. Ranging in challenges from whether union structures enable or inhibit women's involvement, to the supports needed to open doors of opportunity, or the existence of strategies available to women, there is no simple one-size fits all answer to changing the gender composition of our unions.

Even with those obstacles facing us, if teachers are known for anything it's our resourcefulness. That eagerness to find a solution was clearly on display at the

2018 CTF/FCE Women's Symposium in PEI where a recommendation was made to start a new trend by creating something that would support women who may aspire to positions of leaders in their organizations. What began as a possible toolkit of resources came to fruition last year as a website dedicated to getting women elected in their teacher unions.

Francine Filion, former Communications Director at the CTF/FCE and staff consultant to the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, took the lead on compiling the ideas from the symposium. In January, 2019 Francine, current CTF/FCE program officer Beverley Park, and CTF/FCE Secretary General Cassandra Hallett, collaborated with Ann Hawkins, former President of OECTA and CTF/FCE Board Member, along with Heather Smith, former President of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association and former President of the CTF/FCE to develop the concept.



The result of their work is the website [Fem-Lead-Fém](#) – aptly named to work with our bilingual membership. This living, breathing resource allows teachers across Canada the opportunity to contribute to the continued development of the site.

The web resource is built around three key areas that were too often missing when women sought

advice: Structures to open doors for women leaders; Supports that lead to essential networks to unlocking doors; and Strategies that are the keys to becoming a great leader. Beyond offering a definition of structures, strategies and supports, these sections also include facts, videos, analysis and reflection, and links to other resources –many from the CTF/FCE's Member Organizations.

Fem-Lead-Fém can assist with many things, including helping setup and plan election campaigns, kick-start workshop development, launch organizational reviews, enhance professional learning, and help foster 'femtoring' and mentoring.

The website is only the beginning of what we hope to achieve, but to do more we need your help, we need your ideas, your lived experiences. For the *Media* space on the site we invite you to submit your videos, your photos, and your podcasts. For *Learn More* we now have the links to the resources you gave us when we first asked for input. We know there are many others. We welcome your policy statements, workshop guides, conference agendas, and anything else you have to offer.

If you have other ideas or resources to contribute, please contact the [CTF/FCE](#).

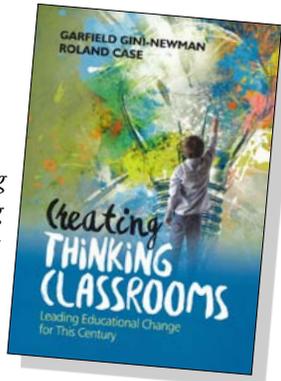
Although the site is up and running, it is still a work in progress, no different from our struggle for equity. We are excited about what it is already, and what it can become. That is up to you.

Email your name, home address, and the name of your school with **PD Giveaway** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by **April 10, 2020** to be eligible for the draw.

Creating Thinking Classrooms

by Garfield Gini-Newman & Roland Case

Published by Corwin, *Creating Thinking Classrooms, Leading Educational Change for This Century* provides examples, stories, and strategies for reinvigorating schools for critical, creative and collaborative thinking. This practical and user-friendly guide emphasizes five key principles for teaching and learning: engaging students, sustaining inquiry, nurturing self-regulated learners, creating assessment-rich learning and enhancing learning through digital technology.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
JANUARY/FEBRUARY BOOK WINNERS!**

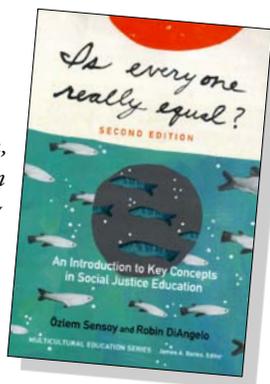
Equity — Katherine Terauds — AVRCE
Fresh — Dawn Kerr — HRCE
PD — Tracy Walsh — HRCE

EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Email your name, home address, and the name of your school with **EQUITY** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by **April 10, 2020** to be eligible for the draw.

Is Everyone Really Equal
By Oslem Sensoy and Robin DiAngelo

Is Everyone Really Equal 2nd Edition, An Introduction to Key Concepts in Social Justice Education published by Teachers College Press addresses the most common stumbling blocks to understanding social justice. This comprehensive resource includes new features, such as a chapter on intersectionality and classism and a discussion of contemporary activism. Sensoy is an associate professor in the faculty of education at Simon Fraser University and DiAngelo is a lecturer in the School of Social Work at the University of Washington.



With A Little Help Society (W.A.L.H.S.)

Serving Eastern Nova Scotia for over 20 years
Inc. 2011 NS Registration #3259646
10 The Lane
Erinville, NS B0H 1N0
E-mail: withalittlehelpsociety@xplornet.ca
Phone: 902-533-2169



With A Little Help Society (W.A.L.H.S.) is a non-profit charitable organization, in Nova Scotia for over 20 years, and was incorporated in December 2011.

The Society is committed to 100% of funds donated going to those in need. Each year, there are more and more costs and greater challenges and demands on those who need a little help in our rural communities. For this reason, **With A Little Help Society** was established to offer supplemental levels of funding in local areas.

In the past year (2019) the Society has been very busy providing support for:

- Local Food Banks
- Compassionate Funding
- Emergency Funding
- School Bursaries
- Local Annual Parish Picnic
- Local Hospital
- Local Breakfast Program

We also run a ticket sale and host an annual Fishing Derby, May 30th, 2020. Any donation, big or small is greatly appreciated! Please send it to:

With A Little Help Society
c/o Brian, Mary and Jacob Cooke, 10 The Lane, Erinville, NS B0H 1N0

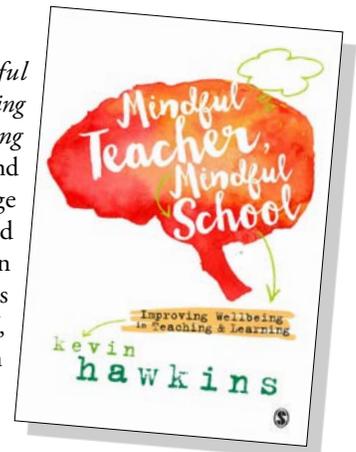
fresh

Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and the name of your school with **FRESH** in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by **April 10, 2020** to be eligible for the draw.

Mindful Teacher, Mindful School
by Kevin Hawkins

Published by Sage, *Mindful Teacher, Mindful School, Improving Wellbeing in Teaching & Learning* explains what mindfulness is, and how it can help you manage stress, look after yourself and how teaching mindfully can help your students. It provides exercises to try yourself, activities to use in the classroom and links to resources for further reading.



More Than Food: Nutrition Month 2020

Adapted from Dietitians of Canada

March is Nutrition Month and this year Canadian dietitians are talking about how healthy eating is about so much More than Food! Dietitians are encouraging Canadians to consider not only what they eat, but how they eat too.

Why this theme? Dietitians counsel their patients, clients and communities on More than Food. We love food, yes, and we believe in its potential to enhance lives and improve health, but we take a broad view of the factors that impact healthy eating –including how we eat.

In 2019, Health Canada released the new Canada's Food Guide. During the revision process, Dietitians of Canada advocated strongly that Health Canada include considerations beyond nutrients and talk about how we eat, not just what we eat in the new guide. This is how dietitians were already talking about food, and they wanted National Dietary Guidance to reflect that. This included consideration of food literacy, food culture and traditions, food availability and sustainability.

The 2020 Nutrition Month campaign recognizes the Healthy Eating Habits that are part of the new Canada's Food Guide: <http://www.canada.ca/foodguide>

Below are tips and suggested resources for Nutrition Month 2020.

Be mindful of your eating habits

- Take time to eat
- Notice when you are hungry and when you are full

Cook more often

- Plan what you eat
- Involve others in planning and preparing meals

Enjoy your food

- Culture and food traditions can be a part of healthy eating

Eat meals with others

For over 30 years, through Nutrition Month, dietitians across the country raise awareness about nutrition, enhance the visibility of the profession and promote the use of dietitians. By translating the science of nutrition into terms everyone can understand, dietitians help unlock the potential of food and support healthy living for all Canadians.

Dietitians have the knowledge, compassion and flexibility to help Canadians achieve their goals.

Here are some suggested resources that are relevant in the midst of school closures because of COVID-19):

Reducing Food Waste at Home:

<https://www.unlockfood.ca/en/Articles/Cooking-And-Food/Cooking-Methods/Tips-On-Reducing-Food-Waste-At-Home.aspx>

Cooking with Kids <https://www.unlockfood.ca/en/Articles/Childrens-Nutrition/Cooking-and-Meal-Planning/Cooking-with-Kids.aspx>

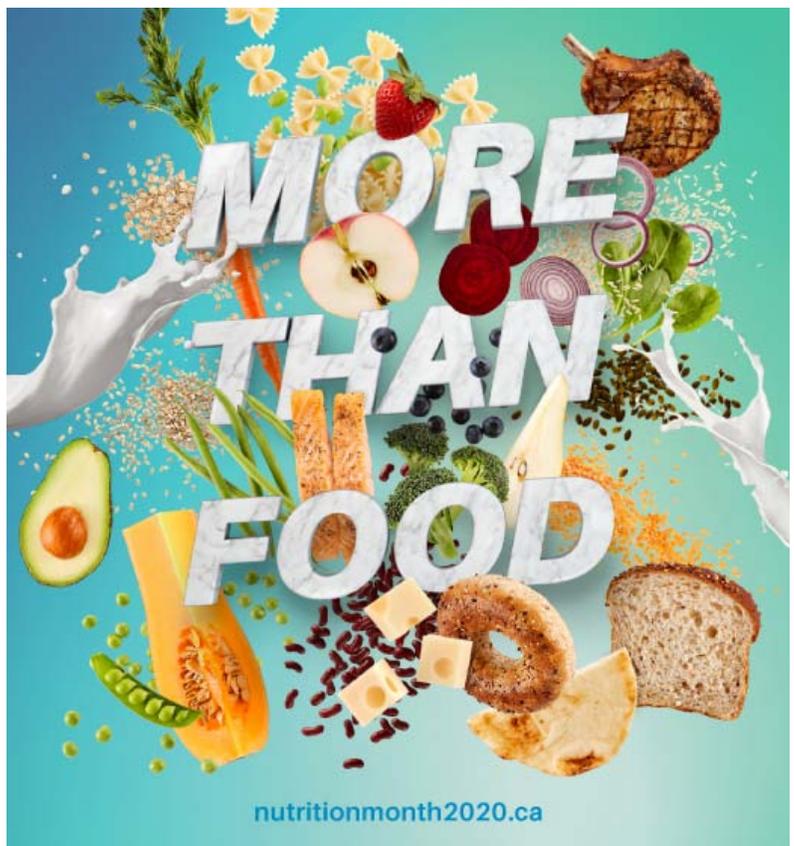
Healthy Tips for Feeding Your Grandchildren <https://www.unlockfood.ca/en/Articles/Childrens-Nutrition/Healthy-Eating-and-Healthy-Weights/Healthy-Tips-For-Feeding-Your-Grandchildren.aspx5>

Being mindful of your eating habits

<https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/healthy-eating-recommendations/be-mindful-of-your-eating-habits/>

Cook more often <https://food-guide.canada.ca/en/healthy-eating-recommendations/cook-more-often/>

For questions, contact nutritionmonth@dietitians.ca or visit www.dietitians.ca. Find more information about Nutrition Month at www.nutritionmonth2020.ca



NSTU forms new professional association for equity in education

At the January 2020 provincial executive meeting, a new professional association, the Nova Scotia Association of Teachers for Equity in Education was created.

“We’re very excited to be increasing NSTU members’ knowledge and understanding of equity within education and culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy,” says NSTU president Paul Wozney. “The professional learning focus of this newly formed association will more meaningfully meet the needs of students and teachers in Nova Scotia, across all grade levels and subject areas.”

The mandate of NSATEE uses an equity lens to provide NSTU members with curriculum and pedagogical learning opportunities,

encouraging and assisting members in professional development activities related to equity in education.

Like all of NSTU’s professional associations, the NSATEE will provide ongoing professional learning, regular communication and an annual conference responding to curriculum changes to the PSP. “October Conference Day 2020 will see the inaugural conference of teachers for equity in education.”

Among the objectives, NSATEE will improve professional practice by disseminating evidence-based ideas, trends, and new developments based on culturally supported practices.

The NSTU received a 100-signature petition requesting the formation of this professional association. The following positions will compose the NSATEE Executive: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, communications, and members at large. The NSTU will host an inaugural meeting with NSTU members who have expressed interest in joining the executive. Astral Junior High teacher Megan Neaves has expressed interest in sitting as the first president of the association.



NSTU president Paul Wozney is shown with teacher Megan Neaves.

Negotiations Update

The Provincial Negotiating team held negotiation sessions with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development negotiating

March 2, 3 and 4 and March 12 and 13, 2020. To date no other sessions have been scheduled.



**Nova Scotia
Teachers Union**

Shaping our future

HEY!

WE NEED YOUR
INPUT

Online survey now live.

Check your NSTU email for a link to the online survey.

Deadline Extended to Wednesday March 25, 2020

resources

media LIBRARY

Digital Resources for Teachers

@LRTS

The Media Library is the place to go for all your curriculum video needs! We provide you with access to online videos to stream or download and a collection of educational videos and DVDs that you can borrow or purchase to support grades P-12 in all subject areas of the Nova Scotia curriculum.

Online videos can be accessed from your gnspes landing page. Just click on the link for Learn360 and you're good to go. You also visit our website directly at <http://medialibrary.ednet.ns.ca> to access these and other digital classroom resources!

Social Media, Digital Citizenship, and Fake News

This month, we are highlighting videos that you can stream and download from Learn360. You can access Learn360 from either the EduPortal or Google Apps for Education without an additional login. Once you have accessed Learn360, simply click on the links below to access these videos and many more.

Understanding Self Esteem (grades 9-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=161183
From the series Social Media Me, this video introduces us to characters Jules, Nela, and Marcus, who use and respond to social media in different ways. Jules blogs about positive self-esteem and body image. Her regular contributors are youth mental health experts, connecting the storyline with real-world advice. Notions of self-esteem and ideas about what positive and negative self-esteem may look like are explored through the experiences of the main characters. (12 min; 2016)

Self Esteem and Social Media (grades 9-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=161184
From the series Social Media Me, this video looks more closely at how Jules, Nela, and Marcus are affected by social media content and popular platforms. The differences between their social media self and their real-world self are highlighted, encouraging viewers to think critically about their online interactions and experiences. (11 min; 2016)

Positive Social Media Strategies (grades 9-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=161185
From the series Social Media Me, this video examines how we can manage social media use so that it is positive and how we can tell when social media use is affecting us and our relationships in a negative way. In the conclusion to this three-part series, Jules' final blog post provides practical advice from experts on managing our social media habits and choices. Her thoughtful

insights give Nela and Marcus inspiration to make some positive changes online and in the real world. (8 min; 2016)

What is Digital Citizenship? (grades 9-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=167047
From the series Social Media Me: Jules has built a positive social media presence promoting good digital citizenship, online ethics, and safety. So when her friend Aaron faces some social media challenges, she offers sound advice. Yet sometimes good digital citizens stumble; Jules' online popularity takes a new turn, but how will her followers respond? (17 min; 2018)

Cyberbullying and Digital Citizenship (grades 9-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=167048
From the series Social Media Me: Jules goes on a roller coaster ride, taking steps to make things right with her social media followers. Her initial apologetic post is well-received, but relief is only temporary; more floodgates open, and the consequences of her actions snowball. Meanwhile her friend Aaron is thinking seriously about online revenge tactics... (17 min; 2018) (Strong Language. Teacher Preview Recommended)

Resilience and Digital Citizenship (grades 9-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=167049
From the series Social Media Me: As Jules' social media world spirals downwards, her friend Aaron prepares to enter an online hate exchange. Jules turns to Project Rockit for advice and starts along the hard road of repairing relationships. Meanwhile Aaron rethinks his approach. This clip carries poignant messages about the personal effects of irresponsible and unethical online behavior and the importance of developing resilience. (15 min; 2018)

Fake News. Part 1 (grades 6-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=145229
Fake news is more than a social media menace—it's threatening critical thinking skills needed to develop information literacy. Combined with the impulse to share exciting, shocking and alarming stories, fake news is shaping—and distorting—perceptions, especially in younger demographics. In this video, viewers learn what drives fake news, how to spot it and how to de-bunk it. They'll see how to distinguish between bias and accuracy, and opinion from fact. Vignettes that mimic online feeds and searches show how to detect completely false stories, slanted information, pure propaganda and misused data. (23 min; 2018)

Fake News. Part 2 (grades 6-12)
https://learn360.infobase.com/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=145230
Fake news is prevalent because it seems so real. But passing it along via social media is more than sharing. It lends credibility to untrustworthy sources. By explaining click baits, bias and information bubbles, this video helps viewers discern what's real and what's not. Startling examples of altered photos reveal the skills employed by fake newsmongers. Cross-referencing to determine objective news sources and sites is explained along with reverse image search and expert confirmation. This video will assist viewers in getting past the hype of fake news to discover the real story. (24 min; 2018)

In addition to our lending and duplication collections, the Media Library also has videos that can be downloaded or streamed. Please log into the EduPortal and click on the link for "Online Video Library/Learn360" to access these digital titles.

YOGA in schools

For more information or to register
for programs, call (902) 444-9642
or email: info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca
YogainSchools.ca



*"This program is one of
the top two things I've
done in my life."*

- April Wallace
school teacher

Yoga in Schools Canadian Conference 2020

This summer's conference, themed Trauma-sensitive Mindfulness, will have workshops designed to provide leading-edge, cross-curricular mindfulness and yoga tools that target students' mental health, emotional regulation and social connectivity. This conference offers workshops for every level, from the curious beginner to the certified yoga instructor.

The workshops will have a theoretical component as well as movement practices designed to relieve stress and promote calmness in your students. Topics include:

- Trauma-sensitive Mindfulness Keynote with author and international presenter David A. Treleaven
- Trauma-informed Yoga
- Mindfulness for diverse learners
- Trauma practices for healing First Nations communities
- Stress relieving movement practices for self-regulation
- ACT (Acceptance Commitment Therapy) workshop

Full 200hr Yoga in Schools and Studio Certification, with manuals and training in Yoga Grade 11, Yoga for Autism, Yoga for Specials Needs and level 1 mindfulness. Certification training runs from July 6-24th, with the 4 day conference included.

Conference hosts: Jenny Kierstead and Blair Abbass, authors of the NEW Mindfulness in Schools Manual and founders of Yoga in Schools.

Who can attend: This conference is ideal for teachers and support staff.

When: July 20th-23rd, 2020

Where: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax, NS

Fee: \$500.00 + hst

(check local PD for funding)



RTO Legacy Foundation

NSTU members are eligible for grants available through the Retired Teachers Organization of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union Legacy Foundation. Grants are for programming that benefits children/youth under the age of 21. Societies or organizations founded for an educational, medical, social or similar purpose are eligible to apply.

The application deadline is **March 31, 2020**.

For further information and to get an application form go to the RTO website at:
<http://rto.nstu.ca/Legacy.html>

NSTU Bill 75 Charter Challenge: NSTU wins in the Court of Appeal

In October of 2017 the NSTU sued the McNeil Government on the basis that the Government bargained in bad faith and that the introduction of Bill 75 violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Supreme Court Rulings

While that matter has not yet been heard, a number of preliminary legal steps are proceeding before a final hearing will be held on the merits. One of those steps relates to two preliminary rulings on admissibility of evidence in the underlying claim, issued by the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia in June 2019.

In that decision the NSTU was successful on two issues:

1. The Supreme Court dismissed the Government's motion attempting to strike the Union's affidavit (a written sworn statement of fact used in litigation) evidence that the Deputy Minister threatened legislation if the Union rejected the Minister's offer. The Court did not accept the Government's argument that the evidence attracted settlement privilege or case-by-case privilege; and
2. The Supreme Court granted the Union's motion for production of Cabinet documents respecting Bill 148, and ordered the production of the documents (subject to some exceptions). The Court did not accept the Government's argument that the evidence was irrelevant and subject to public interest privilege.

Court of Appeal Rulings

The Government appealed both of these Supreme Court rulings to the Court of Appeal (the highest Court in the Province). At the Court of Appeal the issues were whether the affidavit evidence of the Deputy Minister's threat of litigation attracted settlement or case-by-case privilege and was the evidence respecting Bill 148 irrelevant or subject to public interest privilege.

Government also made a preliminary motion to add fresh evidence. On January 27, 2020 the NSTU and Government argued before a three judge panel at the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal issued its decision on these preliminary appeals on March 10, 2020. The NSTU was, again, successful on every issue.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the Government's motion to introduce fresh evidence, and held as follows:

1. On the issue of striking the Union's affidavit evidence the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Supreme Court, providing that the Government had not met the legal test to attract settlement privilege. The Court of Appeal commented (at paragraph 54) that the Government's position contradicted the Supreme Court of Canada's approved approach to the topic. The Court of Appeal also held that the Government had not met the legal test to attract case-by-case privilege. The Court noted the following, as one key factor, at paragraph 63: "in argument, counsel for the Attorney General sought to justify settlement (or litigation) privilege by urging

that a legislated resolution was notoriously predictable in the renegotiation of any public service collective agreement. Notoriety is inconsistent with an expectation of confidence".

2. On the issue of ordering disclosure of Cabinet documents related to Bill 148, the Court of Appeal also upheld the decision of the Supreme Court, finding that the evidence respecting Bill 148 was relevant. The Court of Appeal stated, at paragraph 71: "The issue here is relevance. The evidence respecting Bill 148 is probative of disputed material facts and claims that are basic to the Union's claim. That makes the evidence relevant." The Court held that the Supreme Court's ruling was "proportionate and tailored to disclose no more than necessary for the effective resolution of the constitutional issue". The Court dismissed the Government's ground of appeal on public interest privilege.

In its win, the NSTU was awarded costs of \$2,500 for the appeal payable by the Government to the NSTU. The NSTU is very pleased with the Court of Appeal's findings against the Government on these preliminary legal issues. The NSTU continues in its commitment to protect teachers' constitutional rights to free and fair collective bargaining. The NSTU will continue to keep members updated as the challenge continues through the Courts.



Stay in Nova Scotia!

Position Available: Various Teaching positions including substitute teachers

Start Date: Various start dates (immediately to Sept 2020)

Location: Indian Brook, Nova Scotia

(30 minutes south of Truro, 45 minutes north of Halifax on just off Highway 102)

General Description:

Accountable to delivering the required curriculum as set forth by the province and for providing teaching strategies that respect the rights of students of LSK. This position is also responsible to incorporate Mi'kmaq language and culture into the curriculum while recognizing the perspectives of all cultures as well as teaching sensitivity pertaining to student individuality.

We have small class sizes with EA support

Core Competencies:

Provincial Teacher Certification.

Courses or experience in teaching field.

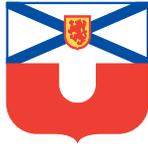
Interest in working with an Aboriginal education environment.

Interest in learning the Mi'kmaq Language and culture.

Please apply with resume, cover letter, Child Abuse Registry Check, Police Vulnerability Check, and three professional references (include phone & email with each reference) to:

Email employmentapplication@sipeknekatik.ca
or kollver@sipeknekatik.ca for position details
Mail/drop off: 522 Church Street, Indian Brook, NS B0N 1W0
(902)236-3041
www.lskschool.ca or www.sipeknekatik.ca





2020 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS

All regional elections will be conducted by electronic vote.

Area	Vote Day
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	Natalie MacIsaac acclaimed
Antigonish-Guysborough	Deena Jewers acclaimed
Cape Breton District	TBA
CSANE	Jacqueline LeVert acclaimed
Colchester-East-Hants	Shannon Roy acclaimed
Dartmouth	Mike Jamieson acclaimed
Digby-Shelburne-Yarmouth	TBA
Halifax City	TBA
Halifax County	Shaun Doyle acclaimed
Inverness-Richmond	Philip Samson acclaimed
Lunenburg County-Queens	TBA

as of March 19, 2020

continued from page 13

Whether you lead in an NSTU role or in a capacity in your community, Megan and Wendie exemplify the excellence and innovation teachers are capable of. They remind us of the power we have to lead change: start with our classroom and continue in our communities. By standing with others for justice and inclusivity, we build the better world we all need.

I am humbled to serve a union full of world changers. Thank you for your passion and excellence. Do not grow weary in doing such vital work. Let's lean on and lift up one other. A better world is possible when we do.

All my best,

Paul

continued from page 13

Pour la remplacer, Wendie a contribué à la création du New Dawn Staff (crosse de l'aube nouvelle), un nouvel objet cérémoniel qui sera utilisé lors des cérémonies de remise de diplômes et qui illustre l'inclusion et la diversité, en incorporant des symboles culturels ouest-africains, mi'kmaq et autres.

Que vous soyez un chef de file dans le cadre de vos fonctions au NSTU ou à un autre titre au sein de votre collectivité, Megan et Wendie donnent l'exemple de l'excellence et de l'innovation dont les enseignants sont capables. Elles nous rappellent que nous avons le pouvoir de prendre l'initiative du changement : en commençant par nos classes et en l'étendant à nos collectivités. En défendant avec d'autres la justice et l'inclusion, nous construisons le monde meilleur dont nous avons tous besoin.

C'est un grand honneur pour moi d'être au service d'un syndicat dont les membres veulent changer la donne du monde. Je vous remercie de votre enthousiasme et de votre excellence. Vous ne devez jamais vous lasser de faire un travail aussi vital. Appuyons-nous et élevons-nous les uns les autres. Si nous le faisons, un monde meilleur est possible.

Très cordialement,

Paul

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 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

DEADLINE

April 10, 2020

SHEONORAIL FOUNDATION

NSELC strategic planning

Professional Learning Executive Staff Officer Miguelle Légère participated in a strategic planning session held on February 20 for the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium. Légère represents the NSTU as one of NSELC's partners. NSELC partners came together to follow-up on a survey and TOWS (threats, opportunities, weaknesses, strengths) analysis completed in December 2019 by educators across Nova Scotia. The February 20 session focused on using the TOWS framework to aid in developing a strategic plan in support of the mission of the NSELC. The TOWS analysis brought together data from the voices of education leaders from Regional Centres of Education, CSAP, EECD, NSTU, St F.X.'s School of Education, Mi'qmaq Services, APSEA, PSAANS and staff of the NSELC. Three priority areas were established to set forth goals, actions and indicators of success in a three year plan. Retired NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin was the lead facilitator for the survey, SWOT analysis and strategic planning session.



continued from page 3

The background on this issue is as follows: In June 2018, EECD stopped granting teacher certification to specialists who applied, and as a result, any of these specialists new to the system would not be licensed as teachers and would therefore not be NSTU members. The Department decided that any new positions would be filled as non-NSTU, non-union, even for specialists who had already been licensed as teachers under the collective agreement, including NSTU term positions. The NSTU filed a grievance alleging this action contravened the collective agreement and the law. The arbitration hearing was held and the decision rendered on November 25, 2019 was in favour of the NSTU position. This decision was ignored and most of arbitrator's steps were not implemented, which resulted in a second hearing before the arbitrator on December 10, 2019. This decision was essentially ignored too. Both these decisions are on the NSTU website at under Communications heading.

Since then, Government has filed for a stay, which is like an injunction to stop the enforcement of the decision and the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia will hear this on March 23, 2020. The Department also applied for Judicial Review, which is essentially an appeal and the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia will hear this on April 28 and 29. The NSTU has applied to the Court to enforce the decision and its court date is scheduled for April 7th.

A specialists@nstu.ca email has been set up. If you are an NSTU speech language pathologist, school psychologist or social worker or a 12-month specialist employee in the public school system please use this email for any questions and concerns.



St. Francis Xavier University MASTER of EDUCATION PROGRAMS

ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

PROGRAM OPTIONS

- Course, Project or Thesis-based
 - Specialized Cohort Learning
- See cohort opportunities:

<https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/med-cohorts>

- Online Education
- Part-time study - one month of study on campus in July
- Full-time study available

INFORMATION

T. 1-877-867-3906 • E. med@stfx.ca

<https://www2.mystfx.ca/masters-of-education/>

Refer to website for application deadlines


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
UNIVERSITY



#RedForEd

Members of NSTU's provincial executive and staff wore red on Friday, February 28 in solidarity with teacher organizations in Ontario taking a strong stance against its government's attack on public education. The campaign calls for smaller classes, fair hiring practices, Full-Day Kindergarten and a broader investment in public education among other issues.

The Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame and our FREE Education Program

"Thank you for inspiring my students with a fantastic presentation with a wonderful message and lesson for life!"

"Thank you so much! Can't believe this wonderful resource is free for classes!"

These are a few words from teachers around the province who have taken part in the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame's Future Hall of Famers education program. This program's focus is to share stories of our sport heroes from right here in Nova Scotia. By sharing these stories, we believe that we can inspire and motivate our NS youth to set goals and go after their dreams, whatever they may be. The best part about this program? It is absolutely free to all schools in the province! It is equipped with pre and post visit activities which are also based on Nova Scotia curriculum from Grades P-9. These presentations are exactly what students need to hear right now – how to overcome obstacles, how to persevere and to believe that anything is possible, even from a small province like Nova Scotia. Guest speakers have included 2-time Olympian Ellie Black, 2-time World Champion Karen Furneaux, basketball legend Mickey Fox, World Champion Steve Giles and Olympic Silver Medallist Jillian Saulnier. If your school is interested in a presentation, please contact Christina at christina@nsshf.com.

20
80

A

20
50

VISION

20
40

CHECK FOR EDUCATORS:

20
25

STORIES FROM THE CLASSROOM

20
20

CONTACT 20/20

Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching

For more information: <https://bit.ly/2PUMlv1>

Tuesday, August 4th – Friday, August 7th, 2020
St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS






Registration forms will be available through your Local by mid-May

NOVA SCOTIA SPORT HALL OF FAME



EDUCATION PROGRAM

SPORT HERO GUEST SPEAKERS

FREE PRESENTATIONS

MOTIVATIONAL

INSPIRATIONAL

PROVINCE-WIDE

CURRICULUM BASED ACTIVITIES

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

WWW.NSSHF.COM/FREE-EDUCATION-PROGRAM



NSTU MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM CAREPATH™ WELLNESS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO YOU!

The NSTU Group Insurance Trustees have a fantastic partnership with CAREpath™ and are happy to be able to offer assistance programs at no cost to you. You will be receiving a mailing with more information about these programs along with case study examples which highlight when you or a family member would look to use each of the programs. These offerings are available to both active and retired teachers as well as eligible dependants (certain programs may have a minimum age requirement). Below is a high level overview of each program and what they offer:

Your Wellness Partner:

Your Wellness Partner offers multiple levels of Mental Health Support to provide the right guidance at the right time leveraging internet, mobile phone, email, etc. to provide:

- an initial assessment and navigation by a mental health nurse or social worker;
- access to a psychiatric assessment and a family physician consultation;
- psychoeducation and coaching for self-management strategies;
- a facilitated CBT program “Mind Zone” delivered by mobile application;
- psychotherapy by Masters/PhD prepared social workers, mental health nurses, and psychologists.

Cancer Assistance Program:

The Cancer Assistance Program is designed to connect members with an Oncology Nurse who serves as the single point of contact to provide:

- an in-depth assessment of treatment plans;
- facilitation of access to diagnostic tests, treatments, and clinical trials;
- thorough explanation of tests, treatments, and plan of care;
- medical second opinions through a partnership with Cleveland Clinic Canada.

HealthCareAssist:

HealthCareAssist connects you with a Nurse Case Manager who provides a single point of contact, creates continuity of care and ensures patients receive the right treatment including:

- an assessment of treatment plans to ensure consistency with medical best practice;
- access to diagnostic tests, treatments, and clinical trials;
- virtual doctor-to-doctor consults with the patient’s local treating physicians after completing medical second opinion through Cleveland Clinic Canada;
- guiding patients to alternate treatment locations in and outside of Canada, when requested or required.

Seniors’ Care Assistance:

This program connects members, immediate family, and parents to a Registered Nurse who specializes in Seniors’ Care Assistance. Some of the support provided includes:

- connection to publicly funded resources and access to alternative ways to pay;
- providing access to services assisting in booking appointments,

gathering medical records, completing forms, etc.;

- recommending care services such as nursing, personal, companionship, house cleaning, etc.

The CAREpath™ Programs can be accessed directly at **1-844-453-6788**. You can also find more information on these programs and all of your Group Insurance Benefits by visiting the new NSTU Group Insurance Trustee website at www.nstuinsurance.ca.

OVER 80,000 EDUCATORS TRUST JOHNSON.

*“Teacher’s pet?
That’s me.”*



Enjoy up to 30% savings on your car insurance.*

Johnson has been serving educators for over 50 years and as a member of NSTU you get preferred rates plus exclusive offers on home and car insurance.

For details and your quote:
1.855.616.6708
Johnson.ca/educator

Get a quote & you'll be entered for a chance to

**WIN
\$25,000***

JOHNSON

INSURANCE

HOME · CAR

Johnson Insurance is a trademark of Johnson Inc. (JI), a licensed insurance intermediary. Home and car policies underwritten, and claims handled, by Unifund Assurance Company (UAC). Described coverage and benefits applicable only to policies underwritten by UAC in NL/NS/NB/PEI. JI and UAC share common ownership. Eligibility requirements, limitations, exclusions, additional costs and/or restrictions may apply, and/or vary by province/territory. *As of October 16, 2019. Full 30% savings amount available on car insurance if the following discounts are applicable: NL/NS/PEI long term, multi-line, conviction free, select, and qualifying group membership; NB long term, multi-line, conviction free and qualifying group membership. Percentage savings may vary otherwise. *NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Open January 1, 2019 - April 30, 2020 to legal residents of Canada (excluding NU) who have reached the age of majority in their jurisdiction of residence and are a member of a recognized group of JI with whom JI has an insurance agreement. One (1) available prize of \$25,000 CAD. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Math skill test required. Rules: www.ji.johnson.ca/cash2019

LOOKING FOR THE ULTIMATE OUT OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE?

LEARN MORE
www.parl.gc.ca/teachers



TEACHERS INSTITUTE ON CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY

The *Teachers Institute* brings together 85 educators from across Canada for an engaging and informative week to learn about Parliament, governance and citizenship in the heart of the nation's capital.

Applications are now being accepted for the 24th edition of the *Teachers Institute*.

Apply now!



PARLIAMENT | PARLEMENT
CANADA

executive highlights

February 27 & 28, 2020

- Filed the Table Officers Report;
- Selected names for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program;
- Selected the Council Elections Committee for Annual Council 2020;
- Selected the Council Steering Committee for Annual Council 2020;
- Approved a recommendation that an Honourary Membership be forwarded to Annual Council 2020;
- Approved a recommendation that the nomination for the CTF-FCE Special Recognition Award be postponed until procedures have been developed;
- Appointed Mike Jamieson to serve as the Provincial Executive Liaison to the Resolutions Committee and appointed Russell Comeau to serve as the Tri-County Provincial Executive member on the Governance & Policy Committee;
- Appointed Mary-Lou Donnelly as the Independent Chairperson for Annual Council 2020;
- Approved the granting of eighteen (18) Local Service Awards at Annual Council 2020;
- Approved a recommendation that the recommended candidate be appointed as Chairperson of the NS Teachers' Pension Plan Trustee Inc effective July 1, 2020;
- Approved a recommendation that the Audited Financial Statements as of July 31, 2019 be filed and forwarded to Annual Council 2020;
- Approved a recommendation that the proposed Draft Budget for August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021 be forwarded to Annual Council 2020;
- Postponed a motion regarding Operational Procedure Appendix A – Local Model Constitution Article IV Local Executive to the June 2020 Provincial Executive Meeting;
- Approved an amendment to Operational Procedures 8 – Election Procedures;
- Approved Provincial Executive dates for 2020-2023;
- Approved a recommendation that the NSTU sponsor the 2020 Developing Successful Schools Conference in the amount of \$1,000;
- Referred a motion regarding forming a new NSTU Standing Committee that will focus on Occupational Health and Safety to staff and report back to the June 2020 Provincial Executive meeting;
- Ratified the 2020 Inverness Local Constitution;
- Approved a resolution be forwarded to Annual Council 2020 regarding teachable subject area;

- Ratified the 2020 Dartmouth Local Constitution;
- Approved a recommendation that a new Professional Association known as the NS Association of Teachers for Equity in Education be created;
- Approved the opening of a bank account in the name of the NS Association of Teachers for Equity in Education and \$1,000 be transferred into the account;
- Approved the Regional Representative Council Model Constitution;
- Approved the Regional Representative Council Model Operational Procedures;
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedure 15 Regional Representative Council;
- Approved a resolution be forwarded to Annual Council regarding a new Policy – Associate Teacher;
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedure 10 – NSTU Locals f. Funding for Locals;
- Approved amendments to Operational Procedure 28 – Benevolent Fund;
- Approved a recommendation that the November 2019 Report on the benefits and associated costs of membership in the NS Federation of Labour be finalized and published in the Council 2020 workbook;
- Approved a recommendation that a member of the Ad hoc Committee for the NS Federation of Labour attend the Canadian Labour Congress Convention.

March 15, 2020 – Conference Call

- Approved a recommendation that we Suspend the Rules in regards to Operational Procedure 8 – Election Procedures, B – Electronic Voting Procedures for Elections/By-Elections for Regional Provincial Executive Members, concerning the Nominating Committee's authority to set an election date.
- Approved a recommendation that the Regional Provincial Executive election dates for Cape Breton Industrial, Halifax City, Tri-County, and South Shore Regions be postponed, a date or dates to be determined at another time.
- Approved a recommendation that we Suspend the Rules in regards to Operational Procedure 8 – Election Procedures, C – Electronic Voting Procedures for Election of the NSTU President by Universal Suffrage, concerning campaign timeframe.
- Approved a recommendation that the NSTU Presidential Campaign for the 2020 election be postponed, a date to commence the campaign to be determined at a later time.

PDAF Committee

PDAF Committee approves nine more projects

The Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) committee met on Valentine's Day to vet the most recent round of applications for PDAF grants. This committee and fund is administered jointly by the NSTU and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. NSTU public school members are eligible for individual grants of up to \$5,000.

Seventeen new projects were approved to receive funding for this round of applications.

The PDAF program encourages innovative program development in Nova Scotia's public schools. Co-sponsored by the NSTU and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development with an annual sum of \$200,000, it provides financial support for projects directly related to the Public School Program. For more information visit the Professional Development portal of the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca or contact NSTU executive staff officer [Miguelle L g re](mailto:Miguelle.Legere@nstu.ca) at 1-800-565-6788 or 477-5621 or mlegere@nstu.ca or pdaf@nstu.ca.



Seated from (l-r): Miguelle L g re (NSTU staff liaison), Roy Borgeois (EECD rep), and Krista Moore (Digby Local) NSTU committee representative. Standing: Jodie MacIreith (Halifax County Local) NSTU committee representative, and Lael Radkey (EECD rep).

HOTEL HALIFAX

www.hotelhalifax.ca • 833.357.8155

**SAME GREAT LOCATIONS, SERVICE, AND STAFF.
SAME GREAT NSTU RATES**

Welcome NSTU members to the same great hotels with the same great rates you have come to know. Hotel Halifax and The Barrington Hotel have a new website and phone number. Call or reserve online for your NSTU Leisure Rate starting at \$115.00 today!

www.thebarringtonhotel.ca • 833.357.8154

THE BARRINGTON HOTEL

NSTU Preferred Pricing

30% OFF

YOUR Will and
Enduring Power of Attorney

ANDERSON SINCLAIR NS DIVISION
Law Offices: 1-877-343-9894
Email: bbalcom@andsinc.com

TEACHERS' PENSION PLAN INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Call for applications

The NSTU Provincial Executive is inviting applications from **active** NSTU members for one (1) Director's position on the Teachers' Pension Plan Inc. Board. Operating under a Trust Agreement, this nine-member corporation oversees the administration of the Plan and the investment of the Plan's assets.

The NSTU is currently seeking:

- **One (1) active member** — For a three-year term, renewable for a second three-year term. If you are interested in this appointment, please complete this application form and indicate your knowledge or experience with the criteria below and other related information.

Criteria for selecting persons for the above positions include:

- (a) Has considerable knowledge about the Teachers' Pension Plan;
- (b) Has experience in and/or knowledge about investments particularly the investments of pension funds; and
- (c) Has experience as a Trustee or has a working knowledge of trusts.

Name: _____ Prof. Number: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Postal Code

Phone: _____ (Fax) _____ (Email) _____

Have you previously applied for an NSTU standing or *ad hoc* committee? Yes

If so, when? No

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION (e.g., skills, interests, relevant courses, professional development, or experiences that relate to this Board. You may attach additional information to this application.)

**Please attach an additional sheet to list the NSTU Committees on which you served at the Local and Provincial Levels as well as the Offices you've held at the Local and Provincial Levels.*

Submit to: Executive Director, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Dr., Halifax, NS B3L 4L7

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN CENTRAL OFFICE
BY 12:00 NOON, MAY 28, 2020!**

The NSTU is committed to the promotion of equity and affirmative action. Equity for under-represented groups, pursuant to current language in the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act, must be considered in the hiring of staff, secondments, the formation of committees and Internship Programs. The NSTU recognizes equity-seeking groups include, but are not limited to, aboriginal persons, racialized minority groups, persons with disabilities, women, and persons belonging to sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI) minority groups. Should you choose to provide any relevant information, please indicate below:

This form is also found on the NSTU website. www.nstu.ca

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional number.

Non-members pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word.

To book, call Nancy Day at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca

Permanent HRCE Physical Education teacher looking to do an exchange with a teacher in the CBVRCE for 2020-2021. Permanent exchange possible. Please contact: hrcepe14@outlook.com.

Permanent HRCE Elementary Teacher looking to do an exchange with a teacher in SRCE for 2020-2021. Permanent exchange possible. Please contact: janelle.samson@srce.ca

Permanent secondary teacher in CBVRCE interested in exchange with permanent teacher in HRCE for 2020-2021. Permanent exchange desired. If interested contact chiassp@gnspecs.ca.

Teacher Exchange. Permanent teacher in the Chignecto Central Regional Centre with 14 years experience seeking exchange to the valley. Any high school around Greenwood, NS. I teach high school math, mostly grade 10 academic and the "at work" stream. I have taught and am willing to teach a lot of other math courses from grades 9-12 as well as some sciences (science 10 and biology). Contact jennlow80@gmail.com. Lowtherjl@ccrce.ca 902-301-3480.

notices

Nova Scotia Heritage Fair Society new initiative

Nova Scotia Heritage Fair Society has recently struck a sub-committee to create a professional development exercise for teachers using the historic significance of the site of Fort Beausejour-Beaubassin. The goal of the proposal is to enhance participation in heritage fairs by teachers, schools and regional education centers. The exercise will outline how to organize a heritage fair and how projects can achieve educational outcomes. More about this project will be announced in the coming months. For more information on the Nova Scotia Heritage Fair Society contact Marg Forbes at maforbes44@gmail.com.

Earth Month Challenge

The Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association, through its Recycle My Cell program, is holding its annual Earth Month Challenge to encourage school-aged children and their families to recycle old or unused cellphones.

Research has shown that 60 per cent of Canadians have unused wireless phones or devices in their home. In the context of these sorts of statistics, this challenge not only reminds Canadians about the importance of recycling their electronics, it also offers a great opportunity for children to raise funds for their schools. There is no cost to participate, and all participating schools that recycle at least 20 phones will be awarded a cash prize. Additionally, the top school in each province will also be awarded \$500, which allows for a combined payout of up to \$1000 per school.

Canada's teachers are working hard in schools to foster a culture of sustainability.

Registration opened March 1, and the challenge runs from April 1-30. More information on the Earth Month Challenge is available at <https://www.recyclemycell.ca/earthmonthchallenge/>.

STUDY & RESEARCH GRANTS CORRECTED DEADLINE DATES

• Out of Province Grant	January 1, 2020 – 1 st Wednesday in January & March 4, 2020 – 1 st Wednesday in March (NOT April 1 st)
• Full Time Study Grant	March 4, 2020 – 1 st Wednesday in March (NOT April 1 st)
• Travel Fellowship	March 4, 2020 – 1 st Wednesday in March (NOT April 1 st)
• Education Research Award	December 4, 2019 – 1 st Wednesday in December (NOT October 2 nd)

BOURSES D'ÉTUDES ET DE RECHERCHE CORRECTION DES DATES LIMITES DE DEMANDE

• Bourses pour conférence hors province	1 ^{er} janvier 2020 – 1 ^{er} mercredi de janvier et 4 mars 2020 – 1 ^{er} mercredi de mars (ET NON PAS le 1 ^{er} avril)
• Bourses d'études à temps plein	4 mars 2020 – 1 ^{er} mercredi de mars (ET NON PAS le 1 ^{er} avril)
• Bourses de voyage	4 mars 2020 – 1 ^{er} mercredi de mars (ET NON PAS le 1 ^{er} avril)
• Bourses de recherche en éducation	4 décembre 2019 – 1 ^{er} mercredi de décembre (ET NON PAS le 2 octobre)

Nova Scotia Teachers Union 

Congratulations to our Status of Women Committee Book Giveaway winners!



I Am Malala Status of Women Book Giveaway

Gina Dunn — HRCE

Nadine Arnold — CCRCE

Moi, Malala

Nancy Robinson — CBVRCE

Melanie Légaré — CSANE



Malala's Magic Pencil Status of Women Book Giveaway

Shelley MacLeod — CCRCE

Kim Myers-Stuart — HRCE

Le Crayon Magique de Malala

Katrina Murphy — CCRCE

Maureen Finch Purcell — HRCE



Teaching and administrative opportunities in the Nova Scotia International Programs

Experience a new culture while teaching the Nova Scotia curriculum, or bring your school leadership expertise to an exciting new learning environment.

Nova Scotia international programs in the People's Republic of China (grades 10-12) and the United Arab Emirates (grades P-12) offer competitive pay, annual return flights, apartment or living allowance, and paid holidays.



For a list of opportunities see:

www.internationalprograms.ednet.ns.ca