

Education Week 2015 • April 19 to 25

Schools as Communities

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors



la semaine de l'éducation 19 au 25 avril 2015

Les écoles communautaires citoyennes:

ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes

Shelley Morse

President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union



On behalf of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and our public school teachers, Community College and APSEA members, I congratulate the teachers and education partners who are making a difference in the lives of students, schools and communities through their commitment to this year's Education Week theme Schools as Communities Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors/ Les écoles communautaires citoyennes: ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes.

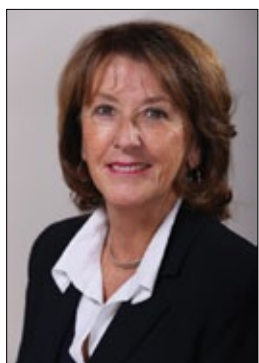
Our schools are not only places of learning, but provide the pulse for social and community activism, events and activities. They play an essential role in creating and developing communal spirit. Providing service learning and cooperative education opportunities for students, involving community groups in enhancing the delivery of curriculum and encouraging students to see and experience the world beyond the school doors are just a few ways teachers open hearts and minds in creating positive global citizens. Teachers and administrators are the pillars of the school who create safe and supportive learning environments. Like Education Week itself, teachers and education partners know the value of partnership and collaboration in providing quality public education for all.

I would also like to acknowledge the longtime support of the Teachers Plus Credit Union, who has been a sponsor of Nova Scotia's Education Week since 2003. It continues to demonstrate its commitment to teachers and public education in Nova Scotia.

Please join me in celebrating the achievements and commitment of this year's Education Week award recipients.

Honourable Karen Casey

Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development



As an educator, I know that schools are the foundation of our communities. Every day teachers open their classrooms to share the knowledge that will help to shape the next generation of Nova Scotians and embody the shared values that make Nova Scotia great.

As a department, we are working collaboratively with teachers, schools, communities and partners to share best practices across boards to improve education as part of Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education. To do this we need to continue to work together. As teachers you make a positive difference in the lives of our students every single day. We respect your opinions and we want to hear from you as we improve education together.

This year's Education Week theme, Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, revolves around the outstanding work being done by our educators to bring students and our communities together. At the heart of every good school are the great teachers and staff that work tirelessly to ensure a safe and inclusive space for everyone. The educators and partners we are honouring this year are champions of student-community engagement. They have done an exemplary job introducing students to the many different opportunities available to them to shape our communities and how vital communities are to their education.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and the betterment of our communities.

Gary Clarke

President, Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators



On behalf of the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators, it is my pleasure to extend congratulations and appreciation to the teachers and educational partners who are being recognized for helping make our schools safe, supportive and socially just learning environments and for extending those environments to the surrounding community. It is important to celebrate the dedication, support and commitment given by these leaders to ensure that our schools are open and welcoming places, while at the same time recognizing that community stakeholders also play an important role in the education of our students.

The 2015 Education Week theme, Schools as Communities: Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors recognizes the importance and responsibility of teachers and partners to support student development by engaging the community through community based learning opportunities. Success in our province is dependent on maximizing the successes and achievements of our students and giving them every opportunity to lead, get involved and make positive contributions to their local community and province. The teachers and partners being acknowledged here today are doing just that.

The Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators is proud and thankful for the contributions of these outstanding individuals being recognized as part of Education Week 2015.

Charla Dorrington

President, Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations



The NSFHSA is very proud to be part of Education Week in Nova Scotia.

To have an avenue that allows our communities and education partners the opportunity to recognize those who contribute to education in Nova Scotia is something that is very important to us all.

We often forget that some of life's most important lessons are taught in our classrooms and within our communities. The school communities our children are part of are just as important as the families they come from. This year's theme speaks volumes to what we as Nova Scotians

want for our children.

We want our children to be social activists for change, have a voice and offer democratic views, to have a social outlet where they feel safe and part of a community. All parents want the education their children receive to open their minds and to experience spiritual awakening. Our children will face so many changes during their lives, and if you truly think about it they spend more time in school and in our communities than they do at home with us. I personally feel the relationships we build with role models who are part of that day to day life with our children deserve to be recognized and acknowledged.

It is my pleasure to thank not just the recipients of this year's awards but all who contribute to our future by encouraging, supporting, guiding and teaching our children who will be the teachers of tomorrow. Congratulations!

Pierre Lebreton

Président, Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse



Le thème de la Semaine de l'éducation en Nouvelle-Écosse, «Les écoles communautaires citoyennes : ouverture de cœur, ouverture d'esprit, ouverture des portes», souligne très bien le travail exceptionnel des éducateurs et des communautés acadiennes et francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Les écoles communautaires citoyennes sont un concept que nous connaissons depuis plusieurs années et que nous favorisons pour la pérennité de la langue et de la culture acadienne dans nos communautés.

Le proverbe «Ça prend tout un village pour élever un enfant» décrit bien le sentiment dans nos communautés. Le bâtiment de l'école n'est qu'une structure. Il faut des gens, non seulement de l'environnement scolaire pour l'alimenter, mais des gens de nos communautés qui vont aussi faire rayonner nos enfants à leur plein potentiel.

Les communautés acadiennes et francophones de la Nouvelle-Écosse sont uniques car il y en a plusieurs qui intègrent un centre communautaire dans l'édifice de l'école. C'est un lieu de rassemblement pour la communauté où elle peut vivre en français et faire vivre sa langue et sa culture. Les enseignants, les parents, le personnel de soutien, les centres communautaires, les agents de développement scolaire et communautaire jouent tous un rôle primordial dans l'enseignement des élèves, tant dans le contexte scolaire et que dans la vie de tous les jours.

C'est en assurant une collaboration entre tous les partenaires que nous saurons assurer un milieu propice pour l'apprentissage de nos élèves et une relève pour nos communautés acadiennes et francophones qui durera des décennies.

En cette semaine de l'éducation je lève mon chapeau à tous les éducateurs et parents qui œuvrent sans cesse pour le bien être de nos enfants, malgré les défis qui se présentent au quotidien. La Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse reconnaît l'effort et le temps consacré pour encourager les jeunes à vivre leur langue et leur culture et à assurer leur continuité.

Susan Ritchie

President, Nova Scotia School Boards Association



On behalf of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA), I extend sincere congratulations to the Education Week 2015 Award Recipients.

Teachers make a difference every day in both the classroom and the community they serve. This year's theme, Schools as communities: Open hearts, open minds, open doors gives us an opportunity to celebrate the work done by educators and dedicated volunteers across the province. Our award recipients have demonstrated their dedication to their school communities, and we are pleased to see them recognized for their work.

The NSSBA believes in working together to provide equitable access to education for all students across the province. Recognizing schools as communities allows us to find ways to work together to provide opportunities for the youth of Nova Scotia. Opening hearts, minds and doors in our school communities brings us together to collaborate and support students.

All of the individuals being recognized with an Education Week Award have shown their dedication to supporting student development by engaging their communities. Service learning, community projects and co-operative education are all examples of connecting students with their communities.

Once again I would like to congratulate all of the award recipients for their commitment to the students of Nova Scotia.