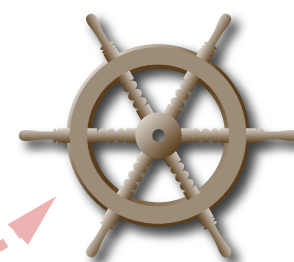


Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Charting Your Financial Course for Professional Development

by Betty-Jean Aucoin, Executive Staff Officer, Professional Development and Professional Associations

Happy New Year to all members and best wishes as you continue your educational journey for 2012. The New Year promises to be an exciting one for professional development. NSTU members will have many opportunities to apply and register for professional development opportunities. Along with our Annual Conference 2012 taking place Friday, October 26, we have two high-level conferences this spring.

As noted in the November issue of *The Teacher*, NSTU, the Department of Education and the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium are hosting the **Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development**. This conference will be held at Mount Saint Vincent University in May 2012. Participants will learn how to create and sustain a culture of enrichment in our schools by exploring enrichment teaching and learning and examining a wide variety of innovative ideas and practices. It will also feature highly respected internationally known keynote speakers including **Dr. Joseph Renzulli**, the Neag Professor of Gifted Education and Talent Development at the University of Connecticut where he also serves as the Director of The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented.

We also have the Nova Scotia Teachers Association for Physical and Health Education, TAPHE, joining Physical and Health Education Canada in organizing a national conference, **"A Harbour of Hope: Health and Physical Literacy,"** taking place in Halifax from May 10-12, 2012.

I am often asked how one goes about getting financial support to attend these conferences and participate in the many NSTU grants and programs. With these upcoming exciting professional development opportunities, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you how you can access financial support through Article 60 and take advantage of the grants given out by our NSTU office.

This normally is done through a presentation called, "Show Me the Money," offered by many of our NSTU locals. However, to reach all of our members, I am sharing it with you now.

Members can apply to their regional professional development committee under **Article 60**. Article 60 provides members with funding to participate in mentorship, in-servicing, in-province conferences, out-of-province conferences, university courses, short and full-time study leaves and more. Should you be interested in attending one of the two conferences listed above, you can make application for funding of an in-province grant. The NSTU member representative at your site can assist you in accessing the application and making you aware of the application deadlines. Many of our members use Article 60 to assist them in participating in worthwhile professional development at the local, provincial and national levels.

As executive staff officer for Professional Development, I oversee many grants and programs through our NSTU office. Below I have outlined a list of offerings that members can take advantage of throughout the school year and summer. Please ensure you go to the NSTU website to find out more about these grants.

Out-of-province grants support teachers wishing to attend conferences outside of Nova Scotia. This \$9000 annual fund provides grants to active NSTU members attending, out-of-province conferences held between September 1 and June 30. There is a maximum of \$475 per grant and it is often used to supplement the grants received from regional PD committees.

The full-time study grants budget is \$10,000 annually to support teachers wishing to follow a full-time program of studies for professional development. Five grants of \$2000 are given each year to NSTU members and are used to support payment for tuition and resources.

Education Research Awards are available to active NSTU members and are used to encourage and assist in education and research. The maximum award for successful research is \$475. Both the grant and award plaque are presented to recipients by our NSTU president to celebrate the research completed by our members.

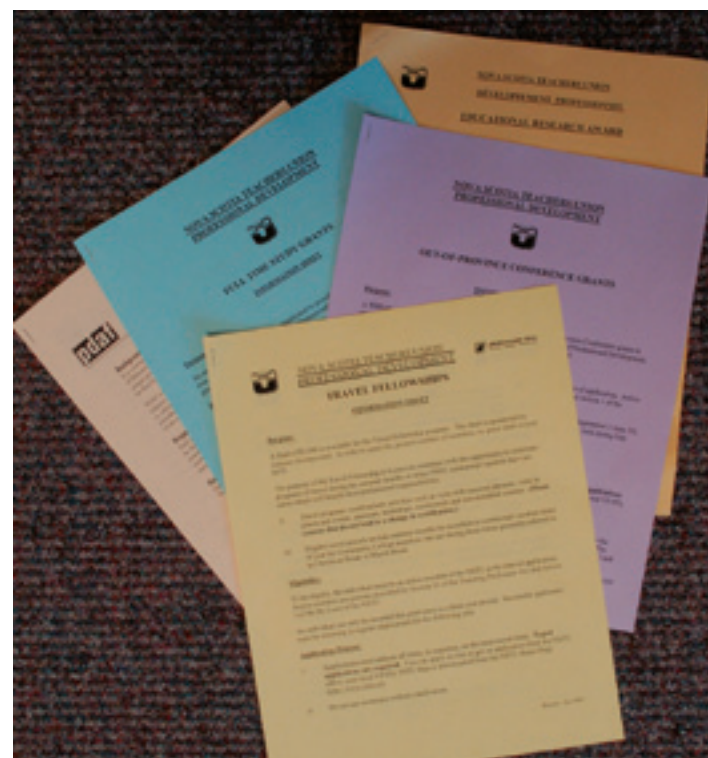
Travel Fellowship is a fund of \$3000 sponsored by Johnson Inc. It provides teachers, faculty and professional support staff with the opportunity to undertake programs of travel during the summer time or vacation time, (for NSCC members) to benefit their teaching. The maximum for this grant is \$475.

Project Overseas is sponsored by Canadian Teachers' Federation and its member organizations. NSTU sponsors three teachers to participate in providing professional assistance to teachers in developing countries. This program takes place in the summer and requires participants to be out of the country for six weeks.

The Program Development Assistance Fund is established in the Teachers' Provincial Agreement. This program awards teachers up to \$5000 grants to support innovative and unique projects directly related to the public school program. The PDAF committee meets six times a year to vet applications and award successful projects.

The Sheonorail Foundation is an arms-length charitable agency created to fund school and campus-based projects and research directed at reducing violence and promoting peace. This foundation awards members up to \$2000 to support projects in their school and community college campuses.

All descriptions, details and forms are available on the NSTU website. If interested



in any one of these grants or programs, go to the NSTU homepage – www.nstu.ca. Under "Professional Development" select "Learning Opportunities" from the menu to see all the opportunities, grants and awards described in this article.

One last note before you begin to take advantage of all of the unique offerings of your regional and provincial NSTU, please read all deadlines and adhere to them, read and fill in all required information and be sure to note how each grant or application is being vetted. All grants and programs are vetted using rubrics. It is key to begin filling out the application with the end in mind.

To conclude, I hope that you have found this article to be helpful in showcasing the many ways your NSTU can support you, as you chart your course for professional development. Should you have any questions about the content of this article or any professional development related questions, please see your member representative, your local VP of PD or NSTU staff. It is important to us to encourage and support members' professional journey of lifelong learning.

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