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# Minister of Education Slashes School Board Budgets Again

Ramona Jennex delivered more bad education news February 10 with a 1.3 per cent average cut to school boards across the province.

"This shows education is not a priority for this government," said Alexis Allen, president of the NSTU. "You simply cannot expect to get more by spending less on education in a province that is already the second-lowest in per-pupil funding in Canada."

Individual school board reductions vary but the hardest hit are Cape Breton, Strait and South Shore, each facing a 2.1 per cent cut. Only CSAP is seeing an increase. The figures do not take wage increases or inflation into account which together total at least an additional 2 per cent cut for all boards including CSAP.

"We believe the Minister of Education is misleading Nova Scotians by suggesting that a nearly 10 per cent cut to the education budget (when you consider this year and next year) will 'put students and learning first,'" says Allen. "We are going to lose more teaching positions. On top of the 343 last year, this will reduce our membership by 300 to 350."

The government also says boards have the flexibility to adjust the P-3 class-

size cap of 27 by up to an additional two students to ensure the best distribution for students.

"This will allow class sizes to rise to levels that are detrimental to student learning at a time when education has never been more important to our future and economic well-being," says Allen.

Former education minister Jamie Muir in 2004 introduced a reduction in class sizes setting the maximum at 25 students in P-3 with a target to introduce the cap in successive years by one grade a year until it applied to Grade 6. In announcing that new direction, then-minister Muir said: "Smaller class sizes can make an enormous difference in a child's learning experience, especially in the early years. Students in their classes are obviously benefiting from the extra attention these teachers are able to give."

Obviously the current Minister of Education is ignoring the class-size research that led her predecessor to make this important change.

"Is the minister saying our kids today do not deserve the same opportunity as those just a few short years ago?" asked Allen. "Parents should be concerned that these successive two-year cuts to education will strip out millions of dollars that pay for

NOVA SCOTIA Department of Education			
2012-2013 Budget Target Adjustments			
	Restated Funding 2011-2012	Target Adjustment 2012-2013	Funding Change
Annapolis	\$117,016,600	(\$1,023,000)	-0.9%
Cape Breton	136,234,200	(2,860,900)	-2.1%
Chignecto	180,384,400	(2,983,500)	-1.7%
Conseil	43,430,800	694,900	1.6%
Halifax	379,578,100	(3,246,000)	-0.9%
South Shore	67,770,000	(1,423,200)	-2.1%
Strait	71,606,700	(1,503,700)	-2.1%
Tri-County	61,662,300	(1,054,600)	-1.7%
	<b>\$1,057,683,100</b>	<b>(\$13,400,000)</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>
NSTU increase	6,459,000		
Initial Funding	<b>\$1,051,224,100</b>		

programs and services to meet the needs of a diverse group of learners."

Allen said it is impossible to imagine how our educational system will function with 700 or fewer teachers as a result of this two-year "slash and burn" approach to education.

"Students will be affected by these cuts; there is no avoiding it," said Allen. "Our schools are being cut to the core resulting in larger classes, fewer supports, less time for individual attention and fewer courses to meet individual needs."

### Campaign launched

The NSTU has joined the Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations and FPANE (la Fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse) in a campaign to fight these cuts, urging

all Nova Scotians to write to their MLA or sign a petition.

Ads featuring apples and the slogan Cut to the Core will be seen on television, radio, weekly and local papers, billboards, buses and the Internet.

Within days of the campaign launch, the petition had more than 7,000 signatures.

"We call on the minister to reconsider these cuts. This blind approach to balancing the province's budget will have long-term implications that will continue to be felt for several generations to come. The only way to improve our economy is through a well-educated, well-rounded public education system."

Everyone is urged to ask their friends and family to join them in signing the petition at [kidsnotcuts.ca](http://kidsnotcuts.ca). There is also a printable petition on the site.

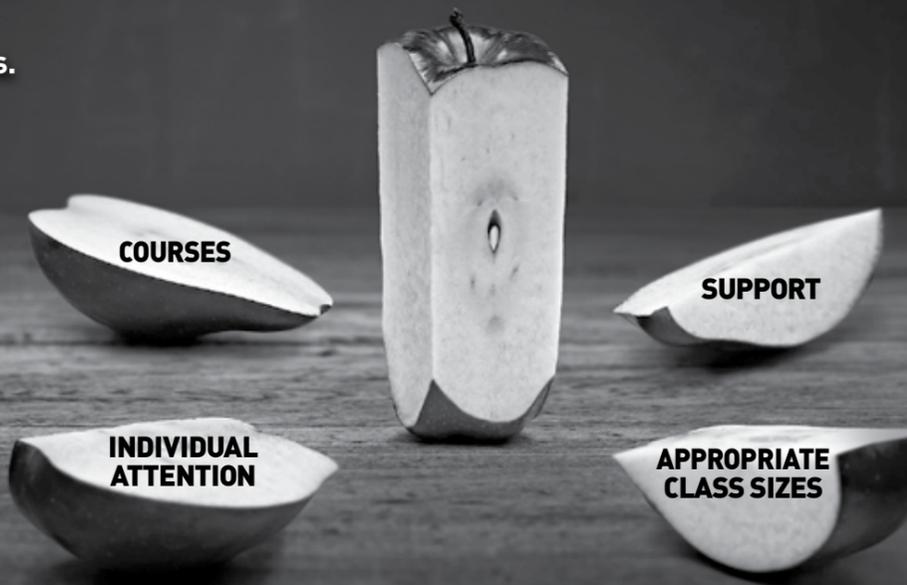
**The government has already cut millions from our public schools. Now more cuts are on the way.**

Cutting education hurts our kids.

Please tell your MLA our schools are cut to the core.

Sign the petition at [KidsNotCuts.ca](http://KidsNotCuts.ca)

**CUT TO THE CORE**



# people

## Six members participate in Huntley Internship

The first installment of the John Huntley Memorial Internship for the 2011-12 school year took place on February 9 and 10, 2012. Through the two-day internship, Huntley participants learned more about the programs and services their union provides for members. They met with the NSTU president and executive director, and with staff from the member services, professional development, communications, and counselling departments as well as with staff from the Early Intervention Program.

They are shown here with Professional Development Staff officer Gérard Cormier who co-ordinates the internship.



Left to right are: Caroline Panopolis, Halifax City; Gretchen Gerhardt, Lunenburg County; Gérard Cormier, NSTU staff officer; Beverley Roy, Kings; Charmaine MacDonald, Northside-Victoria; Chris Horne, Colchester-East Hants; and Steve Wells, Cumberland County.

## Goodbye Patty



NSTU staff gathered January 31 for Patty Maher's retirement luncheon. Patty worked at the union for 24 years as support staff, most recently in the executive director's office. Her wealth of knowledge about the union's history and operations will be sadly missed. She is pictured here with executive director Bill Redden and NSTU president Alexis Allen.

## Dalhousie Hosts Antigonish Debaters



Students in Grades 9 to 12 from Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High, Antigonish, attended the Weldon High School Debate Workshop and Competition at the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University. This was sponsored by the Black Educators Association, Africentric Learning Institute, Dalhousie Black Law Student Association, and Dalhousie Aboriginal Law Student Association.

In the picture are: Jennifer Desmond (teacher in Guysborough County), Paige Gerro, Cheyanne Lauzon, Kyra Foran, Marcus Wilmott, Tenesha Desmond, Kristen Wilmott, Natasha Silver, Jalese Desmond, Effie Boutilier (Teacher/Debate coach, Dr. J.H. Gillis), Daray O'Hara, and Stella Ojiegbe (Dalhousie Law Student).

The students had a wonderful day and Marcus Wilmott won the competition portion of the event. He will also be going to the National Debate Tournament in Montreal in April.

Dalhousie plans to make this an annual event.

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# THE teacher

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 Phone: 902-477-5621 Fax: 902-477-3517  
 Toll free: 1-800-565-6788  
 email: [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)  
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You may find past issues posted on our website: [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca)  
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# Kids Not Cuts .ca

## Frosty Fitness Challenge



Teachers from Bible Hill Junior High School show off their athletic skills as they take part in the "Frosty Fitness Challenge". Left to right are Eric Boutilier, Sonya Hughes, Stephanie George, Lorraine MacPherson, Gilles Boudreau, Judy Marquis, Cherie Abriel, Gord MacNeil, Melanie Morrissey-Pictou and Greg Reid.

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- ▶ Winsby's
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Alex

from the nstu president

## Tell the Truth Minister Jennex

Unfortunately we appear to live in a world where research is not required to substantiate facts. Education Minister Ramona Jennex has recently made many statements about public education without any evidence. For example, she is telling the media that Nova Scotia students have low math scores, when our research shows that Grade 3 math literacy scores have gone up. So what is the minister referencing?

She also told the media that our students need to spend more hours in school. True, the Education Act shows that our province has the lowest minimum for Grades Primary to 2 in Canada, but in reality no school board has only four hours of instruction. Most are much closer to the national average of five hours per day.

The minister said in a recent article that only 37 per cent of our junior high teachers have an undergraduate specialty in math. The "recent" article she referenced was in 2007, five years ago, and a lot has changed since that time. Many junior high math teachers have science backgrounds and have taken additional math courses. A number have taken upgrading courses in math at university, or have taken hours of professional development in math. Then there are those who graduated from the former Nova Scotia Teachers College who would not have a degree in math or any other subject as it was not required at that time. Where are the minister's current facts and statistics to prove her statement? It appears she wants to blame teachers, not a math curriculum that teachers have said has too many outcomes.

The minister says her government won't raise the cap size in Primary to Grade 3 but boards have the flexibility to raise it if they need. Give us a break! This is the minister's way of having the school boards do the dirty work by putting the ball in their court. How is this fair especially when they are continuing to face funding reductions? We now have the largest class sizes in Canada in Primary to Grade 3. Is that something to be proud of? I think not!!!

The minister is also talking about average class sizes being the lowest in years. We all know the saying about the person who drowned crossing a stream with an average depth of only 25 centimetres! She ignores the fact that there are class sizes that significantly exceed the average. Research shows students benefit in both short and long terms by being in smaller classes. She ignores the fact that class sizes will be negatively affected by the loss of yet more teachers. Besides, what really matters is the class composition. A recent CTF survey of 3,800 teachers in Canada found that over 81 per cent of the classes they teach have students with formally identified exceptionalities and 27 per cent contain five or more students with identified exceptionalities. Nova Scotia was included in that survey. We all know that you do not improve student learning by adding more students.

The minister says no teachers were lost last year and any staff reductions this year will be achieved through attrition and will not affect the classroom. We lost 343 teaching positions last year in Nova Scotia. Forty of those were elementary positions in HRSB that disappeared when the cap from Primary to Grade 3 moved up to 27 from 25. With the across-the-board cut of 1.3 per cent, permanent teachers in some regions WILL be affected. When the NDP first came to power, there were plans to cut the teaching profession by 10 per cent in three years, or 1,000 teachers. They backed away from making that cut all at once, and instead are doing it bit by bit every year. This is at a time when we need more teachers to support the diverse learners, not fewer.

The minister says we have spent more on education. This ignores the inflationary costs. The minister says we cut education by \$17.6 million last year but the real number with inflation is closer to \$38 million. This year it will be well over \$25 million.

Where will it stop?

Next year will we continue to be the second-lowest in per-student funding in Canada or will we finally be the lowest? Will the cap in Primary to Grade 3 grow to 31-33? Will more teaching positions be lost resulting in our class sizes continuing to grow? Will the minister use current facts and real data or just continue to use smoke and mirrors to mislead the public? Currently her department is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertisements to defend cutting education to the core. What's next? Please sign our petition at [kidsnotcuts.ca](http://kidsnotcuts.ca) and let your minister know enough is enough!

## The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

*The remaining deadline for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2011-2012 school year is April 15.*

*Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) or at Central Office 477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788.*

*The internship provides members with an opportunity to learn more about the NSTU.*

**Nova Scotia Teachers Union**

## Dites la vérité, Madame la Ministre

Malheureusement, nous semblons vivre dans un monde où il n'est plus nécessaire de s'appuyer sur des recherches pour justifier les déclarations. Ramona Jennex a fait récemment de nombreuses déclarations au sujet de l'éducation publique sans fournir aucune preuve à l'appui. Par exemple, elle dit aux médias que les élèves néo-écossais ont de faibles résultats en mathématiques, alors que nos recherches montrent que les résultats de 3<sup>e</sup> année en numératie sont en hausse. Alors à quoi la ministre fait-elle référence ?

Elle a également dit aux médias que les élèves de la Nouvelle-Écosse ont besoin de passer davantage d'heures à l'école. C'est vrai, la *Loi sur l'éducation* montre que notre province a le plus faible minimum d'heures de la maternelle à la 2<sup>e</sup> année au Canada mais, en réalité, aucun conseil scolaire n'offre seulement quatre heures d'instruction. La plupart sont beaucoup plus proches de la moyenne nationale de cinq heures par jour.

La ministre a dit dans un récent article que seulement 37 % de nos enseignants au niveau secondaire de premier cycle ont une spécialité de premier cycle universitaire en mathématiques. Le « récent » article auquel elle fait référence date de 2007, il y a cinq ans, et beaucoup de choses ont changé depuis cette époque. De nombreux enseignants de mathématiques au secondaire de premier cycle ont une formation en sciences et ont suivi des cours supplémentaires en mathématiques. Bon nombre d'entre eux ont suivi des cours d'appoint en mathématiques à l'université ou ont fait des sessions de perfectionnement professionnel en mathématiques. Et puis il y a ceux qui sont diplômés de l'ancien collège des enseignants de la Nouvelle-Écosse et qui n'ont pas de diplôme en mathématiques ou dans une autre matière car cela n'était pas exigé à l'époque. Où sont les statistiques et les faits actuels sur lesquels s'appuie la ministre pour justifier sa déclaration? Il semble qu'elle veuille rejeter la responsabilité sur les enseignants, plutôt que de mettre en question un programme d'études mathématiques qui, d'après les enseignants, contient un trop grand nombre de résultats d'apprentissage.

La ministre dit que son gouvernement ne va pas relever le plafond maximum des classes de la maternelle à la 3<sup>e</sup> année mais les conseils scolaires ont la flexibilité pour le faire si c'est nécessaire. C'en est vraiment trop! C'est le moyen qu'utilise la ministre pour forcer les conseils scolaires à faire le sale boulot en leur renvoyant la balle. Comment cela peut-il être juste alors que les conseils scolaires restent confrontés à des réductions de financement? Nous avons aujourd'hui les classes les plus surchargées au Canada de la maternelle à la 3<sup>e</sup> année. Devons-nous en être fiers? Sûrement pas!!!

La ministre indique également que la taille moyenne des classes est plus réduite que depuis de nombreuses années. Nous connaissons tous l'histoire de la personne qui s'est noyée en traversant un ruisseau dont la profondeur «moyenne» était de seulement 25 cm! Elle ignore le fait qu'il y a des classes dont la taille dépasse largement la moyenne alors que les recherches prouvent que les élèves ont tout avantage à être dans de petites classes, à la fois à court et à long terme. Elle ignore le fait que la taille des classes subira aussi l'impact négatif de la perte supplémentaire d'enseignants. Par ailleurs, ce qui importe réellement est la composition de la classe. Un récent sondage de la FCE auprès de 3 800 enseignants au Canada a révélé que plus de 81 % des classes dans lesquelles ils enseignent contiennent des élèves ayant été auparavant jugés atypiques et 27 % contiennent cinq élèves ou plus qui sont actuellement jugés atypiques. La Nouvelle-Écosse faisait partie de ce sondage. Nous savons tous que nous ne pouvons pas améliorer l'apprentissage des élèves en ajoutant davantage d'élèves.

La ministre déclare que nous n'avons pas perdu d'enseignants l'an dernier et que toute réduction de personnel cette année se fera par le biais de l'attrition et n'aura aucun impact sur les salles de classe. Nous avons perdu 343 postes d'enseignants l'an dernier en Nouvelle-Écosse. Quarante de ces postes étaient au niveau élémentaire dans le Conseil scolaire régional d'Halifax et ils ont été éliminés lorsque le plafond des classes de maternelle à 3<sup>e</sup> année est passé de 27 à 25 élèves. Avec la réduction budgétaire globale de 1,3 %, des enseignants sous contrat permanent seront inévitablement touchés dans certaines régions. Lorsque le NPD est arrivé au pouvoir, il avait le projet de réduire la profession enseignante de 10 % sur trois ans, c'est-à-dire d'éliminer 1000 enseignants. Le gouvernement a renoncé à opérer cette réduction d'un seul coup et, au lieu de cela, il le fait petit à petit chaque année. Nous sommes à une époque où nous avons besoin de plus d'enseignants pour soutenir des apprenants très divers, et sûrement pas de moins.

La ministre dit que nous avons dépensé davantage pour l'éducation. Cela ne tient aucun compte de l'inflation des coûts. La ministre dit que nous avons réduit le financement de l'éducation de 17,6 millions de \$ l'an dernier mais le chiffre réel, compte tenu de l'inflation, est plus proche de 38 millions de \$. Cette année, la réduction dépassera largement les 25 millions de \$.

Où cela va-t-il s'arrêter ?

L'an prochain, allons-nous rester à l'avant-dernier rang au Canada en termes de financement par élève ou allons-nous finalement nous retrouver au dernier rang? Le plafond pour les classes de la maternelle à la 3<sup>e</sup> année va-t-il augmenter et passer à 31-33 élèves? Allons-nous perdre davantage de postes d'enseignants ce qui augmentera encore davantage la taille des classes? La ministre va-t-elle s'appuyer sur des faits actuels et des données réelles ou simplement continuer à jeter de la poudre aux yeux pour duper le public? À l'heure actuelle, son ministère dépense des centaines de milliers de \$ en publicité pour défendre son plan de frapper l'éducation en plein cœur. Qu'est-ce qui nous attend ensuite? Veuillez signer notre pétition sur [kidsnotcuts.ca](http://kidsnotcuts.ca) pour laisser savoir à la ministre que nous en avons plus qu'assez!

## Minister's new education plan raises concerns

Ramona Jennex introduced a new plan for education February 3 and at press time no one from the department had asked for any input from the NSTU.

The plan is called Kids and Learning First and has 39



*NSTU president Alexis Allen and executive director Bill Redden review documents at the technical briefing for the release of Kids and Learning First on February 3.*

recommendations. Both Minister Ramona Jennex and Deputy Minister Rosalind Penfound say this plan will only work with the help of all education partners.

"There are good things in there, especially an acknowledgement that teachers spend too much time on paperwork and there is too much duplication in assessments," said NSTU president Alexis Allen. "But there are also areas that are very troubling."

The first pertains to teaching standards. In this document, the department is promising 'new standards for quality instruction', citing statistics around the number of those teaching math without a mathematics degree in their undergraduate courses. This comes from a 2007 report and is a misleading and very simplistic response from the minister not necessarily based on the bigger picture. It almost sounds like a way to justify or blame lower math scores on our teachers. It does not take into account teachers who have taken math courses since university, professional development, math mentors, or even teachers with science degrees (with a math minor) teaching math in Grade 9.

"This is the first we have heard about the need to develop new standards and I am curious to find out what the department's concerns are," said Allen. "Are they based upon real data and research not suppositions? I will carry the message loud and clear that our teachers are qualified and already meet high standards."

The plan also lays out changes to high schools by cutting down the number of courses offered and tripling the number of students using virtual schools.

"Many students need that one-on-one attention from a teacher in the classroom," said Allen. "I am concerned this is a thinly disguised way to cut down on high school teaching positions in this province."

The union is as always ready and willing to meet with department officials and discuss education issues.

# Curriculum Corner

By Brenda Zwicker

The New Year brought the Curriculum Committee together for a busy day. All members were in attendance except our chairperson Nathan Orman. Stephane Richard, Cathy Doucet, Tanya Samson, Cindy MacKinnon, Grant Frost and Joyce Lively stepped up to the task with Brenda Zwicker filling in for the absent chair. Ron Brunton, staff liaison, as always lent his expertise to the discussions during the day.

The morning involved discussions based on two presentations of a Professional Learning Committee Study and PCAP (Pan-Canadian Assessment Program) results. Ron Brunton provided the group with the above mentioned documents and points of interest. The PLC report is very comprehensive and could be used as a valuable tool for guiding PLCs across the province. The release of this study is now available at [nstu.ca](http://nstu.ca). The PCAP analysis was an interesting read with its assessment results from school systems throughout Canada. This document reveals the performance of Grade 8 students primarily in math and secondly in science and reading.

Our invited guests for the day were Jim Rice and Beth Charlton from the Evaluation Services Branch of the Department of Education. The committee was educated about the Nova Scotia assessment development model. Rice spoke about general and provincial assessments and the role they play in our students' learning. It was noted that the role of the provincial assessments is to provide data which then reveal questions that require analysis. After the analysis, Rice recommended that the results should be given to the public in a simple, meaningful report.

The ELLA program was reviewed for us by Charlton. Many of our committee members have had firsthand experience with these assessments and the sharing of ideas was most informative. It is obvious from Charlton's conversation that the program is carefully reviewed and revised each year; again with a mind to get data that will assist teachers with their students' learning.

A most valuable aspect of this committee is the ability to have interesting conversations with the guests. This day was no exception with concerns and questions raised about assessing creativity, French first language assessments, the time allotted between ELLA results and reflections of these results. The membership is welcome to contact the committee members with topics of concern that can be addressed about curriculum.



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by Lori MacNeil, O.T. Reg. (N.S.)  
Case Coordinator, Early Intervention Program, NSTU

Part 1 of this article appeared in the January/February 2012 issue of The Teacher.

## #6. Sitting too close to the TV will damage your eyes

Time to stop harping on the kids for standing directly in front of the tube—unless they're blocking your view! There is no evidence to suggest that standing too close ruins your vision. However the eye can tire, resulting in eye strain, eyes that burn or water, or headaches. It is suggested that when watching TV, have enough light in the room and give your eyes a break by refocusing your gaze during commercials to prevent eye strain. Similarly, when using the computer, take frequent breaks by looking away from the screen regularly, ensuring that there is no glare on the monitor, and performing eye exercises.

## #7. You should always stretch before exercising

It was once believed that stretching before starting any type of exercise "warmed up" the muscles, making them ready for exercise, reducing the probability of injury, decreasing muscle soreness, and increasing flexibility. Much research has challenged this theory. Stretching prior to exercise or sports was



shown to make no difference in the incidence of injuries nor level of soreness post-exercise. Placing a stretch on a cold muscle may actually cause the muscle to contract and become more tense. For the most part, it is agreed that beginning exercise with a light jog or sport-specific warm up is preferable. Stretching for most people feels good and increases flexibility, so if you want to continue this practice, post-exercise is best.

## #8. Feed a cold, starve a fever

Colds and fevers are generally caused by viruses. Whether or not you eat won't affect their seven to ten day course in your body. However, it is important to drink lots of fluids as our immune system uses fluids to fight off the virus that has infected our healthy cells. Drinking fluids also helps to thin mucus and loosen chest or nasal congestion.

## #9. It will take seven years for gum to be digested or pass through your system

Maybe a gum tree will sprout in there while it's hanging out? This myth is completely false; gum is just like any other food. It travels through our intestines and is expelled with our stool. As gum doesn't break down in our body, it does take a few days to be expelled versus regular food which normally travels through our intestinal tract in about 24 hours. The exception to this might occur if a very small child were to swallow a huge wad of gum. There is a chance that the gum would cause an intestinal obstruction or in severe cases, require surgery for its removal.

## #10. Shaving causes hair to grow back faster, darker or coarser

Perhaps this is why seven-blade razors are on their way? Or perhaps you can already buy them? This myth was actually refuted back in 1928 when researchers compared hair growth in areas of shaved versus unshaved patches on people. No difference was noted. A similar study was performed in the U.S. more recently with the same results. It's likely that we perceive our hair grows back faster, thicker and/or darker, as the new hair emerges with a blunt edge that makes it appear thicker than it actually is (unshaven hair has fine, tapered ends). As well, the sun naturally bleaches our hair, so the longer the exposure, the lighter it becomes.

## #11. Cell phone use leads to cancer

There has been much controversy over the use of cell phones and a link to cancer in the brain. One recent news release stated "The WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans, based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer, associated with wireless phone use." So what do you do? Cell phones have become an integral part of our daily lives. Worldwide, an estimated five billion people use cell phones and it is estimated that at

least 78 per cent of Canadian households have a cell phone. It seems best to put the WHO statement into perspective, and make an informed decision as to whether or not you continue to use your cell phone.

First, the WHO category "2B or possibly carcinogenic," is used when there is inadequate evidence of cancer-causing effects to humans, but sufficient evidence in animals; it places radiofrequency electromagnetic fields like those emitted from cell phones alongside things such as picked vegetables, coffee, lead, certain food dyes and working as a firefighter or dry cleaner.

Second, with the significant increase in cell phone use over the past 20 plus years, and an incredible number of users globally, it is reassuring to note that there has not been a reported increase in brain tumours or other problems.

Finally, if given the above information you remain concerned with the possible health risks associated with cell phone use, consider texting, email, or using a hands-free headset that is directly connected to your cell phone; it does not use radiofrequency radiation. Bluetooth technology does use RF radiation and thus may carry risk of exposure; according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there have been no studies that have looked at the effect of using this technology.

## did you KNOW?

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at [Be\\_Well@nstu.ca](mailto:Be_Well@nstu.ca).

Please contact Erin at [ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:ekeefe@staff.nstu.ca) to provide your NSTU email address. The [Be\\_Well@nstu.ca](mailto:Be_Well@nstu.ca) list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



## Yoga in Schools

### 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute Teacher Training

Four days that can transform your life and your teaching career!

Be one of the growing number of teachers bringing this transformational yoga experience to their students; a course that inspires growth, connection and inner peace.

This program will provide teachers with module 1 & 2: an introduction to Yoga, Yoga II, Special Needs and Yoga for Autism, with physical practice and experiential activities.

These hours are part of the optional 200hr certification, which is required to teach Yoga II in schools. Graduates of the 200hr certification program will receive all yoga programs designed by Jenny.

*"My husband has undergone a transformation in this program. His experience has been extremely positive, physically, mentally and emotionally. Yoga has given him new strategies to handle stress and a new approach to life."* —Teacher Training Applicant 2012

*"Joy and gratitude is palpable throughout the journey. This course is changing many lives, having lasting effects within the education system."* —Sue Stevenson, Phys. Ed Consultant

This PD workshop will leave you feeling refreshed, renewed and inspired.

Leader(s): **Jenny Kierstead** is a former Phys. Ed teacher and the founder of Breathing Space Yoga Studios. She was the contributing designer of the Yoga II, co-author of Yoga for Autism and Special Needs. She created the Yoga Posters for Elementary and Secondary levels published through Thompson Publications and has trained and mentored the many teachers introducing yoga to their schools.

**Blair Abbass** has been teaching meditation within his classroom for 25 years and was the first teacher to bring Yoga II to the HRSB. He is a contributing designer of the Yoga II curriculums in the area of meditation.

Date(s): July 23-26<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Chocolate Lake Hotel, Halifax

Fee: \$ 500.00 + HST (check local PD for funding)

Register early to secure your spot!

Contact: Jenny Kierstead and Blair Abbass 444-YOGA (9642)

[info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca](mailto:info@BreathingSpaceYogaStudio.ca)

## EDUCATION WEEK April 22-28, 2012



### 2011-2012 Pre-Retirement Seminar SCHEDULE



DATE	LOCATION
March 22 & 23 (Thursday & Friday)	CBVRSB - Membertou Trade & Convention Centre
6 JANUARY 2012	Date/location subject to change

## THANK YOU...

To the educators of Nova Scotia for once again displaying your kind and generous spirit through your support of the

### 2011 Terry Fox National School Run Day



You continue to make a difference!

A single dream. A world of hope.  
The Terry Fox Foundation

## The Nova Scotia Teachers Annual Bowling Tournament History (1975 to 2011)

It was in May of 1975 that a few teachers from L'Ardoise organized a teachers' candlepin bowling tournament in Halifax. The Nova Scotia Teachers Union endorsed this tournament by supplying a large annual trophy. That initiative created a very successful, long-lasting event for hundreds of teachers in Nova Scotia. There have been other social and sporting events for teachers over the years, but none can match this record. Approximately 150 teachers have bowled each year in this event.

That first tournament in 1975 was held at the Halifax Bowlarama. It was advertised as the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Nova Scotia Men Teachers' Bowling Tournament. Ten teams of male teachers played in that first year, coming from the Valley, Halifax City, Dartmouth, Halifax County, Truro and L'Ardoise. By 1977, women teachers started to bowl with the men. Half the bowlers today are women. Teams can be all women, all men, or mixed. To be eligible to participate, a person must be a member of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, (active, retired or reserve).

It was evident from the first tournament that there was always going to be an unequal distribution of skilled bowlers from around the province and that some teams, being more skilled, would always win. A combined tournament format was set up with Championship and Handicap divisions. Each bowler is given a handicap. Handicaps enable all teams to be equally competitive and teachers can bowl together as a team from one school or as a team from a school district. Prizes are equal in value for both divisions. From 14 teams in 1976 the tournament grew quickly to 24 teams and remained at this level for many years.

For all those years new teams could not be accepted because of lane limitations. This is no longer the case. **New teams are encouraged to participate.** Interested members of the NSTU are invited to form a team for a weekend of fun. Enjoy bowling for a weekend in April with teacher colleagues. Stay at a hotel in Halifax and unwind. Remember, this is a tournament for the skilled bowler, but it is also for the unskilled. Don't be shy if you are not a great bowler. This is a handicapped tournament and you will not be embarrassed. Details below.



### NSTU ANNUAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT 2012

**"NEW TEAMS ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE"**  
(Team = Min. 5 - Max. 8)

**DATES** — April 21 & 22, 2012

**LOCATION** — Bayers Road Bowlarama (Halifax)

**HOSTED THIS YEAR BY** — Halifax Teachers

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** — March 23, 2012

**FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT**

**TOURNAMENT SECRETARY - KEN WILLIAMS**

**Phone: 902.443.7138 / Email: kb.williams@ns.sympatico.ca**

## We want your News and Pictures!

We love getting content from NSTU members across Nova Scotia so please keep your cameras handy anytime your Local has a meeting or an event.

We also love to celebrate accomplishments in the classroom, PD events, awards and retirements. So send along your write-ups and photos (and tell us who is in the photo as well as who took it!)



**Send your photos to:**

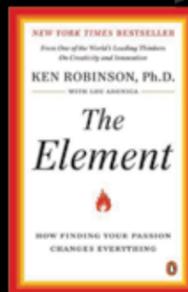
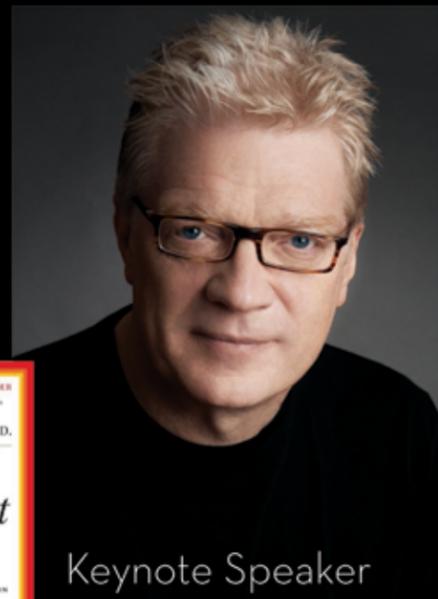
**The Teacher**

**ATTENTION: Mary Jane Webber  
and/or Sonia Matheson**

**3106 Joseph Howe Drive,  
Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7**

**or email: [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)**

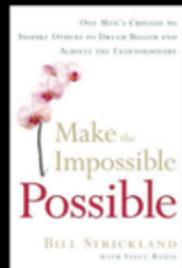
All pictures must be in jpeg format with a high resolution (300 dpi). Please do not use Blackberries, iPhones or other smart devices to take photographs for *The Teacher*. The quality is not sufficient for our printing process. Any questions? Call Mary Jane Webber anytime at 479-4708. **The deadline for the April issue is March 16<sup>th</sup>.**



Keynote Speaker  
Sir Ken Robinson

## Emergent Learning Conference Turning Tides in 21st Century Education

April 23rd and 24th, 2012  
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Keynote Speaker  
Bill Strickland

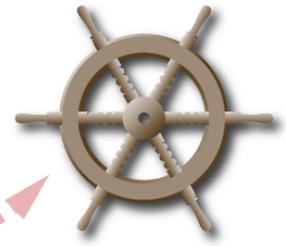
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# Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



## FLCP—celebrating a successful learning journey

by Ron Brunton, Executive Staff Officer, Research & Professional Initiatives

Six years ago the bargaining teams for the Nova Scotia Community College and the Nova Scotia Teachers Union suggested a bold and untried initiative that collapsed the faculty salary grid in a single experience ladder and created a joint committee to devise the procedure for the Faculty Learning College Portfolio (FLCP). The broad parameters of the FLCP were that it needed to reflect the diverse nature of NSCC faculty, it was to be a five-year learning journey, it needed to address the four currencies (Occupational, Organizational, Teaching and Learning, and Portfolio), it was to reflect rigorous and significant learning and it would culminate with a \$5,000 salary increase once the faculty member reached the top of the salary ladder.

An important realization for the members of the joint committee tasked with establishing the program was the recognition that a specific learning task had different meaning to different learners. For one learner any given task might represent a very minor learning experience and for another it might represent an extraordinary and very significant learning. Therefore it

became clear that when faculty members submitted learning journey proposals, the goals articulated could only be understood within the context of the learner's self assessment of where he or she was with respect to those goals.

A second aspect of the process that was challenging for everyone involved was to move away from the rigid connection between credentials and learning. The process needed to be defined by the journey, not the destination. The FLCP could not be a collection or list of tasks that were to be accomplished and therefore, might be accomplished in less than five years. The FLCP was to be a reflective learning process spanning five years. In other words, it takes five years to have five years of learning.

This is not to suggest that all learners learn at the same rate; in fact the FLCP reflects the opposite of this. What is accomplished by one person over five years will be very different from what is accomplished by another in that period of time. The critical question is whether or not the learning was significant for the learner.

At the same time, we wanted to ensure that the learning journey was neither

insignificant or incidental. This process could not be equivalent to the process of doing the faculty member's assigned job for five years. It must require new and challenging learning.

All of this was new territory. We had no other employer-employee context to use as a template or model. We decided that the journey needed to be conscious; it required planning and forethought. The journey required goals that realistically would take five years (in aggregate), but open enough to allow for either growth or setbacks. And the process required deep reflection.

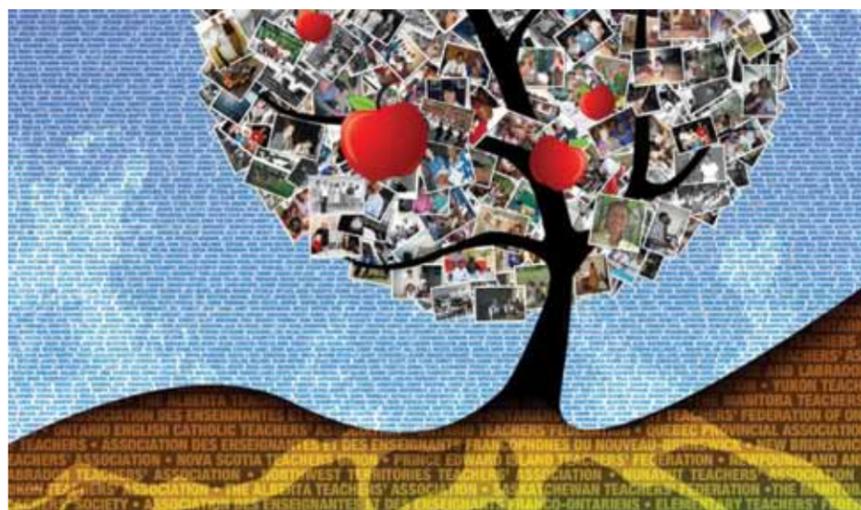
That was five years ago. The first proposals were approved with an effective starting date of January 2007. In January 2012, the 13 faculty members who commenced their journey five years ago made the final presentation to the FLCP committee. Although this was a "final presentation", everyone noted that it was not an end to the learning inspired by their FLCP process. They discovered new areas of interest, new directions to pursue established ideas, further questions to answer, new ideas to help their students understand either difficult concepts or other aspects of a trade, new techniques to expand as part of their own teaching, and above all else, a better understanding of themselves as learners. As one person stated, "We often don't know what we know

until we start looking and thinking about it. I see learning differently now."

The presentations served to highlight the range and diversity of the learning adventure experienced by these 13 people. The learning included academic pursuits such as a master's degree, the practical impact in the classroom of learning to use multimedia, the importance of culture to the learning context, the challenges of second language learners, insights into assessment for learning, how to contribute to the NSCC's organizational framework and resource infrastructure, and so much more, with many of these different components forming adjacent parts of each person's experience. They ranged from concrete to theoretical, often within a single journey.

In the end, what we saw was the realization of a vision. The NSCC and the NSTU wanted to develop a mechanism to recognize and support the best reflective learning across all learners. It was a tough and challenging journey for the participants and for the FLCP committee. However, what we saw demonstrated proof of this shared idea. In feedback, one of the successful participants stated, "One frustration I used to have as a faculty member was that the college offered few avenues to grow professionally that didn't involve leaving the classroom for management. FLCP provides this opportunity."

*So, hats off to the first FLCP cohort! Congratulations to Mary Lou Beaton, Pictou Campus; Marcel d'Entremont, Burridge Campus; Wendi Dewey, Akerley Campus; Ludger Dugas, Marconi Campus; Dennis Myer, IT Campus; Ed Petruskavich, Marconi Campus; Joy Reyno, IT Campus; David Russell, IT Campus; Marc Simard, Akerley Campus; Todd Verge, IT Campus; Lisa Walters, IT Campus; Ray Williams, Akerley Campus and Shelley Withers, Lunenburg Campus!*



CTF PROJECT OVERSEAS PARTICIPANT REUNION  
July 3-5, 2012 • Ottawa, Ontario

Come and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of CTF International Programs 1962-2012

Anniversary Dinner – July 4  
PO Alumni Complimentary  
Guests \$40

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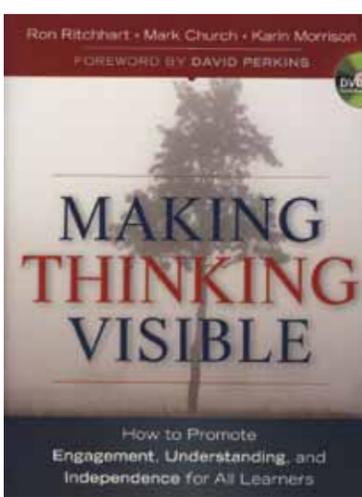
*Together we made a difference*

Canadian Teachers' Federation  
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants  
www.ctf-fce.ca



Email your name, home address, and school or campus name with PD Giveaway in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by March 23 to be eligible for the draw.

**Making Thinking Visible: How to Promote Engagement, Understanding, and Independence for All Learners** by Ron Ritchhart, Mark Church, Karin Morrison.  
FOREWORD BY DAVID PERKINS



Visible Thinking is a research-based approach to teaching thinking that develops students' thinking dispositions, while at the same time deepening their understanding of the topics they study. Rather than a set of fixed lessons, Visible Thinking is an extensive and adaptable collection of practices that include thinking routines and the documentation of student thinking. The routines are a central element of the practical, functional and accessible nature of Visible Thinking. Thinking routines are easy to use mini-strategies that are repeatedly used in the classroom. They are a small set of questions or a short sequence of steps that can be used across various grade levels and content. Each routine targets a different type of thinking and by bringing their own content, teachers can integrate the routines into the fabric of their classrooms.

# executive highlights

## January 19-20, 2012

- Filed Table Officers Report;
- Approved amendments to the following Operational Procedures:
  - Operational Procedure 3(a)(ii) Committees – Selection Criteria
  - Operational Procedure 3(a)(iii) Committees – Meeting Protocols
  - Operational Procedure 3(a)(iv) Committees – Term of Office
  - Operational Procedure 4(a) NSTU Committees – Standing Committees
  - Operational Procedure 4(a)(vii)(a) & (b) NSTU Committees – Nominating Committee
  - Operational Procedure 4(b) NSTU Committees – Ad hoc Committees
  - Operational Procedure 22 (a)(i)(b)(iv) Negotiations – Procedures for Provincial Negotiations;
- Approved the voting day for the 2012 Election of the NSTU President be Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>; and if required, a second voting day be held on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>;
- Reviewed Electronic Voting Procedures;
- Approved a recommendation that the NSTU express its support for the principles and process outlined in the report of the PLC Study Committee and for the recommendations contained in the report;
- Appointed Brian Forbes as the Provincial Returning Officer for the NSTU Presidential Election 2012;
- Elected the Awards Selection Committee;
- Processed the 2012 Policy Review on NSTU Economic Welfare & Working Conditions for Council 2012: reaffirmed nine policies; amended seven policies; and rescinded two policies;
- Approved Out-of-Province Conference Grants and Education Research Awards for \$475. each.

## February 18, 2012

- Approved a recommendation that a full page ad be drafted for the February 23-24 Provincial Executive Meeting to challenge and refute the Minister's comments around public education funding;
  - Approved a recommendation that a contest be designed to gather the preferred method(s) of communication for NSTU members;
  - Approved a recommendation that the Governance & Policy Committee establish the proper protocol regarding special Provincial Executive meetings as well as holding votes between Provincial Executive meetings.
- 2012-2013 with a recommendation that it be adopted and approved two resolutions in support of the optional budget;
  - Prepared an optional budget to forward to Council in compliance with Governance Policy 1 (Res 2010-7);
  - Approved a recommendation that Finance & Property and Governance & Policy Committees develop a five-year budgetary plan focused on a balanced budget;
  - Approved the Asking Package for the Teachers' Provincial Agreement;
  - Approved a recommendation that the President of the NSTU forward a letter to the Minister of Education on March 1, 2012 requesting the opening of bargaining;
  - Approved a recommendation that once a Tentative Agreement is reached in the upcoming round of negotiations, the NSTU starting position on Article 43 be released to the membership at the regional meetings prior to the vote;
  - Appointed members to serve on the Negotiating Team;
  - Approved amendments under the Teachers' Pension Act regarding Partial Disability Pensions and Mandatory Age 71 pension payments;
  - Approved a recommendation that Brian Forbes be appointed as Independent Chairperson for Annual Council 2012;
  - Approved a recommendation that a full page ad regarding education cuts be placed in the Chronicle Herald and the Cape Breton Post. A link to the ad will be distributed to all NSTU webmail accounts and social media feeds;
  - Approved four Resolutions be forwarded to Annual Council 2012 to lobby the Department of Education on various topics;
  - Approved five Resolutions be forwarded to Annual Council 2012 regarding By-Law, Standing Orders and Policy concerning NSTU Professional Associations;
  - Approved a recommendation that wherever reference is made to the October Conference Day in NSTU official documents, nomenclature be amended to read Provincial Professional Development Day;
  - Approved amendments to Operational Procedure 4(c) Professional Associations Coordination Committee;
  - Approved amendments to Operational Procedure 14 – Professional Associations;
  - Approved a recommendation that wherever reference is made in NSTU official documents to the NSTU email/website, or Members-Only website, that working be revised to read NSTU webmail or NSTU website;
  - Approved a recommendation that a new section in Operational Procedures, General called Communications be created to state that designated NSTU web account mailing lists shall be established, upon request, for NSTU Leaders, such as Provincial Executive, Local Presidents and Executive, RRC Chairs, and Professional Association Presidents and Executive;
  - Approved one Local Service Award be awarded at Annual Council 2012.

## February 23-24, 2012

- Filed Table Officers Report;
- Selected six candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program, along with two alternates;
- Approved a recommendation that a one time allowance be made for the NSTU presidential candidates to address a Community College Local meeting before the beginning of official campaigning;
- That a video recording of NSTU Presidential Candidates' address and question & answer session at Annual Council 2012 be distributed;
- Approved the draft budget to go forward to Annual Council 2012 for

## EQUITY COMMITTEE BOOK REVIEW

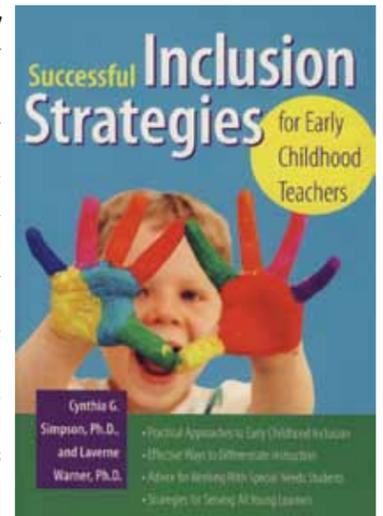
Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by March 23 to be eligible for the draw.

*Successful Inclusion Strategies for Early Childhood Teachers* by Cynthia Simpson, Vicky Spencer, and Laverne Warner Ph.D.

Proven and practical advice for early childhood teachers in inclusive or mixed-ability classrooms. With increasing emphasis on inclusive classrooms, primary and elementary school teachers can use the information included in *Successful Inclusion Strategies for Early Childhood Teachers* to build a supportive, caring, learner-driven environment that takes into account the needs of all students.

Covering topics from incorporating the needs of students with a variety of special needs, to writing or modifying curriculum that differentiates for students of varying abilities, this book offers field-tested strategies for teachers in a concise, friendly format. The authors also provide an overview of how special education law affects inclusive classrooms.

The book provides multiple vignettes describing special needs, including autism, ADHD, visual and hearing impairments, and developmental delays most often found in inclusive classrooms so teachers can match strategies to their students. The authors also discuss strategies for collaborating with parents and provide a detailed resource guide for teachers new to inclusion classrooms.



Orff Nova Scotia held its 3rd Annual Children's Day on January 28th at Kingswood Elementary. Students from various schools in HRSB attended workshops in recorder, choral, movement, and mallet technique. Pictured are Harbour View students Nyssa, Jordan, teacher Patti Casavechia (Dartmouth Local), Jazmin, and Kayley.

## fresh

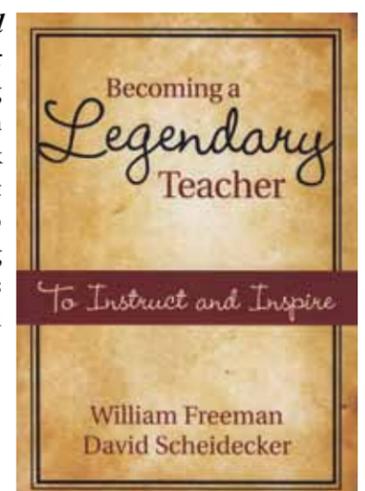
Putting new members in the KNOW!

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with FRESH in the subject line to [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca) by March 23 to be eligible for the draw.

*Becoming a Legendary Teacher - To Instruct and Inspire* by William Freeman and David Scheidecker

All teachers aspire to become that outstanding educator who inspires students and exerts an enduring, positive influence on their lives. This book examines what makes certain teachers so important to the futures of their students and shows you how to become one of these "legendary" teachers. Presenting key characteristics of outstanding instructors, this inspiring resource includes techniques that all teachers can use to:

- Convey high expectations for students
- Create a well-organized and positive classroom environment
- Motivate students to excel in an era of high-stakes testing
- Communicate successfully with students, families, and colleagues
- Stay passionate and motivated



## NSSAA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Submitted by Henry White, former NSSAA executive member

This past fall the Nova Scotia School Administrator Association (NSSAA) celebrated its 50th anniversary in conjunction with the annual October conference at Northeast Kings Education Centre in Canning. The event was hosted by the Annapolis Valley SAA local.

In the late 1950s, school administrators were looking for a means within the NSTU to discuss areas of particular interest and concern to administrators. At the 1961 Annual Council of NSTU a framework for special associations was presented and adopted. The first association to be formed under this new format was the School Administrators' Association (SAA), and the first conference was held at Dalhousie University in September 1961 with Chuck Eaton, Principal of Horton District High School serving as its first president.

For the next 50 years the SAA became a voice for administrators within the NSTU, addressing such concerns as the role of administrators within the school setting, the length of the school year, supervision and evaluation of teachers, administrative allowances, substitute teachers, achievement tests, student suspensions and school budget cuts among others. Thus, over the years SAA became an advocate, speaking on behalf of school administrators on many issues pertaining to educational leadership above and beyond professional development. However, with the introduction of the Professional Associations Consitution, there was no longer ability to directly communicate with the Provincial Executive.

To this end, the NSTU created a standing committee named Teachers with Administrative Responsibilities (TWAR). At this time administrators were given the opportunity to have a direct link to the provincial NSTU executive. Since TWAR was established they have been working on issues of mutual concern, particularly related to achieving a contractual means to support administrators, improve remuneration, study release-time requirements and deal responsibly with wellness issues. A member of the provincial SAA executive sits on the TWAR committee, and both groups meet jointly each year. The dialogue between both has been positive, cordial, and very productive.

At the national level, SAA has been a member of the Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) since 1980. All SAA members are also members of CAP. CAP provides administrators with professional development opportunities at the national level through the annual CAP conference which is held each spring, as well as through the CAP Journal and website. Through our provincial representative on CAP, SAA has a voice on issues which have an impact on students, schools,

educators, and particularly on school administrators, all across Canada. The SAA is also a member of the Atlantic Association of School Administrators (AASA). This association provides networking opportunities for school administrators in the Atlantic region.

SAA is also an affiliate of the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSEL). The NSEL offers a wide variety of professional development opportunities designed to develop and expand continuing education for present and aspiring educational leaders. Two members of SAA were invited by the Department of Education to sit on the Instructional Leadership Council.

Over the past 50 years, the SAA has not existed exclusively to provide professional development support to its members but has also spoken on behalf of administrators, voiced issues and concerns and been a consistent advocate on behalf of administrators. The value and relevance of this organization to school administrators in Nova Scotia should never be underestimated. Up until now, many hard-fought battles have been won to the benefit of our membership, but there is still much to be accomplished. It is crucial that school administrators have strong, dependable representation. It is the role and responsibility of SAA to make certain that our interests are put forward in a consistent, professional and determined manner. At this point in the evolution of the SAA, we need to reflect upon critical issues facing administrators in Nova Scotia today. We have taken your concerns seriously and acted according to your needs and wishes effectively and will continue to do so.

In 1961 we joined together as a group of professionals who shared common interests and common goals and felt the need to be represented by a common voice. That has not changed. As we look to the future, it is to be hoped by all of us that the SAA will continue to be that strong, dependable voice which school administrators can count on to represent their interests within the NSTU. If you would like more information about being a member of SAA please visit our website <http://local.nstu.ca/web/saa>



### International Programs Teaching & Administrative Opportunities

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*Putting a stop to litter is better than cleaning it up!*

This interactive presentation is available to grades P-3.  
Booking enquiries can be made to Kari Riddell by phone at 902-420-7924 or 1-800-665-5377 (toll free) and by e-mail at [riddell@clean.ns.ca](mailto:riddell@clean.ns.ca).

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# MULTIZONE

## What is Multizone?

Multizone is an educational activity that engages children as they work together in teams to solve nutrition questions while participating in fun physical challenges. The constant movement of this game keeps children excited and interested in the learning experience. At the same time, the team component motivates everyone to do their best!



Get in the "Zones"!

*Multizone brings to the table an impressive fusion of fun, nutrition knowledge and activity that children of all ages will enjoy.*



## Get in the "Zones"!

There are six energizing zones to this game. Each zone is tailored specifically for kindergarten to grade 6 students, providing age appropriate questions and activities that keep children motivated and entertained.



## What Do I Need?

A member from our nutrition team brings everything required for the game. All you need is a gymnasium, approximately 45 minutes of time per classroom, and a teacher or coordinator to help assist with the game.



## Who Can Apply?

Multizone is now available to all elementary schools throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

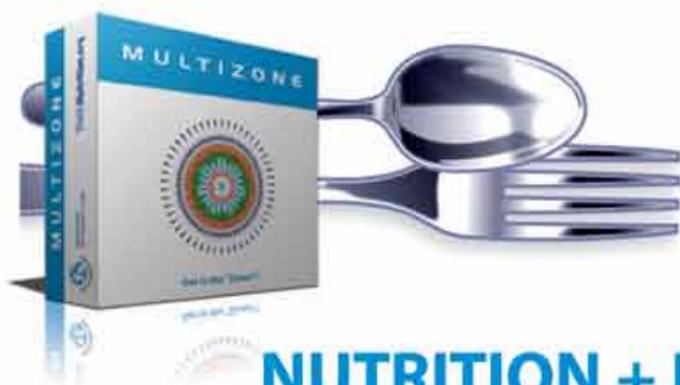


## What is the Cost?

This program is free of charge. Schools will be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## South Shore Teacher Fills Container for Liberia

by Clare MacIntyre

When Gretchen Gerhardt left for Liberia last summer as a teacher volunteer with Project Overseas, she had no idea she would return with a massive personal mission – to send an entire container full of educational supplies and books to the war-torn and destitute African country.

Gerhardt is an Early Literacy Leader with the South Shore Regional School Board. In her work, she travels to all of the elementary schools in the area, supporting early readers and promoting literacy. She says it was her invaluable experiences with those children and the philosophy of the former Reading Recovery (RR) program that stayed with her throughout her six weeks in Liberia.

**“If you educate your population and invest in children, your country will become stronger.”**

“The leading principle in RR is that every child gets a chance, no matter what, and that every child can and should be given a chance,” she says. “I learned from years of working with RR students that odds can be defeated. I also saw the power literacy gave to these children.”

Gerhardt says these lessons made her want to offer more children a chance. And having seen the Liberian children, with a shocking lack of resources, she knew she had to do something.

“I truly feel education opens doors and that literacy should be a birthright not a privilege!” she says.

A strong believer in each person having the power to make a difference, Gerhardt is working around the clock to create change. With an April deadline looming, she is collecting used books, schoolbags, pencils, pens, art supplies and other items in order to fill a transport container and ship it to Liberia.

With the closure and consolidation of several schools in her area, Gerhardt has been accepting donations of educational items that would otherwise be thrown away. She has received tremendous support and encouragement from the home and school association at Centre Consolidated Elementary, which is also working to raise funds and gather donations for the shipment.

It’s a costly undertaking. In addition to collecting the donations, Gerhardt needs to raise approximately \$10,000 to purchase the container and pay the shipping fees.

“The container itself will also be used as a house,” says Gerhardt, who has been researching which kinds of containers make the best dwellings. She is planning to be back in Liberia to receive the container, and oversee its delivery to those who need it most.

Gerhardt says the Liberians she met last summer were happy, witty and extraordinarily open and generous, despite having so little.

“They had practically nothing, and yet they offered to give you everything they had!”

Despite having kept in touch with many of them since her return to Nova Scotia, she has not told them about the container project. It will come as a welcome surprise to a group of people desperate for learning resources.

“If you educate your population and invest in children, your country will become stronger,” says Gerhardt.

Gerhardt encourages anyone who wishes to contribute funds or donations to contact her at [ggerhardt@ssrsb.ca](mailto:ggerhardt@ssrsb.ca).



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or email [theteacher@nstu.ca](mailto:theteacher@nstu.ca)

## NSCC's Strategic Plan

NSTU president Alexis Allen took part in a breakfast meeting to look at the College's next strategic plan which focuses on achieving the greatest impact on its mission—building Nova Scotia's economy and quality of life through education and innovation. Allen is pictured with Daurene Lewis, Principal NSCC Institute of Technology Campus and Jennifer Berry, Manager, Business Development.

## NSTU CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

The 2012 deadlines for candidates' information are **March 16** for the April 3 issue (1st opportunity) and **April 20** for the May 8 issue (2nd opportunity). This information should be given or sent directly to *The Teacher* office.

### 7. VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

In respect of Vice-Presidential campaigns, the following guidelines shall apply:

- (a) Active campaigning within the Council Chambers other than the normal address to delegates is prohibited. Passive campaign activity within Council Chambers is permitted.
- (b) Locals are prohibited from directly making any monetary or non-monetary contribution to any candidate's campaign. Such contributions do not include expenditure of funds designated for the Local (e.g. Local suite at Annual Council).
- (c) Campaign spending, excluding travel, by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed \$1,500.00. Such expenses are the sole responsibility of the candidate. All promotional items including prizes sponsored by the candidate shall be included in the determination of the amount spent and shall be supported by receipts or assessed at fair market value.
- (d) All candidates must submit an approved financial statement report form to the Annual Council Elections Committee within sixty (60) days from the conclusion of Annual Council. This statement is to include a list of all contributions with non-monetary items being assessed at dollar value, and an itemized list of expenditures;
- (e) The Annual Council Elections Committee shall refer the financial statements of candidates to the Provincial Executive for review. These financial statements will be published in *The Teacher*.
- (f) Publicity: Each candidate is permitted to insert in an issue of *The Teacher* prior to Council:
  - (i) one head and shoulder photograph of himself/herself;
  - (ii) biography of personal, educational, and career achievements, of no more than 150 words;
  - (iii) a personally prepared platform of objectives, no more than 600 words in length.
- (g) Items in (f) must be sent to *The Teacher* fifteen (15) working days before publication and these will appear in alphabetical order.
  - (i) Each candidate will be given a second opportunity to publish a statement subject to the provisions of paragraph (f), which statement shall not be more than 750 words in length.
  - (ii) Paid advertisements in any medium (press, radio, TV, *The Teacher*) are prohibited.
  - (iii) The number of campaign posters and/or banners on display in the hotel at Annual Council may not exceed a total of twenty-five (25) for each candidate. When Annual Council is held at a facility where Local delegates are divided between two facilities, the number of posters will be increased to thirty-five (35). A campaign poster shall include any poster, banner or sign posted by or for a member running for an elected position that makes a reference to the candidate and/or the position being sought.
- (h) Upon request, each candidate shall be given a list of the room numbers at the main facility used by NSTU delegates, alternates, official observers and guests once delegates have been accommodated. Distribution of campaign materials to rooms shall be limited to those rooms so identified. Such identification shall not allow the name of the occupant of the room to be determined.

### 8. COMMITTEE CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

In respect of electoral campaigns for committees elected at Council, the following guidelines shall apply:

- (a) Active campaigning within the Council Chambers is prohibited. Passive campaign activity within the Council Chambers is permitted;
- (b) Locals are prohibited from directly making any monetary or non-monetary contribution to any candidate's campaign. Such contributions do not include expenditure of funds designated for the Local (e.g. Local suite at Annual Council).
- (c) Campaign spending by or on behalf of each candidate may not exceed \$100. Such expenses are the sole responsibility of the candidate.
- (d) All candidates must submit an approved financial statement report form to the Annual Council Elections Committee within sixty (60) days from the conclusion of Annual Council. This statement is to include a list of all contributions with non-monetary items being assessed at dollar value, and an itemized list of expenditures;
- (e) The Annual Council Elections Committee shall refer the financial statements of candidates to the Provincial Executive for review. These financial statements will be published in *The Teacher*.
- (f) Publicity: Each candidate is permitted to insert in an issue of *The Teacher* prior to Council:
  - (a) One head and shoulder photograph of himself/herself;
  - (b) Biography of personal, educational and career achievements, of no more than 150 words;
  - (c) A personally prepared platform of objectives, no more than 300 words in length.
- (g) Items must be sent to *The Teacher* fifteen (15) working days before publication and these will appear in alphabetical order.
- (h) Paid advertisements in any medium (press, radio, TV, *The Teacher*) are prohibited.
- (i) The number of campaign posters and/or banners on display in the hotel at Annual Council may not exceed a total of twenty-five (25) for each candidate. When Annual Council is held at a facility where Local delegates are divided between two facilities, the number of posters will be increased to thirty-five (35). A campaign poster shall include any poster, banner or sign posted by or for a member running for an elected position that makes a reference to the candidate and/or the position being sought.
- (j) Upon request, each candidate shall be given a list of the room numbers at the main facility used by NSTU delegates, alternates, official observers and guests once delegates have been accommodated. Distribution of campaign materials to rooms shall be limited to those rooms so identified. Such identification shall not allow the name of the occupant of the room to be determined.

### 9. GENERAL CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES - ACTIVE AND PASSIVE CAMPAIGNING

With respect to all elections, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) Active campaigning shall be considered any display or action that involves the presentation of partisan information in a manner that is difficult for a group of delegates to avoid. Examples of such active campaigning include the display of campaign posters, the shouting of campaign slogans, shouting out in support of a candidate other than during the normal address to delegates, distributing materials throughout Council chambers including the placing of campaign materials anywhere within Council chambers prior to, during or following a Council session, and demonstrations in support of a given candidate.
- (b) Passive campaigning shall be considered any display or action that is observable only by people in the immediate vicinity of the campaign material and involves no explicit action to promote or advance those materials at the time at which the material is seen or heard. Examples of such passive campaigning include the use of writing materials containing references to a candidate, the wearing of campaign clothing, buttons or ornaments, and the presence of a single copy of a candidate's campaign literature at the delegate's seat and table spot.
- (c) A candidate or representative of the candidate is permitted to place up to one (1) item per delegate per session at the tables in Council chambers prior to the start of the session. This would replace campaign material distribution at other times. A candidate would still be permitted to greet delegates as they enter Council chambers.
- (d) In the event that campaigning for any other NSTU election takes place during Council, the guidelines for the Council Committee election campaigns applicable to the conduct of the campaign during Council, shall apply.
- (e) Active campaigning for election to a position not related to the structure of the NSTU is prohibited.

## NSTU REP PINS



The NSTU Rep pin is available for purchase by **NSTU Locals**, for their NSTU Reps. At only \$2.50 each, these brushed pewter pins are sure to be recognized at your school or campus.

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# Barrington Students win Child Protection Poster Contest

by Clare MacIntyre

A group of students from Barrington has won a national poster contest aimed at educating children about sexual abuse.

Last year, Shana Newell's Grade 6 class at Forest Ridge Academy entered the *By Kids, For Kids* poster contest, competing against the artwork of Grade 6 classes across the country. It was sponsored by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection in an effort to help children understand that child sexual abuse and exploitation is always wrong, never their fault and that they have a right to be safe.

"When I first talked to the students about the contest, they were a little nervous to discuss the subject matter," says Newell. But after going through an activity booklet, *Be Smart, Strong & Safe* and other curricula provided by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, Newell says the children opened up and began to brainstorm ideas for the poster.

"We knew the message had to be really clear," she says. "And we knew it would be used as a tool to teach younger children as well, so it had to be age appropriate on many levels."

Their winning entry expresses two key messages: "Don't be quiet!" and "You should be heard!" It also features a "creepy meter" to encourage children to trust their instincts and recognize and acknowledge when the attention they receive from an adult feels wrong.

"Teaching children personal safety strategies, and about speaking out regarding odd behaviour they receive from an adult, is incredibly important to reducing their likelihood of victimization," says Lianna McDonald, executive director for the Canadian Centre for Child Protection. "This poster contest gave children the opportunity to learn about a difficult issue in a very creative way with their peers, helping to open up a much-needed dialogue on the issue."

Forest Ridge Academy Principal Michael Smith is pleased that the students' thoughtful and relevant poster will be shared with children in 10,000 schools across Canada.

"We are proud of their enthusiastic and creative approach to this project and of their interest in wanting to reach out to help others."

And while this group of students graduated from Forest Ridge Academy in June, he says their keen social conscience is not forgotten and still serves as an example to younger children.

"The students in this Grade 6 class were strong role models for our school and often demonstrated ways to be good citizens towards their local and global communities."

Winning a national poster contest is exciting for the students, but Newell says it's the lesson learned from the experience that will make a difference in their futures.

"Working together on the poster, the students gained confidence about trusting their instincts," says Newell. "Children can sometimes doubt themselves even when they're in a bad situation because they assume adults know best. Now, after exploring this issue so openly, they understand the need to tell someone right away if an adult behaves in a way that feels wrong."

For more information and downloadable classroom resources, visit the *Be Smart, Strong & Safe* website at [www.smartstrongsafe.ca](http://www.smartstrongsafe.ca).



## 2012 REGIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION FOR LOCALS



All regional elections will be conducted by electronic vote.

Region	Close of Nominations	Date of Election
Annapolis-Hants West-Kings	March 23	April 19
Antigonish-Guysborough	April 2	May 2
Cape Breton District	March 23	April 24
Colchester East Hants	March 26	April 26
Community College	March 25	April 25
Dartmouth	March 9	April 25
Halifax City	March 9	April 25
Halifax County	March 22	April 24
Inverness-Richmond	TBA	TBA
Lunenburg	March 30	April 18

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### iNSchool's Approach to Managing the Program Planning Process

Teachers and staff of some schools will start managing elements of the program planning process – IPPs, adaptations and other student services information - online as early as February 2012, using a new program called TIENET (Technology for Improving Education Network.)

#### What is TIENET?

TIENET is the iNSchool solution for student services information that is better managed outside of PowerSchool/PowerTeacher - namely IPPs, adaptations and other student services information.

#### When and what can we expect to see?

The introduction of TIENET will vary by board and will begin sometime after February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

#### What will and will not change?

The program planning process - as defined by The Special Education Policy (2008) - will not change. What will change is that you'll soon enter, access and manage all of this information on TIENET.

For the past number of months, members of your school board have been working closely with the TIENET team to customize their software to match our existing 8-step provincial program planning process. So the existing process – the information you capture and the steps you follow - will not change. And you'll sign on through PowerSchool/PowerTeacher. It will be more efficient, easier to manage, and it will all be under one virtual roof.

#### How can I learn more?

If you'd like to learn more about iNSchool or take a look at an overview video of TIENET, go to [inschool.ednet.ns.ca](http://inschool.ednet.ns.ca). You'll find the TIENET video and other resources for teachers under the TEACHERS & SCHOOL STAFF section.

Simply click on the 'Video' tab and again on 'TIENET: iNSchool's Approach to Managing the Program Planning Process.' Please note, this video is currently in English only.

1 | iNSchool is a province-wide program aimed at leveraging technology to better support student achievement.

## MSVU Alumna Gives Back

by Alison DeLory

After graduating with her second master's degree in 2005, Kelly MacLeod, principal at Clayton Park Junior High School, wanted to become more involved in her community. "My parents were always active in the community and I wanted to figure out a way to give back," MacLeod says. She tried volunteering with a few different organizations, but found they weren't the right fit for her: either they focused on networking more than volunteering, or their meetings were held during the day while she was working. But when MacLeod picked up a brochure at Mount Saint Vincent University's annual alumnae dinner a few



Kelly MacLeod

years ago, she recognized an ideal opportunity to get involved.

"I saw the names of the alumnae association board members listed, and remarked to my sister Deanne (also a Mount grad) that there were no teachers on the board (at that time). Given the number of teachers in our province who have graduated from the Mount, I thought this was unfortunate," she says. MacLeod applied to the board and was accepted in 2010.

*"I wanted to figure out a way to give back,"*

Since then, MacLeod has served on two committees, volunteered at the annual golf tournament, represented Mount alumnae at on- and off-campus events, and attended board meetings and the annual general meeting. "I like being connected to the Mount beyond the classroom," she says. Highlights for MacLeod include meeting alumnae from different programs, learning about governance, understanding the structure and functioning of the university, and working with leaders she admires including the university's president, Ramona Lumpkin. "I can take that back and be an ambassador for the Mount. I can speak about it more confidently," MacLeod says. "We practice the (teaching) profession every day. It's nice not to forget the academic part."

MacLeod completed two degrees at the Mount: an MA in education (literacy) in 2001, and a M.Ed. (curriculum leadership) in 2005. She wrote a thesis on early intervention for students with autism, and won the Senate Award of Distinction in 2005. "I loved studying at the Mount. I was in a group of about 25 people who all worked in the field, and found the faculty outstanding," she says. With her family's involvement in campus life (sister Deanne is now board president and brother-in-law Mark Forward works as the university's athletics officer and coaches the women's varsity basketball team), she has long attended athletic and social events, and returned as guest lecturer to B.Ed. students.

The alumnae association board promotes a strong connection between students, alumnae and the community. It funds and promotes student scholarships, bursaries and prizes, as well as faculty and alumnae awards. In addition, it organizes social and professional events like the golf tournament, annual dinner and alumnae weekend. Outside Halifax, there are alumnae chapters in cities including Ottawa, Toronto and Kingston, Jamaica. All Mount alumnae are invited to become more involved, either by attending or suggesting activities, helping to plan them, or applying to join a committee or the board.

*"You can have a voice."*

MacLeod says she enjoys her role because she feels she is making a contribution, plus, with most meetings being held early in the evening, she can be home in time to put her three-year-old son to bed.

"You can have a voice," she says.

If you'd like to find out more, follow [www.msvu.ca/en/home/alumnae](http://www.msvu.ca/en/home/alumnae) or call (902) 457-6340.

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Access free online resources, tourism research, professional development opportunities, and network with educators coast to coast.

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Canada This program is funded by the Government of Canada's Sector Council Program.

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– Grade 5 teacher, Ottawa (ON)



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## NSELC Scheduled Programs Winter/Spring, 2012

### Module 1 - "Working with People"

CCRSB, April 17-20, 2012

SRSB, August 14-17, 2012

### Module 8 - "Social Justice"

AVRSB, March 29-31, 2012

SSRSB, April 19-21, 2012

### Module 13 - "Using Assessment to Improve Teaching and Learning"

SRSB, April 25, 26 & TBA date in June, 2012

AVRSB, May 17, 18 & June 4, 2012

### Module 14 - "Autism Spectrum Disorder"

CCRSB, May 3, 4 & June 1, 2012

SSRSB, May 7, 8 & 30, 2012

### "Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development"

Mt St. Vincent University, May 23-25, 2012

For more information about our professional learning programs and to register check the NSELC website

[www.nselc.ca](http://www.nselc.ca)

or call

(902) 422-3270 for more information

## NSTU SECONDMENT RESOURCE FILE

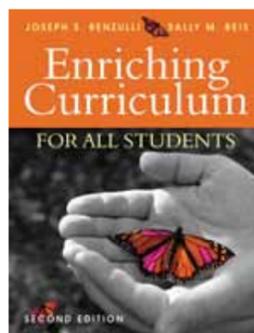
Secondment application forms are available on the NSTU "Members-Only" website.

- To obtain the secondment application form:
- Enter the NSTU members-only website
  - Select "Union Affairs" from the menu
  - Select "Secondments" from the drop-down menu

## Register for the Gifted Summit by April 1 & you could win a free book!

We have five (5) copies of a book written by two (2) of the world renowned keynote speakers.

*Enriching Curriculum for All Students, Second Edition (2008)* -  
Joseph S. Renzulli and Sally M. Reis  
ISBN 978-1-4129-5582-9



Winners will be drawn from the names of all who are registered by April 1.



### The Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

#### Principals at Work in the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

The Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy is off to a successful start. Thirty-three principals from across the province have completed the first of six courses that make up the Instructional Leadership Program.



Principals from the Annapolis Valley, Tri-County, CSAP, South Shore and Halifax regional school boards discuss evidence of best practices in instruction, gleaned from their school-based practicum experiences.



Principals from Chignecto-Central, Strait, and Cape Breton-Victoria regional school boards engage in an activity on brain-compatible instruction.

#### Principals speak about their experiences in the Nova Scotia Instructional Leadership Academy

"I can't imagine a more beneficial learning experience for today's school administrators. The Instructional Leadership Academy focuses on what I need to be doing in my school to support my staff in their goal of meeting the needs of all diverse learners."

"I have been a school administrator for six years. This program has changed my practice."

"Teaching and learning is an inter-related discipline that requires time for observation, analysis, feedback, collaboration and reflective practice... this course offers principals the very essence of what is involved in this process."

"I cannot say enough about how great it has been so far. The instructors have challenged me to reflect on my beliefs about teaching and learning."

"The ILA program provides a practical, insightful approach to Educational Leadership; each session presents valuable information, networking experiences and an opportunity to reflect on my practice as an instructional leader."

"The NS Instructional Leadership Academy is the blueprint for my work as instructional leader in my school. It is a rubric to guide my practice so that my focus and work identify and support powerful instructional practices that improve student learning."

#### Don't Miss Out on Being Part of This Exciting Professional Learning Opportunity

Online applications for Cohort II, beginning September 2012, are now being accepted. All interested principals and vice-principals are invited to apply.

For more information, and to access the online registration form, visit the NSELC webpage at [www.nselc.ca](http://www.nselc.ca), or contact Sue LeBel, Program Coordinator, at [slebel@nselc.ca](mailto:slebel@nselc.ca).



## Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education & Talent Development

May 23-25, 2012

Mount Saint Vincent University

Think this gifted education conference is not for you? Think again! All classroom teachers can develop their students' gifts and talents once they know what to look for and what to do next.

Differentiation, enrichment and creativity are some of the most tried and true educational practices to engage all learners. Join internationally renowned speakers Joseph Renzulli, Sally Reis, Rachel McAnallan and Rebecca D. Eckert in Halifax this May to find out more.

The Nova Scotia Summit on Gifted Education and Talent Development is a great opportunity to:

**Learn** practical differentiation techniques that will benefit ALL students

**Find** out how to recognize and nurture students' gifts and talents

**Discover** how focussing on students' strengths and interests can allow you to build more meaningful and challenging learning environments

**Choose** topics that you would like to learn more about (with over 14 sessions being offered, everyone can find something directly related to their teaching) rediscover your joy and passion for teaching!

Don't miss this local, once in a lifetime chance to be inspired by some of the greatest minds in the field of education today!

Accommodation on campus available starting at \$36 per night.

**Registration fee is \$399.00 (plus HST)**

**Full Time University Student Rate \$125 (includes HST)**

Registration information and a comprehensive overview of the Summit is available on the NSELC website at [www.nselc.ca](http://www.nselc.ca)



Education  
Éducation



## NOTICES

### Acadia University: M.Ed. in Curriculum Studies with a focus on creativity

Acadia University's new **Master of Education in Curriculum Studies with a focus on creativity** program is designed to engage teachers and other educators in contemporary thinking that positions creativity at the center of curriculum.

Creative learning has become indispensable to our students, to our teaching, and to our economy.

Our students deserve courses that are relevant, meaningful and engaging. To meet these criteria, teachers need to think creatively in planning, classroom design and how they navigate and coordinate provincial standards. Students also need opportunities to develop their whole mind and to be adaptive to an economy that values creative content over utility – such capacities are built through creative learning experiences.

The Acadia University School of Education, in partnership with Open Acadia, offers this program as a combination of summer institute and online and blended courses. The program is designed to be course-based, but students with a strong interest in research could also consider a thesis option. Elective courses provide an opportunity for exploration of specific interests.

The Acadia University **Master of Education in Curriculum Studies with a focus on creativity** provides teachers with opportunities to learn and share experiences with colleagues in courses that offer both theoretical grounding and practical application. The courses are sequenced to provide a balanced approach and to follow the developing interests of the students enrolled. This program aims to offer teachers of all disciplines an opportunity to focus, reflect, and build on this capacity in their practice.

**The program will start in either Summer (July) 2012 or Fall 2012, depending on cohort availability.**

### Nova Scotia Teachers College Annual Reunion

The 42<sup>nd</sup> annual reunion of the Nova Scotia Teachers College will take place August 17-19.

Graduates of all years from the old Normal School, the Nova Scotia Normal College or the Nova Scotia Teachers College are invited to attend. Special attention will be given to classes with graduation years ending in the number "2", but everyone is welcome.

The reunion will be held on the campus of the Community College (the former Nova Scotia Teachers College), in Truro. Rooms and meals will be available at the residence. In addition, a block of rooms has been booked at the Best Western Glengarry Hotel. You must book before mid-July to get the special rate. As usual, on Friday evening there will be a guest speaker, followed by a pub night.

For registration forms or more information, please contact either Rosella MacDonald at 902-736-6315 or [rosellamacdonald@yahoo.ca](mailto:rosellamacdonald@yahoo.ca), or Robert Jordan, [rwjordan@ca.inter.net](mailto:rwjordan@ca.inter.net).

To check out the website, visit: <http://www.nsteacherscollege.ca>.

### The John Barron Bursary / La bourse John Barron

The Nova Scotia Language Teachers Association (NSLTA) will offer at least one bursary of \$400 (depending on the budget of the current year) to an active member of the NSLTA and the NSTU who is taking an approved course to improve either their second language proficiency or their methodology/pedagogy at an accredited institution.

**The deadline for applications is May 30.** Application forms are available in the Communiqué or possibly from the board level FSL consultants/coordinators.

Applications are to be forwarded to the secretary of the NSLTA at [elliottc@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:elliottc@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

A sub-committee of the executive will meet June 1 to review applications and determine the successful candidates. Only those candidates who are successful will be notified.

Successful applicants must submit a copy of their receipt and course results to the secretary in order to be reimbursed. No funds are to be released in advance of the submission of the transcript of the course work successfully completed.

The number of bursaries to be offered each year will be determined by the treasurer in consultation with the table officers of the NSLTA executive.

L'Association des enseignants de langues de la Nouvelle Écosse, AELNE offrira au moins une bourse du montant de \$400 (selon le budget de l'année en cours) à un membre actif de l'AELNE et du NSTU qui prend un cours approuvé pour améliorer la compétence linguistique ou pour améliorer leur méthodologie/pédagogie de l'enseignement de la langue seconde dans un établissement accrédité.

**La date-limite des demandes est le 30 mai.** Les formulaires de demande sont fournis dans le Communiqué ou par les consultants dans les matière/coordonnateurs du FLS.

Les demandes doivent être expédiées à l'adresse courriel de la secrétaire de l'AELNE, [elliottc@staff.ednet.ns.ca](mailto:elliottc@staff.ednet.ns.ca)

Les demandes seront revues par un sous-comité de l'exécutif qui se rencontrera à la date du 1er juin, pour déterminer le/les candidate/s éligibles, qui eux seuls seront contactés. Les candidats qui réussissent leurs cours doivent soumettre une copie de leurs transcriptions à la secrétaire afin d'être remboursés. La bourse attribuée ne sera pas payée avant la réception de la transcription officielle qui confirme la mention du passage du cours.

Le nombre de bourse à offrir tous les ans sera déterminé par le trésorier en consultation avec le sous-comité de l'exécutif de l'AELNE.

### African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes

The African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes (ADAM) is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to providing various services to assist Africans in the Maritimes. ADAM wants to offer one-on-one or group tutoring in English as a Second Language (ESL) and is currently looking for volunteers to fulfill these requirements. Tutors and students would meet weekly to work on listening, speaking, pronunciation, reading and writing. For more information, contact Jessica Buhler at (902) 404-3670.

## Dartmouth Teacher Inspires Winning Poem

A writing assignment for a Grade 6 student in Dartmouth has resulted in a significant corporate donation for Habitat for Humanity.

Kate Barkhouse is in Stephanie Abriel's homeroom at Crichton Park School. Abriel asked all her students to write about what "home" means to them after she read about a national contest.

"This assignment met so many

outcomes, including culture and citizenship which comes under social studies and health," says Abriel. "Every year I like to have a theme and this we are all trying to be bucket-fillers which means our goal is to reach out to others so they feel loved, respected and appreciated; to be other-centered, which involves giving back to others less fortunate."

"The Meaning of Home Contest" ([http://www.genworth.ca/contest/contest\\_entry.html](http://www.genworth.ca/contest/contest_entry.html)) was sponsored by Genworth Financial Canada and raised money for Habitat for Humanity, a national, non-profit organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. With the help of over 300,000 volunteers and 72 organizations from coast to coast, its mission is to break the cycle of poverty through affordable housing and the promotion of homeownership.

For every Grade 4, 5 and 6 student across Canada who entered the contest, Genworth donated \$5 to the Habitat location closest to their postal code or city of residence. Abriel encouraged all her students to take part because in doing so, they were automatically helping others.

"We had a lot of discussion around homelessness and issues associated with it, and these students love to write so there were many impressive entries," says Abriel. "The entries could only be a certain length so all the students had to choose their words carefully so they could leave a powerful message yet still be succinct. They were all using their thesauruses to make sure they chose just the right words."

She says she had a good feeling when she read Kate Barkhouse's poem.

"I just wrote it from the heart," says Barkhouse, who has lived in Ontario and Nova Scotia.

And when she found out she won? "I was jumping up and down!"

Barkhouse wins an iPod Touch, a pizza party for her class and best of all, \$5000 toward the next Habitat for Humanity build taking place in the Halifax area. "It feels good to know that by writing this one poem I can help other people," says Barkhouse.



Grade 6 student Kate Barkhouse and her teacher Stephanie Abriel pose in their Crichton Park School classroom.

### What is a Home?

A home is a place to be sick and healthy  
A home is a place to be poor and wealthy  
A place to laugh  
A place to cry  
A place to never say goodbye  
Somewhere to be safe and warm  
Somewhere to stay out of the storm  
A shelter to sleep in  
A private place to weep in  
A place to go after a bad day  
A necessity of life  
We all have a home to love  
Where you can be with your family  
Where you can live happily  
Your palace  
Your kingdom  
Your haven  
Your rest stop  
A home is a place to love

## Congratulations to our January/February book winners!

**FRESH: CATHERINE MUNROE of  
Madeline Symonds Middle School**

**EQUITY: ANNA-MARIE MacKENZIE KELLY of  
Digby Regional High School**

**PD: HELEN BLAIKIE of  
Tatamagouche Elementary School**



# We Need You to Share Your Expertise!

## NSTU Standing/Other Committees Application Form

### Would you like to serve the NSTU at the Provincial Level?

The NSTU needs input from the widest-possible cross section of its members to make the most effective contribution to education. Members serve on most provincial standing committees for a maximum of two years,\* so we are constantly in search of skilled and interested persons to make our committee structure operate successfully. Committee membership is open to Active and Active Reserve Members.

\* *NSTU Operational Procedures state: Appointment to a committee will be for one defined term of two years. In extraordinary circumstances, an extension of one year is permissible.*

**Standing Committees will be appointed at the Executive Meeting scheduled for JUNE 8, 2012. Applications must be received in Central Office by May 25, 2012**

(NOTE EXCEPTION: Substitute Teacher Committee, October 16, 2012)

**Please select at least one committee indicating your preference by inserting 1, 2 or 3 in the box beside the committee(s) for which you wish to apply. (Select up to three only.)**

### Available committees include:

Please indicate if applying for a one year extension

- APPEALS** - reviews applications for assistance on appeals under Section 36 of the *Education Act* and decides if the appealing teacher is to receive legal assistance from the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.
- COMITÉ DE PROGRAMMATION ACADIENNE** - studies the curriculum and all proposed changes in it as it relates to Acadian schools under the direction of CSAP and reports its findings to the Provincial Executive.
- CURRICULUM** - studies the curriculum of schools and proposed changes and reports the findings and recommendations to the Provincial Executive.
- EQUITY** - is concerned with matters pertaining to the status of women, equity and diversity issues.
- FINANCE & PROPERTY** - prepares the annual budget for Council, keeps informed of the Union's financial position, supervises the payment of accounts, forwards financial statements to Executive meetings, determines the amount of travel expenses to Council and checks every NSTU expenditure and expenditures on property.
- INSURANCE TRUSTEES** - oversee the operation of the NSTU Group Insurance Plan which offers Life, Optional Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Total Care Medical/Total Care Dental, LTD, MEDOC® and Home & Auto.

- NOTE: One appointment will be made to the Insurance Trustees from the South Shore/Tri-County Region.**
- MEMBERSERVICES** - identifies bargainable items; prepares background information related to merits of negotiable items; identifies trends and developments in teacher bargaining across Canada; reviews economic forecasts; considers Council resolutions; plans workshops for REWC negotiators; reviews results of most recent contract bargaining. **NOTE: One appointment will be made to the Member Services Committee to a Community College Member.**
- PDAF** - reviews applications for financial assistance to support innovative curriculum projects and awards grants to successful applicants.
- PENSION** - studies pension resolutions and keeps the Executive informed of trends and changes affecting teachers' pensions. **NOTE: One appointment will be made to the Pension Committee from the Cape Breton Region and one from the Strait Region.**
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** - reviews and develops policy programs and ideas intended to improve the effectiveness of teachers as professionals and to advance education through research in Nova Scotian classrooms.

- PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - promotes the involvement in public affairs by encouraging NSTU members (and others) to take an active part in government affairs pertaining to public education.
- PUBLIC RELATIONS** - examines and plans directions for public relations programs.
- TEACHERS WITH ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES** - provides a voice, within the NSTU, for teachers with administrative responsibilities.
- SHEONOROIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS** - the Sheonoroil Foundation is an arms-length charitable agency created to fund school and campus-based projects and research directed at reducing violence in schools and Community College campuses. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Foundation; it develops Foundation policy, mandates Foundation initiatives and approves project funding.
- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER** - advises the Provincial Executive on issues affecting and of concern to substitute teachers. **NOTE: Appointments to the Substitute Teacher Committee are made at the October meeting of the Provincial Executive. Therefore, the deadline for receipt of applications to this Committee is October 16, 2012.**
- I would be willing to serve on any committee.

Name:	Prof. Number:
Local:	NSSC Employee Number:
Contact Address:	
Postal Code:	
Phone: (School/Campus)	(Home)
Fax:	<b>NSTU email:</b>
Present Position:	Grade Level(s):
Subject(s) Taught:	
Have you previously applied for or been appointed to any NSTU standing or <i>ad hoc</i> committee? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If so, when: _____	

*The NSTU reserves the right to re-advertise any position if a sufficient number of applications are not received by the deadline.*

### NSTU Activities

List below the NSTU Committees on which you have served:		
Local:	Regional:	Provincial:
		Dates (If within the last 5 years)

### Other Pertinent Information (e.g., skills, interests, relevant courses, professional development, or experiences that relate to the committee on which you wish to serve. You may attach additional information to this application.)

List any other areas of interest you may have so we may consider you in the event that *ad hoc* committee work is required:

The NSTU is committed to the promotion of equity and affirmative action. Equity for under-represented groups, i.e., aboriginal persons, racially visible persons, persons with disabilities and women, must be considered in the hiring of staff, secondments, the **formation of committees**, and Internship Programs. Should you choose to provide any relevant information, please indicate below:

Individuals planning to retire prior to the expiry of a committee appointment term are encouraged not to apply for that committee. (Prov. Exec. Sept. '94)

List below the offices you have held at the:		
Local Level:	Regional Level:	Provincial Level:

**Applications may be made online or downloaded from the NSTU website at [www.nstu.ca](http://www.nstu.ca) (under NSTU/Structure/Committees) and forward to:**

*Nominating Committee, Nova Scotia Teachers Union,  
3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7*

**While collection of this information conforms with regulations under PIPEDA, please be advised that disclosure of this information is limited to the administration of this organization.**

# coming events

## March is...

National Nutrition Month ([www.dietitians.ca](http://www.dietitians.ca)), National Epilepsy Month ([www.epilepsyns.com](http://www.epilepsyns.com)), Help Fight Liver Disease Month ([www.liver.ca](http://www.liver.ca)), Red Cross Month ([www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)), Kidney Health Month ([www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca)), Youth Science Festival Month ([www.ysf-fsj.ca](http://www.ysf-fsj.ca)), National Physiotherapy Month ([www.thesehands.ca](http://www.thesehands.ca)) and National Colorectal Cancer Month ([www.colorectal-cancer.ca](http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca)).

## MARCH 8

### International Women's Day (IWD)

This year's International Women's Day theme is *Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures*. Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities and women's groups around the world choose different themes each year that reflect global and local gender issues. For more information, visit [www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com).

Here are some IWD events taking place around Nova Scotia:

**Truro:** Free public lecture with Wanda Robson, sister of Viola Desmond. In 1945, Desmond refused to give up her seat to move to the "black section" of a New Glasgow theatre.

**Location:** NSCC Truro lecture theatre  
**Time:** 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Features:** Lecture, live music, refreshments and snacks.  
*\*Robson will also visit Cobequid Educational Centre and Truro Junior High School while in town.*

**Halifax:** Networking Event hosted by the Centre for Women in Business  
**Location:** Summit Room, 8th Floor, World Trade & Convention Centre, Halifax  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. **Features:** Alexa McDonough will speak briefly about IWD and the impact of women-owned businesses on our economy. Feature speaker will be business owner Kathy MacGillivray, founder and owner of MaMe Maternity Inc.

**Springhill:** Drop-In hosted by Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (Atlantic Chapter) **Location:** Dr. Carson and Marion Murray Community Centre, Main Street, Springhill  
**Time:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Features:** Information about the organization Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (Atlantic Chapter), Afghan-made products for sale, refreshments and snacks.

**Wolfville: (March 9)** Music café hosted by Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) **Location:** St. John's Anglican Parish Hall, 341 Main Street, Wolfville  
**Time:** 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. **Features:** Local performers and bake sale to benefit Chrysalis House women's shelter.

## MARCH TO APRIL

### Contest for young Canadian artists

The National Gallery of Canada (NGC) recently launched the second edition of *So You Want To Be an Artist?* It's a nation-wide contest for young Canadian artists between the ages of 16 and 19. The goal of the contest is to engage with youth from every region of the country, get them to make art about an issue of importance to them, and share their creativity. Contestants are encouraged

to submit their original artwork to [makeart.gallery.ca](http://makeart.gallery.ca) by **March 18, 2012**.

All accepted entries will be showcased online between March 26 and April 30 where the public can vote for their favourite artworks by using the Facebook "Like" button.

The 12 works with the most votes will be displayed at the National Gallery of Canada for a month where they will be judged by a jury of experts. The top three artists whose entries are selected will receive outstanding prizes, and the grand prize winner will enjoy a behind-the-scenes visit with NGC experts. For more information about the contest, email [contest@gallery.ca](mailto:contest@gallery.ca).

## APRIL

### Run Canada Month

April 2012 has been designated as Run Canada Month. The goal of Run Canada Month (an initiative of the Run Canada committee) is to promote the sport of running and to get more people out and active in their communities. Run Canada Month will achieve this goal through four focus areas: the Run Canada school program, media engagement, Olympic athlete support and the Run Canada races. The school program will encourage classes to try to cumulatively run a marathon. There will also be information and class project suggestions on Canadian running heroes and the history of the sport. For more information, visit: <http://www.runcanada.ca>.

## APRIL 11

### Day of Pink—Jer's Vision

Jer's Vision is a charity that works to address bullying, homophobia, transphobia, and discrimination (of all kinds) in schools and youth communities. The charity will mark its annual Day of Pink on April 11 and is encouraging schools across the country, and internationally to celebrate this day and diversity by wearing a pink shirt and organizing activities in their workplaces, organizations, communities and schools. For resources and free downloads, visit [www.dayofpink.org](http://www.dayofpink.org).

## APRIL 17

### Workshop: Raising Resilient, Relating & Responding Children

*Raising Resilient, Relating & Responding Children* is a workshop to be presented April 17 by Dr. Sid S. Sodhi, registered psychologist and retired professor of counselling psychology. Dr. Sodhi will use various paradigms of children and youth to engage parents, grandparents and teachers in developing strategies of humanistic child growth.

The workshop will cover many topics, including the definition of resilience, resilient parenting models, brain development, active listening and two-way communication, self-discipline, empathy, moral-spiritual values through parental modeling, negative script parenting and parenting strategies for producing resilience in children. Dr. Sodhi will also address the characteristics of unhappy troubled parents and their children.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 17 from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the community room of the Canada Games Centre. Admission is \$12, or \$10 for Canada Games Centre members. Space will be limited. Pre-register through LifeMark Sport Medicine & Health Centre at 404-3888 or email [info.cgc@lifemark.ca](mailto:info.cgc@lifemark.ca)

## MAY 31 TO JUNE 2

### Faculty & Professional Support Staff Conference

NSCC Locals' annual Faculty and Professional Support Staff Conference (FAPSC) will be held at NSCC Truro Campus, May 31-June 2. This year's theme is *A World of Change*. For more information on this year's conference, please contact Ernie Parkes at [geparkes@nstu.ca](mailto:geparkes@nstu.ca).

## MAY/JUNE

### Discovery Days at Dalhousie University

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Science will be hosting Discovery Days in May and June, offering free, fun, hands-on, educational science and math activities. Last year, over 2,000 students and teachers from across the province took part. Morning and afternoon sessions are available. For more information, visit [science.dal.ca/p12](http://science.dal.ca/p12).

Have you heard about the 2012 Dalhousie University's Faculty of Science **DISCOVERY DAYS?**



**FREE Science & Math events for Nova Scotia schools**

Over 2000 students and teachers from across the province joined us last May and June for fun, hands-on, and educational science and math activities.

Morning or afternoon sessions available:

May 1-3	Discover <b>CHEMISTRY</b> Days — For grades 7-9
May 2-3	Discover <b>PSYCHOLOGY</b> and <b>NEUROSCIENCE</b> Days — For grades 10-12
May 8-9	Discover <b>EARTH SCIENCE</b> Days — For grades 7-12 <b>NEW!</b>
May 14-18	Discover <b>PHYSICS</b> and <b>ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE</b> Days — For grades 6-12
May 16-18	Discover <b>MATH</b> Days — For grades 10-12
June 12-13	Discover <b>BIOLOGY</b> Days — For grades 9-12

For more information and registration, contact:  
Theresa Myra  
School Outreach-Faculty of Science  
Tel: (902) 494.6448  
Email: [theresa.myra@dal.ca](mailto:theresa.myra@dal.ca)

**DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY**  
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**aviso**



The Magazine for Nova Scotia's Teaching Profession  
La revue de la profession enseignante en Nouvelle-Écosse

## Join the aviso Team!

Aviso magazine is looking for NSTU members who would be interested in serving on the Aviso Content Editorial Team.

### Mandate

- To identify magazine article topics and writers.
- To review draft issues of the magazine prior to publication.

### Consideration given to

- representation of the range in teaching assignments.
- representation across the province.
- experience in working with print publications.

### Time Commitment

- Six (6) half-day meetings per year.
- Two (2) meetings per issue (fall, winter, spring).

### To submit an expression of interest include:

- name and contact information;
- work site;
- any other relevant information for consideration.

**Deadline for receipt of expression of interest is 4:00 PM, Friday, March 30, 2012 by email to:**

Simon Wilkin  
Coordinator of Technology and Communications  
([swilkin@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:swilkin@staff.nstu.ca))

Nova Scotia Teachers Union  
3106 Joseph Howe Drive  
Halifax, NS B3L 4L7



## Voluntary Group Insurance Benefits... What are they?

There are a number of voluntary group insurance benefits available to both active and retired members of the NSTU. Voluntary coverages can be purchased by you through payroll or pension deductions. Over the years, the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees have expanded the voluntary benefits available to plan members. Therefore, a quick overview of the benefits to refresh memories is a good idea to ensure NSTU members can take advantage of these coverages as part of your overall financial planning.

### What voluntary benefits are available to NSTU members?

The following voluntary benefits are available to NSTU members:

#### Voluntary Optional Life/Spousal Life Insurance (equal to or less than your amount)

- Initial amount - \$30,000
- Additional coverage available in units of \$5,000 to a maximum amount of up to \$300,000 for both member and spouse
- Medical evidence of insurability required. (Except for \$30,000 of coverage for new members if applied for within 31 days from date of new confirmation letter)
- Dependent Life coverage of \$10,000 spouse/\$5,000 dependent child

#### Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment

- Coverage available in units of \$5,000 to maximum amount of \$300,000
- Coverage for accidental loss of life, loss of limbs or loss of use of limbs per the loss schedule
- Family coverage is automatic if you have dependents
- 24 hours per day, 365 days per year coverage anywhere in the world
- Many other "living benefits" such as Family Transportation and Home Alteration and/or Vehicle Modification

#### MEDOC® Group Travel Plan

- Emergency Out-of-Province and Out-of-Canada Medical Insurance Plan
- Base Plan allows unlimited trips up to 35 consecutive days per trip during the policy year
- Supplementary plans available to 180 days which includes Base Plan
- Annual plan allows flexibility of travel
- Pre-existing conditions apply

#### MEDOC® Group Trip Cancellation/Trip Interruption Plan

- Protects members against unforeseen circumstances that may prevent or discontinue trip and is meant to complement your MEDOC® coverage
- Trip Cancellation up to a maximum of \$5,000 per insured per annual coverage period
- Trip Interruption – maximum \$5,000 per insured for each covered trip
- Annual plan
- Pre-existing conditions apply

#### Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance

- Provides up to \$300,000 coverage for 29 conditions
- Spousal and dependent coverage available
- Pays a lump sum tax-free benefit
- \$50,000 of coverage available without medical evidence for both the member and spouse
- Pre-existing conditions apply

#### Why do the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees make voluntary coverages available?

The Trustees make the coverages available to allow members the opportunity to purchase, at group rates, insurance coverages that are important to plan members and spouses as part of their overall financial planning.

#### How can I get information on these benefits?

You can contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free) for additional information and enrolment material.

If you are interested in receiving information regarding the premium rates for any of the coverages above, please contact Johnson Inc. at the number(s) indicated above.

The coverages outlined above are summaries only. Full descriptions of all benefits are provided in your Group Insurance profile, except the new Voluntary Critical Illness Insurance benefit. If you have any questions or would like to apply for any of these benefits, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

update



Little things  
make a big  
difference.

At Johnson we want to make sure our customers are well taken care of. That's why above and beyond exceptional service, we offer little special extras including:

- 24/7 live customer support
- Savings and discounts
- Exceptional claims handling
- AIR MILES® reward miles
- Payroll Deduction

Contact us today:  
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J.D. Power and Associates ranked Johnson Insurance "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Home Insurers in the Ontario/Atlantic Region".



JOHNSON

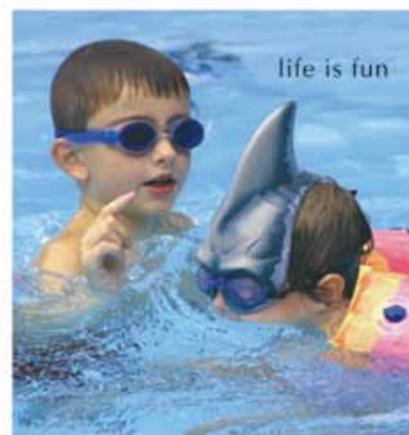
Home and Auto Insurance

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance intermediary also operating as "Johnson Insurance" in Ontario/Atlantic Region (NB, NL, NS, ON, PE). Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Eligibility requirements, limitations and exclusions may apply. AIR MILES® reward miles awarded on regular home and auto insurance policies underwritten by Unifund. At the time the premium is paid, one AIR MILES reward mile is awarded for each \$20 in premium (including taxes). AIR MILES reward miles not available in SK, MB or QC. ®™ Trademark of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund). Johnson Insurance received the highest numerical score among home insurance providers in the Ontario/Atlantic Region in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2011 Canadian Home Insurance Study®. Study based on 11,286 total responses measuring 20 providers in the Ontario/Atlantic Region and measures consumer satisfaction with home insurance providers. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers in July-August 2011. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com). CAT02.2012

The Teacher deadline for April is March 16th.

Call 1-800-565-6788 or email [smatheson@staff.nstu.ca](mailto:smatheson@staff.nstu.ca)

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# resources

## Elementary English Language Arts/Stories on Film Titles Available from Learning Resources and Technology Services

Learning Resources and Technology Services ships multimedia curriculum resources to schools anywhere in the province. Dubbing programs become a part of your school's collection; we charge only for the price of the blank media used. Read the Public Schools Branch newsletter *Branching Out* available online at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

Order pre-made titles from our lists online: visit [http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media\\_library/express/Video\\_Express.shtml](http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/media_library/express/Video_Express.shtml)

**EBSCO Periodical database (<http://search.epnet.com>)** EBSCO provides a series of online bibliographic and full-text databases so that you and your students can find information, pictures and citations on curriculum related topics.

EBSCO offers access to a wide variety of professional databases like ERIC and to a highly specialized collection of over 450 full-text journals, designed for professional educators. EBSCO is available to all students and teachers in Nova Scotia through computers connected to Ednet, or at home with passwords that can be obtained from your school.

**ImagesProject (<http://imagesproject.ednet.ns.ca>)** Need a photo to use in a school project? Visit the ImagesProject, a web-based collection of images for Nova Scotia public school program use. Nova Scotia students and teachers who are on Ednet may freely download, use and modify images from the ImagesProject website for curriculum purposes.

### ***Animal Alphabet (20 min.)* English Language Arts P-2**

Introduce students to the alphabet's 26 letters by engaging their natural curiosity about the animal kingdom. From "ant" to "zebra", the video features animals familiar and exotic. Fun, easy-to-read graphics are reinforced with simple alliterative phrases.

### ***Chicka Chicka 1-2-3 (6 min.)* English Language Arts P-2; Music P-2; Math - Grade Primary**

Based on the book by Bill Martin Jr., Michael Sampson and Lois Ehlert, this animated film will have children singing and counting along with the dancing numbers. Appropriate for use with Grades P-2.

### ***Diary of a Spider (10 min.)* English Language Arts P-3; Science P-3; Active Young Readers**

Based on the book by Doreen Cronin, this animated film shows students that the life of a spider isn't very much different from their own. This portrait of an upside-down web world will have kids wishing they could be spiders too. Appropriate for use with Grades P-3.

### ***Diary of a Worm (8 min.)* English Language Arts P-3; Science P-3; Active Young Readers**

Based on the book by Doreen Cronin, this animated film chronicles the ups and downs of being a worm and teaches children facts about worms. Appropriate for use with Grades P-3.

### ***The Ezra Jack Keats Library (52 min.)* English Language Arts P-3; Active Young Readers**

This video is a collection of well known stories by Ezra Jack Keats. Titles in this collection: *The Snowy Day*, *Whistle for Willie*, *Peter's Chair*, *Letter to Amy*, *Apt. 3*, *Pet Show!*, and *The Trip*. This video also includes the six-minute, *Getting to Know Ezra Jack Keats* which was filmed in 1970 and features Keats discussing what influenced his work as a children's book author and illustrator. Appropriate for use with Grades P-3.

### ***Feather Boy (180 min.)* English Language Arts 6; Health 6**

This six-part series is adapted from the award winning children's book, *Feather Boy* by Nicky Singer. The story is about Robert Nobel, a boy who despairs of his newly divorced parents. Robert is the butt of classroom jokes and a victim of Niker the classroom bully. He is haunted by dreams that seem to tell the future as well as the past. His life changes when a storyteller invites some of his class to Mayfield House, a place Robert has already dreamed about. There he meets a spiky old lady called Edith Sorrel who chooses him as her partner. He embarks on a series of events that will change their lives forever. Appropriate for use with Grades 4-6.

### ***Open Wide: Tooth School Inside (18 min.)* English Language Arts P-3; Health P-3; Active Young Readers**

Based on the book by Laurie Keller, this animated film makes learning about teeth entertaining and interesting. Presenting fascinating facts and tasty tidbits about teeth and dental hygiene, this lively cast of characters will have viewers happily reaching for their toothbrushes. Appropriate for use with Grades P-4.

### ***Seasons and Changes (29 min.)* English Language Arts P-3; Active Young Readers**

This enchanting video adaptation of award-winning, outstanding children's literature will help to make books come alive for every child, no matter their learning style. This classroom collection includes these three titles: *The Mysterious Tadpole*, by Steven Kellog; *The Caterpillar and the Polliwog*, by Jack Kent; and, *Time of Wonder*, by Robert McCloskey and is appropriate for use with Grades P-3.

### ***The Wheels on the Bus (6 min.)* English Language Arts P-1; Music P-1; Active Young Readers**

Based on the book by Paul O. Zelinsky, this animated film brings to life one of the most well-known and classic children's songs. Appropriate for use with Grades P-1.

Education Media Library, PO Box 578, Halifax, N.S. B3J 2S9; 902-424-2440 (phone); 428-3176 (fax), email [mediacir@ednet.ns.ca](mailto:mediacir@ednet.ns.ca) / website at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca>.

## RESOURCES

### *Caribou Mathematics Competition*

The Caribou Mathematics Competition (<http://www.brocku.ca/caribou/>) is a free online resource available across Canada in both English and French.

The project is designed to develop children's skills and interest in mathematics by providing challenging math activities for Grades 3-8. It facilitates participation by automating the competition and providing all previous contests as practice material. The project shows that mathematical puzzles can be fun and that competing in mathematical contests can be exciting.

The Caribou Mathematics Competition is easy for teachers to use and requires only a minute of their time to make an account and register for the contests. Marking and ranking is automatically completed on the day of the contest giving children quick feedback for their work.

Caribou hosts six contests every year. This helps keep students working on improving their math skills several times a year as well as providing multiple opportunities to get ahead in the competition. The results of each contest go towards their overall score. At the end of each Caribou Cup, \$1,500 worth of prizes is handed out to the students with the highest scores and each participant gets a certificate of merit. Video Solutions and Mathematical Problem Solving Games are also provided as online tools to further develop students' skills in mathematics.

### *War of 1812 Bicentennial: Historica-Dominion Institute survey*

Marking the bicentennial of the War of 1812, the Historica-Dominion Institute has commissioned a bi-national poll from Ipsos-Reid to measure Canadian and American attitudes and knowledge of the hotly contested conflict.

The study reveals how Canadians and Americans view and value the War of 1812 and other history. While 77 per cent of Canadians identified an important outcome of the war, only 64 per cent of Americans identified any significant outcome. Moreover, the fact that Canada beat the United States in the War of 1812 placed second (25 per cent) in a list of items that defined Canadian identity, behind free health care (53 per cent) but ahead of beating the U.S. at hockey (6 per cent). Canadians (17 per cent) are much more likely than Americans (3 per cent) to feel that the War of 1812 is the most important war in the formation of their country's identity.

Despite a visibly higher perceived importance of the war in Canada, Americans are still more likely to believe that commemoration and promotion of their historical figures is important: Eighty per cent of Americans and 77 per cent of Canadians agree that the War of 1812 bicentennial is an important commemoration and that their national government should support it. A majority of Americans (58 per cent) and a minority of Canadians (49 per cent) agree that their nation is good at promoting its history.

Full survey results are available at [www.historica-dominion.ca](http://www.historica-dominion.ca).

## 15<sup>th</sup> annual | nova scotia skills competition

Hosted by Skills Canada - Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Skills Competition is the Olympics of skilled trades and technologies.

We're looking for talented individuals with disabilities to compete in one of the 50+ competitions, including some which are specifically designed for persons with disabilities - cake decorating, painting, photography and poster design.

Whether their disability is physical, cognitive or behavioural, we will work to accommodate their individual needs.

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