

Professional Development Committee  
Year End Report 2009-2010

Mandate:

The mandate of the Professional Development Committee is:

- To support and develop strategies and programs to promote professional development for the membership of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union at the individual, school, Local and provincial levels.
- To provide advice to the Provincial Executive on matters relating to professional development and in-service education.
- To monitor the professional development needs of the membership.
- To liaise with the Local Professional Development Committees. To meet annually to identify themes and topics for future issues of Aviso
  - to set editorial policy
  - to set advertising policy
  - to evaluate issues of Aviso
- To make recommendations with regard to future directions for the publications; and to prepare recommendations for the Provincial Executive
- To consider such resolutions as may be referred by Annual Council and make appropriate recommendations for the Provincial Executive
- To participate as required in the NSTU Policy Review Process by providing recommendations for the Provincial Executive's consideration.

Activities of the PD Committee include:

- Administering the Out-of-Province Grants
- Administering the Full Time Study Grants
- Administering the NSTU Summer Travel Fellowship Grant Program
- Administering the NSTU Educational Research Award Program
- Supporting and assisting Local PD Committees
- Offering professional development opportunities, in cooperation with Local PD Committees, to enhance skills at the Local PD Committee level
- Recommending policy to the Provincial Executive on matters relating to the professional development needs of the membership

The NSTU Professional Development Committee for the 2009-2010 school year was comprised of the following members:

Darlene Bereta, Chair (Northside-Victoria)  
Angela Deagle (Inverness)  
Leon Swinkels (Halifax)  
Bonnie Mahaney (Shelburne)  
Dan Stephenson (Colchester-East Hants)  
Roland Hannem (Yarmouth)  
Sue Hannem (Provincial Executive)  
Betty – Jean Aucoin, NSTU Staff Liaison

### Meeting Dates

The Professional Development Committee met on the following dates during the 2009-2010 school year:

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010  
March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

The activities of this year's Professional Development Committee included the following:

- The committee organized and facilitated a very successful annual PD Conference on March 26-27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. This conference was held on a Friday evening and Saturday morning in March and was attended by approximately 40 teachers. The theme of the conference was "Unloading your Cart". The Friday evening keynote was presented by Alexis Allen (President) and Betty – Jean Aucoin, NSTU Staff Officer presented an overview on the importance of unloading your cart for teachers and student success (SPIRIT). Saturday morning included two sessions Reclaiming your voice (MIND) by Janine Kerr and Reclaiming your energy by Leticia Richer (BODY) and Gerard Cormier, Staff Officer did a great job rapping up the conference on personal reflection on who we are as teachers and not to forget to keep our mind, body and spirit healthy at all times while teaching and during our lives outside of our profession.
- The committee vetted applications for Summer Travel Fellowships, Education Research Awards, Out of Province Conference grants, and full time study grants.
- The committee reviewed existing policies as required under Policy Review Procedures.
- Committee met as the AVISO Editorial Advisory Board. The committee provided feedback on recent issues and selected themes and features for the 2010 -2011 year.

*Fall 2010 – Beyond the Classroom – Learning in a Community Setting*

*Winter 2011 – Mental Health Issues in Public Education*

*Spring 2011 – Celebrating Fine Arts Education*

- The budget for the committee was \$6,615.00. The actual cost of the committee's business was \$5,945.15

As outgoing chair, I wish to thank all of the committee members for their commitment of time and their energy and expertise.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene Bereta, Chair  
Professional Development Committee