

**Year End Report
2007-2008
Public Affairs Committee**

a. Mandate

i. Political Action

- A. The Committee shall maintain contact with all major provincial political parties through participation, as observers, in the annual meetings of each party. Following attendance at each annual meeting, the Committee shall report to the Provincial Executive.
- B. The Committee shall monitor the policies and practices of the major provincial political parties for the purpose of identifying issues impacting on education. The Committee shall then advise the President and Provincial Executive of these issues and recommend appropriate political action.
- C. During provincial elections, the Committee shall develop and implement a program focusing on the position of the parties and their candidates with respect to education.
- D. The Committee shall develop NSTU member awareness and urge member involvement in election campaigns.
- E. The Committee will operate a hospitality suite at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of each of the political parties with representation in the Nova Scotia Legislature, as allowed by each party.

ii. Process and Technical Support for Local Public Affairs Committees

- A. The Committee shall publish a Public Affairs Handbook for Local committees.
- B. Subject to approval by the Provincial Executive, the Committee shall provide resource materials and training to assist Local committees in carrying out their mandate.
- C. Subject to approval by the Provincial Executive, the Committee shall provide opportunities for Local committees to network and share.
- D. The Committee plans, with Provincial Executive approval, an annual meeting of Local leaders of Public Affairs.
- E. The Committee shall identify educational issues for political action by the Provincial Executive.

iii. Information to Member Candidates

- A. The Committee shall publish a handbook on conditions of employment for members interested in becoming political candidates.
- B. The Committee shall compile a resource file of information relevant to political action in education and maintain this file in the NSTU central office.
- C. The NSTU maintains its historical position of not attaching itself to any political party.

b. General

- i. Consider such resolutions as may be referred by Annual Council and make appropriate recommendations.
- ii. Participate as required in the NSTU Policy Review Process by providing recommendations for the Provincial Executive's consideration.

Committee Members

Composition

The Committee shall consist of three (3) Provincial Executive members selected by the Provincial Executive and five (5) NSTU active members chosen through the Nominating Committee process.

The Public Affairs Committee was comprised of the following members:

Lynnette Babin (Chair) – Richmond Local
John Drish – Community College
Patricia Hillier – Cumberland
Lee MacKenzie – Cape Breton
Sandra Mitchell – Lunenburg County
Alison MacPherson – Executive Member
Debbie McIsaac – Executive Member
Bonnie Steeves – Executive Member
Grant MacLean – Staff Liaison

d. Meeting Frequency

It is anticipated that the Public Affairs Committee will be able to accomplish the mandated tasks through three meetings per year. The Public Affairs and Public Relations Committees shall have some common meeting times to allow for discussion and exchange of initiatives, concerns and objectives.

Meeting Dates

The Committee met on the following dates:

- November 16, 2008
- February 8-10, 2008: While attending the Progressive Conservative Annual General Meeting
- February 29, March 1 and 2, 2008: While attending the Liberal Annual General Meeting

At the first meeting of the Public Affairs Committee on November 16, 2007, the following items were discussed:

- a) Expense/Meeting Guidelines
- b) Review of Public Affairs Mandate
- c) Review of Year-End Report 2006-2007
- d) Review of Professional Development Policies for Council 2008
- e) Zone Contacts were established for the Committee members
- f) Premier's Conference on Assessment – Major Themes
- g) MLA Contact Sheets
- h) Political Strategy Handbook
- i) PA/PR Conference
- j) Planning for the upcoming year

The second meeting of the Public Affairs Committee was held at the NSTU building on February 8, 2008 prior to attending the Progressive Conservative Annual General meeting held at the Westin Hotel. The PA Committee met and conducted business and during the latter part of the afternoon met with the PR Committee to discuss plans for the upcoming PA/PR Conference scheduled for April 17 and 18, 2008.

The following items were discussed at the Public Affairs meeting:

- a) Letter of Introduction sent to all Local PA Committees
- b) Upcoming PA/PR Conference (topics)
- c) Role of the Public Affairs Committee at the PC AGM
- d) Referred Resolutions from Council 2007
- e) Resolutions 2008 and Time to Learn/Time to Teach tabled until next meeting

After the adjournment of the afternoon meeting, the committee members registered for the Progressive Conservative Annual General meeting and attended the evening session. After the close of business on Friday evening the Committee hosted a hospitality suite and received delegates to discuss educational issues. Committee members attended the sessions on Saturday. The Committee received delegates at the hospitality suite Saturday evening.

The third meeting of the Public Affairs Committee was held during the Liberal Party Annual convention at the Westin Hotel on February 29, March 1 and 2, 2008.

The following items were discussed:

- a) PA/PR Conference –Review of Agenda
- b) Discussion on Resolutions 2008
- c) Role of the Public Affairs Committee at Liberal AGM
- d) Time to Learn/Time to Teach Update
- e) Budget Consultation with Provincial Finance Minister, NSTU Response

The Committee hosted a hospitality suite on the Friday Evening. Delegates were entertained and educational issues were discussed.

Public Affairs Committee Budget 2007-2008

Budgeted Amount – \$18, 780.00

Actual - \$14, 441.55

The Public Affairs Committee had a successful and productive year. We worked well as a committee and our presence at the AGM's allowed us to address educational issues with the political leaders of our province.

The committee offered support to the local committees and helped organize a successful PA/PR conference in April.

As Chair, I would like to thank all committee members for their time and effort this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynnette Babin