



NSTU and Department of Education Open Negotiations

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Department of Education opened negotiations on a new Teachers' Provincial Agreement on September 21 at 9:30 a.m. at the NSTU building in Halifax.

"I am confident that both sides will continue to negotiate respectfully in our goal of achieving a fair and reasonable contract for public school teachers," said NSTU president Alexis Allen during the exchange of packages.

At this initial meeting both parties established ground rules for negotiations, exchanged asking packages, and set a

schedule of further meetings. As in past negotiations, the parties have agreed to keep their discussions confidential.

On September 21 and 22, regional meetings took place for NSTU Locals around the province. At these meetings a summary of articles in the NSTU's asking package was presented. Articles in the asking package were derived from over 190 submissions from the NSTU membership to the Provincial Economic Welfare Committee, who prepared the package for approval by the Provincial Executive.



Above is executive staff officer Joan Ling presenting the asking package to teachers with the Pictou Local at the regional meeting at North Nova Education Centre on September 21.

The current provincial agreement expired July 31, 2010. Negotiation updates will be distributed electronically through NSTU reps, NSTU webmail accounts and on the NSTU website.

The NSTU team consists of president Alexis Allen, first vice



NSTU's negotiating team for the public school contract, seated: Bruce Kelloway, Eric Boutilier, Alexis Allen, and Bill Redden. Standing: Janine Kerr, Nathan Smart and Belinda Snow.

president Eric Boutilier, Nathan Smart (Queens Local), Belinda Snow (Hants West Local), executive director Bill Redden, assistant executive director Bruce Kelloway, and executive staff officer Janine Kerr.

The Department of Education's negotiating team consists of: Department of Education's Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools; Sheila Landry, Director, School Board Labour Relations; Dave Allen, Consultant; Joe MacEachern, Director, Education Funding & Accountability; and Rebecca Doucett; Manager, Financial Advisory Services. Mike

Christie, Director of Human Resources, Halifax Regional School Board; Ken Meech, president of the Nova Scotia School Boards Association; Gary Clark, Superintendent, Chignecto-Central Regional School Board and Phil Landry, Superintendent, Tri-County Regional School Board also serve on the team.

Since the exchange of packages, negotiation sessions took place October 5 and 6. Further sessions are scheduled for October 20, November 1 and 2 and December 1, 6 and 7.

LDR/MDRs and LSPs/LTLs no longer mandatory

Elementary teachers in the province will no longer have to complete Literacy Development Record (LDR) and Math Development Record (MDR) forms, Learning Support Plans (LSP) and Learning Through Literacy (LTL) forms as the Department of Education has deemed them non-mandatory. A September 15 letter to all superintendents from Alan Lowe, Senior Executive Director, Public Schools Branch, states "the use of the Literacy Development Record and Math Development Record forms which had been developed at the provincial level with input from the boards will no longer be considered mandatory." The NSTU also received communication from the Department on October 12 that teachers are no longer required to complete the LSP and LTL forms.

executive highlights

- Filed table officers report;
- Selected six candidates to the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program, along with one alternate;
- Received nominating committee report:
 - Selected a member to serve on the Comité de programmation acadienne;
 - Selected a retired member to serve on the Sheonoroil board of directors;
 - Selected a member to serve on the professional development committee.
- Received the audited financial statements of the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund;
- Approved guidelines for netbooks;
- Approved Operational Procedures 15 (m) – Communication Policy be deleted and replaced with new text;
- Approved recommendation to the finance and property committee to review the financial reporting procedures of professional associations with branches;
- Filed annual reports from NSTU standing committees; to be posted to the members-only website;
- Approved Pictou Lodge to be the site of the July 2011 Executive Planning Conference;
- Ratified amendments to the Community College Local constitution;
- Approved recommendation that Bill Murphy remain as acting REWC Chair of the Strait RRC for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year;
- Approved recommendation that Sheila Hawley act as RRC Chair of the Strait RRC for the remainder of the 2010-2011 school year.

"We have argued that completion of these forms was not a good use of teachers' time and did not always contribute meaningfully to student success," says NSTU president Alexis Allen. "We're pleased that the Department has been listening and we hope this will help with the on-going issue of teacher workload, especially for our elementary teachers."

A year ago NSTU's Curriculum Committee met with Ann Blackwood, Director of English Program Services for the Department of Education to discuss the issues in curriculum raised by classroom teachers. At the top of the list was the requirement to fill out the LDR/MDR forms.

Lowe further explained to superintendents that while the tracking of individual student literacy and math achievement and development of appropriate strategies to enable students to achieve will continue, it will be left to school boards to best determine how to accomplish this.

"The new provincial Student Information System should provide the means for teachers to record detailed information about their students' learning with respect to the curriculum outcomes and achieve the monitoring of student success required by school boards," continues Allen. "The system should ensure that teachers are asked to only collect data used to enhance, promote and secure student learning."

The NSTU has communicated with all superintendents to ensure that this process becomes one that will replace what was being asked for in the MDR/LDR forms. "We just want to ensure that teachers are not being asked to duplicate efforts, increase their workload and take even more time from teaching. The elimination of the LDR/MDR and LSP/LTL forms is a good first step."

people

Canada celebrates Sports Day and Jersey Day



NSTU staff, along with teachers, students and CTF-member organizations across the country rallied support for Sports Day in Canada on September 18, by participating in national Jersey Day, which was held on September 17. Across the country, Canadians showed their love and support for sport by wearing a jersey, team or club uniform to school, work or play. The first ever Sports Day in Canada, organized by CBC Sports, ParticipACTION and True Sport, celebrated sport, activity and participation and included a six-hour television and online CBC broadcast (www.cbc.ca/sports/sportsday). CTF president and former NSTU president Mary-Lou Donnelly is a member of the ParticipACTION board.

Governance Renewal committee begins work

Members of NSTU's ad hoc Governance Renewal Committee began their work on Friday October 1. The committee is comprised of provincial executive members from geographic regions representing school boards, along with NSTU president Alexis Allen, and executive director Bill Redden. Lyle Vinish, former general secretary of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, an external project consultant, and Audrey Cuvilier, executive assistant policy and event facilitator, also serve on the committee.

The committee will review the structure of other Canadian teacher organizations for relevance to the NSTU, recommend an effective organizational structure for NSTU leadership and governance, and an effective and efficient representation model for provincial executive, recommend clear roles and responsibilities for all elements of the NSTU structure and recommend an implementation process and timeline. The committee will provide regular updates to the provincial executive, present its report by February 2011, followed by a report to Council in May 2011.



Shown from left to right are Audrey Cuvilier; Milton Bonnar (Cape Breton); Bobbie Archer (Tri-County); Lyle Vinish; Tammy Landry (Strait); Bill Bruhm (South Shore); Angela Gillis (Halifax); Bill Redden; Pat Hillier (Chignecto), Alexis Allen; and committee chair Allister Wadden (Annapolis Valley).

EDUCATION WEEK April 10-16, 2011 Innovative Teaching in the 21st Century

Labour Day March

Members of NSTU's provincial executive (PE) and other NSTU members participated in the annual Labour Day Rally in Halifax on Monday September 6. NSTU president Alexis Allen encouraged NSTU members to participate in Labour Day events across the province to show support for the critical role unions play in improving workers' rights and conditions. Marching with Premier Darrell Dexter are: Kerry Butler (Halifax City Local); Susan Hannem (Halifax County PE rep); Angela Gillis and Paul Betuik (Halifax City PE reps); NSTU president Alexis Allen; Gerry Alley (Colchester-East Hants PE rep) and (directly behind the premier) Bill Bruhm (Lunenburg County PE rep). Education Minister Marilyn More is also shown.



PACC committee meets

The NSTU Professional Associations Coordination Committee (PACC) held its first meeting of the school year on October 1, just three weeks before the much-anticipated Provincial Conference Day, to be held on October 22. The committee recommends policy to the Provincial Executive with regard to the operation of Professional Associations makes recommendations regarding the formation or disbandment of Professional Associations; and advises the Provincial Executive on Professional Association matters. The



October 1 meeting focused on the planning of the annual Professional Associations Leaders Conference, which will take place December 10-11, the promotion of Professional Associations and a review of the online registration process for this year's conferences. Clockwise from the left are: Sean McLennon (NSMEA); Steve Ranni (TAPHE); NSTU staff liaison Betty-Jean Aucoin; Anne Henderson (ATYA); Charlene MacDonald (AST); Wade Van Snick (NSSCA); and committee chair Cathy Townsend (PETA). Missing from the photo is P.E. rep Tammy Landry.

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Managing Editor: **Angela Murray**
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Advertising & Circulation: **Sonia Matheson**

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Return undeliverable Canadian
addresses to: **3106 Joseph Howe Drive,
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Phone: 902-477-5621 Fax: 902-477-3517
Toll free: 1-800-565-6788
email: theteacher@nstu.ca website: www.nstu.ca

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NSTU/NSSBA win BRAVO! Award of Excellence for Save Grade 2 campaign

The Canadian Association of Communicators in Education (CACE) has awarded a prestigious BRAVO! Award of Excellence to the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Nova Scotia School Boards Association (NSSBA) for the Education Partners campaign *Save Grade 2*.

The 2010 BRAVO! Award of Excellence for communications program was presented to NSTU public relations coordinator Angela Murray and NSSBA communications manager Sharon Findlay-MacPhee, members of CACE, at the annual CACE conference and business meeting, which took place September 26 to 28 in Banff, Alberta. Meghan Kelly, NSSBA Communications Coordinator was also named on the award.

A source of both individual and group prestige, the BRAVO! program showcases Canada's best work in the field of educational communications and provides the opportunity to be recognized by fellow members and colleagues for outstanding work. Award of Excellence projects score 85 per cent or higher and demonstrate excellence in research, planning, execution and evaluation. Judges' comments on the submission were: very impressive - ambitious goal with successful outcome - media training shows clear understanding of PR messaging. Congratulations to all partners.

The *Save Grade 2* lobby campaign called for a continued investment in public education. The education partners, NSTU, NSSBA, Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators (ANSEA), Nova Scotia Federation of Home and School Associations (NSFHSA) and La fédération des parents acadiens de la Nouvelle-Écosse engaged the advertising and public relations agency Colour to help develop the campaign, which empowered Nova Scotians to speak out about the importance of public education during the Government's public consultation process around developing the 2010-11 budget. It also encouraged teachers, parents, school board members and others to attend the public consultations and write letters to MLAs urging them to



Above are Sharon Findlay-MacPhee (left) and Angela Murray (right) with CACE vice president Maxeen Jolin (centre) receiving their award.

put education first in last year's provincial budget and continue the conversation about this important issue. The campaign involved a news conference, a print and radio ad campaign and a website.

CACE represents communications professionals who work in private and publicly funded school boards, colleges and universities, teacher organizations, and government departments and ministries across Canada. CACE provides networking and professional development opportunities for its members and acknowledges their contributions to the success of the educational system in Canada.

Next year's conference and annual meeting will be hosted by Nova Scotia and will take place in Halifax. Findlay-MacPhee and Murray are members of the conference steering committee. Findlay-MacPhee and Richard Landry, Communications Officer for the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial are the conference co-chairs.

CORRECTION

There is an **error** in the 2010-11 **Member Diary (English version)** on page 73 under Reduced Service Pension, under A. It should read:

A. Fifty (50) years of age with 30 or more years of service...

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Not sure what to do about your finances? Call today to set up an appointment for free financial advice.

TIP OF THE MONTH

"Will" or "Not to Will"

Do you have a "Will" and a "Power of Attorney (P/A)"?

If **Not** you should seriously consider getting one as soon as possible.

Teachers Plus Credit Union is not trying to make any lawyers rich but the small price now for a Will and P/A will more than pay for itself if you ever end up in court to contest an estate.

Please contact us for more information regarding estates and the special deal for "our members" we have arranged with our solicitor, to provide you with a very attractive pricing for a combined standard Will and P/A.

TPCU INFO CENTRE

- 1 Credit Union week runs October 17-23, TPCU will be accepting donations of money or food for Feed Nova Scotia.
- 2 Come in October 21, 2010 to help celebrate Credit Union day with cake and light refreshments.
- 3 Skip a Payment is going to be offered for November and December, check your mailbox soon!
- 4 Have you topped up your Tax Free Savings for 2010.
- 5 Our office will be closed Thursday, November 11, 2010.
- 6 Bring us your Mortgage by December 31, 2010 and receive \$500.*Some conditions may apply.
- 7 Protect your valuables. We are offering FREE safety deposit boxes until December 31, 2010.



Alex

from the nstu president

Hold your head up high—we are doing well

I recently had the opportunity to attend the *Building Blocks for Education Summit* in Toronto hosted by the Government of Ontario. With a focus on “whole system reform” this two-day summit boasted over 600 delegates with educational representatives from 12 countries including Finland, Russia, Singapore, and Australia. One of the keynote speakers was Arne Duncan, U.S. President Barack Obama’s Secretary of Education. The Obama administration inherited the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* policy introduced by former president George Bush. Obama replaced (NCLB) with *Reach for the Top* that provides a fund of over \$5 billion dollars to states who agree to link teacher assessment with student results on standardized tests, agree to merit pay, and support charter schools. Duncan is the architect of the *Reach for the Top* program. He began his speech by referencing a comment made the previous day by Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty, “The premier spoke the truth; he’s absolutely entitled to those bragging rights, Canadian 15-year-olds are more than a year ahead of their American counterparts in math and science.” Good news, and nothing we in education did not already know. In fact, according to the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests, Canada ranks second in the world just behind Finland, among the 17 peer countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD). According to the OECD’s 2009 *Education at a Glance*, our schools are recognized

“the key to promoting innovation in education is to trust teachers.”

as delivering high quality education to students between the ages of five to 25, supported from modest funding and we have a relatively high graduation rate.

Canadian students are achieving as demonstrated by international standards set by PISA and in Nova Scotia we were recently recognized as educational leaders in the IB (International Baccalaureate) diploma program. According to a September 16 news release: “Graduates of Nova Scotia’s International Baccalaureate Diploma program are among some of the best and brightest students in the world. Examination results released by the Department of Education, show public school IB students outperformed North American IB students in 24 of 26 subjects and world IB students in 21 of 27 subjects—including math, English, biology, physics, economics, music and history.”

Of the 57 countries that participated in the 2006 PISA testing, only students from Hong Kong-China and Finland outperformed Canadian 15-year-olds on the combined science scale. All provinces performed at or above the OECD average. Although Nova Scotia fell below the Canadian PISA average in science, reading and math, it ranked **ahead** of countries such as Ireland, U.S., France and Sweden, (ten out of 17 top countries) and was statistically on par with the UK and Germany. While we know we can always reflect upon and enhance what we can do in the classroom and in our schools, the path to reflective practice may be best illuminated by what is done in Finland. Finland has a population of just over five million people with 60,000 students and is ranked number one in the world in the PISA results. They offer nine years of basic education starting at seven-years-old, prior to which is a voluntary pre-primary program offered at age six, universal child care, subsidies for parents to stay home with children up to the age of three and free before and after school programs that support student learning, growth and development—all of which is supported by the government.

Finland’s teachers are held in high esteem, they have strong autonomy in their work; there is **no national testing** of learning outcomes, or school ranking lists or inspection of schools. According to the Finnish Minister of Education’s Timo Lankinen, “Optimum working conditions are considered an essential prerequisite to recruiting and retaining talented individuals to teaching.” According to Lankinen “the key to promoting innovation in education is to trust teachers.” They have 190 days of school, four to seven hours per day, a moderate amount of homework and no private lessons after school. About 5.8 per cent of the GDP goes to education.

In contrast, the U.S. encourages and promotes a competitive model to education most recently highlighted by *Race for the Top* as a continuation of the “name and shame” approach introduced by *No Child Left Behind*; it encourages more national high-stakes, norm-referenced standardized testing, merit pay for teachers who have students who perform well on the tests, and more charter schools.

So, recapping the three systems: Finland, which has the number one PISA spot, has a belief in education that supports families and teacher autonomy; Canada, with the number two spot, for the most part supports teaching as a profession and steers away from high-stakes testing and; the United States, which ranks 17th, believes in more testing and control. Finland trusts the professionals—the teachers—to deliver quality education and supports parents financially while the United States’ *Race to the Top* de-professionalizes teachers, instead of supporting them and student learning. So where should Nova Scotia look for new ideas and approaches to improve and enhance student learning and teacher professionalism? The answer is obvious!

Gardez la tête haute – vous vous débrouillez très bien

J’ai eu récemment l’occasion d’assister au sommet international *Les assises de l’éducation* à Toronto, sommet organisé par le gouvernement de l’Ontario sur le thème de la réforme systémique. Ce sommet de deux jours a réuni plus de 600 délégués représentant le monde de l’éducation dans 12 pays, dont la Finlande, la Russie, Singapour et l’Australie. L’un des conférenciers d’honneur était Arne Duncan, secrétaire à l’éducation du président des États-Unis, Barack Obama. L’administration Obama a hérité de la politique *Aucun enfant laissé pour compte* introduite par l’ancien président George Bush. Obama l’a remplacé par un programme appelé *La Course au sommet* qui fournit des fonds d’environ 5 milliards de \$ aux états qui s’engagent à lier l’évaluation des enseignants aux résultats des élèves aux tests standardisés, qui acceptent la rémunération au mérite et qui soutiennent les écoles à charte. Duncan est l’architecte du programme *La Course au sommet*. Il a commencé son discours en citant un commentaire fait la veille par le premier ministre de l’Ontario, Dalton McGuinty, et a déclaré : « Le premier ministre a dit vrai; il a tout à fait le droit de se vanter, les Canadiens de 15 ans ont plus d’un an d’avance sur leurs homologues américains en mathématiques et en sciences. » C’est effectivement une bonne nouvelle mais cela ne nous apprend rien que nous ne savions déjà. En fait, selon le Programme international pour le suivi des acquis des élèves (PISA), le Canada se classe numéro deux au monde, juste derrière la Finlande, parmi les 17 pays de l’Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques (OCDE). Le document de l’OCDE, *Regards sur l’éducation 2009*, constate que nos écoles fournissent une éducation de haute qualité aux élèves entre l’âge de cinq et 25 ans, soutenue par un financement modeste et nous avons un taux relativement élevé d’obtention de diplômes.

Les élèves canadiens ont effectivement de bons résultats, selon les normes internationales établies par le PISA, et la Nouvelle-Écosse a été récemment reconnue comme un leader du programme de baccalauréat international (BI). Selon un communiqué de presse du 16 septembre : « Les diplômés du programme de baccalauréat international de la Nouvelle-Écosse sont parmi les meilleurs et les plus brillants élèves au monde. Les résultats de l’examen, publiés par le ministère de l’Éducation, montrent que les élèves de BI des écoles publiques ont obtenu de meilleurs résultats que les élèves de BI américains dans 24 matières sur 26 et que les élèves de BI du reste du monde dans 21 matières sur 27 – y compris les mathématiques, l’anglais, la biologie, la physique, l’économie, la musique et l’histoire. »

Parmi les 57 pays qui ont participé des examens PISA 2006, seuls les élèves de Hong Kong et de Finlande ont obtenu de meilleurs résultats que les élèves canadiens de 15 ans sur l’échelle combinée des sciences. **Toutes les provinces ont obtenu des résultats équivalents ou supérieurs à la moyenne de l’OCDE**. Bien que la Nouvelle-Écosse tombe en dessous de la moyenne canadienne du PISA en sciences, en lecture et en mathématiques, la Nouvelle-Écosse a obtenu un MEILLEUR classement que des pays comme l’Irlande, les États-Unis, la France et la Suède (10^e sur 17 pays de tête) et était statistiquement au même niveau que le Royaume-Uni et l’Allemagne. Tout en sachant que nous pouvons toujours réfléchir davantage à la manière d’améliorer ce que nous faisons dans nos salles de classe et dans nos écoles, la voie d’une pratique intelligente est particulièrement bien montrée par ce qui se fait en Finlande. La Finlande a une population d’à peine plus de 5 millions de personnes (60 000 élèves) et se place numéro un mondial dans le classement du PISA. Ce pays offre neuf ans d’éducation de base à partir de l’âge de sept ans; avant cela, elle offre un programme pré-primaire facultatif à partir de l’âge de six ans, un système de garderie universel, des subventions permettant aux parents de rester à la maison avec leurs enfants jusqu’à l’âge de trois ans et des programmes gratuits avant et après l’école pour soutenir l’apprentissage, la croissance et le développement des élèves—programmes qui sont tous financés par le gouvernement.

Les enseignants finlandais sont tenus en haute estime et ils ont une grande autonomie dans leur travail; il n’y a PAS DE TESTS NATIONAUX des objectifs d’apprentissage ni de listes de classement des écoles ni d’inspection des écoles. Selon le ministre finlandais de l’Éducation, Timo Lankinen, « Des conditions de travail optimales sont considérées comme un préalable essentiel au recrutement et à la rétention de personnes compétentes dans le domaine de l’enseignement ». D’après M. Lankinen « la clé pour promouvoir **l’innovation en éducation est de faire confiance aux enseignants** ». La Finlande a 190 jours d’école par an, quatre à sept heures de classe par jour, un volume modéré de devoirs à la maison et pas de cours privés après l’école. Environ 5,8 % du PIB est consacré à l’éducation.

Par contraste, les États-Unis encouragent et favorisent un modèle compétitif de l’éducation, ce qui a récemment été mis en avant par le programme *La course au sommet* qui reprend l’approche « dénonciation et humiliation » introduite par le programme *Aucun enfant laissé pour compte*; il encourage des enjeux nationaux plus élevés, des tests standardisés, la rémunération au mérite pour les enseignants dont les élèves obtiennent de bons résultats aux tests et davantage d’écoles à charte.

Récapitulons donc les trois systèmes : la Finlande, qui arrive en tête du classement du PISA, est en faveur d’un système éducatif qui soutient les familles et l’autonomie des enseignants; le Canada, qui arrive en deuxième place, soutient dans l’ensemble l’enseignement en tant que profession et se détourne des tests à forts enjeux et les États-Unis, qui arrivent en 17^e place, sont d’avis qu’il faut augmenter les tests et le contrôle. La Finlande fait confiance à des professionnels – les enseignants – pour fournir une éducation de qualité et elle soutient financièrement les parents tandis que le programme *La course au sommet* des États-Unis « déprofessionnalise » les enseignants, au lieu de les soutenir et de soutenir l’apprentissage des élèves. Quelle direction devrait prendre la Nouvelle-Écosse pour trouver des moyens d’améliorer et de favoriser l’apprentissage des élèves et le professionnalisme des enseignants? La réponse est évidente!

O₂ showcase and workshop focuses on 21st century learning

The O₂ (Options and Opportunities) program's annual showcase and workshop last May 27 and 28 focused on 21st century learning. NSTU executive staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin provided the keynote address *Gate Keepers Response to 21st Century Learners*. Aucoin explored with the audience of O₂ teachers their role as gatekeepers to the next generation. "We have a responsibility to the next generation to capitalize on their strengths, in our teaching, and their learning," she said.

Focusing on the fact that *Baby Boomers*, *Generation X'ers*, and more recently, *the Millennials* are currently working in the school system today, she encouraged participants to embrace the differences in attitudes and philosophies between these generations to understand, celebrate and capitalize upon to create positive outcomes.

In speaking of the students that teachers currently serve, "Remember, millennials are not a lost generation—they are a generation that uses different tools." She also provided some tips for participants to become 21st century fluent in working with students to ensure success.

Options and Opportunities students (O₂) displayed the innovative projects they created at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth in the May 27 evening showcase. Workshop sessions included *21st Century Learning: Engagement and the Brain*, *Using Whiteboard and Other Technologies in the O₂ Classroom* and *Successes and Challenges in O₂ School*.



NSTU staff officer Betty-Jean Aucoin provides the keynote address for the O₂ conference.

The O₂ program enables high school students to explore careers through hands-on work experience. The program prepares students for the job market, helps them make informed career choices by focusing on career development and supports personal growth. It matches students with qualified employers to give them the opportunity to gain experience in a workplace. Last school year, nearly 3,000 employers supported O₂ students through work placements.

"O₂ students are finding great success inside and outside of the classroom because of this program," said Education Minister Marilyn More. "Students who were once disengaged have become proud and successful members of their school community. They have improved their grades, attendance, self-esteem and self-confidence."

According to teachers and parents, Options and Opportunities has been an overwhelming success. Originally piloted in 27 schools in the fall of 2006, the program has expanded to over 105 classrooms and 46 schools across the province. Teachers say they see significant improvements in student grades and attendance, and fewer discipline problems. Parents say relationships with their children are better and students themselves have higher self-esteem and self-worth.



A Message from Member Services

Avoiding On-Line Misconduct: Facebook Dos and Don'ts

This past spring, a labour arbitrator upheld the discharge of a pilot who had posted racially offensive comments about his airline's clientele on his Facebook account. The comments were only accessible by his Facebook "friends." However, his "friends" included a co-worker, a pilot at another airline and an employee of Health Canada, which was described as one of the airline's biggest customers. The arbitrator wrote that although it was unclear

how many individuals had viewed the comments, and what privacy settings there were, if any, in relation to the comments, "the medium chosen by the grievor to express his statements lies within the public domain." (*Wasaya Airways LP v. A.L.P.A. (Wyndels)* (2010), 101 C.L.A.S. 389 (Marcotte))

An arbitrator in an earlier case wrote that "[w]hile the grievor has a right to create personal blogs and is entitled to her opinions about people with whom she works, publicly displaying those opinions may have consequences within an employment relationship." (*Wasaya Airways LP v. A.L.P.A. (Wyndels)* (2010), 101 C.L.A.S. 389 (Marcotte))

Here are some tips about using Facebook that will help you avoid making mistakes that could have serious consequences for you at work.

DO:

- **Ensure your privacy settings are at the highest level for all content.**

WHY: *Whoever has access to your information—photos, images, profile, wall, messages—also has the ability to copy and disseminate that information, which means the information is not private and, depending on the content, could put you at risk of discipline.*

- **Ensure your posts and photos/images are professional and respectful.**

WHY: *See above. You can be disciplined, in certain circumstances, for off-duty conduct.*

DON'T:

- **Have students as Facebook "friends" or otherwise communicate with students via Facebook.**

WHY: *You are not your students' friends. You are their teacher. Allowing personal relationships to develop with students creates the risk that your communications will be misinterpreted that you will become too familiar with that student. The worst case scenario might involve severe discipline or discharge, suspension or revocation of your teaching certificate, and possibly criminal charges.*

- **Criticize your employer or your colleagues.**

WHY: *You could be disciplined for such conduct. And as we suggested above, your information is only private until one of your "friends" decides to disseminate it.*

- **Vent about your students or their parents.**

WHY: *You have a duty to keep information about your students confidential, and can be disciplined for breaching that confidentiality.*

- **Access or post on your account during class time.**

WHY: *You can be disciplined for performing personal tasks while you should be working.*

No matter what your privacy settings are, the information on your account is ultimately in the public domain. A good rule of thumb is not to put anything on your account that you wouldn't want your employer to see.



2010-2011 Pre-Retirement Seminars SCHEDULE



DATES	LOCATIONS
November 9 & 10 (Tuesday & Wednesday) 16 & 17 (Tuesday & Wednesday) 30 & Dec. 1 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	CBVRSB (Membertou TCC) CCRSB (Holiday Inn, Truro) TCRSB (Rodd Grand, Yarmouth)
December 6 & 7 (Monday & Tuesday) 13 & 14 (Monday & Tuesday)	AVRSB (Old Orchard Inn, Greenwich) HRSB (NSTU Building, Halifax)
January 13 & 14 (Thursday & Friday) 25 & 26 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	CCRSB (Holiday Inn Express, Stellarton/New Glasgow) HRSB (NSTU Building, Halifax)
February 1 & 2 (Tuesday & Wednesday) 7 & 8 (Monday & Tuesday)	SSRSB (Best Western, Bridgewater) HRSB (NSTU Building, Halifax)
March 28 & 29 (Monday & Tuesday)	HRSB (NSTU Building, Halifax)

24 September, 2010

Dates/locations subject to change

Congratulations to our September winners of the FRESH & EQUITY books!

Lexi Juurlink from Hants East Rural High
FRESH: *The Bullying Prevention Handbook: A Guide for Principals, Teachers, and Counselors (2nd Edition)*

Kristin Innes from John Martin Junior High
EQUITY: *Anti-Racism in Education: Missing in Action*

CELEBRATING OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MONTH

The Broad Scope of Occupational Therapy

by Denise Johnston, BSc OT Reg (NS)

CASE COORDINATOR, NSTU EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

October is National Occupational Therapy (OT) month. It is a time to celebrate occupational therapy's contributions to helping people live healthier, more satisfying lives. The month is a joint public awareness initiative of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT), its 10,000 members and its affiliate provincial and territorial occupational therapy associations. These associations hold various events across the country to increase the understanding of the important role occupational therapy plays in creating inclusive, diverse communities. The annual Early Intervention Program "Lunch and Learn" is held each year during OT Month with NSTU central office staff to increase the profile and awareness of the profession.

As I write this article about the scope of OT and the Early Intervention Program (EIP), and reflect on my own practice over the past 25 years, I am struck by how grateful I am to have discovered such a fulfilling career. Although my path to it was somewhat indirect (I originally wanted to be a special education teacher) I have appreciated the incredible opportunities and experiences this career choice has offered me. I have been able to work all over the world, in hospital, private practice and community settings, with individuals having mental health issues and physical disabilities. I have had the privilege to work with and learn from the most incredible and resourceful people as they deal and cope with a disability or health issue. In my current position as a Case Coordinator in the NSTU's Early Intervention Program, I am continually inspired by NSTU members who are faced with the day-to-day challenges of their job, while coping with health issues.

WHAT IS Occupational Therapy?

OTs define occupation as everything that a person does each day, within each of the following categories:

- self-care (getting dressed, bathing, cooking and eating);
- leisure (hobbies, sports, social activities);
- productivity (paid or unpaid work, housework and school).

An OT may assist a client to:

- learn new ways of doing things; for example, dress or cook with one arm after a stroke;
- adapt materials or equipment they use; for example, build up pencils

and special seating for a child to attend school;

- make changes to their environment; for example, negotiate with an employer for a gradual return-to-work plan following a motor vehicle accident.

Canadian occupational therapists are known worldwide for their client-centred approach. OTs value the knowledge, experience and self-determination of the client in the practice of occupational therapy.

EIP is an occupational therapy-based program to support NSTU members who are experiencing illness or injury. This program can be accessed by any NSTU member, at work or on sick leave, on a self-referral basis. This means that members ultimately make the choice about their involvement and are actively involved in the decisions about interventions. Currently, there are four occupational therapists who work with NSTU members in this capacity.

Benefits of OT

Anyone, of any age, can benefit from occupational therapy if they are unable to, or find it difficult to participate in a desired activity. Occupational therapists have training and knowledge in physical and psychosocial development and disorders and therefore look at the whole person, not just the physical aspects of their problem. They also look at these problems or risks in terms of how they affect the client's function. By seeing an occupational therapist, people develop the skills for the job of living. OTs enable clients to participate more fully in the life they choose, or to prevent a disruption in their day-to-day living. Occupational therapy benefits the individual and those around them such as teachers, employers, parents, spouses and other family members.

Occupational therapy can help clients overcome and/or develop strategies to cope with:

- mobility and seating problems due to developmental disorders, arthritis, a spinal cord injury or simply the aging process;
- managing pain due to an automobile accident, burns, incorrect lifting, arthritis, fibromyalgia, or repetitive strain injuries such as carpal tunnel syndrome;
- fatigue related to a heart condition, multiple sclerosis, depression, stress, or stroke;

- returning to work after an injury or prolonged illness;
- relearning and finding new ways to manage home-making activities after a brain injury or acute mental illness;
- discovering memory aids and other tricks for people who experience poor memory due to aging, Alzheimer's Disease, or stress.

Occupational therapy can also help prevent:

- unnecessary hospital stays or premature nursing home admissions;
- work injuries due to poor work station positioning, unrealistic pace or work, and other organizational and psychosocial strains;
- school dropouts due to poor attention spans, or reading and writing difficulties;
- unemployment among people with a developmental disability or mental illness.

The occupational therapists who work in the NSTU's Early Intervention Program have enabled members to stay at work, minimize sick time, make a successful return to work, obtain necessary adaptive equipment and learn new strategies to improve their day-to-day function at work and at home. Our EIP satisfaction surveys tell us that teachers are more comfortable at work, have less pain, are more productive, benefit from the equipment provided and report more balanced home and work lives.

Required Education

Qualified occupational therapists have:

- graduated from an accredited university program with a four-year baccalaureate degree or a master's degree in occupational therapy;
- successfully completed a minimum of 1,000 hours of fieldwork education;
- successfully passed the national certification examination administered by the CAOT, or met provincial registration qualifications.

Their approach is based on research that proves that an individual's ability to engage in occupation increases their health and well being.

OTs in the Early Intervention Program also participate in yearly continuing education courses and in-services on such topics as return to work, mental health issues in the workplace, ergonomics, time management, and achieving healthy lifestyle balance.

Where do OTs Work?

- in the community: home care, schools, health boards, community health centres and mental health teams, clinics, community action groups, workers compensation boards, and government;

- in workplaces and with employee assistance programs;
- in rehabilitation companies and in private practice;
- in institutions: acute care hospitals, long term care hospitals, rehabilitation centres, nursing homes and mental health centres.

In EIP we find ourselves in the classroom, at school board offices, in homes, at the NSTU offices, and in our cars as we travel across the province.

Who Pays for OT Services?

Your NSTU dues cover you for the services of an OT by a referral to the EIP. Members enrolled in the NSTU medical plan with Medavie/Blue Cross also have coverage for private OT services.

Occupational therapy services covered under provincial medical plans are found in hospitals or government-funded rehabilitation centres and home care programs. Occupational therapists in private practice may be covered by some auto insurance plans, Workers' Compensation, long-term disability insurance plans, Veterans Affairs Canada and extended healthcare insurance plans.

Current Trends Affecting OT

Changing health and social needs of Canadians and health care delivery systems have influenced occupational therapy practice. Some of these trends include:

- an aging population;
- increased awareness of the needs of persons with disabilities;
- higher survival rates from accidents and injuries;
- increased emphasis on health promotion and prevention to keep health care costs down;
- higher incidence of mental health and family problems;
- changes in work conditions such as job stress and early retirement;
- a more informed public regarding health and health concerns.

Certainly within the EIP we have seen an increase in referrals as teachers deal with greater job demands and a higher incidence of job stress. We have also found that teachers are more informed about such areas as ergonomics and life balance and are seeking assistance to incorporate strategies into their daily lives both at work and home.

I invite you to celebrate this great profession and all the diverse contributions we make. Throughout the month of October, you will see OTs in the malls, in the newspapers, and in the public vicinity doing what we do best—"providing the skills for the job of living."

For more information about Occupational Therapy, helpful tips and how to contact an OT in your area contact the NSTU's Early Intervention Program, or visit www.OTWorks.com.

did you KNOW? The Early Intervention Program (EIP) invites NSTU members to sign up for our Wellness email list at Be_Well@nstu.ca.

Please contact Erin at ekeefe@nstu.ca to provide her with your NSTU email address. The Be_Well@nstu.ca list will provide information about the EIP and other wellness topics.



Project Overseas reflections

Last November, Mary-Anne Alley (Colchester- East Hants Local), Donna Nelson (Halifax County Local) and Julienne Doucet (Pictou Local) applied for Project Overseas (PO) through the NSTU. Alley and Nelson were chosen to work with teachers in Guyana while Doucet was off to Grenada. All three women spent a few days in Ottawa meeting with the 50 other PO participants at the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Below is a reflection of Alley and Nelson's experience in Guyana. Currently, Mary-Anne Alley is an administrator at Upper Stewiacke Elementary, and Donna Nelson is a resource/learning centre teacher at Atlantic Memorial /Terence Bay School.

We are from pink mayflowers blooming in the last vestiges of snow
 From waves rolling across beaches to touch and tickle toes
 To carpets of meadow flowers that inspire daydreams as clouds drift by
 We are from white boards and dry erase markers; 'What's your favourite colour?'
 From photocopiers that can staple, scan, fax and become image editors
 To laminators that preserve our most treasured teaching tools
 We are from Smart Boards, LCD projectors and wireless computers
 In many brand new, spic and span technology rich environments
 We are from multiple resources and book filled classrooms
 From recycling bins overflowing with discarded paper
 We are from curriculum that is revised to jive with current understandings
 To critical thinking, reflection, and self-evaluation
 We are from physical education, music, art and drama
 From student strengths, adaptations, and individual program plans
 We are from professional development, multiple intelligences and strategy based instruction
 From instilling an awareness and appreciation for diversity
 We are from pink mayflowers blooming in the last vestiges of snow
 From waves rolling across beaches to touch and tickle toes
 To carpets of meadow flowers that inspire daydreams as clouds drift by
 We are from a land of opportunities

They are from Victoria Regia water lilies floating in bays and still waters
 From river roads: Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice, and Cuyuni
 To vast rainforests, sugar cane, tropical birds, gold, diamonds and semi-precious stones
 They are from chalk boards, rough hewn desks and benches
 In schools built on stilts, daylight powered only
 Cool resting spot to cows, goats, horses, snakes and tarantulas
 From school uniforms, and "Yes Miss"
 To scribblers used for note taking; pens such a precious commodity
 And teachers questioning, "How do I motivate? How do I help those with special needs?"
 They are from the extreme: meager resources, no powered 'teaching tools'
 Lectures competing with the thunderous applause of torrential rains
 From high school graduates promoted to teachers, hoping to impart the value of education
 To lonely libraries wishing to be filled with texts to nurture the mind and soul
 They are from limited curriculum, lack of parental support, absenteeism, and student conflict
 From so thankful for this professional development, on the heels of school completion
 To obligations to teach remedial school, no choice in the matter
 They are from poor pay, hope for a better life, fortitude; and a resolute spirit
 They are from kindness, appreciation, and waste not
 Flexibility and "No such thing as a substitute"
 From not uncommon to have 40-50 students per class
 To no physical education, visual arts, and "Oh to dream of these"
 They are from Victoria Regia water lilies floating in bays and still waters
 From river roads: Essequibo, Demerara, Berbice, and Cuyuni
 To vast rainforests, sugar cane, tropical birds, gold, diamonds and semi-precious stones
 They are from a land of need
 Two nations
 One people



The Guyana team, from left: Lisa Kresky (Nunavut), Donna Nelson (Nova Scotia), Mary-Anne Alley (Nova Scotia), Donna Armstrong (Alberta), and Gerard Lowe (Newfoundland and Labrador). Project Overseas (PO) is a collaborative endeavour of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) participating member organizations, such as the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU), and numerous overseas partner organizations. This year the program sent 53 teachers to 12 countries.

PROJECT OVERSEAS

"Teachers Teaching Teachers"

VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WITH CTF!

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country?
 Are you interested in learning more about global education issues?
 Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?

If yes, Project Overseas (PO) might be for you!

CTF needs English and French-speaking Canadian teachers who are interested in volunteering during July and August to offer in-services in a wide range of subjects and levels, in various developing countries.

Application criteria include:

- Membership in a provincial teacher organization that supports PO
- Valid teachers' certificate
- A least five years teaching in Canada by program start
- Canadian citizenship
- Excellent health and ability to work in developing country conditions
- Canadian passport valid for 6 months after the placement or proof of a passport application

PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, provincial and territorial teachers' organizations (which are CTF members) and CIDA. No salaries or honoraria are paid.

Further information and application forms are available from Lillian Pottie, NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7; 902-477-5621, 1-800-565-6788 (toll-free) or www.ctf-fce.ca

APPLICATION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 12, 2010

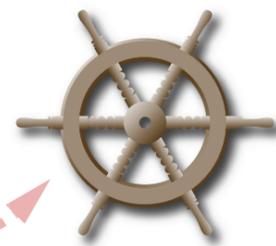
CTF'S INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: *Together We Make a Difference!*



Alley and Nelson provided professional development to nursery, primary and secondary school teachers in the community of Port Kaituma. They were excited to share games, content, strategies and tips for effective teaching. They say they were also humbled by what the teachers in Guyana do with so few resources, and at how eager they were to learn during their summer break. Project Overseas is a joint endeavour of the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF), participating CTF member organizations and CTF's partner groups in the Caribbean, Asia and Africa.



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Media Literacy in Canada

BY BARRY DUNCAN AND CAROL ARCUS. ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN *FORUM* MAGAZINE, PUBLISHED BY THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOLS' TEACHERS' FEDERATION.

Teachers from many disciplines have exploited the teachable moments which surface so readily from the immense territory generated by media and popular culture and the new digital media – discussing 9/11, Katrina, Britney Spears having a psychic meltdown, or debating the pros and cons of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt engaging in celebrity diplomacy in Africa. In this discussion, it's easy to dismiss youth's involvement in the media, especially because of the bad rap given to social networking and video games.

Until recently, popular culture has always been contrasted with 'high culture.' Opera, Beethoven, Shakespeare, and Michelangelo would fall in this category, whereas Beyoncé, Harlequin romances, blockbuster films and reality television were 'low culture.' The distinction is obviously arbitrary, obscuring rather than illuminating debate and discussion. Media and pop culture are ubiquitous and inhabit the lives of our students. Cultural critics want to make the term *culture* refer to popular culture as well as to that culture we associate with the so-called classics. Cultural critics are as likely to write about *The Simpsons* as they are to analyze Macbeth. They want to break down the boundary between high and low, and to dismantle the hierarchy that such a distinction implies. They also want to discover the reasons why a certain kind of aesthetic product is more valued than others.

A cultural critic writing on a revered classic might concentrate on a movie or even a comic strip version. Or she might see it in light of some more common form of reading material (a novel by Jane Austen might be



viewed in light of Gothic romances or ladies' conduct manuals, showing how texts move back and forth across the alleged boundary between "low" and "high" culture). We need to recognize that in the last 20 years cultural studies departments have gained a strong foothold on North American campuses, offering rich academic opportunities for students. The courses on offer focus on the dynamics of gender, race and class; and on the social, economic and political issues surrounding the media, including the importance of ownership and control of the media industries.

To navigate our multimodal world, students need multiliteracies and media education strategies to survive. Mark Bauerle, author of the *The Dumbest Generation*, a sadly reactionary rant on media and computers, is a key source liberally quoted by Don Cowans in his *Forum Magazine* article *The Reading Mind*. Both critics contrast popular culture with traditional culture, denounce those immersed in the quest for relevance and make the case against digital media as having sabotaged 'the great tradition,' leaving educators hanging dry. Above all, the notion of a happy co-existence of both domains never enters their minds. (It should also be pointed out that kids on

the net are reading/text messaging. Surely this should count?) Cowans recommends that computers be pulled from the library and the classroom replaced with books. To banish media educators, he would eliminate the media strand from English.

Initially a "movement" of enthusiastic teachers, it was not until the 1990s, largely due to the proliferation of digital media, that Canadian media education began to be taken seriously by education policy makers. In 1986, Ontario became the first jurisdiction in North America to make media literacy a mandatory part of the curriculum, from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Following that decision, the widely acclaimed Media Literacy Resource Guide was conceived by the Ontario-based Association for Media Literacy (AML) and published in 1989 (www.aml.ca).

By 1997, the rest of Canada had followed suit and media literacy was embedded in provincial policy guidelines for all English/language arts programs. Regrettably, few teachers are adequately trained to teach media literacy. As more teachers receive in-service training, schools will feel comfortable in including it as an essential part of the curriculum. While English teachers are the only ones required to include media literacy in the curriculum, there are some marvelous opportunities to infuse it in subjects such as history, geography, health, sociology and gender studies.

Teachers will welcome the media literacy in their classroom, not as an add-on but as a creative and culturally relevant opportunity for learning. In several provinces, media studies is offered as a complete stand-alone credit, usually at the Grade 11 level. University professors in the humanities tell us how pleased they are with the quality of critical thinking skills manifested in high school grads who have taken media literacy courses.

Media education is concept-driven and there is an international consensus on identifying the areas needed to be covered. These key concepts become the organizing elements that give our work the required intellectual coherence and academic rigour. These include the following:

N.B. To make this list relevant, imagine discussing a Coca Cola commercial or a beauty product with a class and trying to apply the key concepts.

Media Codes and Conventions – Technical codes such as camera angle and distance, and how they shape the message.

Values and Ideology – A set of beliefs about the world. Typical questions raised:

Who has power? Who does not and why? How are stereotypes used in this text?

Media and Industry – The commercial implications of media need to be recognized, especially since most of the world's information and entertainment industries are owned and controlled by a handful of media conglomerates.

Media and Audience – Used in two different ways: 1) How we as consumers become target audiences; 2) How we as active participants make sense of the media.

English teachers are usually the ones who are required to implement media studies even though it could be positioned equally comfortably within the social sciences. Good documentaries are needed in history; media and gender studies should be part of sociology. The crucial point here is that these subject-based endeavors need more teaching 'about' and not just 'through' the media, otherwise we neglect the use of important critical tools developed by media educators.

Media education should be seen as an entitlement both for our students and for the community at large. While many educators insist on denigrating the mass media and popular culture and wish to shield young people from its alleged harmful effects, we should make the case that **our endeavor is not about protection but rather about preparation**. Now that much of our media use now is for creative or social networking purposes, media education has become participatory and collaborative and, let's admit, it can be fun: the days of the zoned out media loner are coming to an end.

*N.B. Some of the material in this article has been taken from the OISE publication *Orbit Media Literacy*, issue 2005.*

There are plenty of media literacy resources available. Here is a sample

Resources for Getting Started

Media Awareness Network has an extensive website dedicated to media literacy, with excellent resources and classroom lesson plans. Over 300 teaching lessons from K-12, searchable by topic and grade or province and learning outcomes; over 100 essays on topics such as gender, racial and Aboriginal stereotyping, media violence, online hate, electronic privacy and Canadian cultural policies; and extensive web awareness resources including several educational games for kids with extensive teachers' guides, all accessible online (www.media-awareness.ca).



NSTU member Andrew Stickings who teaches, Grade 5 at Grosvenor Wentworth Park School in Halifax was a featured Media Awareness Network's Media Literacy Week educator. Stickings creatively incorporates filmmaking into his daily classroom activities to engage his students in relevant learning opportunities. The projects center around inspiring students to become excited about learning. He believes that learning increases when students are engaged in meaningful activities such as filmmaking. His students brainstorm, research, write, storyboard and film their own projects. With his guidance and encouragement, his students have created many films on the environment and local history. They have received national and international recognition for their films which have taken them to film festivals in Chicago, Toronto, Ottawa and most recently to Japan. Stickings' "Reel History Project" was nominated for the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching Canadian History in 2009 and again in 2010. He has received the Democracy 250 Award from his community for his teaching and has recently been selected as an Apple Distinguished Educator for his work in film.

EQUITY BOOK REVIEW

Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Orbit, OISE's magazine for schools, produced a Media Literacy issue in 2005 which provided a comprehensive overview of the field (www.orbitmagazine.ca).

David Buckingham's *Media Education: Literacy, Learning Contemporary Culture* (2003) (Blackwell is North American distributor) is the best general background book to address the numerous debates in media education. It covers all the hot topics from ideology to using the new digital media.

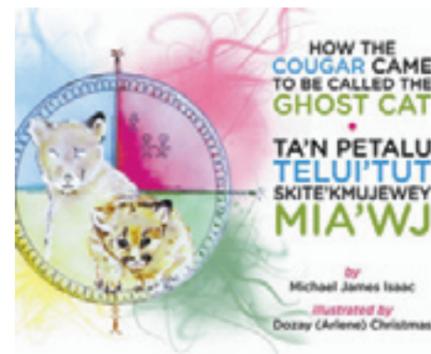
Mass Media And Popular Culture (Version Two) Toronto: Thomas Nelson 1997 by Barry Duncan, Janine D'Ippolito, Cam Macpherson and Carolyn Wilson is another good resource. There is also a set of four videos, *Scanning Television* Parts One and Two, which correlate with the themes of the text.

Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) have chosen Gender and Media as the theme for Canada's 5th Media Literacy Week – November 1-5, 2010. As co-hosts of the annual event, MNet and the CTF are encouraging teachers, parents, and professionals working with young people to explore issues related to gender representation in media.

This year, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union is an associate sponsor of the week, which will also include the conference: *Breaking the Mold, Breaking the Silence, A National Conference on Body Image*, organized by Mount Saint Vincent University's Nancy's Chair in Women Studies. The conference will take place November 4 and 5 at the Mount. (See more on page 10).

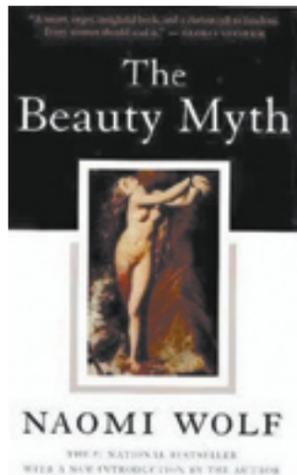
Email your name, home address, and school or campus with EQUITY in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 15 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's equity book giveaway is in celebration of Mi'kmaq History Month. *How the Cougar Came To Be Called the Ghost Cat*, is written by NSTU member Michael James Isaac, a Mi'kmaq language and support teacher at Shipyard Elementary in Cape Breton and illustrated by Dozay (Arlene) Christmas of Membertou. It is published by Roseway Publishing, an imprint of Fernwood Publishing. Written in both Mi'kmaq and English, this is the tale of a young and adventurous cougar, Ajig, who decides to build a new home in a strange forest. When he finds that all of the animals in the forest are afraid of him, Ajig agrees to stop behaving like a cougar so that he can make friends. But when Ajig tries to return to his birthplace, he learns that he is no longer welcome. Lost between two worlds, the young cougar becomes a "ghost cat". The story reflects the experiences of First Nations peoples' assimilation into the Euro-Canadian school system, but speaks to everyone who is marginalized or at risk.



Charting Your Course FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Email your name, home address, and school or campus with PD in the subject line to theteacher@nstu.ca by November 15 to be eligible for the draw.



In keeping with the *Gender and Media* theme of Media Literacy Week November 1 to 5, the NSTU's PD department is giving away a copy of *The Beauty Myth* by Naomi Wolf. First published in 1991, *The Beauty Myth* examines beauty as a demand and as a judgment upon women. Subtitled *How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women*, Wolf examines how modern conceptions of women's beauty impact the spheres of employment, culture, religion, sexuality, eating disorders and cosmetic surgery. The book was republished in 2002, with a new introduction from Wolf.

The deadline for November/December's issue of *The Teacher* is November 5. Please contact Sonia Matheson at theteacher@nstu.ca or call 1-800-565-6788.

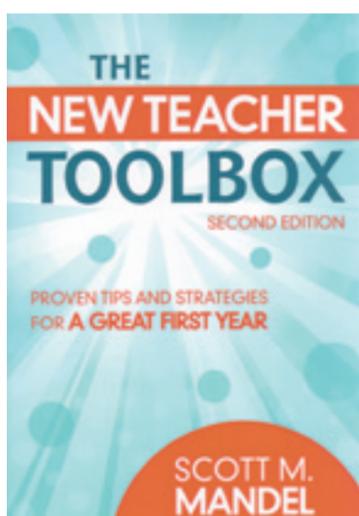


The September winner of the PD book **The MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES of Reading AND WRITING is TANIA COLSON of Glace Bay Elementary**

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 by November 15 to be eligible for the draw.

This month's FRESH giveaway is *The New Teacher Toolbox: Proven Tips and Strategies for a Great First Year* (Second Edition), by Scott M. Mandel, published by Corwin Press. Mandel introduces techniques by grade level, making the book easy to read sequentially or as a reference for specific situations. Written in a conversational tone, this completely revised edition includes an expanded section on Internet use and provides field-tested strategies on how to encourage student participation and critical thinking, establish fair grading practices, modify instructional methods and curriculum for students with special needs, increase parent involvement and manage stress.



TOGETHER
We Can
makeCHANGE.

K-12 multi-media resource that empowers young people to get involved.



The Ladybug Foundation
Education Program Inc.

Learn more at www.ladybugeducation.ca

National Body Image Conference at Mount Saint Vincent University



Mount Saint Vincent University's Nancy's Chair in Women's Studies has partnered with Media Awareness Network (MNet)

and the Eating Disorders Action Group of Halifax, in consultation with the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design to host a national body image conference *Breaking the Mold, Breaking the Silence*, which will take place at the Mount November 4 and 5. The conference will feature a variety of speakers, films, performances, exhibitions, and topics for all different ages, races, and genders.

Presentations will explore many issues people are faced with in today's body-conscious world, including self-esteem, infertility, aging, eating disorders, steroid use and more. Speakers and performers will represent grade schools and universities from across the country, as well as authors and artists whose work reflects the theme.

"Our hope for the conference is that it will find an audience among many different groups," says Rita Deverell, Nancy's Chair at the Mount and conference coordinator. "We want to focus on body image issues that people from all walks of life face, not just one particular segment of society."

The presentations include a documentary produced by Newfoundland students Emma Ward (12) and Emily Null (13), entitled, *Be Yourself, Be Beautiful... A Film for Girls by Girls*. In this short film, Ward and Null discuss body image and self-esteem issues that young girls face.

Also speaking is author Heather Kuttai, whose dissertation, *Maternity Rolls-Pregnancy, Childbirth and Disability*, was published as a book by Fernwood Publishing. Kuttai, a paraplegic, will discuss her life experience and body image concerns as an athlete and mother of two.

To kick off a series of free film screenings during the event, Chris Rock's, *Good Hair*, will be shown the evening of November 4. *Good Hair*, is a comedic documentary about things some women do to achieve outward beauty.

The conference concludes Canada's Fifth Annual Media Literacy Week, which is themed *Gender and Media*. Media Literacy Week is an initiative of MNet and the Canadian Teachers' Federation, who encourage teachers, parents, and professionals to explore issues related to gender representation in media. Details can be found at www.medialiteracyweek.ca.

The Body Image Conference is open to all, and may be of particular interest for parents, students, teachers and health care professionals. For more information, or to register online, please visit www.msvu.ca/bodyimage.

The cost of the conference is \$45 for professionals and \$3 for students.

Media Literacy Week 2010: Exploring gender representation in media

Every young person looks up to and wants to emulate individuals they admire, and often these role models are found in popular media. Whether it's through characters or celebrities that appear on television and in movies, or the bands and artists they listen to, popular media can influence how young people determine their social identities and self image, understand relationships, and develop values.

With this in mind, Media Awareness Network (MNet) and the Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) have chosen *Gender and Media* as the theme for Canada's 5th **Media Literacy Week – November 1-5, 2010**. As co-hosts of the annual event, MNet and CTF are encouraging teachers, parents, and professionals working with young people to explore issues related to gender representation in media – body image, stereotyping, sexualization, roles and relationships – as well as how media can be harnessed to provide more realistic and empowering role models for youth.

Every year, during the first week of November, schools, communities and families across Canada participate in activities that raise awareness of the importance of media literacy and digital literacy in the lives of children and youth, and that promote the teaching of these essential skills throughout the year.

MNet and CTF welcome a wide variety of returning and new collaborators for Media Literacy Week 2010, including: Access to Media Education Society, Atwater Library and Computer Centre, Concerned Children's Advertisers, English Montreal School Board, Girls Action Foundation, London Public Library, Manitoba Education, Media Democracy Day, One Day on Earth, Ontario Library Association, Simon Fraser University, and West Island Youth Action. *YouTube* is back as the week's presenting sponsor for a second year.

This year, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union is an associate sponsor of the week, which will also include the conference: *Breaking the Mold, Breaking the Silence, A National Conference on Body Image*, organized by Mount Saint Vincent University's Nancy's Chair in Women Studies.

There are many ways to become involved in the week, whether through joining in the events taking place across the country or by planning activities of your own.

Need some ideas to get you started?

Teachers can take advantage of hands-on media production workshops from the National Film Board of Canada, The Director's Cut and Pacific Cinéma-thèque. For example, in 2009 the Vancouver-based Pacific Cinéma-thèque hosted workshops for high school students studying social justice. The resulting videos were posted on *YouTube* to encourage further discussion and comments from the participants' classes and from youth around the globe.

In recognition of the importance of digital literacy skills for youth, each year the Office of the Privacy Commissioner of Canada invites young people between the ages of 12 and 18 to create their own video public service announcement on the issue of privacy.

Secondary schools can book a Canadian film festival through REEL CANADA. This project raises awareness among the high school population of the incredible achievements of Canadian filmmakers past and present, and ultimately enhances young people's appreciation of our national culture.

Teachers can bring their students to the National Conference on Body Image at Mount Saint Vincent University, November 4 and 5.

To access a list of events that are taking place across Canada leading up to and during the week, check out the Events Calendar on the Media Literacy Week website (www.medialiteracyweek.ca). Visit the Ideas for Activities section for a list of activities teachers and parents can implement in their classrooms or homes.

Media literacy and digital literacy should be an essential part of all young people's education. Adults—parents, educators and community leaders—have an important role to play in ensuring young people have the critical thinking skills they need to thrive in our global media world. You can help by celebrating national Media Literacy Week this November in your community.

GRADUATE STUDIES IN EDUCATION

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StFX University, renowned for its enduring commitment to quality educational experiences for students, is now accepting applications for full-time and part-time study in the Master of Education program.

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For more information about benefits and opportunities, please see the Continuing and Distance Education website at: www.stfx.ca/continuinged/Graduate.html. To receive an information package, call 1-877-867-3906 or (902) 867-3906 or email: med@stfx.ca. Application deadline: March 1.



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Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence forms available

Guidelines and nomination forms for the 2010 Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence and Excellence in Early Childhood Education are now available and can be accessed on the PMA Website at www.pma.gc.ca. **The deadline for nomination is November 30.**

New this year, a special Space Award will be offered to a teacher (or teaching team) who demonstrates exceptional innovative and creative teaching in the areas of space sciences, technology, engineering and/or mathematics. Check out the 2009 PMA Exemplary Practices publications on-line to learn about the great ideas and best teaching strategies of the 2009 winners.

The Prime Minister's Award is the highest honour for elementary and secondary school teachers and early childhood educators in Canada. Please spread the word, and help ensure more outstanding Canadian teachers receive the recognition they deserve.

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RESOURCES

Constitute!

The Centre for Global Studies at the University of Victoria is proud to present *Constitute!* – an exciting new educational resource created by the International Women's Rights Project (IWRP) and Rooney Productions.

A documentary film on DVD, *Constitute!* profiles the diverse history of women's activism in constitution-making and provides a unique opportunity to educate high school and university students about citizen engagement in democracy in Canada and the world. The film focuses on how citizens across Canada organized and lobbied to ensure that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms would include the equality provisions that came to be Sections 15 and 28, in the newly repatriated Canadian Constitution.

The 33-minute film features well known Canadians such as Doris Anderson, Marilou McPhedran, Flora MacDonald, Michele Landsberg, Pauline Jewett, Sharon McIvor, Sally Armstrong, and others. The vibrant democratic activism by women from Afghanistan, Rwanda and South Africa is also portrayed in the Extra Chapters (40 minutes), where noted Canadian human rights journalist Sally Armstrong interviews Dr. Sima Samar, Dr. Gertrude Fester, Malalia Joya and Mary Balikungeri.

The overall project is comprised of the film and an informational website with educational resources, including a study guide for high schools created by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

Constitute! The Film can be obtained from the International Women's Rights Project (IWRP) by contacting info@iwrp.org. You can also find more information at www.constitute.ca.

Imagineaction – Vital Signs

National program to match students with pressing community needs

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and Community Foundations of Canada have a new partnership to help students across the country take action to make a positive difference in their communities.

Imagineaction is a student-driven social action program developed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation for public school students in Grades K-12. The program creates opportunities for school-community social action projects and will use *Vital Signs*, a quality of life report produced by community foundations, as a guide to the key issues facing Canadian communities.

"*Imagineaction* is a terrific way for teachers to help their students connect, in a very productive way, with the world outside their school doors," said Monica Patten, President and CEO of Community Foundations of Canada. "We can't wait to bring the issues raised in *Vital Signs* into classrooms across the country."

Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies trends, and shares opportunities for action in areas critical to quality of life.

"Teachers will use the valuable data contained in *Vital Signs* to link students to emerging community needs and to community foundations who work with a myriad of local partners on addressing those needs. Participating students will benefit from the expertise of community organizations and will see how their own outreach can benefit the neighbourhoods in which they live," said CTF president Mary-Lou Donnelly.

Imagineaction will connect teachers and students with local experts online, with the Canadian Teachers' Federation serving as information broker. Experts in various community issues - from housing to environment to employment - will register online. Once approved, they can be contacted by teachers to assist with projects related to their respective fields.

Imagineaction will also offer subsidies to teachers to support resulting projects, related professional development, and an electronic showcase designed to promote and share the great work being done in schools across Canada.



a student-driven social action movement
un mouvement d'action sociale piloté par les élèves

Imagineaction – what's that all about?

Visit www.imagine-action.ca to find out how you can foster responsible citizenship and social action.

Imagineaction – de quoi s'agit-il? Faites un saut chez nous au www.imagine-action.ca pour découvrir comment favoriser la citoyenneté responsable et l'action sociale.



Canadian Teachers' Federation
Fédération canadienne des enseignantes et des enseignants

Veterans Affairs Canada

Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) offers educators a wide selection of free, bilingual learning resources about Remembrance and our country's military history. Teachers can order many materials using an online ordering system or access electronic versions using the VAC website (www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers).



VAC has launched new online features over the past year on various topics such as:

- the **100th anniversary of the Canadian Navy**;
- the **65th anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands**;
- the **efforts of francophone Canadians during the Second World War**;
- **Aboriginal Veterans**; and
- the work of the **Last Post Fund**; and much more.

Multimedia Learning Kits

VAC is in the process of updating its multimedia learning kits on Canada's participation in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. The new kits will be bilingual and available on a multi-disc format.

The same comprehensive teachers' guide, posters and audio visual resources will still be available, in addition to a host of new materials, including historical publications, additional audio visual resources and learning modules.

The new First World War kit was released in June and contains two discs, a data disc and a video disc, and is packaged in an attractive, compact, easy to carry and easy to store DVD case. The Second World War and Korean War kits will be available sometime later next year. Go to VAC's online ordering system to learn more about these resources.

New Learning Modules

Two new Second World War online learning modules *Canada Remember The Liberation of the Netherlands* and *Canada Remembers Canadians in South East Asia* are now available. They contain multiple lesson plans, several learning activities for the classroom, as well as information handouts and colourful maps.

Additional learning modules will be available over the coming year on key battles in which Canada was involved during the First World War. Keep an eye out for these and other new initiatives of VAC's learning unit by visiting the **Teachers Resources** section of the VAC website.

Veterans' Week (November 5-11) Materials

Each year, VAC distributes more than a million copies of two Veterans' Week youth newspapers across Canada. These bilingual colour newspapers come in class sets of 30, ideal for use in a classroom or school library.

Tales of Animals in War (ages 5 to 11) – introduces concepts of remembrance using the Remembrance Clubhouse animal characters. This year, they embark on an exciting cross-Canada road trip. The fun new "*Which Way to Remembrance?*" game can also be found inside.

The *Canada Remembers Times* (ages 12 to 18) – explores interesting chapters from Canada's military heritage, from the South African War to today, including stories about the end of the Second World War, the Canadian Navy and much more.

Postcards for Peace – a popular learning activity that allows youth to send postcards expressing their personal thanks to veterans or Canadian Forces members.

An online educator's guide for these products, as well as colourful Veterans' Week posters and bookmarks are also available. To request our free materials, use our online Veterans' Week ordering system www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=feature/week2010/educational-resources/free-material. Order by the second week of October to receive them prior to November 5.

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Forest Heights reaches for the summit

Forest Heights Community School students and staff kicked off their school year on September 7 with a very special assembly featuring adventurer, educator and mountain climber TA Loeffler.

Loeffler's address *Reaching for the Summit, Lessons from the World's Highest Peaks* explores the lessons learned from training for, reaching and climbing the world's highest mountains. In her quest of attempting to complete *The Seven Summits*—the highest peaks on all seven continents—she imparts hope, possibility and vision. Loeffler only has two summits left to complete, Mount Everest and Mount Vinson.



Front row: NSTU president Alexis Allen; South Shore Regional School Board superintendent Nancy Pynch-Worthylake; TA Loeffler, and student council members - vice president athletics and activities Shalan Armstrong; vice president communications Takara Bond and president Vanda Stevens. Back row: student council co-head committees Lianne Lenihan; Maxwell Rafuse, school board member Chester; Tyler Peterson co-head committees; Christian White secretary-treasurer; and vice principal Bernie Van Doninck.

"What's your Everest?" she asks of the high school students and school staff. Using James Bond movie metaphors throughout her presentation with her own twist, like the *Girl with the Golden Ring*, *Summits are Not Forever* and *From Everest with Love*, Loeffler describes her grueling training regiment—both physically and mentally—and inspires the audience to have big dreams and big goals.

Forest Heights principal Shannon Catton was so inspired after listening to Loeffler's keynote address at the annual CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching), in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador in August, that she was committed to bringing her to Chester Basin, and her message to her students and staff. Grade 9 students from New Ross Consolidated and Chester Area Middle schools were also invited to the assembly.

"People ask me if it's worth it, to work so hard to stand on top of each summit for such a short period of time," says Loeffler. She's referring to the 12 months of 15 to 20 hours a day of training, the mortgaging of her home, the overall sacrifices she's had to make. "Absolutely!" She describes the amazing view into Nepal and the curvature of the Earth she witnessed from Base Camp 3 in her attempt to summit Mount Everest.

She also told the audience of the importance of rewarding herself throughout the process. With a weakness for Tim Horton's vanilla dip doughnuts—the ones with the colourful sprinkles on top—Loeffler made sure she routinely allowed herself to indulge. In fact she even brought one with her on her last journey. "Tim Horton's created a special version of a vanilla dip that could withstand the elements," she comments. She had it with her at the presentation.

In closing, Loeffler provides some tidbits of wisdom for the students and staff to think about over the school year. "Aim for the impossible into your next school year, for things beyond your reach, risk disappointment, appreciate how far you've come, embrace hard work and remember to take on your own personal Everests."

Dr. TA Loeffler is a professor of outdoor recreation at Memorial University of Newfoundland's School of Human Kinetics and Recreation.

Teachers to Receive Order of Nova Scotia

The NSTU offers hearty congratulations to two retired Nova Scotia teachers who have been chosen to receive the Order of Nova Scotia.

Music educator and musician J. Chalmers Doane of South Maitland, Hants County was a supervisor of music education in the Halifax school system from 1967 to 1984. He developed an innovative music program featuring the ukulele that taught thousands of students how to play music. The program was so successful that it was adopted by schools across North America.

Eva Landry of St. Peter's, Richmond County, worked as a teacher, principal and reading specialist. She became Nova Scotia's first female superintendent of schools and was also the first woman to become Nova Scotia's inspector of schools in 1980. Landry has also been a 4-H leader for more than 50 years and has volunteered with Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centres for the past 25 years.

Recipients of the Order of Nova Scotia will receive their awards at a ceremony on December 1 at Province House in Halifax.

Terry Fox's brother visits Park West School



Fred Fox addresses Park West School Students.

The 807 students at Park West School in Clayton Park, Halifax were primed to participate in their Terry Fox School run on September 30 when Fox's older brother Fred Fox visited the school and lead an assembly.

Fred let the students and staff know more about the iconic Canadian hero. "To me, he was just my younger brother," says Fox. "He overcame many challenges in his life—not just those he's famous for." He says his brother Terry was small as a boy, and was determined

to make the high school basketball team. Fox demonstrated Terry's determination throughout his life in the hopes of encouraging the students to never give up, and work hard to continue to achieve in every aspect of their lives.

Fox thanked the students for their continued participation in the annual Terry Fox Run, which raises money for cancer research in Canada. He also congratulated Grade 4 teacher Joanne Walsh, who has organized the run for the school since it opened ten years ago. He also recognized Grade 6 teacher David Cunningham. Cunningham, new to Park West School this fall, organized the run at Rockingham School for the last ten years.

Each fall approximately 104,000 Nova Scotia students participate in a Terry Fox Run or event in their school. The schools raised approximately 45 per cent of the total funds raised in the province for the Foundation. "We are so grateful to all the educators and students that support us so well year after year!" says Barbara Fickes, Provincial Director, The Terry Fox Foundation.

Terry Fox was forced to have his right leg amputated 15 cm above the knee when he was diagnosed with bone cancer. Overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients, many of them young children, he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He started his run in St. John's, Newfoundland on April 12, 1980 but was forced to stop running outside of Thunder Bay, Ontario because cancer re-appeared in his lungs. He died on June 28, 1981 at age 22. Thirty years later, his legacy lives on. More than \$400 million has been raised worldwide for cancer research through the annual Terry Fox Run and National School Day run.



Shown are Park West School principal Annmarie MacInnes, Barbara Fickes, provincial director for the Terry Fox Foundation, Grade 4 teacher Joanne Walsh, Fred Fox and Grade 6 teacher David Cunningham. Fox visited the school on September 17.

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coming events

October is...

Autism Month (www.autismsocietycanada.ca); Breast Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.ca); Celiac Awareness Month (www.celiac.ca); Eye Health Month (www.opto.ca); Flu Prevention Month (www.lung.ca); Influenza Immunization Awareness Month (www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hc-ps/dc-ma/influenza-eng.php); Healthy Workplace Month (www.healthyworkplacemonth.ca); Lupus Awareness Month (www.lupuscanada.org); Mi'kmaq History Month (gov.ns.ca/abor); Occupational Therapy Month (www.caot.ca); Psoriasis Awareness Month (www.psoriasisociety.org); AIDS Awareness Month (www.aids.ca); Women's History Month in Canada (www.swc-cfc.gc.ca).

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

October is Women's History Month in Canada and this year's theme is *Recognizing Canadian Women in Business*. Proclaimed in 1992 by the Government of Canada, Women's History Month provides an opportunity for Canadians to learn about the important contributions of women and girls to our society – and to the quality of our lives today. This year's theme celebrates women's important contributions to Canadian business. From the earliest

farmers, trappers and traders to today's courageous innovators and business leaders, women play a crucial role in our country's prosperity.

Today, Canadian women in business are—without a doubt—a driving force behind our country's economic recovery. This year's theme honours their contributions and pivotal role in economic growth and job creation in Canada.

The poster for this year's Women's History Month can be ordered online. Visit <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca> and follow the links for Women's History Month. There is a limit of 50 per school, 20 per organization, or two per individual. You can also send your request to the SWC Distribution Centre by email at publications@swc.cfc.gc.ca or by fax to 613-957-3359. Remember to specify your mailing address and the number of copies you require.

OCTOBER 18 TO 24

Waste Reduction Week

Clean Nova Scotia (www.clean.ns.ca) would like to encourage Nova Scotians of all ages to take part in a national competition called *Ease My Load*, an initiative brought to you by Canada's Waste Reduction Week, October 18-24, 2010.

Running from October 1 to November 15, 2010, *Ease My Load* will be a call

to action for Canadians to reduce the amount of waste they produce. Participants will download a cut-out of Waste Reduction Week's mascot, Atlas, and submit short videos or digital pictures of how they involve Atlas in their 3Rs activities. To participate, individuals and groups need to register online at www.wrwcanda.com and winners will be announced on November 30th. Atlas can also be downloaded from Clean Nova Scotia's website at www.clean.ns.ca.

Free Waste Reduction Week posters are available while supplies last by simply calling 1-800-665-5377 or 902-420-7927. Digital posters for newsletters or websites are also available for downloading at www.wrwcanda.com.

OCTOBER 21

Teacher's Showcase at Discovery Centre

Join members of the education team on Thursday, October 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. as we showcase all that Discovery Centre has to offer science teachers. This unique evening event will provide teachers with the opportunity to step inside our digital planetarium, take part in a live science show, experience one of our high definition films and sample our range of hands-on workshops. Find out how our curriculum linked programs can enhance your students' science learning.

People can RSVP to 902-492-4422 ext. 243. To learn more about Discovery Centre visit discoverycentre.ns.ca.

OCTOBER 20

Assertive Communication Workshop
Halifax - October 20, Fee: \$175.00;
Registration begins at 8:30am,
Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Understanding our communication style and how we interact with others is essential to positive and productive relations. Effective communication requires us not only to be aware of ourselves, but also to be responsive and aware of others. Being assertive in communication is the ability to express positive and negative ideas and feelings in a transparent, welcoming and direct way to state clearly and without defensiveness what one needs. Participants of this workshop will build an awareness of their communication patterns and learn to deal confidently with people around them. For more information, check out our website at www.achievecentre.com.

NOVEMBER 2

Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute

VIOLENCE THREAT ASSESSMENT Planning and Response Workshop
Halifax - November 2, Fee: \$190.00;
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Knowing how to respond to a threat is a tremendous challenge. After a violent incident, it is not uncommon to find that many different people were aware of clues that an attack was being planned. Yet, without the proper mechanism to gather information and assess the situation, prevention is nearly impossible. This workshop provides a communication and decision-making model to help businesses, schools, organizations and communities become proactive in their management of threats. Strategies to help you identify, assess, and manage individuals who make threats will be explored.

For more information, check out our website at www.ctrinstitute.com.

OCTOBER 29

Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala

Members of the arts and culture community are asked to mark their calendars for the fifth annual Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala to be held on October 29 at Pier 21 in Halifax. The gala, hosted by the Nova Scotia Arts and Culture Partnership Council, will celebrate and showcase the accomplishments and contributions of artists across Nova Scotia. Winners will be announced for the Prix Grand-Pré, The Community Arts and Culture Recognition Award, the Established Artist Recognition awards, the Portia White Prize and the Portia White Protegé. In addition to these awards, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterwork Arts Award will be presented to one of five finalists. The gala aims to profile and strengthen the culture sector that contributes more than \$1.2 billion annual to the provincial economy and directly employs more than 28,000 Nova Scotians. More information on the 2010 Creative Nova Scotia Awards Gala can be found by visiting www.creativenovascotia.com.

[continued on page 15]

Eddie's Litterless Road Tour

Eddie is a cat with a cause - litter to be exact – and he would love to come to your classroom and talk about litter-prevention.
Putting a stop to litter is better than cleaning it up!

This interactive presentation is available to grades P-3 and booking enquiries can be made to Kari Riddell at 1800-665-5377 or e-mail riddell@clean.ns.ca. Visit www.clean.ns.ca for all the fun details.

Hint: Inviting Eddie to your school is a great compliment to taking part in the Great Nova Scotia Pick-Me-Up program.

Register for a free cleanup kit at www.nspickmeup.ca

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[continued from page 14]

OCT. 30 & 31; NOV. 6 & 7

Musical Performances

Canadian jazz celtic harpist (and NSTU member) Johanne McInnis will be performing at the Al Whittle Theatre in Wolfville on October 30 at 8:00 p.m. and October 31 at 2:00 p.m. She will also be doing a French show at the Grand-Pré National Historic Site on November 6 at 8:00 p.m. and November 7 at 2:00 p.m. The performances will feature harp, bass, voice, percussion, keyboard, accompanied by scenes of nature on a giant screen. Tickets are available at Box of Delight in Wolfville. Tickets are \$20 ahead of time, and \$25 on the days of the performances. McInnis teaches music at Aldershot School.

OCT. 30 TO NOV. 13

Lecture Series – Medical Issues of Aging

A series of free lectures on the Medical Issues of Aging is being presented by the Healing Hands Mental Health Association of Nova Scotia, in partnership with the Seniors' College Association of Nova Scotia. They are being held at the Philae Shriners Hall, 3530 Connolly Street in Halifax, on Saturdays, with doors opening at 9:30 a.m. and lectures from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Please pre-register via email to hhmhans@gmail.com or by phoning 479-4656.

October 30: Dr. George Turnbull, Professor, Associate Dean (Academic & Research) (Dalhousie Physiotherapy Department) presenting a lecture on the effectiveness of exercise programs on mobility of individuals with Parkinson's and the effects of augmented visual and auditory cueing to improve gait in people with Parkinson's.

November 6: Dr. Gord Guitz, Stroke Neurologist, QEII HSC Board Chair, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia will be presenting a lecture about different aspects of stroke.

November 13: Dr. Thomas (Tom) J. Marrie, M.D., Dean of Medicine (Dalhousie University) will be presenting a lecture on the Issues of Infectious Diseases in the Elderly.

NOVEMBER 1

Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators

On Monday, November 1, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., the Atlantic Jewish Council together with the Azrieli Foundation and the NSTU will present a Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators as part of Holocaust Education Week.

This interactive workshop will launch Series 3 of the Azrieli Series of Holocaust Survivor Memoirs. The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program collects, preserves and publishes the written memoirs of Holocaust survivors who later made their way to Canada.

The Holocaust Curricula Workshop for Educators will take place at the NSTU's Central Office in Halifax, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive. The workshop is offered at no charge to all educators. Participants will receive a set of Series 3.

The workshop leader is Anne McLeod, a social studies teacher at Prince Andrew High

School in Dartmouth. Her many years of experience in Holocaust education include participating in the International Seminar for Holocaust Educators at Yad Vashem, March of the Living for Educators and teaching and administrating the Asper Foundation Human Rights and Holocaust Studies Program. She will provide details of her experiences and how she integrated them into her teaching.

To register please contact Edna LeVine, Director of Community Engagement Atlantic Jewish Council 902-422-7491 ext. 226 elevine@theajc.ns.ca.

NOVEMBER 11

Remembrance Day



Remembrance Day marks the anniversary of the official end of the World War I hostilities on November 11, 1918. Each year, there are ceremonies and services held across the country to commemorate the sacrifices of people in all armed conflicts. Canadians are encouraged to pay tribute to this country's veterans and to uphold the principles of peace and freedom for which they fought. In Halifax, there will be a Remembrance Day ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at the Sailors' Monument in Point Pleasant Park. Please watch for Remembrance Day ceremonies and events in your area.

Check out the Deals and Discounts on the NSTU website at www.nstu.ca in the Members-Only section under Benefits.

CONTACT 2010

Julie Ramey, ELA and social studies teacher at North Queens School was a featured workshop presenter at this summer's CONTACT (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching). This regional conference, sponsored by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, New Brunswick Teachers Association, Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA) and the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation, was organized by NLTA, and took place August 10 to 13 in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. The theme was *The Learning Summit*. Ramey's workshop, *A Backpack of Tricks from Southern Nova Scotia*, shared tried and tested activities and resources that work to meet the varied needs of students in the classroom. It was designed to share activities with teachers that lend themselves to differentiated instruction. With a focus on Grades 4 to 9 struggling readers and writers, this session was very well received, and helped teachers explore new and exciting lessons for the year ahead. Ramey was also a recipient of a 2010 Education Week Award last April.



NOTICES

Gus Wedderburn

Did you teach with H.A.J. (Gus) Wedderburn? Or were you one of his students? If so, a local author would like to speak with you. Marie Riley is writing a book about Gus Wedderburn, who passed away in February of 2007. Gus Wedderburn was principal of Partridge River School in East Preston from 1957 to 1962. He then taught science and math to Grades 7 and 8 at Bloomfield School in Halifax from 1962 to 1967. Following that he went on to be the principal of the old Ardmore School on Oxford Street in Halifax from 1967 to 1970. If you knew him, taught with him, or were taught by him, please contact Marie Riley at 902-445-5413. She would love to hear from you.

A Year-of-Caring from the Brunswick Street Mission

What kind of gift do you give the person who has everything? How about "A Year-of-Caring?"

The Brunswick Street Mission is launching a unique fundraising initiative that will deliver far more value to those in need through stewardship, volunteering and in-kind donations than the \$100 cost.

The Brunswick Street Mission helps individuals and families in need each year with food and clothing, support with life crisis, obtaining housing or employment, or managing their finances. The Mission also provides coffee, a hot breakfast, and a warm welcome for those in need every morning, including those who are homeless.

A Year-of-Caring through the Brunswick Street Mission is the kind of gift that the giver and receiver both can feel good about because it helps someone in need."

\$100 = One Hundred Hot Breakfasts

\$100 = Clothing, boots and coats for a family of five for a year

\$100 = Assisting several individuals seeking housing and employment

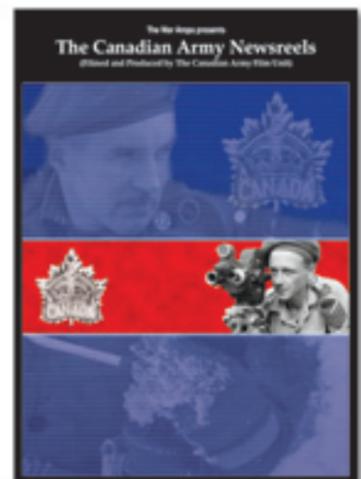
\$100 = Can prevent one person from becoming homeless this year

The gift giver receives special recognition from the Mission as well as a share in caring for individuals and families in need. They also will receive a beautiful promise gift card to give the gift receiver, a pewter lapel pin in recognition of the gift to either keep or present with the gift card, and a tax deductible receipt for the full donation. Most importantly, a Year-of-Caring gift allows the donor to share the feeling that comes from knowing their gift made a difference.

Year-of-Caring Promise Gift Cards can now be purchased by calling 902-423-4605, visiting the Mission between 9 a.m. and noon weekdays, or by mail (2107 Brunswick Street, Halifax, N.S. B3K 2Y4).

Major credit cards are accepted. More information at www.brunswickstreetmission.org. For more information contact the Mission, 902-423-4605.

The War Amps PRESENTS



The Canadian Army Newsreels

Featuring 20 hours of footage, this six DVD set contains 106 newsreels filmed and produced by the Canadian Army Film Unit.

Army cameramen documented the Canadian troops in training and on the front lines. They scooped the world on major events including the invasion of Sicily and D-Day.

Available for the first time as a complete set, this collection holds an important place in Canada's military history.

To order The Canadian Army Newsreels (\$30), please contact:

The War Amps
1 800 250-3030
waramps.ca



Grand & Toy's *A Day Made Better* honours Nova Scotian teacher

Program donates \$24,000 worth of school supplies to 12 Canadian teachers

On World Teachers' Day, October 5, 2010 Grand & Toy presented Mays Markabi, a Primary teacher from École Beaubassin in Bedford with \$2,000 worth of school supplies as part of its *A Day Made Better* program. An additional 11 teachers across the country were honoured as part of the company's program to recognize teachers in deserving areas and highlight the issue of teachers spending out-of-pocket expenses to fund classroom needs.

École Beaubassin's principal and a local Grand & Toy regional employee worked together to surprise the honoured teacher with a new ergonomic chair and box full of essential classroom supplies to last the school year.

Winning teachers were chosen in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec.

"The *A Day Made Better* program has two goals," says Kevin Edwards, Grand & Toy's vice president of marketing. "First, it gives the teaching community, parents and students a chance to recognize and thank outstanding teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty. Second, the donation of school supplies is meant to aid teachers' growing out-of-pocket expenses."

According to survey results released in July 2010 by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the average Canadian teacher spent \$453 in out-of-pocket expenses on supplies or classroom activities in the 2008-09 school year. This was an increase from \$344 five years earlier.

"More and more classrooms don't have the supplies needed to provide quality education. Teachers end up covering the expenses themselves," says Pam Schwartzberg, executive director of Learning for a Sustainable Future, a not-for-profit organization that works to integrate sustainability education into classrooms, which partnered with Grand & Toy to select the winning teachers. "Today, programs like *A Day Made Better* are needed to support teachers in creating classrooms that are healthy, complete learning environments."

For a list of the 2010 winners and more information on *A Day Made Better*, visit www.grandandtoy.com/betterday.



Mays Markabi is shown with Paul McGuinness, Regional Sales Director, Grand & Toy receiving her award.

Junior high and high school students ... Put your creativity to work for a good cause!

Enter the Partners for Human Rights Human Rights Creativity Contest for International Human Rights Day

This year's theme is **Unity in our Communities**

It's also the **United Nations International Year of Youth**, under the theme **Our year. Our Voice.**

This is your year! Use your voice and creativity to tell us how to make your community stronger.

Express yourself through:

- **Poetry/Spoken Word**
- **Art** (for example, illustration, digital graphics, photography)
- **Music** (for example, songwriting, music videos)

All entries must be received by **November 26, 2010**.
Winners will receive prizes on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 2010.

Submit your entry and submission form by:
E-mail: hrcinquires@gov.ns.ca
(Please include Creativity Contest in the subject line)
Mail: **Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission**
P.O. Box 2221, Halifax, NS B3J 3C4
Fax: 902-424-0596
(Please include Creativity Contest on the cover sheet)

Questions?
Call 902-424-4111

Partners for Human Rights

For Office Use

SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEGOTIATIONS 2010 (one item per page)

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

Faculty _____

Professional Support _____

New Article (or) Current Article Article Number _____

Subject Title: _____

PROPOSAL: _____

EXPLANATION/CLARIFICATION _____

SIGNATURE: _____ CAMPUS: _____

DATE: _____

Note: Must be Received by October 29, 2010

Send to NSTU, c/o Kate Ingram, 3106 Joseph Howe Dr., Halifax, NS B3L 4L7, Fax at 902-477-3517 or email kingram@nstu.ca.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ECONOMIC WELFARE COMMITTEE

Application Forms are now available from the NSTU and on the NSTU website. Please submit completed forms to Louis Robitaille, President, Community College Local, c/o NSTU, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, N.S. B3L 4L7; Fax 902-477-3517 or Kate Ingram at kingram@staff.nstu.ca

Applications must be received in Central Office by 4:30 p.m. on October 22, 2010.

iwalk²⁰¹⁰
International Walk to School and Walk at School Month

in October

Register & qualify your school for great prize draws including:

- A classroom pedometer kit
- A bike
- Bike helmets
- Stickers for all students

Register your school now at www.saferoutesns.ca
(click on the IWALK icon)

Teachers integrate Texas Instruments technology in high school math



Teachers learned more about integrating technology in high school class mathematics through a three-day Texas Instruments (TI) workshop held at Horton High School in Wolfville from August 23 to 25. Allister Wadden, a math teacher at Annapolis West Education Centre and provincial executive rep for Annapolis-Hants West-Kings, lead the *Getting Started with TI-Nspire CAS™ Navigator™ System* workshop. “Texas Instruments has identified activities that match Nova Scotia math outcomes,” he says.

“This workshop helps teachers use the graphic calculators, but also demonstrates how to teach with them.”

Participants learned about the graph application and the calculator application. They used the handheld devices to analyze parameters of quadratic graphs using sliders. Other activities included those related to the quadrilaterals and polygons unit, algebra, functions and relations unit and exponential functions.

Each unit the participants explored at the workshop included a student activity sheet, teacher notes, tech tips, and pitfalls to look out for. “The goal is to make the experience as concrete as possible,” says Wadden, who also commented that Texas Instruments will loan teachers a class set of the specialized graphic calculators for a few weeks at a time.

“The beauty of participating in this workshop is that participants get the PD, the handheld device and the software all for \$350,” adds Wadden. “The calculator and software alone would run about \$380.”

Workshop participant Patsy Height-Lewis, a math consultant at the Tri-County Regional School Board says, “Teachers are aware of how useful this tool can be.”

Wadden who is a “T3 Registered Instructor” has also done a one-day *TI-Nspire™* workshop for St. FX secondary B.Ed. students. He’ll be presenting three workshops at this year’s joint Math Teachers Association (MTA)/Texas Instruments conference on October 22, using the wireless *TI-Nspire™ Navigator™ System*.

Kevin Spry, PD Curriculum Manager at Texas Instruments will kick-off this year’s MTA conference in a keynote on October 21 at 8:00 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Dartmouth. Every teacher attending the conference can bring their original *TI-Nspire* handhelds to the keynote address or the TI booth at the conference to have it exchanged for the new *TI-Nspire CAS™* touchpads.



Wadden is shown with workshop participant Patsy Height-Lewis, a math consultant with the Tri-County Regional School Board.

Phase I of iNSchool Launched this fall

In September 2010, 78 schools in Nova Scotia began registering and managing information on one common system called PowerSchool. And soon, students and parents of these 78-Phase I schools will see the same provincial report card format and connect with their schools using the same student-parent portal.

It’s all part of iNSchool, a province-wide program aimed at leveraging technology to better support student achievement. iNSchool is being led by our province’s eight school boards and the Department of Education.

Once in place, iNSchool will contribute to other key functions, such as curriculum and program development, student assessment, and school accreditation and improvement programs, with real-time access to information on students, schools and programs.

“It’s very powerful...the Department will have what they need, instantly,” says Annette Lefort, junior high teacher at École NDA. “It will stop the need to produce reports on paper. It will already be there - marks, absenteeism, enrolment, disciplinary reports, etc.”

Everyone will benefit – students, parents, teachers, school administrators and assistants, school boards, and the Department of Education.

iNSchool will have a significant impact on Nova Scotia’s public school system. It will enable parents to be more engaged in their children’s education and lead to a more responsive education system.

iNSchool will be implemented gradually over the next three years. To learn more about iNSchool, go to www.inschool.ednet.ns.ca.

inschool.ednet.ns.ca



>> your future here

2010

Social Studies Teacher's Association Conference

October 22, Lockview High School

CEED will offer an interactive workshop focusing on integrating entrepreneurship into the classroom through CEED's Entrepreneurship in Action curriculum resource. The workshop will focus on Entrepreneurship 12 educators, but is of use to all educators looking to include the benefits of entrepreneurship in the classroom.



Entrepreneurship in Action

Four-part, multi unit curriculum resource includes a video series component, classroom activities and a facilitator's guide to further assist educators.

Receive a Free Copy

Free copies of the resource will be provided to all educators attending the session.

Meghan Cadue-March

Entrepreneurship Education Advisor
902.421.2333 Ext. 107
mcadue@ceed.ca



update

The NSTU Group Insurance Program – An Overview

Both the NSTU and the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees receive many enquiries with respect to the NSTU Group Insurance Program. The NSTU, through the NSTU Group Insurance Trustees, offer excellent coverages to both active and retired members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union. Hopefully, this article will provide some useful information with regard to the coverages available.

Coverage for Every Member

Provincial Master Life Insurance

A \$50,000 term life policy is available to all Active Public School Members, APSEA Members and Community College Members. The premium for this benefit is 100 per cent paid by each employer, therefore, there is no charge to the member for this coverage. As part of your financial planning, please review and ensure you have designated a beneficiary for your Provincial Master Life Insurance and any other Life insurance coverage for which you are insured. As part of the Provincial Master Life Insurance coverage, a matching \$50,000 of insurance is included for Accidental Death & Dismemberment as well as a Dependent Life benefit of \$3,000 for your spouse and \$1,500 for each dependent child.

Critical Illness

Under the Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan there is a \$2,000 one time Lump Sum tax free payment that may be payable to you, the member, if you are diagnosed with one of the following critical illnesses: Heart attack, coronary artery by-pass surgery, stroke, life threatening cancer.

Funeral Expense Plan

The Funeral Expense Plan provided to NSTU members and eligible dependents under the age of 65 provides up to \$3,000 per funeral. This benefit is provided 100 per cent through the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Employer Cost-Shared Benefits You Need to Enroll In

Total Care Medical

The Total Care Medical Program is a comprehensive supplementary Health Care Program available to all Active Public School Members, APSEA Members, and Community College Members and is paid 100 per cent by the employer. This program provides prescription drug coverage, semi-private hospital room, vision care, paramedical services, including physiotherapy and massage therapy, and many other benefits as outlined in your Group Insurance Profile. This benefit is not automatic. You may apply for this benefit at any time provided you are actively at work.

Total Care Dental

Similarly, the Total Care Dental Program provides comprehensive Dental Care coverage to NSTU members. Total Care Dental includes Basic Preventative Services, Major Restorative Services, and Prosthodontic and Orthodontic Services. The employer cost shares 65 per cent of the Basic and Major Restorative premiums of the Total Care Dental while the member pays 35 per cent for Basic Preventative and Major Restorative premiums, plus 100 per cent for Prosthodontic and Orthodontic premiums. You can enroll in the NSTU Total Care Dental Program once per year before October 15th. Also, new teachers have 31 days from the receipt of their new teacher package to enroll.

Long Term Disability

Long Term Disability benefits are available to active members of the NSTU. If not currently enrolled, you must be under 59 ½ years of age to apply for coverage. This coverage provides a benefit based on 70 per cent of your gross monthly salary at the time your claim commences. This is a taxable benefit as the employer contributes to the cost of the premium. The Long Term Disability benefit is integrated with CPP and the Teachers' Disability Pension. The qualifying period before benefit payments would commence is the greater of 90 calendar days or your accumulated sick leave.

Effective August 1, 2009, the NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is mandatory for new members and currently insured members without the ability to opt out unless the following conditions have been met:

Plan member is at least 50 years of age and has a minimum of 30 years of pensionable service, or

Plan member is in their last year of teaching with one year of accumulated sick leave.

A new member is defined as an NSTU member who has obtained their first contract in Nova Scotia or a member being rehired and has not met any of the following categories:

You were previously automatically enrolled as a "new member" prior to August 1, 2009 and opted out of the program,

You previously applied for enrollment in the Long Term Disability Program and were denied coverage,

Enter to **WIN!**

15,000
AIR MILES® reward miles

Exclusively for NSTU active and retired members.

Simply request a home or auto insurance quote.
(Existing policyholders are automatically entered.)

1.800.563.0677 | www.johnson.ca/nstu
(Please provide your Group ID Code: 62)



Johnson Inc. Insurance

Proud to be One of Canada's Top 100 Employers for 2010.

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. 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. Contest runs from March 1, 2010 to December 1, 2010. No purchase necessary. Those already insured through the NSTU Johnson Inc. home and/or auto program are also entered. Chances of winning depend on the number of entries received. Winner must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Certain conditions may apply. For full contest details visit www.johnson.ca/nstu.
™ Trademarks of AIR MILES International Trading B.V. Used under license by LoyaltyOne, Inc. and Johnson Inc. (for Unifund). CAT.Aug2010

If you failed to enroll through past open enrollments and/or You had previously requested to cancel coverage and were not on a leave.

The NSTU Long Term Disability Plan is cost-shared with the Employer at 50 per cent.

Hospital Cash

A Hospital Cash Benefit is provided to all NSTU members who are enrolled in the NSTU Long Term Disability Program. This coverage is a daily benefit of \$20.00 to an insured member when the member is in a hospital and under the care of a physician. This benefit will be paid from the first day of hospitalization, if hospitalized for at least four days. As with the Funeral Expense Benefit, this coverage is paid 100 per cent by the NSTU Group Insurance Trust Fund.

Optional Coverages Paid By Members

There are a number of optional coverages available to NSTU members that provide the opportunity to purchase additional insurance coverages through payroll deduction, such as, Optional Group Life/Spousal Insurance, Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment, MEDOC® Travel Plan, MEDOC® Trip Cancellation/Interruption Insurance, and Home/Auto Insurance. These coverages are 100 per cent paid by the member and are offered at very competitive premium rates. Details on these programs are contained within your Group Insurance Profile.

This is a brief overview of the benefits detailed through the NSTU Group Insurance Program. Full details of your NSTU Group Insurance Program are contained within the Group Insurance Profile, which has been provided to you in the past.

If you have any questions with regard to the above, please do not hesitate to contact Johnson Inc. at 453-9543 (local) or 1-800-453-9543 (toll-free).

resources

Teacher PD Loan Titles 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

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.

The following is a selected list of professional development titles that are available from the Media Library's loan collection. We have multiple copies of each title that can be borrowed for up to two weeks.

Bullying: gaining insight: conflict resolution for educators (call number 23583 - 36 min.)

This teacher professional resource promotes discussion amongst school staff who deal with conflict issues relating to their students. This video examines the ways adults can effectively identify and intervene in bullying situations.

Imagine a school (call number 23579 - 110 min.)

This video captures the work of a company of high school students from Halifax, Toronto, and Vancouver. The video contains: Introduction by the producer and artistic director (5 min.) Imagine a school - the performance (59 min.) Imagine a school - Making the play (30 min.) Highlights of the Symposium - Getting it Right for Adolescent Learners (15 min.)

6 + 1 traits of writing (call number 23645 - 120 min.)

This teacher professional development set of four 30-minute tapes demonstrates how the traits have transformed students' writing. Tape 1: An introduction to the 6 + 1 traits model; Tape 2: Inspiring ideas and shaping organization; Tape 3: Sparking voice and expanding word choice; Tape 4: Developing sentence fluency, strengthening conventions, and spotlighting presentation.

Focus on spelling (call number 23780 - 120 min.)

Focus on Spelling is a compelling video series from Diane Snowball. This four-part video will help you instill purposeful, smart spelling instruction across your K-8 classrooms. Diane Snowball shows how to make instruction efficient and developmentally appropriate, and you will see the concepts put to work in three urban classrooms.

Happy reading: creating a predictable structure for joyful teaching and learning (call number 23782 - 108 min.)

In this series, Debbie Miller takes primary teachers beyond comprehension instruction and shows how she sustains a thoughtful primary reading program that challenges and supports readers of all abilities and needs. Debbie and her students tell this story through a wealth of classroom segments as Debbie reflects on the reasoning behind her instructional decisions and the connections between her practice and the theories that inform her work.

Portfolios: students as readers, writers, and evaluators (call number 23235 - 65 min.)

Video 1: Students Find Value in Themselves - students in grades one, four, and five show us the importance of finding value in themselves in order to find value in their school work. Video 2: Students Find Value in Each Other - students set goals for their academic growth in the context of their interactions with each other. Video 3: Students Find Value in their Work - students show us the importance of their involvement in schoolwork that they value. When their work has meaning to them, students understand the need to evaluate it so that they can decide what they need to work on or what their next goal should be.

Primary learners: introducing learning skills in early grades [and] Intermediate learning: watch the learning process unfold (call number 23783 - 30 min.)

Very young students may not have the reading skills to do traditional research, but they have a natural curiosity. This two-part teacher professional development resource demonstrates the strategies that primary teachers can use to make research a successful experience for students at early elementary grades. Teachers will see how students assess their own work, and how teachers assess the process. (*Know It All Series*)



Assessment Institute

August 17-19, 2011
Holiday Inn, Dartmouth, NS

As a follow-up to our extremely successful Assessment Summit in the summer of 2009, the **Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium** is providing another exceptional professional learning opportunity.

Responding to the feedback from 2009 participants, we are offering an entire day with the keynote speakers, a limited audience and registration options:

- Speakers who will be presenting are:
 - o Dylan William, August 17
 - o Kaye Burke, August 18
 - o Anne Davies, August 19
- Registration is limited to 250 people per speaker
- Registration Options:
 - Single Day Ticket or Three Day Package

Check the **NSELIC website www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca** or call 902-422-3270 for more information.



9th Annual Tea & Sale

3430 & 3480 Prescott Street
November 27, 2010
10am - 2pm

Silent Auction, Raffle and Bake Sale
Free Admission

Come for...

Crafts

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Baked Goods

Seafood Chowder or Chilli

Coffee or Tea and Dessert



donations for FEED NOVA SCOTIA will be accepted at the door

Email: info@prescottgroup.ca • Tel: 902-454-7387

Time for nonfiction (call number 23644 - 130 min.)

Tape 1: Setting up the nonfiction classroom (29 min) establishes the classroom library to engage students with nonfiction; Tape 2: Helping readers select texts: mini lessons and conferences (32 min.) encourages students to select nonfiction as part of their reading lives; Tape 3: Whole-class mino lessons (33 min.) demonstrates in whole class settings readers and writers of nonfiction; Tape 4: Completing the jigsaw: read-alouds, visual literacy and responses (32 min.) explores ways to increase the presence of nonfiction in the classroom.

When students write (call number 23781 - 120 min.)

When Students Write takes us into the classrooms of accomplished teachers as they wrestle with what it means to become an effective writer and what a teacher's role is in developing students' competence as writers. This series covers the practical components of a successful writing workshop, including the importance of choice, risk-taking, skills versus craft, the writer's notebook, the writing conference, the role of literature, and more.

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

Grosvenor students Stand Up Against Bullying



Students at École Grosvenor Wentworth Park School celebrated Stand Up Against Bullying Day on September 9, by forming a pink circle around the heart-shaped Julie's Pond, which is close to the school. The school backs on Hemlock Ravine Park, the site of Halifax's most enduring love story. When Edward, the Duke of Kent, arrived in Halifax in 1794 to serve as commander in chief of the Halifax Garrison, he was accompanied by his French mistress, Julie St. Laurent. He built an elaborate estate for her on the property of Governor John Wentworth, overlooking the shore of the Bedford Basin. Hemlock Ravine Park includes graceful pathways that lead from Julie's heart-shaped pond through the towering old hemlock trees. It is believed that the heart shaped pond was constructed by the Duke in honour of his mistress.

The John Huntley Memorial Internship Program

The remaining deadlines for applications for the John Huntley Memorial Internship Program for the 2010-2011 school year are **November 15, February 15 and April 15.**

Applications for active NSTU members are available through your NSTU rep, on the NSTU website at 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

Teachers and high school students
Top Nova Scotia industry professionals
Fundamentals of video production, sound design, and marketing communications
Create PSAs around the importance of school attendance

For more information
www.atlanticfilm.com/view
or www.nstu.ca "What's New" section
Deadline for applications is November 12

Three workshops:
November 26 - 28 January 14 - 16
January 28 - 30

ViewFinders
Nova Scotia Teachers Union

classifieds

Classified rates are \$2.00 for the first 15 words; 25¢ per additional word upon presentation of a professional number. Non-teachers pay \$6.00 for the first 15 words and 25¢ per additional word. To book, call Sonia Matheson at 1-800-565-6788 or email theteacher@nstu.ca.

AVAILABLE - "The Bully And The Purple Pants" - A Dynamic School Assembly" Award-Winning songs are combined with motivational speaking to provide students with effective strategies for dealing with bullies. Hundreds of schools across Canada have experienced this fabulous presentation! For bookings call 519-655-2379 or visit www.paulbehne.on.ca for complete details.

AVAILABLE - For Professional Development sessions on HUMOUR and/or ART go to www.SusanCarterComic.com for more information.

FLORIDA VACATION HOME RENTALS - Kissimmee. 2 - 6 bedroom vacation homes with private pool. Five miles to Disney. Family holidays or conferences. Two-bedroom SPECIAL rate until December 11, \$79US/nt. Please call 902-861-4814 or visit www.herderholidayhomes.com or email rherder@eastlink.ca.

REGISTERED MASSAGE THERAPY \$5.00 donation to Canadian Cancer Society for every therapeutic massage covered by Blue Cross. Located up the street from Alderney Landing at 115 Portland St.,

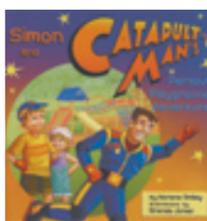
Dartmouth. Teachers are entitled to 20 massages per year per family member with Blue Cross, no referral required. Excellent for relieving stress, anxiety, muscle tension and improving sleep. Chris Bagnell RMT-10-years experience. To contact Chris call 902-464-0606 to book an appointment. "Making a difference great."

JOB-SHARE - Secondary School Teacher looking for a job share in the metro area. Experience includes Learning Center, Resource, Computer Technology and History. Please contact pmaceachern@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

JOB-SHARE - Fifteen year sub looking for elementary share teaching position. Term experience in resource, learning centre and upper elementary. To see full resume and references, email me at mlstaple@ns.sympatico.ca

TEACHER EXCHANGE - An elementary teacher with the HRSB is looking for a teacher exchange with the CBVRSB for the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested please email dl@staff.ednet.ns.ca.

WINNERS!



The three winners of *Simon and Catapult Man's Perilous Playground Adventure* by Norene Smiley are:

Allen Whitaker - Port Maitland Consolidated
Cindy Kowalyk - Chester Area Middle School
Heidi Shea-McGowan - Cornwallis Junior High

CONGRATULATIONS!

DISCOUNT FOR NSTU MEMBERS IN CUMBERLAND COUNTY

SIMPLY FOR LIFE, Nutrition. Education. Lifestyle. 16 Church Street, Amherst, NS B4H 3A6; 902-660-8446. Simply for Life would like to offer NSTU members a **FREE consultation and 20% off ANY program.** This offer is available to NSTU members in Cumberland County only. For more information email info.amherst@simplyforlife.com.



Nutrition.

Education.

Lifestyle.

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

DELTA'S ... FALL GETAWAY



Celebrate the change of seasons with Delta Barrington or Delta Halifax. You'll get away from it all right in the middle of everything.

\$86*

Now members of NSTU can make reservations online.

*NSTU id must be presented at check-in for special rate; discounted parking rate of \$0.95
Reservations: www.deltahotels.com/nstu

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For reservations/information call 1-800-268-1133 (toll free)