

FEB. 25-27,  
2009



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

# Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive met in St. John's on February 25-26 and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on February 27. *Executive Notes* is a summary of major discussions that occurred at these meetings.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

## President's Report

The President reported to Provincial Executive on his activities since the November meeting. He presented the NLTA's submission to the Provincial Pre-Budget consultations, brought greetings to the RTANL Christmas luncheon, as well as the Atlantic Provinces School Boards Association Conference, and attended numerous other meetings and events at the local, provincial and national levels in his capacity as President. He continued his visits to schools in the province and conducted several media interviews regarding the tentative collective agreement. He also produced a commercial for the Provincial Education Week media campaign.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

## Business from Standing Committees

### *Table Officers*

- The theme for BGM 2009 will be "Leading a Community of Learners".
- The composition of BGM 2009 committees and the draft agenda for BGM 2009 were approved as presented.
- The NLTA delegation to the CTF AGM 2009 in Ottawa will be comprised of: President Sean Noah, Vice-President (and President-elect) Lily Cole; Table Officers Dean Ingram and Paul Pinsent; and Executive Director Edward Hancock.
- Wayne Noseworthy will be nominated by the NLTA for the CTF Special Recognition Award for 2009.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

### *Membership Benefits and Services Committee*

- Seven pre-retirement seminars will be held in accordance with Association policy during the fall of 2009 in the following locations: Corner Brook, Gander, Grand Falls-Windsor, Stephenville, and three in St. John's. The dates and sites will be determined by the Benefits and Economic Services Division subject to hotel and presenter availability.

Consideration will be given to combining seminars based on registration numbers.

- Clarence Mercer of the Bay Roberts Branch will be recipient of the Bancroft Award for 2009.
- John and Kathleen Hicks of the Lake Melville Branch will be the recipients of the Special Recognition Award for 2009.
- Dana Burridge will be the recipient of the Allan Bishop Award.

For further information contact Tina Matthews, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Stephanie Tuff or Steve Brooks, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

### *Professional Issues Committee*

Cynthia Wheeler of the Hamilton Sound Branch will be recipient of the Barnes Award for 2009.

For further information contact Jean Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

### *Equity Issues in Education Committee*

The following will be the women observers to the 2009 BGM: Marie Vaters, Kim Michelau, Dominique Martin, Nicole Chapman and Audrey Fortune. In the event that one or more of these candidates cannot attend, the following will be the alternates: Pamela Dean and Lisa Tobin.

For further information contact Jackie Maloney, Chair, Equity Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

### *Communications/Political Action Committee*

The NLTA will investigate the most appropriate means to do a comprehensive survey of members covering all aspects of the programs and services provided to teachers by the NLTA that can include other relevant educational issues and activities.

For further information contact Gabriel Ryan, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

## Other Business

- Provincial Executive approved the NLTA's participation in providing notice to Government on the intent to open negotiations on the Labrador Benefits Agreement as part of the five unions covered by the Labrador Benefits Agreement. The current Agreement expires March 31, 2009.

- The amalgamation of the Bell Island Branch (St. Augustine's Elementary and St. Michael's Regional High) with Marconi Branch was approved by Provincial Executive. The amalgamation will take effect immediately.
- In December 2009 concerns regarding the school development model were expressed to the School Development Consultant at the Department of Education. This individual has since retired. The Association will reiterate its concerns when the replacement consultant is hired.
- The recommendation on resolutions to the 2009 BGM were accepted, as amended, for presentation at BGM.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

## JOINT COUNCIL

### Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association priorities for 2007-09 was presented to Joint Council. Various NLTA administrative staff updated Provincial Executive and Branch Presidents on elements of the priorities including action updates and progress to date. The priorities are: quality of teacher work life/teacher workload; contract negotiations; teacher professional development; membership involvement/awareness; and Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways Commission reports.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

### Proposed NLTA Budgets 2009-11

A presentation on the proposed NLTA budgets for 2009-11 was made to Joint Council by Jim Dinn, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee. The presentation provided information on revenues received from various sources, expenses and capital expenditures, and a breakdown of budget lines with the Association's budget.

For further information contact Jim Dinn, Chair, Finance and Property Committee or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

### Preparing Delegates for BGM 2009

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Edward Hancock, Executive Director of the NLTA, on preparing delegates for BGM 2009. Branch Presidents were advised that they should arrange a delegate meeting once Convention kits are received to discuss and review any specific items and take positions on resolutions. Delegates should be familiar with all BGM business, Convention procedures, presentations, resolutions and Convention expenses.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

### NLTA Policy Changes

A number of changes in policy statements since the April 2009 Joint Council Meeting were approved by Joint Council. These policies provide direction for continuity of decisions and guidance to those who take positions on behalf of the Association. The amended policies include: NLTA Branches; Joint Council; Association awards; teacher certification; teacher education; teacher evaluation; learning resources centres; student support services; teacher stress; remedial services; multiage classrooms; assessment-criterion referenced tests; enriched learning experiences; professional development programs; accountability; contacts with school boards; grievance and arbitration cases; group insurance; legal aid; human rights of teachers; government/school board general liability insurance; medication/medical treatment/health procedures; teacher workload; teacher participation in volunteer food program; student assistants; hiring of teachers; scholarship from Government; school retention; school bus safety; teacher allocations and declining enrollment; formation and operation of school councils; multiculturalism; pornography; child abuse; professional development awards; the Teachers Talking to Teachers program; and collective bargaining.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

### Pilot Teacher Health and Wellness Program Update

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Manuel Ball, Coordinator of the Pilot Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Program. Manuel provided an update on the number of applications received, the initiatives taking place in the schools, the criteria for funding requests, feedback from the field, as well as future steps for the program.

For further information contact Dean Ingram, Chair, Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Committee, or Manuel Ball, Coordinator.

### Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Internal Review of NLTA Programs and Services – Follow-up

A follow-up report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the Internal Review of NLTA Programs and Services was presented to Joint Council by Edward Hancock, Executive Director of the NLTA. The presentation included Executive positions on the recommendations from the Internal Review Committee. These recommendations and the final report will be presented at BGM 2009.

For further information contact Paul Pinsent, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Internal Review of NLTA Programs and Services, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

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## Report on Focus Groups with Mid-Career Teachers

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Beverley Park, Professional Development Division, on the results of focus groups that were held with mid-career teachers. The concerns raised are consistent with those that have been identified through the EAP wellness programs. The information from the focus groups will be used in future planning for mid-career teachers.

For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

### Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and/or Joint Council: length of scheduled work day; equity issues in the NLTA; Board mandated inservice; retired NLTA teachers called to substitute after retired CONA teachers; discretionary leave; effective negotiating; air quality in schools; and dealing with abusive students.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

### Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is **May 29-30** in St. John's. Executive will also meet for its pre-BGM meeting on **Tuesday, April 14**.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.