



Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on February 18-19, 2015 and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on February 20. Executive Notes is a summary of discussions and decisions that occurred at these meetings.

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

President's Report

Since the last meeting of Provincial Executive the President has visited schools in Torbay, Whitbourne, Old Perlican, Conception Bay South, St. John's, Bell Island, Manuels, Paradise and Corner Brook. Media interviews took place on various topics and issues including extreme weather closures, full day Kindergarten, no zero policy, as well as mental health issues in schools and inclusive education. He attended the NLTA Music Council Christmas Suite, branch meetings in Western Bay, Deer Lake and Southern Shore. He presented the NLTA Medal to Bridgette Abbott, attended the Premier's Summit on Health Care, Kids Eat Smart Breakfast Program launch at Macdonald Drive Elementary, the Beginning Teachers Conference and the presentation of the Red Cross Partners in Humanity Citation presentation to the NLTA. The President also attended meetings on various issues with the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Director of Education, and others in his capacity as President.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Business from Standing Committees

Equity Issues in Education Committee

The NLTA Equity Issues in Education Committee will host an information session in the western region to explore the concept, along with ways and means, to support a Gay/Straight Alliance for teachers.

For further information contact Sherri Rose, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee or Beverley Park, staff consultant.

Communications/Political Action Committee

- Education Week will continue to take place in October for the 2015 school year.

- A meeting, focus group and/or brainstorming session will take place to do a full review of Education Week, its future and focus, with the intent to revamp and rebrand the event.
- A cost analysis will take place on electronic versus paper for BGM 2017.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee or Lesley-Ann Browne, staff consultant.

Membership Benefits and Services Committee

- Effective for the 2015-16 budget year, the branch registration rebate will be increased to \$700 per branch and the membership rebate will be increased from \$4 to \$6 per eligible member.
- Five pre-retirement seminars will be held, in accordance with Association policy, during the fall of 2015 in the following locations: Corner Brook; Gander; and three in St. John's. Dates and sites to be determined by Programs and Services staff subject to hotel and presenter availability.
- Jordan Stringer, nominated by the Deer Lake Branch, will be the 2015 recipient of the Special Recognition Award.
- Jean Murphy, nominated by the Long Range Branch and Rick Duffy, nominated by the Exploits Valley Branch, will be the recipients of the 2015 Bancroft Award.

For further information contact Jean Murphy, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Miriam Sheppard or Geralyn Costello, staff consultants.

Professional Issues Committee

David Gill, nominated by the Technology Education Special Interest Council, will be the 2015 recipient of the Barnes Award.

For further information contact Gabe Ryan, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park or George Tucker, staff consultants.

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Table Officers

- The theme for BGM 2015 will be *Preserving Our Past: Embracing Our Future.*
- At the 2015 BGM, Honorary Membership will be conferred upon Mr. Brian Shortall.
- The 2015 Patricia Cowan Award for Support and Promotion of Education will be offered to Ms. Kathy LeGrow.
- The Association will utilize an independent chairperson for the 2015 BGM and Edward Hancock will be invited to assume that role.
- The NLTA delegation to the CTF AGM and the Education International World Congress in Ottawa in July 2015 will be Table Officers and the Executive Director.
- The NLTA will fund a nutrition break for \$1,000 at the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador Public Sector Pensioners' Association.
- The NLTA will become a silver partner of the Kids Eat Smart Program and also support the 2015 Gala Kitchen Party at a total cost of \$5,000.
- \$500 will be provided to the Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists for the 2015 Provincial Conference and the NLASLPA will be asked to provide a promotional presence for the NLTA at the conference.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

Updates on the priorities were provided to Joint Council. Branch Presidents had the opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments. The priorities for 2013-15 are: negotiating a collective agreement; beginning teacher initiatives; strategic plan for member engagement; implementation of NLTA IT strategic plan; school board amalgamation; and non collective agreement issues that impact on teacher work life.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

Update on Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) Discussions with Government

Executive and Joint Council were informed that NLTA representatives, including NLTA's actuarial consultant, met with government's actuaries on January 12 to review updated teacher pension data and, using the actuarial funding model, to explore various options aimed at reaching an agreement that would ensure sustainability of the TPP. On January 28, negotiations between the NLTA and government officials and their respective

actuaries occurred. Progress was made, but one significant obstacle to reaching an agreement was encountered. The discussions ended with both parties committed to exploring options to overcome the obstacle, with anticipation of further meetings to occur. It is possible that an agreement could be reached in short order. Should agreement be reached, a special Provincial Executive and Joint Council meeting would be called and the information subsequently provided to teachers for consideration and vote.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

NLTA Budgets 2015-17

A presentation on the proposed NLTA budgets for 2015-17 was made to Joint Council by Craig Hicks, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee. The proposed budgets for 2015-16 and 2016-17 will be finalized by Executive for presentation to BGM 2015.

For further information contact Craig Hicks, Chair, Finance and Property Committee or Wade Rogers, Manager, Corporate Services.

Preparing Delegates for 2015 BGM

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Don Ash, Executive Director of the NLTA, on preparing delegates for BGM 2015. Branch Presidents were advised that they should arrange a delegates 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 Don Ash, Executive Director.

Policy Changes Since the November 2014 Joint Council Meeting

Joint Council approved a number of changes in NLTA policy since the October 2014 Joint Council meeting. The amended policies include: policy on expense claims; policy on presidential expenses; policy on financial assistance to members; policy on the Barnes Award; policy on communication goals; policy on publications; policy on printing; environmental policy; policy on teacher certification; policy on curriculum; policy on equality and access of opportunity; policy on collegial model/association membership; policy on professional development programs; policy on HIV/AIDS; policy on collective bargaining; and policy on legal aid.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

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Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: graduation requirements to attend grad; grade 8 teaching certificate; professional development opportunities; itinerant teachers required to report to school during school closures; payroll issues; school discretionary leave; family leave on weather days; invitational school funded PD – rural/isolated schools disadvantaged; security cameras in schools; additional teaching units for students who require alternate setting instruction; new professional development model; student accountability; professional learning plans used for teacher appraisals; primary/elementary math; digital citizenship; mid term exams; extra duty/non prep time for non homeroom teachers; Nova Scotia Action Plan for Education 2015; nomination process for Provincial Executive; designation of assistant principals for schools; evening parent/teacher visitation in a PowerSchool world; student to teacher insubordination; manner of reporting to parents; district policy on scheduling of meetings; PD days used for school development; first aid training for teachers; lock down procedures; on-line travel claims; water safety procedures; family leave; and summer holdback.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.

Next Meeting

The pre-BGM Executive meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 at the Sheraton Hotel Newfoundland in St. John's. The next regular meeting of Executive is scheduled for May 8 and 9 in St. John's.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Don Ash, Executive Director.