

JUNE 2,
2006



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **June 2**. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major discussions and decisions that occurred at this meeting.

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

President's Report

The President reported to Provincial Executive on his activities since the last meeting. He has attended numerous meetings and presentations in his capacity as President including the Teacher Recruitment Fair, the Teacher Induction Ceremony, the Strategic Planning Consultation Session for Memorial University, the Coalition for Educational Opportunities, and he delivered a speech to the Kiwanis Club of St. John's. He attended several retirement dinners to honor retiring teachers, brought greetings to the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, and the School Administrators Council Provincial Conference and AGM. He continued his school visits throughout the province and was vocal in the media on pressures on teachers, drugs and school violence.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President.

Association Priorities

Provincial Executive reviewed the Priorities Document and was updated by Administrative Staff on various elements of the document including goals, responsibility, and indication of progress and success. The priorities are: quality of teachers' work life/contract negotiations; membership awareness; and professionalism/accountability.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Teacher Certification

During this meeting there was a timed session to discuss teacher certification. Present for this discussion was Robert Parsons, Registrar of Teacher Certification with the Department of Education. Since 1999, within the Provincial Certification Committee, there has been an ongoing review of the regulations governing the licensing/certification of teachers in this province. The purpose of this session was to provide Executive with an

update on principles that have been agreed upon and to provide further direction. Along with Mr. Parsons, the presentation on the proposed principles for a revision of the regulations was conducted by Bill Chaisson and Beverley Park who represent the NLTA on the Teacher Certification Committee. Provincial Executive endorsed the proposed principles for a revision of the teacher certification regulations and they will be discussed by the Teacher Certification Committee and will be an agenda item for the next Joint Council meeting.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Provincial Executive, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Ad Hoc Committee on SIC Restructuring

The following Special Interest Councils were approved by Provincial Executive for continued operation: Council of Special Services; Music Council; Newfoundland and Labrador Counsellors and Psychologists Association; Physical Education Council; School Administrators Council; Technology Education Council; and Modern Languages Council.

The Music Council will be asked to explore the possibility of extending its membership to include teachers of Art, Drama and other disciplines that fall into the Fine Arts category.

For further information contact Bill Chaisson, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on SIC Restructuring, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Discussion Topics

The following were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow up or future direction: NLSBA grievance resulting from job action by student assistants, communications strategy, policy on negotiating team, tobacco free school grounds, and pension fund update.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

(see over)

Business from Standing Committees

Curriculum Committee

- The proposed revisions to the NLTA policy on the Length of the Kindergarten Day were accepted by Provincial Executive.

For further information contact Wayne Park, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Equity Issues in Education Committee

- The \$2,000 remaining from the Student Equity Grant for 2005-06 will be placed in reserve to be used, if necessary, to assist with funding the launching of the Let's Talk About Women website.
- The proposed revisions to the policy on Equity and Access of Opportunity were accepted as presented.

For further information contact Paul Pinsent, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Table Officers

- Dr. Lynda Younghusband, author of *High School Teachers' Perceptions of Their Working Environment in Newfoundland: A Grounded Theory Study*, will be completing a research study into the incidence and impact of school violence and will be provided with financial assistance towards her expenses. Receipt of appropriate documentation will be required for expenses incurred.
- The documents *Internal Review of NLTA Operations* and *2006 Update on Goals from the 1996 Strategic Plan*, along with a covering explanatory memo, will be presented to BGM 2007 as the report on the motion from BGM 2005 re conducting an internal/external review.
- The following NLTA members were appointed as the 2006-07 Electoral Committee: Clement (Ted) Murphy, (Chair), Amalgamated Academy, Bay Roberts; Brenda Beresford, St. Andrews Elementary, St. John's; and Keith Hollohan, Whitbourne Elementary, Whitbourne.
- The following NLTA members were appointed as Group Insurance Trustees for 2006-07: Bill Chaisson, (Chair), Corner Brook; Dean Ingram, Bonavista; Tina Ryan, Trout River; Melanie Kavanagh, Mount Pearl; Darryn Cramm, Wabush; Don Case, Salmon Cove; and Rhonda French, Grand Falls-Windsor.

- The NLTA will contribute \$1,000 towards the Faculty of Education/Parks Canada Travelling Institute for Education Interns in the fall of 2006. This amount will be expended from the Beginning Teacher Program Support.
- Further discussions will occur with the Division of Student Support Services re the establishment of a Working Group on School Violence/Behavioral Issues.
- Further contact will be made with the Department of Education re progress in establishing the reviews of the Pathways Model and the Teacher Allocation Formula.

For further information contact Kevin Foley, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **September 22-23, 2006**.