

MAR. 22-23,
2012



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **March 22** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **March 23**. *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 staff member as indicated.

President's Report

Since the January meeting of Provincial Executive the President has attended the Canadian Pension and Benefits Institute Economic Outlook in St. John's, the "Still She Rises" Women's Conference in Toronto, the Beginning Teachers' Conference in Gander, the pre-budget consultations in Gander, the opening ceremonies for Education Week, the opening of the House of Assembly, the CTF Women's Issues Symposium in Winnipeg, the rally to support British Columbia teachers regarding the three-day strike in Victoria, and the British Columbia Teachers' Federation AGM. The President also attended various meetings in her role including with the Minister of Finance, the Conne River Band Council, the teaching staff in Conne River, the Federation of School Councils, CAPTO Executive Meetings, other public sector unions, the Marconi Branch retirement dinner, among others. Media interviews took place on Education Week, some teacher issues, and bullying.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Business of Standing Committees

Table Officers

The NLTA delegation to the CTF Annual General Meeting in Halifax in July 2012 will be comprised of President Lily B. Cole, Vice-President James Dinn, Table Officers Dean Ingram and Derek Drover, and Executive Director Edward Hancock.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Membership Benefits and Services Committee

- Derrick Sheppard will be the 2012 recipient of the Special Recognition Award.
- Sandra Quigley will be the recipient of the Bancroft Award.
- Five pre-retirement seminars will be held in accordance with Association Policy during the Fall of 2012 in the following locations: Corner Brook, Gander, 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.

For further information contact Jeanne Williams, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee, or Steve Brooks, Staff Consultant.

JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

The updated review of Association priorities for 2011-13 was presented to Joint Council. Administrative staff of the NLTA updated Provincial Executive and Branch Presidents on the work being performed on the priorities. The 2011-13 priorities are: quality of teachers' work life/collective bargaining; membership awareness and engagement; inclusion; and technology in education.

On the direction of Provincial Executive, the NLTA served notice to government to commence negotiations on both the Provincial and Labrador West Collective Agreements. Negotiating teams will now be appointed and dates for negotiations will be arranged.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Minister of Education Address to Joint Council

The Minister of Education, the Honourable Clyde Jackman, addressed Joint Council and reviewed the investment in education by the current government as well as some of the current issues in education. He was joined by Darrin Pike, Deputy Minister with the Department of Education.

After the address by the Minister, both he and the Deputy Minister took part in a question and answer session where Branch Presidents had the opportunity to ask about various issues of concern.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Report on 2009 Actuarial Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Plan

Mike O'Connell and Steve Kelloway of Morneau Shepell Inc made a presentation to Joint Council on the 2009 actuarial valuation of the teachers' pension plan. The presentation dealt with the purpose of the actuarial valuation, valuation assumptions, valuation results, and cash flow projections. The presenters reviewed membership data, financial position and projections of funded ratio for the next 20 years.

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For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining Trends in Canada

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Bob McGahey, Acting Director of Research and Information with the Canadian Teachers' Federation on collective bargaining trends in Canada. The presentation covered such topics as: what is occurring in other countries; an analysis of data and what is happening in Canada; employment; markets; national debt; the wage gap; provincial debt; and a comparison of teacher salaries across Canada.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

CONTACT 2012

Beverley Park, Senior Administrative Officer with the Professional Development Division, presented information to Joint Council on CONTACT 2012. The dates and deadlines were reviewed as well as the responsibility of the Branch Presidents. Information on CONTACT 2012 has been sent to schools and is also available on the NLTA website.

For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

2012-13 Province-wide Election of NLTA President and Vice-President

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Edward Hancock, NLTA's Executive Director, on the election of NLTA President and Vice-President by province-wide vote. The presentation reviewed by-law changes since the 2011 BGM, the members of the electoral committee, as well as their responsibilities, the dates and deadlines for 2012, the responsibility of branch presidents and school reps in the province-wide vote, and a review of the candidates' nomination package.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Group Insurance Market Study

Sean Weir, Acting Chair of the Group Insurance Committee, made a presentation to Joint Council on the 2012 Market Study of the Group Insurance Program. The presentation reviewed the results of the recent market study, trustee decisions regarding premium changes, plan enhancements, and future considerations/projections.

For further information contact Sean Weir, Acting Chairperson of Group Insurance Committee, or Perry Downey, Staff Consultant.

Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: appropriate use of social media; first aid training for teachers; substitute teacher rebate to branches; leave days for schools; KinderStart; cap on class size; violence in schools/classrooms; dealing with disrespectful parents; teacher preparation time; outdoor supervision duties; retired teachers as substitutes; remuneration rate for travel on gravel roads and meals; inclusion model; ESDNL Evaluation Policy; delivery of early intervention reading programs; after school meetings; adult/parent cyberbullying of teachers; vacation pay; special interest council for substitute teachers; communication regarding substitute teachers; teachers in the media; provincial executive minutes; workload; parent-teacher interviews; travel allowance and sick leave.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive will take place on May 25-26, 2012 in St. John's. For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.