



# EXECUTIVE NOTES

March 17-19, 2016

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **March 17, 2016** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **March 18 and 19**. *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

The President continued his visits to schools throughout February and attended events in Kelligrews, Topsail, Conception Bay South, King's Point, Beaumont, Little Bay Islands, St. John's and Holyrood. He attended meetings with the public sector unions re Government's Renewal Initiative, meetings of the public sector union coalition, meetings with the Premier and Minister of Finance, the Federation of School Councils, and the Department of Education. He also attended and brought greetings at the opening ceremonies of Education Week in Witless Bay, attended the Beginning Teachers' Conference, and was in attendance at the release of the NL Autism Society's Needs Assessment Survey. Media interviews took place concerning full day kindergarten, Education Week and the NLESD travel policy.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

## Business from Standing Committees

### *Finance and Property*

The audited financial statements for the year ended August 31, 2015 were approved as presented.

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

### *Communications/Political Action Committee*

- For BGM 2017 convention kits will be provided pre-BGM electronically instead of being mailed to delegates.
- The NLTA will investigate other options for delegate kits for BGM 2017.

- The information/plan of action/suggested lobbying techniques will be included in the NLTA's Political Action Handbook as per Resolution FL7 from BGM 2015.

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

### *Membership Benefits and Services*

- Five pre-retirement seminars will be held in accordance with Association Policy during the fall of 2016 in the following locations: Corner Brook, Grand Falls-Windsor, and three in St. John's. The dates and sites will be determined by Programs and Services, subject to hotel and presenter availability.
- The following will be recipients of the 2016 Bancroft Award: Catherine Rowsell (Humber Branch), Peter McCormack (Labrador West Branch) and Jamie Jenkins (St. John's Centre Branch).
- The following will be recipient of the 2016 Special Recognition Award: Robert Parsons (GranForLine Branch).
- The President will begin a consultation process with the Conception Bay Centre Branch and the Rameaux Branch as per Branch Viability procedures.

For further information contact Gabe Ryan, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Miriam Sheppard, Programs and Services.

### *Membership Engagement Committee*

- The Membership Engagement Action Plan was presented for approval.
- The NLTA will investigate the cost of producing an "NLTA and You" presentation.
- The NLTA will explore town hall meetings organized by branches for the purpose of allowing teachers to discuss education concerns/issues with the President.

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## NLTA Executive

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For further information contact Trent Langdon, Chair, Membership Engagement Committee or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

### **Professional Issues**

- The Barnes Award will be awarded to Robert Matthews of the School Administrators Council.
- A Health Education Special Interest Council will be established and they can become active immediately to pursue their proposed action plan.

For further information contact Colin Short, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Programs and Services.

### **Table Officers**

- The NLTA Teachers' Pension Plan Sponsor Body representatives will be the NLTA President, the NLTA Vice-President, the NLTA Assistant Executive and a teacher from the field to be selected from those expressing interest.
- The members of the 2016-17 Electoral Committee will be Tina Matthews (Chair), Ed Buckingham and Debra Sparkes-Mercer.
- The NLTA delegation to the 2016 CTF AGM will be Table Officers, the NLTA Executive Director and the NLTA Assistant Executive Director.
- Jeanne Williams will be the NLTA nomination for representation on the CTF Advisory Committee on Diversity and Human Rights.

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

## **JOINT COUNCIL**

### **Association Priorities**

Updates on the priorities of the Association were provided to Joint Council. Branch Presidents had the opportunity to ask questions or make comments. The priorities for 2015-17 are: teacher health; workload; inclusive education; membership engagement and awareness; and fostering and mentoring relationships with external agencies.

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

### **Employment Insurance for Teachers**

A presentation was made to Joint Council on Employment Insurance for Teachers by Mary-Lou Donnelly, EI Commissioner. The presentation reviewed: the structure and role of the EI Commission; qualifying insurable hours/waiting period; EI program characteristics; premium rate and maximums; EI and the education sector; claimant responsibilities; special benefits; sickness benefits, maternity leave, and parental/adoption leave; claim denial; and the appeals process.

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

### **Collective Bargaining Committee Report re Provincial Contract Negotiations**

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Gabe Ryan, Chair of the Collective Bargaining Committee, re the work of the Collective Bargaining Committee in developing the opening proposals for the next round of provincial contract negotiations. The work of the committee was reviewed and Joint Council members had the opportunity to ask questions.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Stefanie Tuff, Programs and Services.

### **Small Group Sessions re Government's Fiscal Reality**

Joint Council had the opportunity to discuss the province's fiscal reality and provide input through small group discussion on potential efficiencies in the education sector and identify where expenditures might be reduced. There was also an opportunity to provide input on ways that Government can increase revenue or opportunities outside education that Government could do better or more efficiently.

David Thompson, principal of Policy Link Research and Consulting from Victoria, B.C., joined the meeting via Skype to provide a presentation on an alternative narrative to the right wing interest in cutting the private sector, privatization, and 'doom and gloom' scenarios relative to the province's fiscal reality.

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

### **Update on Teachers' Pension Plan Reform Implementation**

Executive Director Don Ash provided Joint Council with details on the Joint Sponsorship Agreement and its implementation plan. The agreement was signed on March 16, 2016. He reviewed the governance model under the Joint Sponsorship Agreement and the Sponsor Body responsibilities; the Funding Policy; and the pension corporation framework contained in the Joint Sponsorship Agreement. Joint Council had the opportunity to ask questions or seek clarification on the information.

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

### **Update on Inclusive Education Committee**

An update on the Inclusive Education Committee was provided to Joint Council by Steve Brooks, Assistant

Executive Director. The committee mandate period has been extended by one month, the work of the committee is continuing, and a report is expected by the end of April. Input was gathered from teachers on their concerns regarding inclusive education and this input will be summarized in the writing of the final report, which will contain any agreed upon recommendations.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Steve Brooks, Assistant Executive Director.

### **Group Insurance Renewals**

A presentation was provided to Joint Council on the Group Insurance Renewal for 2016-17. Perry Downey from Programs and Services provided an overview of the Group Insurance program, the objectives of the program, fiduciary responsibilities of trustees, the renewals for 2016-17, and the new cancer care plan.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Perry Downey, Programs and Services.

### **Policy Changes Since the November 2015 Joint Council Meeting**

Joint Council approved a number of changes in NLTA policy since the November 2015 Joint Council meeting. The amended policies include policy on expense claims and policy on teacher allocation (specialists – guidance counsellors).

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

### **Preparation for Province-wide Election of NLTA President and Vice-President**

Executive Director Don Ash provided Joint Council with information on the election of NLTA President and Vice-President by province-wide vote. The election date is December 6, 2016. The electoral committee has been appointed and consists of Tina Matthews (Chair), Ed Buckingham and Debra Sparkes-Mercer. Don reviewed the responsibilities of the committee, the important dates and deadlines, and the responsibilities of branch presidents.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

### **Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics**

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: provincial budget; extra staff meetings/committees/school growth and development; classroom supports/emergent needs; “bell” work for students; teachers’ rights re violent and sexually inappropriate students; abuse of administrators; the Common Front initiative; school development process; full day kindergarten; electronic payroll; digital citizenship; school councils; occupational health and safety committees; Review 360; additional school expenses; K-6 report cards; sunshine list; branch insurance; separate special education budget allocation; referrals; transparency with the home; and school board trustees.

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

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Provincial Executive will take place April 29 and 30 in Gander.

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