

NOV. 26-28,
2009



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **November 26** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **November 27 and 28**. *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

President Lily B. Cole reported on her activities since taking over the office of President in August and since the August planning meeting. Most of the Fall was tied up dealing with issues around the H1N1 influenza and ensuring that teacher concerns were addressed. She attended the School Rep Seminars in Corner Brook, Grand Falls-Windsor and St. John's, the Teacher Induction Ceremonies in St. John's and Corner Brook, brought greetings to the Physical Education SIC Conference, the Special Services Conference, the Edge Conference, the NLCPA Conference, attended and laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day Wreath Ceremony, and attended numerous other local, provincial and national events in her capacity as President. She visited schools in Botwood, Baie Verte, St. John's, Conception Bay South and Deer Lake. She was also active in the media on World Teachers' Day, H1N1 influenza, appeared on NTV *Issues and Answers*, as well as taped the NLTA Christmas message for radio.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Business from Standing Committees

Table Officers

- The proposed schedule of Executive, Table Officers and Joint Council meetings for 2010-11 was accepted. The schedule is as follows:

September 2010	Table Officers Provincial Executive	September 23 September 24-25
November 2010	Table Officers Provincial Executive Joint Council	November 24 November 25 November 26-27
December 2010	Table Officers	December 17
March 2011	Table Officers Provincial Executive Joint Council	March 9 (a.m.) March 9 (p.m.), March 10 March 11-12
April 2011	Table Officers Provincial Executive BGM	April 26 April 26 (Pre-BGM); April 29 (Post-BGM) April 26-29
June 2011	Table Officers Provincial Executive	June 2 June 3-4

- Sean Weir will be appointed as the NLTA's teacher representative on the Labrador Benefits Negotiating Committee.

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

Communications/Political Action

The theme for Education Week 2010 will be "My Place" with the following sub-themes:

...home ...community ...province ...country ...world.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Other Business

- The Membership Benefits and Services Committee will review the amounts of the registration and membership rebates to branches.
- The Association will investigate the issue of honoraria/stipends paid to teachers for composing and correcting supplementary exams and for supervising teacher interns.
- During preparation for the 2011-13 NLTA budget the Professional Development Division will review the budget line for CONTACT.
- In the event of the death of an active teacher, the NLTA will send flowers or make a donation to a charity.

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

JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

At the August Executive meeting a planning session had been held to identify Association priorities for 2009-11. A report had been prepared by NLTA administrative staff and was presented to the Provincial Executive for final approval. Various administrative staff reviewed the priorities with Joint Council and provided updates and indicators of success. The Association priorities for 2009-11 are: quality of teachers' work life; technology in education; membership involvement/awareness; advocacy; and implementation of teacher allocation and ISSP/Pathways Commission Reports.

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

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Student Support Services

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Dan Goodyear, Director of Student Support Services; Jackie Fewer-Bennett, Consultant, Inclusive Education; and Sharon Whelan, Consultant, Gifted and Talented Education, on inclusive education and the pilot and partner schools for 2009, as well as an update on the ISSP/Pathways Commission Report. The presentation by Mr. Goodyear reviewed the model of categorical support, the functional behavioral analysis and behavior management plan, handbook for parents, the role of guidance counselors, the recommendations needing external consultation, as well as other issues and topics. The presentation by Ms. Fewer-Bennett reviewed the implementation plan, action planning for pilot schools and the inclusive model. Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive had the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments.

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

Joint Council Policy and Parliamentary Procedures

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Edward Hancock, Executive Director, on Joint Council Policy and Parliamentary Procedures and Advice on the Conduct of Meetings. The presentation reviewed the purpose of Rules of Order, the role of the Chair, conduct of members, debate, amending a motion, point of order and point of privilege.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Advocating for Teachers – The Role of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation

Mr. John Staple, Deputy General Secretary of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation, spoke to Joint Council on the role of the Canadian Teachers’ Federation in advocating for teachers and education issues.

Mr. Staple reviewed the role of CTF in lobbying the Federal Government on poverty issues, the criminal code, and CTF activity in other areas such as cyber bullying, the CTF research centre and on-line services.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

CTF International Programs

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Beverley Park, Senior Administrative Officer in the Professional Development Division, on her work with CTF’s International Programs. She reviewed the Teachers’ Action for Girls (TAGS) program in Uganda as well as Project Overseas and the outstanding work that takes place in other countries by CTF and its affiliates.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

H1N1 Influenza Issues

Joint Council viewed a video presentation by Dr. David Butler-Jones, the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, on H1N1 influenza issues. Dr. Butler-Jones reviewed the critical role of teachers and schools, H1N1 facts, the federal role, the adjuvanted vaccine roll-out, the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan, and some suggestions and guidance for schools and the public on H1N1 preparedness.

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

Effective Communication Between the Association and Its Members

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer, and Jim Murphy, Coordinator of the Virtual Teacher Centre, on NLTA communications. Topics such as the role of the school rep and the branch presidents in communications to teachers, two-way communications, effective communications and meetings, ideas for sessions at branch meetings, ways we communicate with the membership, the NLTA website, future plans, online communities, best practices, professional learning strategies, and accessing the community were discussed and reviewed during the presentation.

For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer, or Jim Murphy, Coordinator of the VTC.

Proposed Changes to the Canada Pension Plan

A presentation was made to Joint Council on the proposed changes to the Canada Pension Plan by Perry Downey, Administrative Officer in the Benefits and Economic Services Division. The presentation included a brief history of the CPP, the structure of the CPP, intent of proposed changes and a review of the proposed changes. Joint Council and Provincial Executive had the opportunity to ask questions for clarification and provide feedback.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Perry Downey, Administrative Officer, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Policy Changes Since the 2009 BGM

A number of changes in policy statement since the 2009 Biennial General Meeting were approved by Joint Council. These policies provide direction for continuity of decisions and guidelines to those who take positions on behalf of the Association. The amended policies include: Education Week; Branch Viability Guidelines; Joint Council; debate on motions; death of a member; and audio/video recording of NLTA meetings.

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

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Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: intermediate review; yearly course plans; school closures under Section 32 of The Schools Act; implication of class size cap on Grade 7-12 schools; viability of rural schools; Labrador Benefits Agreement; inservice travel issues – travel, accommodation, compensation, car pooling, lengthening of the work day; administration and summer hirings; recruitment/retention/isolation bonuses for part-time teachers; NLTA position on evening parent-teacher interviews; clarification of Article 15.04 – Sick Leave Notes; pension indexing; status of NLTA pilot health and wellness promotion initiative; and pensionable service and special leave for military service.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is **January 22-23, 2010** in St. John's.

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