

OCT. 31 -
NOV. 2, 2013



Executive Notes

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **October 31**, and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **November 1 and 2**. *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

The President attended meetings with the Minister of Finance and other public sector unions on the topic of pension reform along with NLTA staff and NLTA actuarial and legal consultants. He met with the new president of the Federation of School Councils, Liberal leadership candidates, MHAs, and the Dean and Associate Dean from the Faculty of Education on various education issues. He attended the Atlantic Regional Canadian Pension and Benefits Institute Conference held in St. John's, the Canadian Labour Congress Leader Seminar, Confederation of Canadian Unions Biennial Convention, the RTANL Executive meeting, all the school rep seminars and various events and meetings in his capacity as President. He visited schools in Ferryland, Trepassey, Paradise, Churchill Falls, Labrador City, Wabush, Happy-Valley-Goose Bay North West River, Sheshatshiu, Spaniard's Bay, Upper Island Cove and St. John's. Media interviews took place on back to school, negotiations, school board amalgamation, association priorities, pensions and various other education issues.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Business of Standing Committees

Table Officers

The NLTA will survey administrators regarding the impact of amalgamation and cuts to administrative units on the workload of administrators and the School Administrators' Council Provincial Executive will be consulted during the construction of the survey.

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

Collective Bargaining

A *Bargaining Brief* was circulated to all schools on October 22 with an update on the status of Provincial Collective Agreement negotiations. The NLTA negotiating team will be meeting with the employer's team the week of November 25-29, 2013.

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

Other Business

- The NLTA will develop and implement a Special Interest Council/Provincial Executive liaison framework based on the current branch contact protocols and information received from recent Special Interest Council consultations.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

- The NLTA will lobby government to have hearing/vision tests completed at the school level.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or George Tucker, Professional Development Division

- The NLTA will explore the issues regarding the release time provided to literacy/numeracy teachers in order to successfully implement the literacy/numeracy initiative.

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

- Consideration will be given to separating the elections for President and Vice-President of the NLTA with the specific purpose that unsuccessful candidates for President could run for election as Vice-President.

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

Meeting Dates for 2013-14

2013-14 Meeting Dates (Table Officers/Provincial Executive/Joint Council)	
December 12	Table Officers
December 13-14	Provincial Executive
January 30	Table Officers
Jan. 31 - Feb. 1	Provincial Executive
March 26	Table Officers
March 27	Provincial Executive
March 28-29	Joint Council
May 1	Table Officers
May 2-3	Provincial Executive
June 12	Table Officers
June 13-14	Provincial Executive

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JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

At the August planning meeting, Provincial Executive established the priorities of the Association for 2013-15. Administrative staff presented updates on the priorities and answered questions from Joint Council. The priorities are: negotiating a collective agreement; beginning teacher initiatives; strategic plan for membership 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.

Teachers' Pension Plan Funding

A presentation on the Teachers' Pension Plan was made to Joint Council by NLTA Executive Director Don Ash. The presentation reviewed the funded status of the TPP, valuation results, the estimated funded position, the rate of return, trends across Canada, and a discussion on liabilities, assets and assumptions.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

Canadian Labour Congress Initiative – “Together Fairness Works”

The Atlantic representative from the Canadian Labour Congress, Kelly Roche, presented to Joint Council on the work of the Congress in strengthening the awareness of the labour movement in Canada. Ms. Roche presented the “Together Fairness Works” campaign and reviewed several initiatives taking place across the country in this area.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

NLTA Information Technology Strategy

The NLTA Information Technology Strategy was presented to Joint Council by Don Ash, Executive Director and Wade Rogers, Manager of Finance and Administration. The strategy includes the hiring of an IT Coordinator as well as several projects to assist with improving NLTA's use of technology. Funds were approved by Joint Council for the implementation of years 1 and 2 of the strategy.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director or Wade Rogers, Manager of Finance and Administration.

MUN Research on the Experiences of Teachers in NL: Preservice, Transition and Becoming an Effective Teacher

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Dr. Kirk Anderson, Dean of Education at Memorial University on ongoing research on the experiences of beginning teachers in the province. The research was started several years ago and continues to track the trends of preservice to effective teaching for the research group.

For further information contact Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Discussion/Branch President Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: school board-teacher liaison committee; inclusion; lack of substitutes; literacy/numeracy teachers; school counsellors completing comprehensive student assessments; maximum classroom cap; media coverage of teaching issues; monograde resources for multigrade classrooms; travel claims; Education Week; lack of personal leave; transfers, recruitment and redundancies for spring 2014; substitute list rotation policy; guidance cuts in small schools; duty and supervision; addition to assessment policy; meetings and extension to the school day; department inservices; and travel.

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

Policy Changes Since the February 2013 Meeting

Joint Council approved a number of changes in NLTA policy since the February 2013 Joint Council meeting. The amended policies include: policy on expense claims; policy on Barnes Award; policy on out-of-province grants for individuals; and policy on financial planning sessions.

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **December 13-14, 2013**.

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