



EXECUTIVE NOTES

October 23-25, 2014

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on October 23 and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on October 24 and 25. 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

Since the September meeting of Provincial Executive the President attended meetings with teachers on the tentative collective agreement, pension forums around the province, the annual meeting and reunion of the Retired Teachers' Association, the Teacher Induction Ceremony, Arts Smarts news conference and meetings of the CTF National Teacher Advocacy Network. He continued school visits in McKays, Doyles, Isle aux Morts, Port aux Basques, Burnt Islands, Carbonear, Pilley's Island, Triton, Springdale, Deer Lake, Stephenville Crossing, Port au Port, Cow Head, Port Saunders, Lower Cove, and Portugal Cove-St. Phillips. Media interviews took place on Education Week, Inclusive Education Committee, and conditions of Exploits Valley High in Grand Falls-Windsor.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Business of Standing Committees

Finance and Property Committee

- The MBS Committee will consider increasing the branch membership rebate from \$4 to \$6 per member.
- The 2014-15 Disciplinary Hearing budget will be increased from \$10,000 to \$45,000.
- The 2014-15 Teacher Liaison Committee budget will be increased from \$12,000 to \$19,500.
- The 2014-15 President's Travel budget will be increased by \$10,000 and the President's Relocation budget will be reduced by \$10,000.

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

Equity Issues in Education

The winners of the Words Hurt poster contest have been selected and will be notified soon. Winners will be announced in *The Bulletin*.

For further information contact Sherri Rose, Chair, Equity Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Senior Administrative Officer, Programs and Services.

Joint Council

Association Priorities

Updates on the priorities were provided to Joint Council and an opportunity for questions and/or comments was provided. The priorities for 2013-15 are: negotiating a collective agreement; beginning teacher initiatives; strategic plan for member 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.

Advice on the Conduct of Meetings

Don Ash, NLTA's Executive Director, reviewed and provided information on the advice on the conduct of meetings and purpose of rules of order, key topics, conduct of members, amending a motion, delaying and ending debate, point of order and point of privilege.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

NLTA Budget for 2015-17

A presentation on the proposed NLTA budgets for 2015-17 was made to Joint Council by Craig Hicks, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee. The presentation provided information on revenues received from various sources, expenses and capital expenditures, and a breakdown of budget lines with the Association's budget. The members of Joint Council participated in small group sessions to provide input to assist in the preparation of the budgets for 2015-16 and 2016-17.

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

Employee Assistance Program Update

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Judy Beranger and Gail Carroll, Coordinators of the NLTA Employee Assistant Program. The presentation included aspects of the program, services to teachers, statistics of

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the program, history and mandate, types of programs offered, wellness and counselling aspects, consultation services and mediation services.

For further information contact Judy Beranger or Gail Carroll, EAP Coordinators.

My Wake Up Call

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Florence Strang, cancer survivor and Registered Psychologist on her experiences with cancer and her perspective on the Immune Surveillance theory, as well as the balance between personal, home and work life. She is the author of *100 Perks of Having Cancer Plus 100 Health Tips for Surviving It*.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Policy Changes Since the March 2014 Joint Council Meeting

Joint Council approved a number of changes in policy statement since the March 2014 Joint Council meeting. These policies provide direction for continuity of decisions and guidelines to those who take positions on behalf of the Association. The amended policies include: President's Award; gender identity/expression information on survey questions; Centennial Fund Project Award; and technology in education.

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

Candidate Forum for Election of NLTA President and Vice-President

During the Candidates' Forum held on the second day of Joint Council, the candidates for NLTA President and Vice-President had an opportunity to address Joint Council and invited guests. Each candidate presented a ten-minute speech and then took part in a question and answer session. The Candidates' Forum was available live via the NLTA website and has been archived on the NLTA website for further viewing.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Pension Forum Update

An update was provided to Joint Council by Don Ash, Executive Director, on the recent pension forums that took place around the province. He reviewed the rationale for posting the presentation on the members only section of the website, the sessions and presentations, the types of questions and comments on the forum, and future plans.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee Update

An update on the School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee was provided to Joint Council by Steve Brooks, Assistant Executive Director. There will be six committees for the province and an NLTA staff member will be assigned to each committee. Current committees will be contacted

to outline the process for further meetings.

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

BGM 2015 Preparation and Deadlines

The deadlines and important dates to remember for BGM 2015 were reviewed with Joint Council. These dates are as follows:

- NLTA Act and By-law changes – January 8, 2015
- Resolutions to BGM – February 8, 2015
- Nominations for Provincial Executive to be published in *The Bulletin* – February 8, 2015
- Delegate/Alternate names for publication in *The Bulletin* – February 8, 2015
- BGM kits sent to delegates – March 9-13, 2015
- Biennial General Meeting – April 7 (p.m.) to April 10, 2015
- Final nominations for Provincial Executive – April 9, 2015

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

Preparation for Province-wide Vote for President and Vice-President

Don Ash, NLTA's Executive Director, made a presentation to Joint Council on preparation for the province-wide vote for President and Vice-President. The presentation included an overview of the responsibilities of the Electoral Committee, branch presidents and school representatives.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: Teacher Professional Learning Plan; generic drug substitution; Edge 2013 Conference; digital citizenship program; weather warnings and professional development days; duties of Kindergarten teachers; lack of supports for small schools; Education Week; administration time; IT service; primary/elementary report cards; professional development days and school schedule; and student transfers.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for November 28-29 in St. John's.

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