

Biographies for the Panel on the Status of Public Education in Newfoundland and Labrador



Dr. Kirk Anderson

Dr. Kirk Anderson is the dean of the Faculty of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Dr. Anderson holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in science and education from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He also holds a Ph.D. in educational administration and leadership from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

Born in Shoal Brook and raised in Corner Brook, Dr. Anderson comes from a family with Mi'kmaq and Inuit ancestry. He has been a teacher and principal in four schools in Newfoundland and Labrador. During his time as a teacher and principal, he was active in serving the school district and Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA). He served as the Branch President of the Sandwich Bay Labrador Branch, Provincial Small Schools' Special Interest Council President, School Administrator Council Western Region President, and served as part of NLTA Collective Bargaining Team.

Following his teaching career, he was an education professor at the University of Saskatchewan, University of Calgary, and University of New Brunswick, where he was associate dean of education before joining Memorial University in 2011. In 2007 he received the teaching excellence award from the University of Calgary Graduate Students' Association.

His primary university research areas are school leadership and school effectiveness. He has also conducted significant research into success in Aboriginal schools and has worked on various international projects. He currently serves on a number of national and international research groups. Most recently, he was appointed as a member of the University of the Arctic Indigenous Issues Committee.

Kirk is currently President Elect of the Association of Canadian Deans of Education (ACDE) and was also recently elected as Vice President (Anglophone) of the Canadian Society for Studies in Education (CSSE).



Steve Brooks

Steve Brooks was appointed to the position of Assistant Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association on August 1, 2013. He has worked with the NLTA since 2008 as an Administrative Officer in Programs and Services (formerly Benefits and Economic Services Division). In his role, Steve is responsible for coordinating

the daily operations of Programs and Services and assists the Executive Director in the overall coordination of the NLTA. Steve has recently been appointed Executive Director of the NLTA effective September 1, 2016.

Steve has an extensive background as a district leader, school administrator and teacher. He joined the NLTA from his position with the Eastern School District where he was a Senior Education Officer.

Steve has a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Memorial University as well as a Bachelor of Education (High School Social Studies and Religious Studies), and a Bachelor of Arts (Political Science). He also has a Certificate in Industrial Relations from Queens University which was received in 2010 and has completed numerous training programs including Labour Relations Foundations, Negotiation Skills, and Dispute Resolution. Steve has a strong reputation as an educational leader and has presented at conferences locally, nationally and internationally. In 2001 he was recipient of the School Administrators' Council Distinguished Principal/Vice-Principal of the Year Award. He is also a Certified Facilitator for the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People Program©.

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James Dinn

Jim has been a teacher for over 34 years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education from Memorial University and a Masters of Education from Mount St. Vincent University. Jim has taught at all levels of the K-12 education system and is currently on leave from his position as a Level I-II English teacher at Holy Heart High School in

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Jim has been involved in the NLTA since the early 1990s and has served in branch executive roles, including President of the Southern Shore and St. John's Centre Branches. He was elected to NLTA Provincial Executive in 2005. Since that time he has chaired various committees at the provincial level, including the Negotiating Team, and was elected as Vice-President in 2009.

As President of the NLTA, Jim is chair of the Provincial Executive Council and the Table Officers' Committee of the Association. Provincially, he represents the NLTA in liaison meetings with organizations such as the Department of Education, Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Directors of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils.

Nationally, Jim serves on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and he has represented the NLTA at the annual general meetings of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and at meetings of the Council of Atlantic Provinces' Teachers Organizations (CAPTO).

In his spare time, Jim serves on the boards of a number of not for profit charitable organizations such as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the community Advisory Board on Homelessness, and the Gathering Place.

Jim began his second term as President of the NLTA in August 2015.



Denise Pike

Denise Pike has consistently been a champion for the cause of public education in Newfoundland and Labrador since the late 1990s, advocating tirelessly for the necessary resources, personnel and supports for the province's K-12 education system. As the former President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School

Councils she has publicly supported the case for increased resources for education and has lobbied strongly to have the provincial government provide the same. For many years Denise was accepted by the media and public as the "voice of parents" on matters affecting K-12 public education and has worked to provide meaningful input to government and school board decisions and strong support for teachers and schools.

Besides voicing opinions on resources, class size and other concerns regarding the education of children, Denise has also spoken strongly on other education issues. She has continually addressed the topic of teacher stress and workload and whenever requested, has joined with the NLTA to advocate for appropriate resources and funding for education. She has regularly spoken publicly on the issues and has worked with the NLTA during public campaigns and addressing the issue of teacher allocations. Denise and the executive of the NL Federation of School Councils have been vital in getting the message out about the importance of adequate resources for our education system and the children of this province.

Denise was elected to the Board of Directors Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils as 2nd Vice President in 1999-2001. She served as President from 2001-03 and re-elected by acclamation for second term as president, 2003-05. Denise was the only NLFSC President elected, by special motion during an Annual General Meeting for third term, which ran from 2005-07.

During her years of involvement with NLFSC Denise has participated in many regional, provincial and national conferences, forums and committees.

Denise's volunteer efforts and work ethic earned her a number of prestigious awards. Her list of accomplishments in support of teachers and public education is long and diversified – from being an elected parent representative, lobbyist, and media spokesperson to feature writer in local newspapers. As the Executive Director of NLFSC she continues to be a strong advocate for children and for education.