



Executive Notes

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on December 13 and 14. *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

Since the last meeting of Provincial Executive the President has attended several Remembrance Day ceremonies including the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial in St John's. He attended retirement dinners for the St. John's Centre Branch, the Southern Shore Branch and attended meetings of the Bay d'Espoir and Exploits Valley Branches. The President attended pension consultation meetings, meetings of the CTF Board of Directors and the Federation of School Councils, and the news conference on the new Safe and Caring Schools Policy. He visited schools in St. John's, Outer Cove, Conception Bay South, Chapel Arm, Green's Harbour, New Harbour, Avondale, Holyrood, Colliers, Port Saunders, Daniel's Harbour, Cow Head, Rocky Harbour, Cook's Harbour, Griquet and St. Anthony. He was interviewed by CBC and NTV on the new Safe and Caring Schools Policy and recorded Christmas greetings for VPCM, OZ-FM and Coast 101.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association Priorities for 2013-15 was presented to Provincial Executive. Administrative Staff presented updates on the priorities and answered questions as necessary. The priorities for 2013-15 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.

Negotiations Update

A *Bargaining Brief* was circulated to teachers in early December with an update on the status of Provincial Collective Agreement negotiations. Further talks are scheduled for the week of January 20-24, 2014.

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

Business from Standing Committees

Equity Issues in Education Committee

The NLTA policy on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation was revised.

For further information contact Sherri Rose, Chairperson or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Professional Issues Committee

The name of the Modern Languages Special Interest Council will be changed to the Second Languages Council – Le Conseil des langues secondes (SLC-CLS).

For further information contact Gabe Ryan, Chairperson or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Table Officers

An ad hoc committee on Membership Engagement will be established to develop a strategic plan on membership engagement.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

Other Business

- Guidelines were adopted for the Provincial Executive/Special Interest Council Liaison Framework. The contact assignments for the SICs are as follows:
 - Dean Ingram, Physical Education
 - Derek Drover, Second Languages
 - Bill Chaisson, Substitute Teachers
 - Trent Langdon, Council of Special Services
 - Jean Murphy, NL Counsellors' and Psychologists' Association
 - Sherri Rose, Music
 - Gabriel Ryan, School Administrators Council
 - Sean Weir, Technology Education
 - Jeanne Williams, Teacher Librarians NL

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

- In the next liaison meetings with the Department of Education and the school board, the Association will express serious concerns with respect to the implementation of the current inclusionary model, specifically the lack of resources and the need for additional IRT positions, and if no improvements are made, the Association will express these concerns publicly when the opportunity arises, at the President's discretion.

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

- The NLTA will immediately contact the provincial school district in order to expedite teacher claims that have been submitted for board inservices so that they are paid within two weeks.

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

- The NLTA will explore with school districts the establishment of a framework for critical incident debriefing for all schools in the province.

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

- The NLTA will contact the provincial school district to obtain clarification on who is permitted to accompany students on extra-curricular events.

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

- The NLTA will consult with the Faculty of Education at Memorial University regarding graduation requirements for the counselling and psychology program as it pertains to certification with the Canadian Counsellors and Psychotherapists Association.

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

- The NLTA, as part of its inclusionary focus, will advocate for additional resources/training, to support students with autism spectrum disorder.

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

- The NLTA will explore the policy of the English School District relating to the redistribution of guidance allocations and respecting the 1-500 counsellor-student ratio.

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

- The NLTA will contact administrators to query whether they have enough IRT support to meet the needs of students.

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

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for comment, actioning or further discussion and follow up: new Safe and Caring Schools Policy; school delay/closure guidelines; mid year hiring practices; discretionary leave; primary/elementary report cards; and group insurance.

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **January 31** and **February 1** in St. John's.

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