



# EXECUTIVE NOTES

January 22, 2016

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on January 22, 2016. *Executive Notes* is a summary of discussions and decisions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the NLTA staff person as indicated.

## President's Report

The President continues to visit schools in the province and throughout December and early January visited schools in Whitbourne, Change Islands, Fogo Island and Twillingate. He attended meetings with various groups including the Minister of Education, the NL Federation of School Councils, public sector unions, NLESD Director and Assistant Director of Education (Operations), and other meetings in his capacity as President. He attended the NLTA Music Council Christmas Suite, Technology Education Special Interest Council BGM and Conference, Kids Eat Smart AGM, several school Christmas assemblies, the webcast of Government's Fiscal and Economic Update, and a meeting with the branch presidents of the St. John's Metro area.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

## Tour of Model Kindergarten Classroom

The members of Provincial Executive and administrative staff of the NLTA had the opportunity to tour the model Kindergarten classroom at the District School. The Department of Education was represented by Brad Clarke, who led the group through the various play and learning stations. Members of Provincial Executive had the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns about the infrastructure, resourcing and professional learning required to support the implementation of full day Kindergarten.

For further information contact James Dinn, President..

## Association Priorities

Provincial Executive reviewed the 2015-17 priorities and were provided updates as required. The priorities for 2015-17 are: teacher health; workload; inclusive education; membership engagement and awareness; and fostering and

maintaining relationships with external agencies. Members of Provincial Executive had the opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments.

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

## Pension Reform Update

A presentation on the Pension Reform Update was provided to Provincial Executive by NLTA Executive Director Don Ash and Tom Johnson from O'Dea Earle. The presentation covered governance of the plan, the joint sponsorship agreement, the sponsor board, sponsor body responsibilities, funding policy, TPP Corporation Framework, Board of Directors, powers and duties of the corporation, and decision-making procedures of the Board of Directors.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

## Table Officers

- The following advisory motions from the November Joint Council meeting were recommended and carried:
  - a) That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education to review the Cascade Model of Student Support Services.
  - b) That the NLTA lobby the NL English School District to review photocopying policies, allocations and equipment contracts.
  - c) That the NLTA take a firm stance with whichever government comes into power that they create an evaluation policy which empowers teachers to make rational professional judgements concerning the evaluation of students.
  - d) That the NLTA lobby the NL English School District to review policies concerning construction and renovations during school time.
  - e) That the NLTA immediately enter into talks with the NL English School District and the Department of Education to establish a committee to discuss student

(see page 2)

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mental health challenges with respect to its impact on teachers and the classroom environment.

- f) That the NLTA consider making amendments to school board-teacher liaison committee procedures to help improve the productivity of and efficiency of these meetings.
- g) That the NLTA consider establishing a fund that branches can apply to for the purpose of bringing additional delegates to meetings such as Joint Council.
- h) That the NLTA lobby the Department of Education to expedite expense claims in a timely fashion.
- The NLTA will provide an amount of money in addition to its original grant to the university so that the Association's annual scholarship to a Faculty of Education student is topped up to \$1,000 per year.
- The dates for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 Joint Council meetings will be as follows:
  - Friday & Saturday, December 1-2, 2017
  - Friday & Saturday, March 9-10, 2018
  - Friday & Saturday, October 26-27, 2018
  - Friday & Saturday, March 8-9, 2019
- The NLTA will establish an Ad Hoc Committee on the Province's "Fiscal Reality" with the mandate as follows:
  - To coordinate the gathering of input from teachers in response to the Minister of Finance's request for input on how to address the financial challenges faced by the province.
  - To liaise with the appropriate individuals, NLTA groups and staff for the purpose of receiving input and suggestions.
  - To prepare a report for consideration by Provincial Executive and for potential provision to the Minister of Finance.

- The legal services contract with O'Dea Earle will be renewed for the period September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2018 as per the amounts stated in the January 20, 2016 letter of agreement.
- The NLTA will continue as a Silver Partner of the Kids Eat Smart Program and also support the 2016 Gala Kitchen Party at a total cost of \$5000.
- The NL Federation of Labour will be paid \$642.31 for the NLTA share of costs related to the "Public Sector Pushback Campaign".
- CTF Awards:
  - The NLTA will nominate Beverley Park for the 2016 CTF Special Recognition Award.
  - The NLTA will nominate Paul Johnson (posthumously) for the 2016 CTF Public Education Advocacy Award.
  - The NLTA will nominate Darlene Sexton for the 2016 Outstanding Aboriginal Educator Award.

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

## Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive: impact of teacher allocation reductions; new NL English School District report cards; violent incident report form; NLESD electronic leave requests; professional development days; full day Kindergarten; meetings with Ministers of Education and Finance; employment of teachers; and school representative seminars.

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

## Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for March 17, followed by Joint Council on March 18 and 19.

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