

JUNE 10,
2011



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **June 10, 2011**. *Executive Notes* is a summary of decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

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

President's Report

The President reported on her activities since the last meeting of Provincial Executive. She was active in the media on inclusion as well as the provincial budget. She attended various events at schools throughout the province as well as other events in her capacity as President. These included, but were not limited to, the CTF Board of Directors meeting, the meetings of the Atlantic Provinces Teachers Organizations, the St. John's Teacher Recruitment Fair, School Administrators' Council Conference, Annual Meeting of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, the Janeway Telethon, and the retirement banquets for both the Bay Roberts and Carbonear branches.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Association Priorities

The Association priorities for 2009-11 are: quality of teachers' work life; technology in education; membership involvement/awareness; advocacy; and implementation of the Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways reports. Administrative staff updated Provincial Executive on the work and updates regarding the priorities.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees

Table Officers

- The Association will proceed with the production of the 120th Anniversary Video.
- The NLTA will contribute \$1,000 to the EI Urgent Appeal re the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Communications Committee

- The NLTA will be present in the media for September 2011 leading up to the provincial general election with a full media campaign including print, radio and the web to bring attention to teacher issues and concerns.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Curriculum Committee

- The NLTA will bring the issues related to the wording of the elementary Language Arts rubrics to the attention of the Department of Education with a goal of having the wording changed to remove any possible bias.
- The NLTA will write the Department of Education outlining the concerns teachers have expressed regarding the administration of CRTs for 2011.

For further information contact Jean Murphy, Chair, Curriculum Committee or George Tucker, Staff Consultant.

Membership Benefits & Services Committee

- The NLTA will write each school board that has student and parental surveys as part of the teacher evaluation process, outlining the Association's concerns that teacher appraisal policies not include surveys of parents and students and request discussions on the matter.
- The NLTA will write the Director of School Services at the Department of Education requesting policies, protocols and guidelines for school construction and physical space planning for school guidance counsellor offices.

For further information contact Jackie Maloney, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Steve Brooks, Staff Consultant.

Professional Issues Committee

- The NLTA will conduct an inquiry into how professional learning communities are being implemented throughout the province to determine the effect on workload, professional autonomy and authentic collaboration.
- The NLTA will attempt to clarify the ambiguities in student assessment policies, particularly with respect to the expectations on the number and nature of interventions when work is not submitted, incomplete or inadequate.
- The NLTA will inform teachers of the feedback gathered at the Spring 2011 focus groups on inclusion and invite further input from teachers through providing them an opportunity to send in anonymous comments through the school representatives.

For further information contact Sandra Quigley, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park, Staff Consultant.

(cont'd.)

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Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Committee

- A poll or some other data collection instrument will be developed and forwarded to the membership to gauge the level of interest and the direction that teachers wish to have health and wellness issues promoted and addressed throughout the province. Questions contained in the instrument would reflect some of the promotional ideas discussed by the Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Committee.
- The current Teacher Health and Promotion Standing Committee will be replaced by an advisory committee to develop and implement a Health and Wellness Promotion Program for teachers throughout the province, such committee to include teachers, NLTA EAP Coordinators, community organizations and experts in the area of health and wellness program promotion.
- The Collective Bargaining Committee will consider for inclusion in the opening proposals a day from the current three professional development/in-service days for teacher health and wellness.
- Where appropriate, the NLTA will promote health and wellness on communications forwarded to teachers, e.g., *The Bulletin*, the annual calendar, the NLTA website, etc.

For further information contact Tina Matthews, Chair, Teacher Health and Wellness Promotion Committee or Perry Downey, Staff Consultant.

Other Business

- The report on Transition of Students and Teachers from the Newfoundland School for the Deaf into the Public School System, along with the recommendations, will be provided to the Director of Student Support Services at the Department of Education and to the Assistant Directors of Programs with Eastern and Western School Districts. The Association will lobby the respective parties to implement the recommendations.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

- The NLTA will send an information sheet to all teachers, referencing the appropriate clause in the collective agreement and stating that teachers cannot be required to serve on committees and that their consent must be obtained before they are placed on a committee.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

Discussion Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for comment, actioning or further discussion: Group Insurance Trustees for 2011-12; student evaluation policy; peer evaluation; CRTs; volunteer committees; public exams; disciplinary process; LRTs; and language arts profile.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **November 24, 2011** in St. John's, followed by a Joint Council meeting on **November 25-26, 2011**.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.