



EXECUTIVE NOTES

March 27-29, 2014

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **March 27** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **March 28 and 29**. *Executive Notes* is a summary of discussions and decisions that occurred at these meetings. (Hope you like our new look!)

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 at lunchtime and before school starts to talk to teachers and hear concerns. He was interviewed by the media on issues related to negotiations and attended numerous meetings in his capacity as President. He presented the NLTA's Brief to the pre-budget consultations, met with the Finance Minister, as well as the leaders of the Liberal and the New Democratic parties on negotiations and NLTA priorities.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca.

Business of Standing Committees

Table Officers

- The NLTA delegation to the CTF Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba in July 2014 will be the four Table Officers as delegates and the Executive Director as alternate.
- The NLTA will contribute \$500 to

the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (NLASLPA) to assist with their annual provincial conference and meeting.

- Department of Education officials (Director of Student Support Services/Consultant for Safe and Caring Schools) will be invited to the May 2, 2014 Provincial Executive Meeting to discuss the Safe and Caring Schools Policy and potential procedures for providing implementation updates to Executive.
- The NLTA will support the Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee fundraiser for Special Olympics by participating in the annual NLTA Jeans Day on May 30 and by distributing packages to schools in the province.
- The NLTA will purchase an advertisement in the Royal Canadian Legion Military Service Recognition Book which honors Newfoundland and Labrador veterans and sponsors community activities.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca.

Communications/Political Action Committee

The NLTA will explore the possibility of having the President and NLTA

staff attend town hall type meetings where teachers can ask questions and raise concerns.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer, labrowne@nlta.nl.ca.

Equity Issues in Education Committee

The NLTA will sponsor a poster contest in the fall of 2014 to raise awareness that "Words Hurt".

For further information contact Sherri Rose, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee, srose@nlta.nl.ca or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division, bpark@nlta.nl.ca.

Group Insurance

The members of the 2014-15 Group Insurance Trustees will be: Sean Weir (Chair); Linda Chaisson; Scott Fraser; Jamie Jenkins; Doreen Noseworthy; Paula Smith; and Jeanne Williams.

For further information contact Sean Weir, Chair, sweir@nlta.nl.ca or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division, pdowney@nlta.nl.ca.

Other Business

- A committee will be struck to begin preparations for the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the NLTA.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca.

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- Contact will be made with the NL English School District regarding the possibility of holding an additional School Board-Teacher Liaison Committee meeting in each of the five regions of the district during the 2013-14 school year.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca

- Peter McCormack will be the NLTA representative on the Labrador Benefits Agreement Negotiating Committee.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Steve Brooks, Assistant Executive Director, sbrooks@nlta.nl.ca.

Joint Council

Association Priorities

Updates on the priorities were provided to Joint Council. 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, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca.

Building Partnerships in Education

A timed session took place with Nathan Whalen, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of School Councils. He presented the goals and objectives of the Federation and expressed the importance of teachers and the partnership between the Federation and the NLTA. Nathan answered questions from Joint Council members about various concerns and issues within education.

For further information contact James

Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca.

Ad Hoc Committee on Integration of Education Technology Survey Results

Jeanne Williams, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Integration of Education Technology, made a presentation to Joint Council on the results of the recent survey on IT in schools. The survey was conducted in January of this year and 1,517 teachers responded. The committee has reviewed the results and the next step will be to review, update and develop NLTA policy for recommendation to Provincial Executive regarding integration of education technology in the classroom.

For further information contact Jeanne Williams, Chair, jwilliams@nlta.nl.ca or George Tucker, Professional Development Division, gtucker@nlta.nl.ca.

Membership Engagement

The chair of the Membership Engagement Committee, Trent Langdon, gave a brief presentation on the mandate of the committee. Joint Council then gathered into small group sessions to discuss various issues around membership engagement. The information will be compiled and provided to the committee for further action and/or consultation.

For further information contact Trent Langdon, Chair, tlangdon@nlta.nl.ca or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer, labrowne@nlta.nl.ca.

Survey Results re School Administration Issues

The results from the recent survey of school administrators were presented to Joint Council by Steve Brooks from the Benefits and

Economic Services Division. The survey asked detailed questions regarding workload, inclusion, the role of the school administration, etc. Provincial Executive is currently reviewing the results.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Steve Brooks, Assistant Executive Director, sbrooks@nlta.nl.ca.

Group Insurance Renewal 2014-15

Perry Downey, staff consultant for the Group Insurance Program, made a presentation to Joint Council on the NLTA Group Insurance Renewal for 2014-15. Topics included the annual rate setting process, the new Group Insurance Program booklet, trends in long-term disability, and rate adjustment.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division, pdowney@nlta.nl.ca.

Preparation for Province-Wide Election – December 2014

Don Ash, NLTA's Executive Director, provided a presentation to Joint Council on the election of NLTA President and Vice-President by province-wide vote. The presentation included an overview of the responsibilities of the electoral committee, important dates and deadlines, responsibilities of branch presidents, responsibilities of school representatives, and the candidate nomination package.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca.

Collective Bargaining Process

Steve Brooks, NLTA's Chief Negotiator, made a presentation to Joint Council on the collective bargaining process. The presentation re-

viewed items from the Teacher Collective Bargaining Act concerning conciliation officer, conciliation board, post-conciliation negotiations, definitions of lockout and strike, conditions precedent for job action, possible job actions, and what occurs if a tentative agreement is reached.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Steve Brooks, Assistant Executive Director, sbrooks@nlta.nl.ca.

Policy Changes Since November 2013 Joint Council Meeting

Joint Council approved a number of changes in policy statement since the November 2013 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: contributions to welfare groups; guidelines for special interest council contact/visitation; and gender equity and sexual orientation.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca.

Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: 125th anniversary of the NLTA; IRTs for small schools; Avalon East school restructuring and implications for music teachers; 50th anniversary of Group Insurance Plan; EI urgent action appeal; mental health issues; Marking Board; handicapped students; evaluation policy; teacher assistants; guidance allocations; extra duty given to special education teachers; teacher voice problems; travel claims for itinerant teachers; length of school day for itinerant teachers; substitute teacher protocol; sick leave notes; teacher wellness; staff meetings; substitute teacher seniority list; professional development for physical education and music; cell phone policy; and K-6 assessments.

Other Business

The 2013-14 budget for public relations will be increased by approximately \$5,800 to reflect a contribution by the NLTA of \$1.00 per member to the Canadian Labour Congress sponsored Fairness Works campaign.

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **May 2 and 3, 2014 in St. John's.**

For further information contact James Dinn, President, jdinn@nlta.nl.ca or Don Ash, Executive Director, dash@nlta.nl.ca.