

NOV. 27-29,
2008



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on November 27 and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on November 28 and 29. This issue of *Executive Notes* is a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at these meetings.

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

President's Report

President Sean Noah reported on his activities since the September meeting. He was active in the media on the commencement of negotiations, the retirement of Reg Anstey, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, and on the Premier's cabinet shuffle. He visited schools in Glovertown, Eastport, Gander, Musgravetown, Forteau, Red Bay, West Ste. Modeste, L'Anse au Loup, Blaketown and St. John's. He attended numerous meetings and functions in his capacity as President, including meetings with the Minister of Education re the Teacher Allocation Commission Report, CTF Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings, Branch meetings on the opening proposals, school representative seminars, and the laying of a wreath on behalf of the NLTA at Remembrance Day Ceremonies.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

School Development Model

A presentation was made to Provincial Executive on the School Development Model by David Murphy, School Development Consultant with the Department of Education. The presentation included the school development efforts, success experienced, defining the learning community, the dimensions of the professional learning community, the school development process, internal review components and process, and a review of the procedures for implementing and monitoring a school development plan. Provincial Executive had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to Mr. Murphy.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

New Teacher Allocation Model

The summary of the surveys conducted as per the direction of Provincial Executive on the impact of the new Teacher Allocation model was reviewed by Provincial Executive. The results of the survey will be broken down by categories of schools (primary/

elementary and intermediate/high) and by school size. Results of the survey will be communicated to teachers in the most appropriate and effective way possible.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

Teacher Travel

A memo will be circulated to all teachers regarding the issues of car pooling and the sharing of accommodations when travelling to in-service sessions mandated by the employer.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

Business of Standing Committees

Table Officers

- Honorary Membership will be bestowed upon Past President Roger Grimes at the 2009 BGM.
- The NLTA will provide \$1,000 to the Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador towards the costs of a Youth Justice Camp to be held in Nain, Labrador.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Equity Issues in Education Committee

The \$4,000 previously allocated for the Student Equity Grant Program will be given to the Equity Issues Committee for a teacher campaign on combating homophobia in schools. The campaign will include teacher resources, workshop offerings and a series of awareness building materials for schools.

For further information contact Jackie Maloney, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Professional Issues Committee

The Project Overseas participant for Summer 2009 will be Jacinta McGrath. The alternate will be Gerard Lowe.

For further information contact Jean Murphy, Chair, Professional Issues Committee or Beverley Park/George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

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JOINT COUNCIL

Collective Bargaining

Joint Council was updated on the status of negotiations. Bargaining sessions were held October 21-23 and November 24-26. Considerable progress has been made and many employer proposals that were problematic have been removed from the table. Talks are now focusing on key issues and salary is expected to be the last item placed on the table.

Formal talks are scheduled to resume during the week of December 8 and teachers will continue to be updated via Bargaining Briefs.

For more information contact Sean Noah, President or Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director.

Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association priorities for 2007-09 was presented to Joint Council. Various NLTA administrative staff updated Provincial Executive and Branch Presidents on elements of the priorities including action updates and progress to date. The priorities are: quality of teacher work life/teacher workload; contract negotiations; teacher professional development; membership involvement/awareness; and Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways Commission reports. There were other presentations around several of these topics throughout the meeting.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Cross Canada Update on Collective Bargaining

A presentation was made to Joint Council on a cross-Canada update on collective bargaining by Myles Ellis, Director of Economic and Member Services with the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Mr. Ellis provided information on the current financial situation in North America, the structure, trends and outcomes for teacher collective bargaining, a cross-Canada update on the status of collective bargaining, and a summary of priorities for the teacher associations across the country.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Pre-Budget Consultations for the 2009-11 NLTA Budget

A presentation was made to Joint Council on NLTA budget preparations by Jim Dinn, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee.

Joint Council was provided with the draft NLTA budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11. Joint Council was asked for input to assist the Finance and Property

Committee in the preparation of its final draft to the Provincial Executive. The draft budget will then be presented to BGM 2009 for debate and approval.

For further information contact Jim Dinn, Chair, Finance and Property Committee or Jim Fox, NLTA Treasurer.

Members Only Website

A presentation was made to Joint Council on the members only website by Lesley-Ann Browne, NLTA's Communications Officer. Joint Council were shown various elements of the site, including where to change passwords, the member profile form, links to other sites, how to change personal information and other parts of the website. The public site was also reviewed. The site will be launched to school reps in the next week or so and to the full membership in January.

For further information contact Lesley-Ann Browne, NLTA Communications Officer.

BGM 2009 Preparation and Deadlines

The deadlines and important dates to remember for BGM 2009 were reviewed with Joint Council. These dates are as follows:

- NLTA Act and By-law Changes – January 15, 2009;
- Resolutions to BGM – February 15, 2009;
- Nominations for Provincial Executive to be published in *The Bulletin* – February 15, 2009;
- Delegates/Alternates for publication in *The Bulletin* – February 15, 2009;
- BGM kits mailed to delegates – week of March 9-13;
- Biennial General Meeting – April 14 (evening) to April 17, 2009;
- Final nominations for Provincial Executive – April 16, 2009.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Tips for Completing Nominations for NLTA Awards

A presentation was made to Joint Council on tips for completing nominations for Association awards by Tina Matthews, Chair of the Membership Benefits and Services Committee. The presentation reviewed such items as deadlines, award criteria, providing as much detail as possible, the importance of consulting with the nominee in preparing the nomination form, and that nominations must be approved at general branch meetings or by a Special Interest Council.

For further information contact Tina Matthews, Chair, Membership Benefits and Services Committee or Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

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Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Internal Review of NLTA Programs and Services

A presentation was made to Joint Council on the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Internal Review of NLTA Programs and Services by Paul Pinsent, Committee Chair. The presentation included the background for the internal review, the committee mandate, membership and a review of the schedule of meetings. The major topics in the report include governance, professional development, communications, representative leadership and staffing. There are 17 recommendations in the final report and the full report will be presented at BGM 2009.

For further information contact Paul Pinsent, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Internal Review of NLTA Programs and Services, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Cyberbullying

A presentation on the strategy of the Canadian Teachers' Federation in countering cyberbullying was made to Joint Council by Myles Ellis, Director of Economic and Member Services with CTF. The presentation outlined the CTF action plan, policy development, roles and responsibilities, CTF's publications and research on the topic, partnerships with other interested groups, summary of surveys on the topic, recommendations for countering cyberbullying and further action.

For further information contact Stefanie Tuff, Administrative Officer, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Virtual Teacher Centre Update

A presentation was made to Joint Council on updates and changes to the Virtual Teacher Centre by Jim Murphy, Coordinator of the VTC. Jim outlined the new collaboration space for Joint Council where ideas and documents can be shared in a secure environment.

For further information contact Jim Murphy, Coordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

Province-wide Election Candidate's Forum

A Candidate's Forum was held on the evening of November 28 at Memorial University where candidates for NLTA President and Vice-President gave speeches and answered questions on various topics. The questions had been submitted previously by teachers across the province and vetted through the Electoral Committee. The forum will be available for viewing by teachers through the NLTA website and by request on DVD.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Preparation for Province-wide Vote for President and Vice-President

A presentation was made to Joint Council on preparation for province-wide vote for President and Vice-President by Edward Hancock, NLTA's Executive Director. The presentation included an overview of the responsibilities of the Electoral Committee, branch presidents and school representatives.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Green Street Program

Beverley Park and George Tucker from the NLTA Professional Development Division provided Joint Council with an update on the Green Street program. The program endeavours to provide opportunities to actively engage students and teachers in environmental learning and sustainability education. The program links schools in Canada to reputable Environmental Education organizations across the country. The NLTA is a participant in the program with CTF and a pilot project with selected Grade 6 classes is currently underway.

For further information contact Beverley Park or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

Discussion Topics/ Branch President Topics

The following topics were discussed by Provincial Executive and/or Joint Council for possible follow up or future direction: Reliability of Auto form; Department of Education Policy on Travel; Grade VIII Teaching Certificate; Fire and Life Safety Practices; Parent-Teacher Interviews; and Credit for Years Taught During Graduate School.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **February 25 and 26, 2009** and will be followed by a Joint Council meeting on **February 27 and 28, 2009**.

For further information contact Sean Noah, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.