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2010



Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on **November 25** and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on **November 26 and 27**. *Executive Notes* is a summary of discussions that occurred at these meetings.

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

President's Report

Since the last meeting of Provincial Executive, President Cole has attended the CAPTO meeting in Iqaluit, the Edge Conference in St. John's, School Rep Seminars in St. John's, Gander and Goose Bay, the SAC Regional Presidents' and Provincial Executive Meeting in Gander, laid the NLTA wreath for Remembrance Day, attended a meeting of the Northern Lights Branch in Forteau, and the CTF Board of Directors meeting in Ottawa. School visits took place in Corner Brook, Churchill Falls, Labrador West, Wabush-Labrador City, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, North West River, Lewisporte, Norris Arm, Bishops Falls, Grand Falls-Windsor, Red Bay and L'Anse au Loup/Forteau. Media interviews took place on teachers spending their own money on supplies for the classroom, substitute teachers hiring practices, and inclusion.

Business of Standing Committees

Membership Benefits and Services Committee

- The St. Brendan's Branch of the NLTA will be disbanded and amalgamated with the Ganova Branch. An interim executive has been appointed for the 2010-11 school year.
- The Registration Rebate for branches will be increased from \$520 to \$600 and the Additional Branch Projects Budget will be increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for the 2011-13 budget.

For further information contact Jackie Maloney, Chair of Membership Benefits and Services Committee, Steve Brooks, Benefits and Economic Services Division or GERALYN Costello, Executive Assistant, Governance.

Table Officers

- Honorary Membership in the NLTA will be bestowed on John Staple, past NLTA staff member and currently Deputy Secretary General with the Canadian Teachers' Federation.
- The proposed Executive, Table Officers, and Joint Council meeting schedule for 2011-12 was approved.
- The Association will conduct a survey of all members of the NLTA to determine the level of interest

in pursuing, with the Department of Education, a change in the opening date of school for teachers for three days prior to Labour Day as of 2012-13.

- The Association will consult with the teachers from the Newfoundland School for the Deaf and the teachers who are now teaching the former NSD students regarding the impact of the transition of those students from the NSD to the receiving schools.

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

JOINT COUNCIL

Association Priorities

A detailed review of the Association priorities for 2009-11 was presented to Joint Council. Various NLTA administrative staff updated Provincial Executive and Joint Council on the priorities which are: quality of teachers' work life; technology in education; membership involvement/awareness; advocacy; and implementation of Teacher Allocation and ISSP/Pathways report.

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

Joint Council Policy and Parliamentary Procedures

Edward Hancock, NLTA's Executive Director, reviewed the Joint Council Policy and Parliamentary Procedures, specifically the authority that Joint Council holds as an advisory body. The Joint Council was provided with information on NLTA Policy on Joint Council and parliamentary procedures.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Policy Changes Since March 2010 Meeting

Joint Council approved a number of changes in policy statement since the March 2010 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: Centennial Fund awards and Johnson Incorporated bursaries.

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

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NLTA Budget for 2011-13

A presentation on the proposed NLTA budgets for 2011-13 was made to Joint Council by Gabe Ryan, Chair of the Finance and Property Committee. The presentation provided information on revenues received from various sources, expenses and capital expenditures, and a breakdown of budget lines with the Association's budget. The members of Joint Council participated in small group sessions to provide input to assist in the preparation of the budgets for 2011-12 and 2012-13.

For further information contact Gabe Ryan, Chair, Finance and Property Committee, or Jim Fox, Treasurer.

Imagineaction

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Bob McGahey, Acting Coordinator with the Imagineaction Program with the Canadian Teachers' Federation. Imagineaction involves students, teachers and others working together to address issues of concern for their community. The presentation reviewed the critical thinking approach to social action, how to initiate a social action project, Imagineaction themes, teacher resources, community experts, and subsidies available.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or George Tucker, Professional Development Division.

Provincial Early Childhood Learning Strategy

The Director of the Division of Early Childhood Learning with the Department of Education, Paula Hennessey, presented to Joint Council on the Provincial Early Childhood Learning Strategy. The presentation provided a review of the research, development of the Strategy, philosophy of "activity based" learning, and action plans to date.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Beverley Park, Professional Development Division.

Collective Bargaining Policy and Procedures

Don Ash, Assistant Executive Director, and Stefanie Tuff, Administrative Officer in the Benefits and Economic Services Division, made a presentation to Joint Council on collective bargaining policy and procedures. The presentation included information on the selection of the Collective Bargaining Committee, how input is obtained from the membership, dates and deadlines for priorities, and the timing for serving notice to Government.

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

Overview of Critical Illness Insurance

The new Critical Illness Insurance Program was reviewed with Joint Council by Perry Downey from the Benefits and Economic Services Division. The presentation reviewed information about the Critical Illness plan options being introduced effective January 1, 2011.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

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

Edward Hancock, NLTA's Executive Director, made a presentation to Joint Council on preparation for the province-wide vote for President and Vice-President. 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.

Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: issues related to district mandated inservice; pension indexing; number of meetings teachers must attend; length of time for arbitration hearings; CDLI parent-teacher interviews; changes in Department of Education documents for Special Education; teacher workload; workload as a priority in negotiations; use of professional development days for inservice; new teacher appraisal; home schooling; hiring of retired teachers for replacement positions; new buses with integrated child seats; school closures; supervision; teacher leave; pre-retirement seminar teacher expenses; and teacher contracts.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President.

BGM 2011 Preparation and Deadlines

The deadlines and important dates to remember for BGM 2011 were reviewed with Joint Council. These dates are as follows:

- NLTA Act and Bylaw changes – January 27, 2011
- Resolutions to BGM – February 27, 2011
- Nominations for Provincial Executive to be published in *The Bulletin* – February 27, 2011
- Delegate/Alternates for publication in *The Bulletin* – February 27, 2011

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- BGM kits mailed to delegates – week of March 28 – April 1
- Biennial General Meeting – April 26 (p.m.) to April 29, 2011
- Final nominations for Provincial Executive – April 28, 2011

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Candidates Forum for Election of NLTA President and Vice-President

The candidates for NLTA President and Vice-President had an opportunity to address Joint Council and invited guests during the Candidate's Forum on the second day of Joint Council. Each candidate presented a ten minute speech and then took part in a question and answer session. The Candidate's Forum was videotaped and will be available on the NLTA website approximately one week later and will also be available to schools on DVD.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Teacher Liability – The Classroom and Beyond

Stefanie Tuff, Administrative Officer in the Benefits and Economic Services Division, made a presentation to Joint Council on teacher liability. The information presented included the law and education, a definition of negligence and elements required to establish negligence, negligence and liability, liability and extra-curricular activities, employer liability, being a witness in court proceedings, and legal assistance available for NLTA members.

For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, Stefanie Tuff, Benefits and Economic Services Division, or any administrative staff person in the Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **March 9-10**, followed by Joint Council on **March 11-12**. For further information contact Lily B. Cole, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.