



# EXECUTIVE

## NOTES

November 26-28, 2015

Your NLTA Provincial Executive met in St. John's on November 26, 2015 and Joint Council (Branch Presidents and Provincial Executive) met on November 27 and 28. *Executive Notes* is a summary of discussions and decisions that occurred at these meetings.

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

### President's Report

The Panel on the Status of Public Education, chaired by the President, held sessions in Corner Brook, St. Anthony, Carbonear, Clarenville, Harbour Breton, Grand Falls-Windsor, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador City, Port aux Basques, as well as sessions in St. John's and Mount Pearl. The President used this opportunity to visit schools in all of these communities. In addition, the President visited schools in Random Island, Conne River, Torbay, Portugal Cove-St. Philips, St. George's, McKays, Goulds, Conception Bay South, Deer Lake and Rocky Harbour. He also hosted the Education Forum for the provincial party leaders on November 18. Media interviews took place with province-wide media regarding the Education Panel and the Election Forum. He attended the launch of Kids Eat Smart Week, School Rep Seminars in Clarenville, Deer Lake and Plum Point, a CAPTO fall meeting, the CTF Board of Directors Meeting, a Teacher Induction Ceremony, and the Restorative Justice Consortium Launch.

### Business from Standing Committees

#### *Equity Issues in Education*

The Equity Issues in Education Committee will sponsor a poster contest during Education Week 2016.

For further information contact Donna Reddick, Chair, Equity Issues in Education Committee or Beverley Park, staff consultant.

#### *Communications/Political Action Committee*

The dates for Education Week 2016 will be February 14-20.

For further information contact Sherri Rose, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee or Lesley-Ann Browne, staff consultant.

### Other Business

- The NLTA will explore with the NL English School District the creation of a mentorship program for new school counsellors with less than two years of practice.
- An ad hoc committee will be established to review and recommend changes, where desired, to current policies of the Association.
- A reception will be held with the Executive of the St. John's area branches on Friday, January 22 during the January Executive meeting.
- Expense claims submitted by Executive members will be processed within 10 business days of submission.
- Executive recommended a 2015-16 budget adjustment of \$25,000 to the Communications External Projects budget for promotion/advertising related to the Panel on the Status of Public Education in NL; a \$10,000 budget adjustment to the Communications Copier Service budget for the printing of the Panel on the Status of Public Education in NL final report; and a \$16,500 budget adjustment for the Public Forum on Education.

For further information contact James Dinn, President.

### JOINT COUNCIL

#### Association Priorities

Updates on the priorities were provided to Joint Council. Branch Presidents had the opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments. The priorities for 2015-17 are: teacher health; workload; inclusive education; membership engagement and awareness; and fostering and mentoring relationships with external agencies.

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

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## **Parliamentary Procedures for Joint Council**

Don Ash, the NLTA's Executive Director, reviewed parliamentary procedures for Joint Council, including the purpose of rules of order, advice on the conduct of meetings, conduct of members, role of the chair, how to amend a motion and end debates, the meaning of friendly amendment, point of order and point of privilege.

For further information contact Don Ash, Executive Director.

## **Preparation for Collective Bargaining/ Identifying Issues and Setting Priorities**

A session led by Gabe Ryan, Chair of the Collective Bargaining Committee and Stefanie Tuff, Administrative Officer with Programs and Services, was held at Joint Council on identifying issues and setting priorities for the next round of collective bargaining. The presentation and small group sessions helped identify issues and priorities for the next round of collective bargaining. Timelines were reviewed and input was gathered from Joint Council on major topics and suggestions.

For further information contact Gabe Ryan, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee or Stefanie Tuff, staff consultant.

## **Presentation of the CTF Special Recognition Award to Edward Hancock**

NLTA President James Dinn presented the CTF Special Recognition Award to Edward Hancock, past Executive Director of the Association. The national award is presented annually to a person who has given meritorious service to education and/or the teaching profession at the interprovincial/territorial, national or international level.

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

## **Policy Changes Since the 2015 BGM**

Joint Council approved a number of changes in NLTA policy since the 2015 BGM. The amended policies include: policy on Table Officers; policy on NLTA investments; and policy on committees.

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

## **Pension Funding/Reform Update**

NLTA Executive Director Don Ash updated Joint Council on the recent pension reform and the status of the Teachers' Pension Plan.

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

## **EAP Presentation – “Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing: You”**

A presentation was made to Joint Council by Employee Assistance Coordinator Gail Carroll regarding the importance of looking after “you”. She led the Joint Council through a series of relaxation exercises aimed at refocusing and re-evaluating. Her presentation included tips on looking after ourselves as well as how to recognize stress and taking action.

For further information contact Gail Carroll, Employee Assistance Coordinator.

## **Teachers Change Lives Every Day Campaign**

Joint Council was updated on the status of the Teachers Change Lives Every Day public awareness strategy. NLTA Communications Officer Lesley-Ann Browne reviewed the click through rate, number of views on the website(s), online submissions, and the status of the two new videos currently in production. The next phase of the campaign will be launched in February to coincide with Education Week and Teacher Appreciation Week.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

## **Violent Incident Reporting Form**

Joint Council discussed an Incident Tracking Form that will be available through the NLTA website. The purpose of the form is to document violent behaviour and/or conduct in the workplace a teacher believes is not conducive to a safe and healthy working environment. The form is confidential and will be used for research for collective bargaining purposes.

For further information contact James Dinn, President or Steve Brooks, Assistant Executive Director.

## **Timing of BGM 2019**

Joint Council was provided with a background paper in preparation for a discussion on the timing of BGM 2019. Members of Joint Council had the opportunity to discuss the current timing of BGM, the timing of AGM/BGMs of affiliates, and alternate options to the timing and format. The majority of reports from Joint Council members favoured continuing to hold BGM during Easter break.

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

## **Discussion Topics/ Branch Presidents Topics**

The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive and Joint Council: full day Kindergarten; school counsellor concerns; report cards; scheduled professional development days; vice-principal designation in schools; broadening regular teachers' IRT roles; escalating level of intervention; mandatory vs. school professional development; discretionary leave; internet/Power School issues; testing restrictions; school photocopiers; test time; support services; school infrastructure issues; assessment policy/evaluation policy; dealing with student mental health issues; substitute teacher concerns; lack of technology support; increases in class size; changes to school board-teacher liaison committees; membership engagement and succession; review 360; unused sick days; bullying of teachers; Department of Education expense claim delays; travel and professional development.

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

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for January 22 and 23 in St. John's.

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