

At a Glance

July 2008



Greetings!

The purpose of this update is to provide School Board members, School Board Executives and the general public with a succinct overview of current developments of interest and concern to School Boards in Newfoundland and Labrador. This page will be updated on a regular basis. Further more detailed information is available from NLSBA or the individual local School Board offices. Suggestions or reactions will be welcome at any time by the NLSBA office.

Quick Facts

School Boards were first referenced in Newfoundland Schools Act of 1836. There are 375 School Boards throughout Canada. The educational workforce in Canada numbers just under 310,000 persons (Stats Can 04-05). More than 5 million students are registered in Canadian public schools (04-05 Stats Canada). Newfoundland and Labrador has 74,304 students enrolled in 285 schools.

NLSBA Board of Governors Meeting Highlights

The Minister of Education visited the Board of Governors meeting March 12th for a one hour session. A synopsis is available in the official minutes.

Brian Shortall reported that the PD Modules have been positively received by the four English speaking School Boards. The presentation to the CSF

has been translated to be presented in French. The initial meeting was well received. Follow up meetings have been scheduled.

It is hoped that government will continue to provide grants to the NLSBA for the continuation of this program. With continued funding from government there will be opportunities for further P.D. training, i.e., a safe schools plan, risk management, student achievement and other topics. Brian felt that the NLSBA will need to encourage the Minister for a form of ongoing P.D. assistance. With elections held every four years the modules could be planned along that time cycle.

There are additional topics to identify. Also, the delivery could be carried out in formats other than Board meetings (inter-active web meetings, accounting style, etc.

Provincial School Performance

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results were released in late fall. The focus was the performance of fifteen year olds in Science Reading and Mathematics. Canadian students outperformed their OECD counterparts. Newfoundland and Labrador fifteen year olds were slightly below the Canadian average scores but ahead of five other provinces and many countries including Germany, France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Collective Agreements

Education Collective Bargaining teams will have a busy year. Six major provincial agreements are up for re-negotiation (list them). The collective bargaining process is ongoing for all four sets of negotiations - CUPE 1560, CUPE Master, NAPE Master and Student Assistants.

Provincial Reports

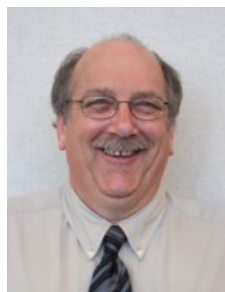
The ISSP/Pathways Report and Government response have been released (http://www.ed.gov.nl.ca/edu/pub/Focusing_on_Students.pdf) The Teacher Allocation Report was released March 12th. The TAC highlights can be accessed at: <http://www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2008/edu/0312n06.htm>

Congress 2008, Regina, SK

Twenty-two delegates from Newfoundland and Labrador participated in the CSBA Regina, Saskatchewan Congress. A highlight was the election of Nada Borden, as the Canadian School Boards Association Vice-President. Mr. Rick Johnston from Ontario was elected as national President. The Congress agenda was developed around the theme "Teach our Children Well". The Newfoundland and Labrador delegates found the meeting sessions to be very

informative with respect to current educational developments and suggestions from their counterparts in other Canadian jurisdictions. Newfoundland was highlighted on the agenda by the excellent presentation from the Eastern School District entitled "*Building a New Identity After School Board Reform: Connecting with the Arts.*"

NLSBA AGM 2008



A very successful AGM took place in June. It was hosted by the Nova Central School Board. The highlight of the meetings was the election of Mr. Tom Kendell as NLSBA president. Mr. Kendell resides in Grand Falls, NL.

He succeeded Nada Borden who held the post for the past three years. The position is a one-year term. Mr. Kendell, a former teacher, has a varied background in education and views education in the province as a priority.

Two keynote sessions entitled "*Accountability and Risk management for School Board Trustees*" by William Drover of the Auditor General's office, and "*One District's approach to Improve Student Academic Achievement*" by Charlie McCormack, Director of Programs for Nova Central School District were provided.

The NLSBA budget for the coming year was approved. The Association also received a clean bill of health in its financial management from its auditors.

A very positive 2008-09 Strategic Planning Issues Session was conducted. This will be reported following the September Board of Governors meeting.

Two Honourary Memberships were awarded at the 2008 AGM Banquet. Mr. Mel Hong, former school principal and Chair of Avalon East School Board, and Mr. Randell Mercer, former teacher and Director of Education of the Nova Central School District were Award recipients.

National Scene



The following copyright bulletins can be found on the NLSBA's Website, at www.schoolboardnl.ca)

#1: Changes to Copyright Law Must Include Amendment to Address Educational Use of the Internet

#2: Education Organizations Need Clarity in Canada's New Copyright Law

#3: Educational Use of the Internet: "Fair Dealing" Just May Not Be Enough

#4: Educational Use of the Internet: An Education Amendment Does Not Narrow Fair Dealing



NLSBA Staff Relations Specialist

The NLSBA is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Wayne Noseworthy as its School Board Staff Relations Specialist. Mr. Noseworthy holds degrees at the Bachelors and Masters level in Education and Educational Administration and has extensive training in the Industrial Relations field.

Mr. Noseworthy brings over two decades of intense experience with collective bargaining, labour relations, and benefits management to the NLSBA.

Mr. Noseworthy has served as President and Executive Director of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA) and recently concluded service as Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union (NSTU). Mr. Noseworthy assumed his duties on July 2, 2008

Upcoming Events

▪ **NLSBA to Host the Atlantic School Boards Conference 2009**

The NLSBA will host the Conference January 29-31, 2009 at St. John's. The conference will be held at the Delta St. John's Hotel at \$128.00 per night. Theme and other details will be announced soon.

▪ **NLSBA AGM 2009**

Labrador
Date and place to be determined

▪ **Congress 2010**

The NLSBA is pleased to announce that it will host the National Educational Conference at St. John's, July 7-10, 2010. Initial planning has begun. The official hotel for the conference is the Delta St. John's. Room rate is \$199.00.

School Opening Day for Teachers Sept 2, 2008
School Closing Day for Teachers – June 26, 2009

To request further information on any of the foregoing articles, contact:

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