

At a Glance

March /April 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.

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.

Board of Governors - continued

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. 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>

NLSBA AGM 2008 “Advocacy and Success”

The NLSBA annual general meeting will be held at the Terra Nova Golf Resort, Port Blandford, June 13-15, 2008. The program and registration information will be circulated in the near future.

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 Hotel. Information and conference details will be released soon.

Congress 2010

The NLSBA is pleased to announce that it will host the National Educational Conference at St. John's, July 6-9, 2010. Initial planning has begun. It is expected that 500 delegates and trustees from across the country will participate. Keep watch for more information.

NLSBA AGM

The Nova Central School District, Gander, NL will host the 36th Annual General Meeting of the Association, June 13-15, 2008. The AGM location this year is at the Terra Nova Golf Resort, Port Blandford.

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

BCSTA Annual Meeting

Nada Borden, NLSBA President was invited and will attend the BCSTA AGM and Conference April 3-6 2008 at Victoria, BC.

NLSBA Staff Relations Specialist

Brian Miller has resigned as Staff Relation Specialist with the NLSBA effective 31 March 2008. Brian has decided to take a position with the Department of Education, as Director, School Services.

The NLSBA wishes Brian well in his new position and future endeavors.

The position will be advertised in the Western Star and the Telegram during April..

NLSBA Honourary Award

At a meeting of the NLSBA Board of Governors on March 12, 2008, it was agreed that the NLSBA would reinstate the Honourary Membership award. The award is granted to an individual in recognition of a significant contribution to the cause of education. School Boards will forward their nomination application to the NLSBA by May 16, 2008. The recipient(s) of the award will be notified and the award will be presented at the AGM yearly.

Pre-Budget Consultations

The NLSBA and provincial School Boards met together on March 5, 2008 in St. John's to present their submissions and concerns to the pre-budget consultations to the Finance Minister and Minister of Education.