



Nova Scotia Teachers Union



Kings Local

ANNUAL REPORTS EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

<http://kings.nstu.ca/>

Year: 2015-2016

Executive Role/Title: Vice-President of Professional Development

Committee Members: Laura McCulley, Chair; Bev Roy, Stefanie Conway, Theresa Pelley, Jo-Leigh MacPhee, Elizabeth Frezell and Cathy Burgess

Highlights from the year: The committee met 4 times this year and held two events. At our annual Welcome Back event, a poster was created to recruit a new member for the committee in the spirit of member engagement. The committee was excited to welcome Elizabeth Frezell to our table.

The committee was very pleased with the new PDE Grant brochures that were printed over the summer. We would like to thank all of our Kings Local Reps that helped us distribute the brochures to every member. Although these brochures are dated 2015-2016, they are in effect from this point forward. We received lots of positive feedback from members about the usefulness of the brochures.

In October, the committee met to discuss our goals and plans for 2015-2016. After an amazing presentation, at Leadership, it was decided to bring new NSTU staff officer, Adela Njie, to the Valley to have her share her “Effective Meetings” presentation. The presentation was well received. Attendance was low but in retrospect it was to do with timing being near the earlier reporting period this year. The Effective Meeting Checklist was excellent and was implemented by the committee this year, which contributed to the effectiveness of our meetings.

One of the major changes that were implemented this year was the timeline for both grant applications and reimbursement deadlines. The fall submission date was

changed from November 15th to October 15th. A new reimbursement date was put in place for the fall grants of January 31st. This change was twofold: first to make the amount of time for both grant periods equal and second to allow the committee to know exactly how much money was remaining in our budget line so we could award the maximum amount to members approved in the second round of grants. These changes proved to be very successful on all accounts.

The annual Professional Development conference was held November 6 and 7th in Halifax. This year's theme was "Mind Up" and was very enlightening. Laura and Theresa attended the conference from our local.

At the second October meeting, 24 applications totaling \$11 523.68 for Professional Development Enhancement Grants were received. After review of the applications and the PDE guidelines, 14 grants were approved for a total of \$6588.34. 9 of the remaining 10 grants were denied as they did not meet the criteria for a number of reasons and the other 1 was withdrawn. New reimbursement deadline for this round of grants was January 31st. Total reimbursed in the first round of grants was \$6 186.10.

The committee met on February 24, to review the second round of grants. 12 grants were received and all of them were approved for a total of \$5973.01. All applicants spent their allotted money for a total of \$5629.98.

Due to the time of year deals in the first round and the lower number of applications in the second round, it was obvious that there would be a budget surplus this year. It was decided that the PD committee would host a grant-writing workshop: "Get Your Grant On". The goal was to help members who may not have experience or time to apply for one of our grants. The workshop was held at Horton High School's Community room on May 11th from 4-5pm. It was well attended and there were sufficient funds to approve 3 additional grants but only 2 were reimbursed by the deadline for a total of \$986.09. 2015-2016 resulted in the approval of 28 grants with a reimbursed total of \$12 802.17.

Some examples of Enhancement Grants that were approved this year were iPads/Tablets, Deskcycles, USB Design project, Mentor texts, "Viva La Fish Tank Resort", Cricut, Yoga Mats, Art Supplies, Math Games, Bouncy Bands and Alternate Seating Options. What creative ideas that will directly impact and enhance the learning environment for the students in our local. Bravo!

Moving Forward: The committee met for the final time on June 15th 2016. All of the PDE Guidelines and committee practices were reviewed and the committee discussed minor changes based on discussions throughout the year. Tentative meeting dates were set for the 2016-17 school year. Regretfully the committee accepted the resignation of Jo-Leigh MacPhee, as she will be our new RRC Chair next year. Many thanks Jo-Leigh for your numerous contributions to both the PD Committee and our local over the past number of years.

On a personal note, I would again like to personally thank all of the members of the PD Committee for all of the time and devotion they put towards helping our members secure funds to enrich their learning environments for students. Special thanks to our school Reps for continuing to help us ensure prompt delivery of pertinent information from our local meetings back to all of the individual work sites. As chair, I continued to learn as the year went by and cannot believe another school year has come and gone. Thank you to our President, Natalie MacIsaac, for continuing to guide us all even when she was on deferred for second term this year and to our Local Executive for continuing to be my sounding board for questions and ideas.

I have already received grants for the upcoming year so the word is definitely getting out there...happy summer!

Respectfully submitted,
Laura McCulley