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|  | Nova Scotia Teachers Union  Kings Local |  |
|  | **ANNUAL REPORTS** |  |
|  | **http://kings.nstu.ca/** |  |

**Year: 2016-2017**

**Executive Role/Title: Equity Committee**

**Committee Members: Cathy Burgess, Rosalie MacDonald, Natalie MacIsaac, Janette Pearson, Theresa Pelley and Bev Roy,**

**Highlights from the year:**

The Equity Committee met three times throughout the year. The committee set 2 goals:

1. Poverty-fostering and partnering with our community outreach-to address poverty issues of our students.(continue to work with our connections of 4 community groups –Youth Portal, Kids in Actions, Foodbank and Open Arms)
2. To continue to work with PA/PR to educate our community about the changing classroom.

The session that was planned by the committee –“Creating Safe Spaces through Social-Emotional Learning” by Adela Njie was cancelled twice and did not happen due to Halifax not releasing Staff Officers to do sessions because of contract negotiations and Work to Rule.

The Equity Conference was held this year the end of October in Halifax. I had the opportunity along with Theresa Pelley to attend. It was great to have conversations with other Equity Committee members in the Province as well we heard 4 guest speakers share their knowledge and views on several topics -Treaty Education, Supporting LGBT +students, Restorative/Relational Approach and Supporting African Nova Scotian students.

The Committee did hold a session for its members on April 26th- “Assertiveness Negotiating Respectable Interpersonal Boundaries” at the Root Restaurant. The group was small but engaged and left with some ideas and strategies to use to balance school and personal life and that it is OK to say NO when asked to do the extra things and not feel guilty.

To continue to support our Community Partners, the Equity Committee instead of giving prizes out to those who attended, drew names of members who put their names in one of 3 community donation bags. As a result, we gave a $50.00 donation each to The Youth Portal, NKEC Foodbank and Canning Foodbank.

**Moving Forward:**

As a committee, we will set the goals for the forthcoming year in the Fall. We do have a space open on the committee for next year-2017-2018 for one member.

I would like to thank the members of this committee for the hard work they did to make this another successful year.

This is my last year as Equity Liaison. It has been a wonderful opportunity over the last 5 years to work on a committee with an awesome group of people who want to make things better for our members and the community in which we work in.

Respectfully submitted.

Cathy Burgess

Kings Local –Equity Liaison