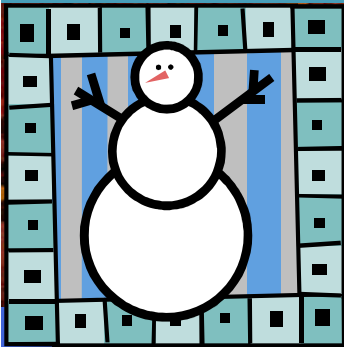


December News and Updates

Volume 1 Issue 3

December 5, 2011



• **Rep Retreat:** The NSTU representatives, and executive members attended a Rep Retreat on the weekend of November 18-19th at the Delta Sydney. This team building retreat included sessions on PD, Insurance, and member benefits.

• **Board—Teacher Committee:** If you have any non-contractual (i.e. PowerTeacher Frustration), feel free to bring them to the attention of the VP Of Public Affairs Chad Hanrahan. Issues of this type are topics of discussion for Board-Teacher Committee. This is where members of both locals meet with elected School Board members to raise issues of concern.

• **Management—Teacher Committee:** If you have any issues of a contractual nature feel free to bring them to me to the attention of the VP of

Economic Welfare Milton Bonnar. Issues of this type are topics of discussion for Management-Teacher Committee. This is where members of both locals meet with Central Office staff to raise issues of concern.

• **Teacher's Provincial Agreement:** The collective bargaining agreement was signed on Thursday, November 10, 2011. The agreement is posted on the NSTU's web site under Member Services.

• **Employee / Family Assistance Program:** Beginning in January 2012, Homeward Human Solutions will be providing family counselling services. Services for marital and family issues, stress, addictions, childcare support and much more will be available. More information including a toll free number will be published in the new year.

• **President's Christmas Social:** Peter Murphy would like to invite all members to attend a Christmas Social hour. This event will be held at our new office, located in the boathouse of the Northern Yacht Club. This event will be held Thursday, December 15, 2011 between 4 and 6 pm.

• PDFC

The next PDFC committee meeting is December 15th. Anyone attending a conference or workshop must submit the application one month prior to the event. The 2011-2012 PDFC meetings are scheduled for:

December 15, January 19
February 16, March 22
April 19, May 17
June 21

Northside -Victoria's Kent Brewer Invited to International Forum

Kent Brewer, an electrical construction teacher at Memorial High School, was invited to attend the *Microsoft Partners in Learning Global Forum 2011*. This event was held from November 7-10 in Washington D.C. It gathered more than 700 of the most innovative global educators from more than 75 countries to discuss the future of technology in education. As a previous participant in the forum, Kent's role this year was to act as a peer mentor for the learning excursions that were staged at the Smithsonian Environmental Resource Centre.

Notes from the President

The fall is nearing a close and Christmas will soon be upon us. It's been a very busy time for the members of our Local and I wanted to take a few minutes to share some of the details with all of you.

Our Local had our NSTU Representative Retreat on the weekend of November 18. We had over 20 members involved in learning and networking. Sessions were held on PD funding and the duties of a school representative. We also has an open meeting to brainstorming solutions to some of the many challenges faced by our profession these days. Feedback has been very positive and a heartfelt "Thanks" goes out to all those who helped to organize and facilitate meeting events.

The school board continues to brace for upcoming cutbacks. The Minister of Education has indicated that additional cutbacks are forthcoming this financial year. We all must do everything we can to dissuade the provincial government from their current course of action. On that note, I urge all of you to sign the online petition @: <http://www.kidsnotcuts.ca/> and to also participate in the online cutback impact survey at www.nstu.ca. Rest assured that the NSTU is working at all levels to try and safeguard the future of Nova Scotia's education system.

On a closing note, I would like to extend a sincere wish for a happy

and safe Holiday Season to all members of the *Northside-Victoria Local*. May you and your families share holiday time filled with good cheer and good memories. I am pleased to say that the Local will be continuing the tradition of a Christmas Coffee for our membership before we break for the holidays. I would also like to invite all members of the Local who are able to stop by the NEW Local office (above the boathouse at the Northern Yacht Club) on Thursday, December 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 to enjoy a cup of cheer and some snacks.

I remain available to members for any inquiries or for assistance.

Peter



NSTU NORTHSIDE-VICTORIA LOCAL

The Chain



School reps, our Local Executive, and guests at the Rep Retreat

**NSTU NORTHSIDE-VICTORIA
LOCAL**

Communications
C/O Chris Nicholson
Memorial High School

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<http://local.nstu.ca/web/northsidevictoria>

Education Cuts Impact Survey

Minister of Education Ramona Jennex confirms the government is continuing its 'back to balance' strategy which includes more cuts to the education budget. In light of this, the NSTU is seeking input from its members on the effects these cutbacks are having on students, classrooms and the teaching environment. Please take a few minutes from your busy schedule to complete a brief online survey.

This survey is intended for NSTU members only; therefore, you must login with your NSTU web account in order to access it. The link can be found on the NSTU website. www.nstu.ca

NSTU First Response Protocol: Criminal Investigation

When a teacher is approached by the police (at home or at work), is in police custody, or has been contacted by police authorities for a future meeting, NSTU Central Office should be contacted immediately. 1-800-565-6788. Ask to speak to a staff officer in Member Services. Your site representatives were given cards with this information to distribute to you.

Locals Seeking Submissions for Regional Negotiations Asking Package

The Collective Agreement between the *Nova Scotia Teachers Union* and the *Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board* expires on July 31, 2012. The Cape Breton - Victoria Regional Economic Welfare Committee (REWC) is asking for your input in these upcoming negotiations. Please take some time to consider issues you feel are important to be included in this Asking Package. Deadline for submissions is **December 16, 2011**. This package includes several items, such as transfers, itinerant teachers, promotions among others. Any ideas can be submitted by e-mail to pdmurphy@nstu.ca.

Condolences from the Northside-Victoria Local

The local wishes to express deepest sympathies to:

Mike Dunphy on the passing of his father

Cathy Balah on the passing of her mother

Northside-Victoria Local Standing Committee Members 2011-12

<p>Communications Chair: Chris Nicholson Garland Standing Charlene Pedersen</p>	<p>Professional Development Chair: Darlene Bereta Charles Yorke Milton Bonnar Bernadette MacNeil Mike Dunphy Paul Bowne Kelly MacDonald</p>	<p>Public Affairs Chair: Chad Hanrahan Milton Bonnar Chris MacInnis</p>	<p>Social Chair: Susan Spurrell Flora Cantwell Karen Kemp Kathy Evans Garland Standing Gina Penny</p>
<p>Constitution/Op. Proc. Chair: Charlene Pedersen Kim Dunning</p>	<p>New Member Chair: Milton Bonnar</p>	<p>Board Teacher Chair: Chad Hanrahan Chris MacInnis</p>	
<p>Nominating Chair: Charlene Pedersen Kim Dunning</p>	<p>Finance Chair: Chris MacInnis Paul Bowne Angela Clarke Chris Nicholson Angela MacMillan Charles Yorke</p>	<p>Resolutions Chair: Peter Murphy Charles Yorke Derrick Hill Shane Ryan</p>	<p>Economic Welfare Chair: Milton Bonnar Mike Dunphy Mary MacLeod</p>

