



The Chain

March News and Updates

Take Your MLA To School Day, March 2, 2012

All of the province's 52 MLAs were invited to spend a day in a classroom in their riding to job shadow a teacher through not just teaching, but through their whole day. The goal of this initiative was to give MLAs firsthand experience in Nova Scotia's classrooms and schools. Thanks goes out to both of our local MLA's Keith Bain and Eddie Orrell for taking part in this program.

• PDFC

The next PDFC committee meeting is March 22. Anyone attending a conference, workshop, or short term study leave must submit the application one month prior to the event. The 2011-2012 PDFC meetings are scheduled for: March 22, April 19, May 17, June 21

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• Education Cuts Public Relations Campaign

The NSTU's PR campaign against the latest round of budget cuts is called, "Cut To The Core." The following website <http://www.youtube.com/user/nstuwebcast> is an excellent link for following this campaign

• Excellence in Teaching 2012

Plans are underway for hosting our Local's Teacher Excellence banquet. It is scheduled to be held in May at Seaview Golf and Country Club. School reps should have the information for the nomination process so please take part in nominating and celebrating great teaching in our schools.

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• NSTU Provincial President Election

Three candidates have been nominated for the position of Provincial President. Eric Boutilier, Damian Hall, and Shelley Morse have all been invited to visit our local and meet with our teachers. The voting day will be May 23, 2012. If a second vote is needed it will be held on May 30, 2012.

Condolences from the Northside-Victoria Local

The local wishes to express deepest sympathies to:

Elizabeth Sehl and Cathy Viva on the death of their father.

Chad Hanrahan on the death of his mother.

Notes from the President

We will be facing a difficult cut-back season this year. There will be 2.9 million dollars in funding cut from our Board, with additional inflationary pressures on top of this. Personally, I'm not sure where cuts can be made to balance this budgetary shortfall. This spring will see hard choices and difficult situations for all.

It's in times like this, I urge all of you to get out and become active. The NSTU is lobbying the Provincial Government to reverse these draconian cuts and to fund the education system at a level where we can meet the needs of our students. To do this, the NSTU needs YOU. We need your voice and your ACTIVE support. Sign the petition at www.kidsnotcuts.ca

Speak to your NSTU School Rep. to find out what's going on. Talk to your friends and family members about the difficulties you face at work and the challenges you see in your classes.

We take a lot of criticism from parents, from our non-teacher friends, from the press and many other sources. Often we feel at a loss to defend our work and to emphasize the value of what we do. I want you all to remember: what we do is not just important, it's critical. An educated society is the cornerstone of prosperity.

A teacher works with the students he/she sees and tries every day to build skills, knowledge and a better future. Progress can be painfully slow and we all feel

pressure from not meeting the "ideal" or standardized versions of success, but our jobs our crucial nonetheless.

Always remember that we can only do what the Department of Education and society at large allow us to do. We may be the adult in the classrooms, but we need to remind society that we do not have limitless choices or independence in what we teach, or more importantly, what society often claims is not being taught. We take what we see and do our very best with what we have, and that is all anyone can justly expect.

Keep the faith and come out and join your NSTU colleagues in fighting for this profession and for education in Nova Scotia. We need you.

Peter Murphy

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NORTHSIDE VICTORIA LOCAL

Invites you to

Bowl your way into

MARCH BREAK

at Strand's Bowling Alley!

133 Main St. Sydney Mines

When?

9 - 12, March 9th

Cost of \$5.00 per person