



The Chain

January-February News and Updates

• **John Huntley Memorial Internship Program:** Congratulations is extended to Memorial High School teacher Charmaine MacDonald as she has been approved for this internship. This program allows active members to spend two days at the provincial office shadowing executive and intermediate staff.

• **PDFC**
The next PDFC committee meeting is February 16th. Anyone attending a conference or workshop must submit the application one month prior to

the event. The 2011-2012 PDFC meetings are scheduled for:

February 16, March 22
April 19, May 17
June 21

• **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

Condolences from the Northside-Victoria Local

The local wishes to express deepest sympathies to:

Cathy Balah on the passing of her father

Notes from the President

School Closures not the answer...

This past Jan. 30, 2012 the CBVRSB voted to end the school review (closure) process for 4 schools. Many teachers feel uncertain how to react to this and while I claim no particular moral superiority, I would like to voice my opinion on this matter. I am pleased with the decision of the Board to end the school review process. Increasingly, education issues have been less and less about quality learning and more and more about dollars and cents. This is, simply put, the wrong way to look at the education system. In its' recent decision, the Board has decided that commu-

nity schools and the desires of parents and students should outweigh the potential financial implications of keeping these schools open. I believe this is the correct decision.

We should never be placed in a position where the future of schools is at the mercy of budget cuts. We have a government in Nova Scotia that cut education funding dramatically last year. We have a government in Nova Scotia that plans to continue cutting education funding this year. We have a government in Nova Scotia that has amended the school board funding for-

mula, the Hogg Formula, to send more money to the best funded school boards at the expense of those boards struggling with declining enrolment. When confronted by the question of what to do in education in Cape Breton, the solution should not be to close small, rural schools. The solution to our challenges in education is a government in Nova Scotia that invests in the future and fully funds the education system for all students in every part of this province.

Peter Murphy

President, Northside Victoria Local

NSTU NORTHSIDE-VICTORIA LOCAL

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Cape Breton Kitchen Party

NORTHSIDE VICTORIA LOCAL UNION
TEACHERS SHARING THEIR TALENTS

FEATURING SundayJam

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2012

AT THE NORTHERN YACHT CLUB

FROM 9-1 PM

COST \$5.00

See School Reps For Tickets
Prize For School With The Best Attendance At The Party!

Come Out & Have Fun!

ONLY 250 TICKETS SOLD
GET YOURS BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD OUT