

August – A Very Busy Month for the NBTA

A Big “Thank You” for our Teacher Leaders

The back-to-school rush began early for over a hundred teachers from across the province who dedicated days, from their rapidly dwindling summer supply, to leading and supporting their professional association. **NBTA Branch Presidents** met on August 9, for training, updates and planning. The role of these local leaders is essential as they truly act as the CEO’s of NBTA’s 27 branches. Many of these teachers, joined by approximately 80 others, participated in the **2011 NBTA Leadership Workshop** that took place August 10-11. One of the primary functions of this meeting was to begin the development of NBTA priorities for 2011-12, Heather Smith’s term as NBTA President. The work accomplished by “Leadership” was further advanced by the **NBTA Executive Committee**, which met the following week. The Executive, is comprised of the NBTA President, Vice-President, Acting Past President, five members elected by and from the Board of Directors, and the NBTA Executive Director as a non-voting member. NBTA 2011-12 Priorities will be officially established by the **Board of Directors** at their October meeting.



NBTA’s political leaders weren’t the only teachers actively involved with the Association last month. Saint John was the venue for **CONTACT 2011, Conference on New Tech-**

niques and Classroom Teaching, an annual professional development opportunity that cycles through the Atlantic provinces. Twenty-two New Brunswick teachers, along with the five member local organizing committee, joined their counterparts from across the region for some great learning tailored particularly to classroom teachers.



Above: Heather Smith’s first address as NBTA President at the 2011 Leadership Workshop.

Left: NBTA Branch 0217 participants (l to r) Erin Frontaine, Barry Snider, and Peter Fullerton discuss NBTA priorities.

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James Wright, Bristol Elementary School, and 2011 winner of the Vince Sunderland Award, expresses his views to Leadership Workshop participants. James was joined on a panel which brought forth external views on trends and priorities for New Brunswick Education. Other panel members were Christina Taylor, Fairvale Elementary PSSC and member of 21 Inc.; and former Fredericton Member of Parliament Andy Scott, who is now with the NB 2026 group.



2011 NBTA Leadership Workshop Attendees

School-Based Learning Team Grants

A School-Based Learning Team (SBLT) is a team of 3-5 teachers from a school who decide to work together to examine some aspect of student learning with the goal of studying, collaborating, sharing and learning to improve instructional strategies that will lead to improved student achievement.

NBTA is pleased to be offering School-Based Learning Team Grants for 2011. Please refer to the **November** NBTA News for complete details and the application form.

CONTACT 2011



Above: New Brunswick delegates to CONTACT 2011

Below: The Organizing Committee for CONTACT 2011 (l to r) Ardith Shirley, Mary Ann Mackay, Shyann Watters, Kari Parsons, Christopher Brilliant, and Louise Johnson



On August 2-5 educators from across Atlantic Canada joined together on the UNBSJ campus to take part in CONTACT 2011 (Conference on New Techniques and Classroom Teaching). Over the course of the four days, participants explored the all-inclusive nature of the teaching profession and the challenges of today's classroom. The opening keynote was given by Bernard Richard and explored the topic of "Connecting the Dots for our Children and Youth". Other sessions offered by New Brunswick educators

were "Ten Principles of Effective Instruction" by Eric Smith, Paul-Émile Chaisson, and Diana Ross, "Teaching Strategies for Students with Diverse Learning Needs" by Donna Lagacy and "Theory to Practice in a 21st Century Classroom" by brothers, Mike and Tim Cusack.

CONTACT is an annual conference that is sponsored by the four Atlantic Provincial Teacher Organizations. New Brunswick has the opportunity to host the event once every four years.

Developing Successful Schools 2011



Educational Leaders from across Atlantic Canada can hardly contain their excitement as they Develop Successful Schools with Dr. Andy Hargreaves!

From July 4th-7th, this exceptional group of educators converged on the campus of Mount Allison University in Sackville for a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn together under the direction of internationally renowned educational leader, Dr. Andy Hargreaves. Over the four days, the group explored the challenges of leading truly successful and inclusive educational change that is achieved by paying attention to:

- an inspiring and inclusive dream
- inclusive public engagement at all levels
- ensuring a system that recognizes what is essential for some students is good for all students
- promoting innovation as well as improvement
- making judicious rather than capricious use of new technology
- distributing leadership widely and wisely
- building professional learning communities that are evidence informed and not data driven
- creating systems in which stronger schools help other schools