

Frequently Asked Questions

by Ardith Shirley, NBTA Staff Officer - Professional Development

Council Day is on its way...

One of the best parts of my job here at NBTA is having the opportunity to work with the 37 teacher volunteers from around the province who serve on our three Councils. These individuals volunteer their time and talents throughout the year in service to their profession and in support of the NBTA Council mission: "to promote and foster opportunities for professional development, communications and curriculum assistance to the teachers of New Brunswick."

How do members of the Council Executive get elected?

It is easy! Each of the Councils has a nominating committee whose job it is to ensure that the Council Executive represents the geography and demographics of the membership. During the three Council Day programs, each holds their own AGM (Annual General Meeting) where annual reports are presented including nominations and election of officers. (Yes! These AGMs are different from the ones held at branches in May.)

What do Councils do?

Essentially, Councils work to support their mission: "to promote and foster opportunities for professional development, communications and curriculum

assistance to the teachers of New Brunswick." They meet approximately five times per year and make many decisions about how to support their members. They provide feedback to the Department of Education on Curriculum and Assessment, they plan professional learning activities such as institutes and, last but not least, they plan the details of the annual spring conference held in May on Council Day.

Tell me more about Council Day...

Council Days are important! These are days that have been negotiated as a regular part of our school calendar. Currently there are three Council days for professional development day activities planned by teachers, for teachers through their professional association. Two of these days traditionally take place in early fall, and the other on the first Friday in May. It is of utmost importance to our profession to maintain these days, AND that they be used for their intended purpose — professional growth.

Do I have to attend a Council Conference?

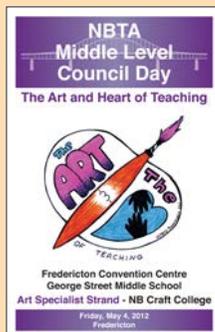
Teachers in New Brunswick do have a contractual obligation to participate in professional development on Council Day. Your Professional Association encourages all teachers to participate in one of the three Council programs. However, teachers have a choice about their

Council Day 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

Council Day 2012, Friday, May 4th

Elementary & Phys. Ed. Specialist Strand – Moncton
Middle Level & Art Specialist Strand – Fredericton
High School & Music Specialist Strand – Saint John



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities!

DSS
July 3-6, 2012

CONTACT
August 7-10, 2012

Mark Your Calendar!

professional activity on this day. If for some reason a teacher is unable to attend a Council Day conference and has not been otherwise approved for absence through the employer then that teacher must submit an Alternate Proposal (see below for details).

May a teacher attend any Council?

Definitely -- Yes. The trend has increasingly been for teachers to consider all three Council programs as options. Teachers are free to select one of the programs based on either program content or geographic accessibility. Most programs provide many generic learning opportunities that would be appropriate for teachers regardless of the level at which they teach. The chance to meet with colleagues from around the province and share in both learning and social activities is a once-a-year opportunity.

What is an Alternate Proposal?

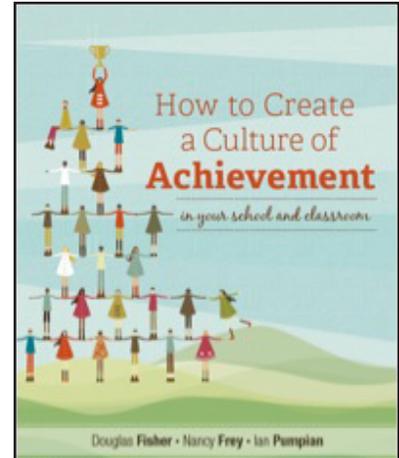
As mentioned, if a teacher is unable to attend Council Day, the Association has requested that this teacher give some serious personal thought to an individual meaningful professional development activity that could substitute for their attendance at the provincial conference. By completing the Alternate Proposal application form (available from your PD Rep or on the NBTA website) and submitting it to your School-Based Committee for approval, a teacher will be free to pursue that individual plan, provided it meets the guidelines developed by the NBTA Provincial Association.

Book Give-Away!

The winner for February's draw was Kimberely Sears from Miramichi Valley High School.

This month's draw will be for: **"How to Create a Culture of Achievement in your School and Classroom"** by Doug Fisher, Nancy Frey and Ian Pumpian.

In order to have a chance to win, simply drop me an email at the email address below before **April 27th** with the subject line – Book Give-Away.



Ardith



Recommended Website:

www.nbta.ca and click on the Council Day Icon. I guarantee you will be impressed when you see the three fabulous programs that our Council volunteers have put together for you!

Closing Quote:

"You are what you think about all day long."

- Dr. Robert Schuller