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News



New Brunswick Teachers' Association

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**Next Final Copy Deadline
For NBTA News:
Friday, April 6**

The Power of Learning

NBTA

5.7% Increase in K-12 Operating Budget

By Jim Dysart, NBTA Director of Communications & Research

The K-12 education system got some good news in the 2007 budget presented in New Brunswick. The operating budget rose 5.7% to \$875.6 million. The most recent information from Statistics Canada (2004 data) indicates that New Brunswick spent the second lowest amount per pupil in the operating budget of any jurisdiction in Canada. The increase announced in the budget will begin the process of closing the gap between New Brunswick and the Atlantic average, which is lower than the Canadian average.

Details related to specific impact on programs and services will not be known until the Minister of Education introduces the Department's estimates in the House at a later date.

Among the improvements announced in the budget speech was the allocation of 283 additional teaching positions to deal with class size and with class composition issues. This addition respects previously announced negotiated benefits.

It is not clear at this time what impact, if any, declining enrolments will have on the total number of teachers in the system next year. If the announced budget changes are to have the greatest impact possible on programs and services in the school system, then any reductions due to declining enrolment must be minimized or eliminated.

The process of artificially reducing the number of teachers based on student reductions assumes there is a sufficient number of teachers

"Among the improvements announced in the budget speech was the allocation of 283 additional teaching positions to deal with class size and with class composition issues."

Ordinary Account 2007-2008

NB Budget (in thousands)

Dept	2006-07 Estimates	2006-07 Revised	(% of Total)	2007-08 Estimates	(% of Total)	% Increase
Education	828,647	828,647	(13.78)	875,629	(14.14)	5.7
Family Community Services	789,113	800,749	(13.31)	868,106	(14.02)	8.4
Health	1,897,517	1,927,517	(32.04)	2,054,483	(33.19)	6.6
Total Budget	5,798,433	6,015,762	(100)	6,190,118	(100)	2.9

currently in the system. Statistics Canada reflects that the number of teachers in New Brunswick is significantly below the Atlantic average.

Other announced initiatives included \$10 million to begin the implementation of MacKay Report recommendations. The MacKay Report provides a comprehensive view of issues facing the education system as it tries to provide services to students with unique needs. To implement all the recommendations, a stated goal of all the partners, will require continual improvements in the levels of resources, both human and

financial, throughout the implementation process.

Priorities for this first amount must be established quickly to ensure the areas of greatest need, and initiatives which will have the greatest impact, will be considered first.

Capital Expenditures Down

While there was a substantial increase in the Operating Budget for K-12 education, there was also a reduction in the amount of investment in capital infrastructure. In recent years, there has been a slow but steady increase in the capital budget for school

construction after having been unsustainably low for several years prior to that. Last year's budget provided \$58 million for capital construction in K-12 education. This budget reduces the amount to \$30.6 million for 2007-2008. As a temporary measure, it may have been necessary to adjust the capital budget to ensure improved funding for K-12 services. However, there are still significant infrastructure issues to be addressed, and significant long-term operating savings to be made with upgrades or replacement of some of our older school facilities.

Moving? Name Change? Not Getting Your NBTA News? LET US KNOW!

In order to keep our NBTA members' database as accurate as possible, it is important that you advise the NBTA Communications Department (Carlene Merrick, 452-1833) of any changes such as marital status, home address, school location, phone number, etc., as soon as possible. This is necessary to ensure that all mailings reach our members and that our nominal roll is up to date for voting purposes. Initial information is collected on the green registration forms, but changes occur. Many of these changes occur during the summer months.



We do not receive this updated information through any other source, so please keep us informed of any changes.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us serve you better.



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Establishing New Brunswick as a leader in education is the goal of our present government. This is synonymous with attainment of high standards in a positive school culture that addresses the diverse needs of our children in an inclusive education model. A positive school culture creates the positive learning environment essential for effective instruction and attainment of high standards of education.

Effective school discipline, a cornerstone for creating a positive school culture, can be accomplished only through teamwork, as stated by Ronald Morrish above. An effective school discipline plan must have clearly laid-out expectations, acceptable standards of behavior and achievement. Complying with these must be a requirement, not a choice, suggests Ronald Morrish. Work and behavior that fall short of expectations must be challenged and improved until they are acceptable.

Teachers are expected to create a positive school culture and provide effective instruction with or without an effective school discipline plan. The accepted norm of our times is that a certain percentage of students in any given class will behave inappropriately and teachers must be trained to handle this.

"Behavior is now the only major area of child development where we actually tolerate deterioration over time," states Ronald Morrish in his book *'With All Due Respect'*. He adds, "We rationalize the deterioration with a series of excuses like 'Kids will be kids', 'The hormones are running', 'Look at the homes they come from'."

By accepting deterioration in

Positive Learning Environment – A Must for Being a Leader in Education

"Effective school discipline requires teamwork. Only when teachers work together are they able to achieve the consistency necessary to create a positive school culture and teach students how to function within that structure." – Ronald G. Morrish, "With All Due Respect – Keys for Building Effective School Discipline", Woodstream Publishing, 2004

behavior, in effect we tolerate an environment that is detrimental to the learning of the class. Disruptive behavior compromises the quality of work and performance of the disruptive student, while posing barriers to other students' learning.

We must recognize the possibility of underlying causes for misbehaviors. Sometimes there are medical or emotional reasons, while at other times there are academic gaps between the course content being taught and the child's ability to grasp it. For example, a grade ten student reading at a grade two level will undoubtedly experience difficulty in comprehending and completing grade ten work. Misbehavior could then be used as a coping mechanism. In such situations, it is incumbent upon us to address the core issues by providing adequate supports, alternate program and placement options. Only then can we expect that student to succeed in school.

In order to address similar issues, Nova Scotia Department of Education has recently instituted the Positive Effective Behavior Support (PEBS) model. Initial PEBS training is provided to a team from each school. With this lead team, each school then develops its PEBS plan, which is communicated to the students and the parents. Discipline is then taught, monitored, and reinforced, both at school and at home. With all partners working together to ensure proper discipline, creating a positive learning environment no longer remains an illusive goal.

A positive learning environment for students must equally be a positive working environment for teachers. In the absence of suitable support, alternate program and placement options, threats to personal safety and repeated episodes of inappropriate student behavior incapacitate teachers' ability to deliver a good quality education.

There is little recourse when teachers are faced with such repeated misdemeanors.

Currently, we do have a Positive Learning Environment Policy 703 (PLEP) in New Brunswick, which states our beliefs and provides a framework for individual schools to create a positive learning environment. In reality, creating a positive learning environment for all is a challenging task due to policy and systemic limitations. Current Policy 703 needs to go a step further so we may address all situations effectively.

The MacKay Report recommends the same. Recommendation #58(a) states, "The Minister of Education should elevate some of the key value statements in Policy 703 to the status of regulation". Recommendation 58(b) states that positive learning environment (PLEP) funding be maintained; and 58(c) urges the Minister of Education to enact, in policy form, a code of conduct for New Brunswick schools, outlining roles and responsibilities of students, teachers, and parents.

Fortunately, acknowledging the above situation, our Minister of Education, Hon. Kelly Lamrock, has decided to review Policy 703 in the near future. We believe that having a code of conduct outlining acceptable standards of behavior, roles and responsibilities of all partners, supported with a stronger Policy 703, commensurate resources, and support systems will go a long way in helping us create a positive learning environment in the true sense of the word. It would provide us with the core foundation upon which we can build a system that supports excellence through attainment of high standards, while moving us towards leadership in education.

Together we can accomplish this!

Our children are worth it!

Are You Eligible to Retire?

By Larry Jamieson, NBTA Director, Teacher Welfare Services

The New Brunswick Teachers' Pension Act (TPA) provides that a teacher becomes eligible to retire on an immediate pension:

- (a) at age 65 with 5 or more years of pensionable service (no reduction)
- (b) at age 60 with 5 or more years of pensionable service. (Pension reduced 5 per cent per year for each year under age 65)
- (c) at age 60 with 20 or more years of pensionable service. (no reduction)
- (d) when the combination of a teacher's age and service reaches 80 (reduced pension). (Reduction will be 2.5% for each index year that retirement precedes age/service index of 87).
- (e) when a combination of a teacher's age and service equals 87 (no reduction)
- (f) after completing 35 years of pensionable service (full pension)



Larry Jamieson

Below is a checklist of things you should do when you have decided to stop teaching and receive your pension:

- If you are unsure of your pension service, check with the Public Service Employees Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) to make sure that you are indeed eligible for retirement. Include your Social Insurance Number (SIN) and birth certificate in any communication with the Pensions Branch.
- Notify your Superintendent, in writing, of your intention to retire (the Regulations of the *Education Act* now stipulate this notification be communicated as of February 1st):
 - (a) specify the date of retirement (always at end of the month - e.g., June 30, 2007);
 - (b) provide information so that your retirement allowance can be forwarded to the financial institution of your choice.

Note: In the case of a disability pension, these steps will only occur once the teacher has received approval for his/her disability pension from the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources.

- Make arrangements with a financial institution to have your retirement allowance placed in a RRSP account or any other registered investment mechanism. The banking institution, trust company or credit union, etc. will then undertake the necessary steps (complete TD2 form) so that the amount is deposited directly into a RRSP account without going through your hands. Otherwise you might end up paying tax at a high rate on that amount.
- If you are age 60 or over, do not forget to apply for the Canada Pension (CPP).

Forms to fill out at District Office:

1. Termination Notice / Benefit Request — Claim for pension benefits (copy of birth certificate(s) required)
2. TD1 — Personal exemptions for income tax purposes after retirement
3. Direct Deposit form.
4. NBTF Group Insurance form indicating what you plan to do regarding your group insurance coverage. This will allow the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division to make the necessary deductions from your pension cheque.

Note: It is important that the Compensation & Employee Benefits Division receive the necessary forms properly filled out (notice of termination and TD1) at least 90 days prior to the month you expect to receive your pension. The School District will look after sending these forms where appropriate.

Pension cheques are received on the 23rd/24th of each month, except December. For any additional information on the above process, please contact:

Larry Jamieson
New Brunswick Teachers'
Association
P.O. Box 752
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
Tel. 452-1722

OR

Compensation & Employee
Benefits Division
Office of Human Resources
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1
Tel. 453-2296 or 1-800-561-4012

Please notify NBTA Central Office as soon as possible if you have decided to retire. This will help us prepare for the provincial Retiring Teachers' Luncheon, which will be held on Saturday, May 26th.

CONTACT 2007

Teachers Work ✓

A Unique Professional Development Opportunity for
Teachers of Atlantic Canada

August 7-10

Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick

Featuring Sessions:

- *Reaching Out to All Students - Strategies for Both Boys and Girls*
 - *La différenciation pédagogique : le profilage*
- *Instructional Strategies - How to use "Story" to Teach and Learn*
 - *L'évaluation des apprentissages*
 - *Positive Discipline in the Classroom*
 - *Wanted: Teacher Leaders!*

- **Only 30 spaces available to NBTA members. Apply early!**
- **Consideration given to Branch representation and first-time applicants.**

Complete the application form below and send to **Ardith Shirley**, NBTA
Director of Professional Development, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6
(Fax) 506-453-9795

CONTACT 2007 Application Form

Name: _____

School: _____

Branch: _____ Contacts: (tel:) _____

(e-mail) _____

Have you attended CONTACT before? Yes () No ()

If yes, when and where? _____

- Registration fee: \$200.00 Meal Plan: \$125.00 Accommodations: Approx. \$120.00
- Details for accommodations (in residence) and meals will be forwarded to successful applicants.
- \$200.00 grant available from NBTA. Applicants should also apply to Councils or local Branches for other available funding.

DO NOT send any fees. Successful applicants will be contacted.

Registration deadline: May 1, 2007.

Tenth Annual Summer Institute in Human Rights for Teachers: Teaching for and about Human Rights St. Thomas University, July 22 - 27, 2007

This course is designed to educate teaching professionals about the various rights, instruments and issues pertinent to human rights from international, regional, and domestic perspectives. The course will be held at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Course Description (EDUC 5503/6503)

This course is offered during the human rights summer institute designed for pre-service teachers, practicing teachers, and professionals in related fields. The course introduces participants to the various rights, instruments, and issues relevant to the classroom and provides opportunities for teachers and others to increase their knowledge base in the human rights field. Each student enrolls in the course at either the 5000 (5503) or 6000 (6503) level. Both courses are offered together. Students enrolled in Education 6503 will be assigned a post institute project.



Course Objectives

The objectives of the institute are:

1. To provide students with a background in the area of human rights which are universally acknowledged internationally, regionally, and domestically.
2. To develop an understanding of the content of human rights education through the study and the experience of different countries in dealing with social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights.
3. To effectively use a human rights framework in the development of educational policies and programmes.
4. To evaluate current curricula with regards to human rights education.

For further information please contact: Dr. Heather Richmond (Richmond@stu.ca), Marc Gionet (margionet@stu.ca) 506-453-7203 or visit us on the web at: www.stu.ca

What If?

WHAT IF? you could help your budding journalists and creative writers earn publication credits?
WHAT IF? you could help your talented artists and photographers get published in a national magazine?

WHAT IF? you could encourage young readers with a magazine filled with the work of their peers?

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What If? Canada's Creative Magazine for Teens
Features the creative work of young Canadians

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www.whatifmagazine.com

What If?

Canada's Creative Magazine for Teens



We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Magazine Fund for this project.

Assessment on the Agenda

When John Kershaw, Dave Roberts, and Dwight Tranquilla met with the February NBTA Board of Directors, they agreed to be represented at the next meeting of the NBTA Curriculum Committee. Dwight Tranquilla, Acting Director of Assessment and Evaluation, met with the Committee on March 1.

Mr. Tranquilla opened the meeting by indicating that his most immediate goals for the Evaluations Branch are to increase

communications, both internally and externally; and to improve efficiency in reporting results. The Committee applauded those goals.

Many topics were discussed during the two hours Mr. Tranquilla spent with the group. Some of the points included:

- There are no plans to add new provincial assessments until the Evaluations Branch is operating more efficiently.
- The issue of purchasing assessments from other jurisdictions was discussed. The Committee lobbied for the development (and marking) of tests locally, by active teachers.
- A very lengthy discussion of the practice of having virtually all students write provincial assessments was held. Committee

members were passionate in their advocacy on behalf of special needs students. Mr. Tranquilla explained the QLA stipulated that literacy and numeracy targets are a percentage of all children in the province; therefore, all children must write the tests. The Committee explained that this dramatically contradicts the teaching philosophy in the province. The Committee

“Mr. Tranquilla agreed with the position that the primary purpose of any assessment must be to improve student learning.”

expressed the opinion that forcing children to write tests on material they have not been taught is ludicrous, at best. They also encouraged reexamination of the QLA targets. Given that virtually all sources list the percentage of Anglophone students in New Brunswick on SEPs at least 20%, the achievement of 85% success on standardized tests is

unreasonable.

- The timing of the provincial assessments was discussed. Teachers indicated that there are concerns in this area, particularly with the Grade 2 and Grade 9 Literacy Assessments.

A more comprehensive summary of the discussion may be found in the minutes of the NBTA Curriculum Committee, available on the NBTA website.

The highlights for the Committee were the following:

- Mr. Tranquilla agreed with the position that the primary purpose of any assessment must be to improve student learning.
- Currently reported “success” rates on provincial assessments are based on the total population, including those students who did not write the assessments.

Effective September 2007, additional information will be provided concerning the percentage of successful achievement among the students who did actually write the tests.

Overall, the Committee was pleased with the meeting. It is hoped that the frank discussion of issues with Mr. Tranquilla marks the beginning of a more open relationship between teachers and the Evaluation Branch.

NBTA STAFF	PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE FOR TEACHERS				
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District #18 Recognized for Quality Physical Education Program

Celinda Crandall Receives 2006-2007 Award

Each year, the New Brunswick Physical Education Society recognizes teachers at the K-5 level for providing quality physical education programs to their students. Celinda Crandall, classroom teacher at Montgomery Street Elementary in Fredericton, has been chosen by the Society to receive the District Award for 2006-07.

Celinda is in her 15th year, which in her words makes her “a mid-career” teacher. This 15-year career began with a ten-year period teaching kindergarten, grade 2, and multi-age 1-2 at Keswick Ridge School. She then moved on to her current school, Montgomery Street Elementary, sharing teaching responsibilities at the grade 4 level with the Principal, after a 4-year period moving into her current role teaching full-time with a grade 4-5 combined class.

Celinda Crandall’s background is full of varied experiences which include studying abroad in Salzburg, Austria and traveling throughout central Europe; specializing in modern languages (German and French) and linguistics at the University of Maine (Orono) to attain her BA; and completing her BEd in the early nineties at St. Thomas University.

When asked what motivated her to become a teacher, Celinda remarked, “Truthfully, I avoided it for a long time because so many members in my family were teachers and I wanted to be different. Eventually, I realized I shouldn’t run from what I honestly enjoyed, so I went back to school to become certified.” District #18 is certainly glad she did! It is very evident that Celinda is an excellent teacher and

educational leader.

Regarding physical education and physical activity, Celinda states, “The human body was designed for movement and I feel and function much better when I am physically active. It’s important just to enjoy life to the fullest – to be strong enough, fit enough, flexible enough that your choice of activities isn’t limited so you can do your work, but have fun, too.”

“In my years of teaching, regardless of the age of the students, I think they are better prepared to

I try to be a positive role model for them. I think physical education is as important, but I do not have any formal training in this area, just many years of rich experience involved in activities while growing up — swimming, gymnastics, dance, canoeing, hiking, and mountain climbing. As a child, our garage was always well-stocked with balls and racquets of every sort, bikes, skates, skis, sleds, kites, Frisbees, croquet, etc. As a parent, I have tried to do the same. I encourage the parents of my students to choose gifts of

sporting equipment, whether it’s balls from the dollar store or a skating helmet or ‘Hot Paws’ mittens for cold winter days.”

Celinda feels very fortunate to teach at a school with a well-stocked equipment room and an administration that encourages physical education enrichment opportunities where experts come in and lead sessions in activities like lacrosse, volleyball, tennis and dance.

District #18 has Physical Education

mentors at the K-5 level who provide leadership and support. Heather Neilson, PE Mentor for Montgomery, provides this for Celinda. “Heather Neilson is phenomenal. I respect her expertise and appreciate her enthusiasm. She has helped me in many ways by modeling lessons, answering questions, loaning equipment, and helping the school plan various physical activity events. She has been my coach and cheerleader as I plan physical education for my students. She has inspired me with her own healthy eating and personal challenge goals. Her knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm is a great benefit. To me, Heather Neilson is ‘joie de vivre’



Heather Neilson (PE Mentor - District #18); Celinda Crandall; Dan Rearick (Celinda's father)

learn when they are physically active. I find they often cope better with a difficult lesson or assignment after they’ve gone to the gym or been outside. Sometimes we do ‘Sittersize’ or ‘Brain Gym’ stretches. We often do deep breathing as we transition. The more they are using their muscles and the more oxygen in their blood, the better their brains work.

Plus, it’s a great stress-reducer for me. I enjoy being physically active. I think my students realize that’s important because I participate in the activities whenever possible: I swim laps when they have lessons, I run during the ‘Terry Fox Run’, I move and dance during ‘Fit Fridays’,

personified.”

So what does Celinda do in her spare time? She loves reading, embroidery, and gardening in the summer, and states that she deals with the family laundry on a full-time basis. She even finds time to visit the Y for step aerobics, jogs and cross-country skis. Activities like skating, sliding and down-hill skiing with her own family are valued. This

is something Celinda received from her parents, Dan and Nancy, from a very young age. Celinda’s mom and dad are both very active themselves and have a strong physical education/physical activity background.

It is easy to see that Celinda Crandall is one special person and teacher. Her energy, organization, and caring makes her the ideal

candidate for recognition by the New Brunswick Physical Education Society. The above makes her a teacher you would want your children to have and someone you would certainly want on your staff. Congratulations, Celinda!

Submitted by:
Garth Wade, Learning Specialist
School District #18

Advanced Education Courses at Atlantic Baptist University

UPDATE ... In the June 2006 edition of NBTA News, Atlantic Baptist University announced it was beginning to offer 6000-level Education courses through their Adult Learner Professional Studies (ALPS) department in October 2006. ABU is now delighted to report full enrolments for the first five 6 credit hour 6000-level education course offerings. The first course was successfully completed in December 2006 and the second course commenced as scheduled in January 2007. These are the first of a package of five courses that are being offered one after another on a continual basis.

This 30 credit hour package will provide teachers who hold a Certificate 5 with the Department of Education the opportunity to advance to a Certificate 6 based on the criteria set by the Office of Teacher Certification with the New Brunswick Department of Education. The Office of Teacher Certification has also confirmed that individuals holding a Certificate 4 will be able to complete these courses to advance to a Certificate 5.

ABU’s Advanced Education offering focuses on the area of Literacy. The 5 courses offered are:

- ED6106: Addressing the Needs of Struggling Readers in Inclusive Classrooms
(Note: next start date for ED6106 is March 31, 2007- please register today)
- ED6136: Reading in the Content Areas
- ED6126: Language and Reading: Development, Processes and Remediation
- ED6346: Literacy and Technology: Connections for Teaching and Learning
- ED6216: Writing Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms

The courses are being taught in 4 hour classes held weekly on Saturday mornings. Each student is responsible to attend class and complete 15-18 hours of work outside of class each week. This package of advanced education courses can be taken in its entirety or students can choose to take the courses they need now and pick up the other courses the next time they are offered. During the summer, ABU is offering a more accelerated delivery comprised of classes held twice a week on Monday and Thursday mornings.

ABU is presently taking registrations for the second package of five 6000-level courses.

Course	First Package of Five	Course	Second Package of Five
ED6106A	Oct 14 – Dec 16, 2006	ED6106B	Mar 31 – Jun 16, 2007
ED6136A	Jan 6 – Mar 24, 2007	ED6136B	Oct 6 – Dec 22, 2007
ED6126A	Mar 31 – Jun 16, 2007	ED6126B	Jan 5 – Mar 22, 2008
ED6346A	June 23 – Aug 2, 2007	ED6216B	Mar 29 – Jun 14, 2008
ED6216A	Aug 6 – Sep 29, 2007	ED6346B	Jun 21 – Jul 31, 2008

Note: a summer course (July/Aug 2007) may later be offered as part of the second package of five courses.

Course tuition for each 6 credit hour course is \$1,380.00 subject to change at July 1, 2007. Registration, including a deposit of \$150.00, will be required to hold your spot. Space is limited to 20 students per course and it is on a first-come, first-served basis. All courses are tentative pending sufficient enrolments.

For more information on the Advanced Education courses, please contact Dr. Roger Russell, Director of ALPS at roger.russell@abu.nb.ca or at 506-858-8970, ext.162. **To register** in the courses, please contact Mary Beth Clements, Assistant Registrar for Professional Studies at marybeth.clements@abu.nb.ca or at 506-858-8970, ext.149.

Professional Development Opportunities – Why Toss the Coin?

Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development

I was recently asked to explain the importance of professional development to education. As I reflected on this topic, I couldn't help but think about some of my own professional development experiences at numerous workshops and conferences.

Like you, I am sure I can recall attending excellent professional development opportunities that left me inspired and ready to become SUPER TEACHER. These PD experiences can be life-changing and almost magical. Unfortunately, I can also recall attending the odd workshop or conference that was not nearly as inspiring and the only thing I came away with was a break from the routine of the regular classroom and a free note pad, pencil, or such. (More than a little frustrating, considering the extra work it took to prepare for the supply, or the beautiful summer day of your already too few summer vacation days you gave up to attend.)

No question, choosing to attend a professional development opportunity can be a bit like tossing coins. You win some - you lose some.

Why, then, do we keep signing our names to those PD registration forms?

As teachers, we agree that professional development is important. The struggle seems to come in finding time to keep current and pursue those PD opportunities. Ironically, the profession whose job it is to inspire the love and desire for learning leaves very little time or encouragement to pursue our own learning.

Research clearly shows that a well-trained teacher is the greatest single factor in predicting student achievement. Researcher Linda Darling Hammond (1999) has found

that improving the expertise of teachers, dollar for dollar, results in far greater gains in student learning than do investments in tests, materials, or programs.

Most professionals update their knowledge and skills throughout their careers. Would you go to a physician or dentist, for example, who had stopped developing professionally after they graduated from medical or dental school? Would you take your new car to a

“Ironically, the profession whose job it is to inspire the love and desire for learning leaves very little time or encouragement to pursue our own learning.”



mechanic who had not updated his skills with the changing times?

Is the field of education more static than the medical, dental or mechanical? Unfortunately, professional development is sometimes viewed as being not as essential for teachers as for some other occupations. After all, we are only dealing with children – how complicated can that be? (Please note sarcastic attempt at humour!)

Every day for ten months of the year, for twelve or more years of their lives, we are entrusted with the young minds of children, our most precious gift and resource of the future. As professionals, we take this responsibility and privilege very seriously. I do contend that teachers sometimes falter as professionals by making the same mistake a frantic parent on a plane in distress makes.

In the attempt to look after the needs of our students, we place our own needs for professional growth second. Just like the frantic parent must place his/her own oxygen mask on first, in order to breathe and live to look after the needs of the child, we, as teachers, must ensure that our own professional learning thrives in order to improve the learning of our students. (Keep that in mind the next time an opportunity for PD comes your way and you second guess your attendance since you “just can't be away from your students.”)

Is it unreasonable to expect that we have spent as much time updating our craft as the local doctor, dentist or mechanic? Shouldn't we be expected and encouraged to be employing the latest and greatest teaching strategies available to us? Shouldn't we expect it from ourselves? Of our colleagues?

The answers – NO, yes, yes and YES! We believe that our students are every bit as important as the cars we drive. That is why year after year and session after session, we keep signing our names to those registration forms. We keep tossing those coins in the proverbial PD fountain, in the quest to guide and inspire our students towards their best possible future.

See you at the next PD!

Speaking of which, have you registered for your May Council Day yet? (www.nbta.ca) Better hurry!

Afterthought

One of my uncles works as a mechanic at a local car dealership. At least two times per year, he travels to Halifax or another common location to work for the week with other mechanics learning the "new" approaches to diagnosing issues or problems with the latest models of the vehicles he services. Let's see, that is ten days per year MINIMUM for each mechanic who works in his dealership. Hmmmm... Currently in NB, teachers get four "free" days to devote to their PD. Well, I suppose that makes sense – the latest model of Saturn must be FAR more complicated than this year's kindergarten child. (Again, sarcastic attempt at humour.)

May I Recommend?

Let's remember that PD comes in many forms. Don't underestimate the value of reading, reflecting and discussing professional articles. May I recommend the following that tweaked my interest?

The Science of Learning Meets the Art of Teaching, by Beverley Park, *Canadian Education Association/Education Canada*

This article was written by my Newfoundland colleague, who many of you have met at past workshops here in New Brunswick. Beverley's experience and expertise in the area of brain research is extensive and this article is *sooo* Beverley. For those of you who have not had the

pleasure of meeting her in person, trust me when I say this is HIGH praise.

When Two or More are Gathered and Professional Learning Communities: Everything Old is New Again, by Brenda A. Dyck, *Middle Ground (Feb 2007)*

It seems you can't pick up an educational journal without at least one article inside being devoted to Professional Learning Communities, or PLCs for short. These two articles, authored by Brenda Dyck of the University of Alberta, are great starters to expand your understanding in this area.

Strategies to Put Instruction Ahead of Technology, by Eric Jones, *Principal Leadership (Middle level and High School Edition, Feb 2007)*

As a technology teacher, I was often an advocate for increasing the technological hardware and software in our building. In this ongoing quest for technological resources, we can sometimes forget our main goal: student achievement. This article provides a great continuum to guide the integration of technology in schools.

Retirees Turn Around Low-Performing Schools, by Del Stover, *Education Digest, February 2007 (Volume 72, No. 6)*

Given the demographics of our teachers in NB and the WEALTH of expertise I see leaving our system in the recent past and very near future, I recommend this article as a model

of how one school board in the US used this expertise to benefit student achievement. While definitely a US slant, I see many opportunities to "Canadianize" this idea.

Seeing the Rainbow is a resource that I discovered when I became aware that one of my responsibilities with my PD position included being the staff person "responsible" to the Equity Committee. *Seeing the Rainbow* is a resource produced by CTF (Canadian Teachers' Federation). The first section of the document provides detailed information, including how individual teachers and school communities can address homophobia and heterosexism and make schools safer places for all students, staff, and parents. This section also contains lesson plans and activities for students and staff. Powerful stories from Canadian educators, representing diverse geographic regions of the country, make up the second section of the document. The stories offer insight and encouragement for all. Well worth the bargain price of \$15.00 and readily available for order from the CTF website.

Closing Quote

"A teacher's day is one-half bureaucracy, one-half crisis, one-half monotony, and one-eighth epiphany. Never mind the arithmetic."
– author/educator Susan Ohanian.
<http://susanohanian.org>

IT'S NOT OKAY...

... to assume everyone is heterosexual.

If this is happening in your school, you have a professional obligation to address it. Contact the NBTA, your employer, or email NBTA Equity Committee members, Danielle Cormier (cormidan@nbed.nb.ca) or Richard Blaquiere (richard.blaquiere@nbed.nb.ca) if you have concerns or need help.

- Inserted by NBTA Equity in Education Committee

Atlantic Education International Inc.

Teaching Opportunities in China

Last Call for 2007-08 School Year

Applications are now being accepted for teaching positions at our four



partner schools in China for the 2007-08 school year:

- Canadian International School of Beijing, Montessori-12
- Shenzhen International School of Sino-Canada, K-12
- Beijing Concord College of Sino-Canada, 10-12
- Shenzhen Concord College of Sino-Canada, 10 -12

All subjects are taught in English utilizing New Brunswick Curriculum. Dynamic K-12, ESL and Montessori teachers are required. Please visit our website for individual school program details.

We are looking for flexible, adventurous and vibrant certified teachers. You won't be only one of two or three teachers in a school somewhere in Asia!! You will live in Western accommodations and work with over 20 Canadian teachers applying your education degree skills! No payment for apartment, car, gas, insurance, airfare, etc.!!!

Applicants typically include recently-retired teachers, recent Bachelor of Education graduates, and adventurous current staff.

Teachers, in good standing, holding a valid Canadian Provincial teaching license or those whose credentials have been recognized by a Canadian provincial Department of Education would be eligible to apply. Applications should be forwarded before **April 15, 2007**.

Atlantic Education International Inc. currently recruits Canadian

Certified staff to support our 10 year partnership at four schools in China. These schools currently employ 80 Canadian staff annually. Since 1997, Atlantic Education International Inc. (AEI Inc.), on behalf of the New Brunswick Department of Education, has been working with the Concord Colleges of Sino-Canada and our partners International Schools, in addition to various international education initiatives with China.

Applications Online at:
www.aei-inc.ca

For more information please contact:

Alan Norman, General Manager,
Atlantic Educational International Inc., 1077 St. George Blvd., Suite 300
Moncton, NB E1E 4C9
Fax: 506-856-2899 or
Email: china.programs@gnb.ca

Skills for Administrator Series: *A Workshop for School-Based Administrators*

Sponsored by the NBTA, School Districts and the Department of Education

Grading For Learning: What Should It Look Like in YOUR School? (Middle & High School Administrators)

Date: Tuesday & Wednesday, May 8-9, 2007

Location: NBTF Building, Fredericton

Facilitator: Ken O'Connor, author of *How to Grade for Learning*. (Ken O'Connor is one of the leading experts in this field and has presented workshops throughout the world. He works closely with Rick Stiggins and other experts in the field of Assessment FOR Learning. This is his first visit to eastern Canada.)

Participants: Participants selected by District Office (Max 6. seats/district)

Registration Deadline: May 1, 2007



Teachers are using an increasingly broad range of assessment approaches in their classrooms to improve learning. In many schools there has, however, been very little change in grading and reporting practices. The session will focus on eight guidelines for grading which emphasize learning, make grades and report cards more meaningful, and really make a difference to student achievement and attitude when applied in classrooms. The target audience is Middle and High School administrators.

- Registration will be co-ordinated through your District Office.

Developing Successful Schools (DSS)

July 3-6, 2007

Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB

'Adaptive Schools' in Your School

An Instructional Leadership Institute for Administrators of Atlantic Canada

Program Overview

Leading sustainable improvement in learning and teaching is a complex, challenging and rewarding goal for any school leader.

Our goals for this four-day seminar are:

- to explore the principles and implications of 'Adaptive Schools', from its powerful research base to practical implementation in today's Canadian schools
- to examine the leadership styles, skills and approaches that generate sustainable successful change in the way schools do business
- to reflect on our experience of change, and develop strategies that work
- to draw on the shared experience and support of the group to see our way forward
- to develop strategic and operational plans for our own schools for the coming year

Institute Resource Person - Claudette Landry

Claudette's experience includes service as a principal, program consultant, staff developer and classroom teacher. Her teaching spans 25 years of instruction involving all grades from kindergarten through grade 8. She has worked extensively with teachers and administrators in implementing effective instructional strategies and in developing collaborative communities that promote thinking, learning and human development. (See full biography in DSS brochure)

Registration/Fees

Educators who are members of the sponsoring organizations (NBTA, NLTA, NSTU & PEITF) - registration fee \$300.00. All others \$400.00. (Preference will be given to members of the sponsoring organizations.) All participants must pre-register.

On-site check-in: Tuesday, July 3 (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.) in the Foyer of University Centre.

NBTA members please note:

Please indicate if you are paying the total costs to attend this Institute OR partial costs and the district partial costs OR if the district is paying the total costs and if so, who should the NBTA invoice.

The following guidelines will influence the selection for DSS in the event that there are more NB applicants than seats (Limit 24 seats for NBTA):

- Representation by District with consideration to District size.
- Years in administration (a balance of early, mid and late).
- First-time attendees.
- Maximum of six (6) seats may be allocated for principal/vice-principal teams (no more than one team/District)

DSS 2007 Application Form

Name: _____ School District: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: (Office) _____ (Home) _____ (Fax) _____

(E-mail) _____

Position: District Office () School Administrator () Other () Specify: _____

Registration Fee: () Educators from sponsoring organizations \$300.00 \$ _____

() Others \$400.00 \$ _____

Accommodations: _____ nights @ () \$50.00 \$ _____

(All accommodations are single) Dates Accommodations Required: _____

Meals: Meal Plan () Yes () No () \$80.00 \$ _____

Lobster & Steak Banquet: Lobster? Yes ___ No ___ TOTAL \$ _____

Method of payment: () cheque **and/or** () invoice _____

T-shirt size _____ (Whom should the NBTA invoice?)

NBTA members may register on-line at www.nbta.ca (Credit Card only)

Registration Deadline – June 1, 2007

Attach cheque for the total amount payable to the New Brunswick Teachers' Association

Mail to: Ardith Shirley, Director of Professional Development, P.O. Box 752, Fredericton, NB E3B 5R6

Tel. (506) 452-1740 Fax (506) 453-9795



Reminders

“Changing the Tide of Learning”

Council Day
Friday,
May 4, 2007
Saint John



AGM

May 4 at 11:30 am
Turn of the Tide
Restaurant, Saint John
Hilton
• Three \$100 Gift
Certificates •

Save Time!
Register on-line at
www.nbta.ca



Four Blocks Workshop for Elementary Teachers Saturday, May 5

Sponsored by NBTA Elementary Council and Scholar's Choice Canada

While in Saint John for Council Day, why not come and see Dr. Dorothy Hall, co-creator of the *Four Blocks* literacy model for a workshop.

This is an excellent PD opportunity for those just starting and a perfect refresher for those who have been using the framework. You can attend this all-day session for only \$50, including nutrition break and lunch.

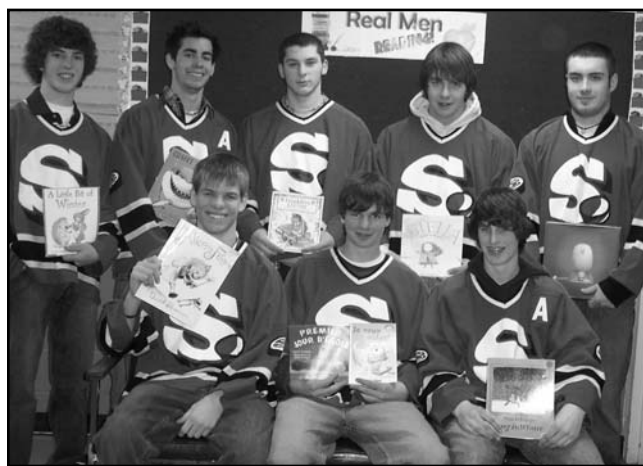
There will be a limited number of teachers accepted for this workshop so register early by emailing: **Alyssa MacIsaac** (alyssa.macisaac@nbtd.nb.ca) as soon as possible to confirm your spot. You will be asked to send a cheque for \$50 made out to NBTA Elementary Council **before April 15**.

Real Men Reading

The staff and students of Sussex Corner Elementary School would like to tell you about an exciting new initiative — *Real Men Reading*. We know that all children are profoundly affected by role models. Research findings show that the male role models children encounter in movies, television and video games often do not appear to engage in or value reading and writing. Fortunately, our children have many positive male role models in their own lives and in their own community.

“Real men” from the community share some of the roles that reading and writing play in their lives. Examples include: • sharing a

favorite sports or hobby magazine, • reading that you do as part of your work, • reading interesting bits from the newspaper, • sharing instructions from a manual, etc. The men are to spend 10-15 minutes sharing some material from their reading life with one of our K-2 classes. A book is provided to be read to the children at the end of the



class or they can share a childhood favorite of their own.

class or they can share a childhood favorite of their own.



It is our hope that by bringing the outside world into our classrooms and by modeling success/enjoyment in using literacy skills, our children will see a real purpose for reading. This will be particularly valuable in showing our boys that reading can and should be a male activity.

The response from "real men" in our community has been grand. The program runs the last Friday of each

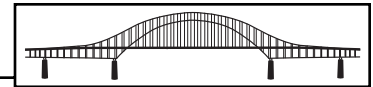
month and is approximately a half-hour time commitment. Both English and Immersion students are reaping the benefits of this program. For the months of December and February, we invited men from Sussex Regional High School to act as our guest readers. December saw Theatre Arts students here and February had the High School Hockey Team.

Our children are excited about the "Real Men" coming and from the looks of things, the "Real Men" are having a great time, too!

"Hats off to our Literacy Mentors – Susan Davis and Denise Titus – for organizing such a great program.

"Modeling isn't one way of influencing people. It's the only way."
– Albert Einstein

Middle Level Council News



"Making Sense of Adolescence" — Dr. Gordon Neufeld —



Wednesday and Thursday,
May 2 and 3, 2007
Fredericton Motor Inn, Fredericton, NB

Check out his website:
www.gordonneufeld.com

Full brochure and registration form available
on our website: <http://middle.nbta.ca>

Intended for Middle & High school educators, parents, and helping professionals

Registration fee for teachers: \$120 (\$145 after April 4)

For more info, contact:
Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca

2nd Annual Middle School Summer Institute

— July 11-13 2007, Mactaquac, NB —

Call for teachers/teams/
schools to share their expertise
and knowledge at our second
annual Middle School Summer
Institute.



We will be hosting a
"Learning Fair". Anyone who
has an inkling of sharing at this 2-day conference,
please contact Tanya.whitney@nbed.nb.ca
with your ideas!

Looking particularly for smaller schools who
have risen to the challenge of making the model
work within their limits. Also, schedule
wizards/inclusionary practitioners/assessment for
learning specialists -- and more!

Don't be shy about sharing.

Middle Level Council Day → → → →

Sudoku Challenge

	5					2		
2					8	7		5
		3				8	9	4
3				8	4	6		
			5		3			
		5	1	6				9
9	3	8				5		
6		4	3					1
		1					4	

Concerned about the Environment?

Merging Theory with Practice: Steps towards better integration for Sustainable Development Education in New Brunswick

Limit: 30

Members of the Environmental Education Caucus of New Brunswick will be presenting on some of the alternative Sustainable Development and nature education resources that can be accessed both in and outside of the classroom in New Brunswick. The team will use a combination of both presentations and hands-on interpretive workshop skills to engage teachers in such topics as Renewable Energy, Global Citizenship, Climate Change, Acadian Forest Interpretation, Environmental Literacy and Naturalist Observation skills, among others. They will also touch on a new nation-wide movement of working groups created to meet the United Nation's decade goals for Education for Sustainable Development.



Top 10 Reasons to Visit Fredericton

1. Friendly service!
2. Visit one of New Brunswick's top attractions - Kings Landing
3. Atlantic Canada's riverfront Capital
4. Fredericton has been at the forefront of telecommunications. New Brunswick is "the wired province," but nowhere are citizens more wired than in Fredericton. At each corner in the downtown core, internet terminals can be found for immediate information searching.
5. More than 70 kms of riverfront trails to bike.
6. Golf on a world-class championship golf course at Kingswood.
7. Downtown Fredericton is a walker's paradise with miles of riverfront and green space and parks.
8. You'll want to experience fresh local fare while here and you'll find exactly what you are looking for from fresh local produce to crafts. Every Saturday morning enjoy The Boyce Farmers' Market- our City's tradition!
9. Tree-lined avenues graced with Victorian Architecture complement a vibrant cultural life of National Historic Sites, galleries, museums, and much more.
10. Culinary offerings continue to expand in the Capital with the addition of Indian/Pakistani, and Caribbean restaurants joining the ranks of authentic Greek, Mexican, Asian-fusion and Brazilian eateries. Restaurants range from elegant fine dining to casual pub-style atmosphere and everything in between.

The Middle School Code

Follow the clues in this and upcoming issues of the *NBTA News* to solve the Code. Go to previous issues to get missing clues. Once you have all of the clues, bring them with you to Leo Hayes on May 4th. If you are the first to open the lock, you will find a prize inside.

Clue #4

The location of gamma in the Greek alphabet would give you which letter in our alphabet? With this information, you now know the wing where the prize resides.



Special thanks to our major sponsor: www.dairygoodness.ca
Dairy Farmers of Canada

NOURISH YOUR DAY



Choices, Choices, Choices...



Creating Writers
Session Limit: 25
Anne Mitton

Administrative Interviewing
Session Limit: 30
Mark Lord

*Boys, Girls, and Learning –
Strategies for the Classroom*
Session Limit: 30
Dianne Kay

Digital Photography
Session Limit: 30
Scott Parks

*Stories, Shadow Puppets,
and Song*
No Limit
Ken Shorley, Lynn Randall
and Ruth Morrison

*Curriculum Connections
in Middle School Science*
Session Limit: 30
Ann Manderson

*The Great Canadian
Geography Challenge*
Session Limit: 30
Ron Jessome

*Rithmetic and Reading
Connect*
Session Limit: 30
Cathy Martin

NB Teachers' Pension Plan
Session Limit: 90
Larry Jamieson

*Digital Literacy Skills for
the Modern Classroom*
Session Limit: 30
Jeff Whipple

*Presentations on
Street Drugs and the
Youth Criminal Justice Act
by members of the
Fredericton Police Force*

Badminton Unit
Session Limit: 30
Tayne Moore and
Lynn Randall



Don't forget to register and pay online at
<http://register.middle.nbta.ca>

This website will close midnight, April 2nd.
This is a SECURE site. Your credit card information is protected.

Middle Level Council Teacher Recognition Awards

Each year the Middle Level Council recognizes teachers who put that extra initiative into their profession, benefiting and enriching the lives of our students. Take a moment to reflect on the teachers you work with who are creative, innovative, and provide a stimulating learning environment. All teachers, regardless of years of experience, are eligible for nomination. Now, spend a few minutes and complete the nomination form below. Provide as much information as you can to support your nomination.

Awards will be presented at our May 4th Council Day in Fredericton this year.

Nominee's Name: _____

School: _____

Nominee's Email: _____

Nominated by: _____

Contact Number: _____ (w) _____ (h) 

Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper and include any supporting documentation (photos, letters, work samples, etc., would be great!)

1. What happens in your nominee's classroom/school that makes learning seem interesting and exciting?
2. What creative teaching strategies or innovative teaching practices does your nominee demonstrate?
3. If you could get in the head of a middle school student, how would they describe this teacher?
(Quotes from students would be great!)
4. Describe how your nominee inspires and supports other teachers.
5. What contributions does your nominee make to our profession?

Administrator's Signature: _____

Please mail the completed nomination package to one of the following Middle Level Council Awards Committee Chairs:

Jason Burns
Prince Charles School
317-319 Union Street, Saint John, NB E2L 1B3

Kelly Stackhouse-Hayes
Sussex Middle School
49 Bryant Drive, Sussex, NB E4E 2P8

High School Council News



On December 9 and 11, the High School Council of the NBTA's Curriculum Committee held PD for Math teachers entitled "Make and Take Math Games for Grades 9 and 10". It was presented by Tina Paige Acker at Edith Cavell School in Moncton. Participants had the opportunity to pick and choose the games that are relative to their current teaching positions and construct them, and all participants left with a binder full of resources. All necessary materials were provided and everyone left completely enthused and inspired by Tina's approach and



enthusiasm in presentation. Some comments made by participants:

The best PD EVER!

Finally ... useful PD we can go right back to the classroom with and use immediately!

What a great day it was on Friday! Tina did a fabulous job providing us with tons of resources that we will be able to use in our classrooms right away - it was a very valuable PD day.

The games covered the curriculum outcomes and the large resource binder had everything organized by course topics, i.e., geometry, algebra, mental math, etc. It was extremely well-organized. I can use the games to reinforce and drill the math concepts. My students are going to think I have started celebrating Christmas early. I hope no one tells them that they are actually working on their Math.

It was the most practical PD Day I have ever attended. I have used some of the games in my classes already - much to the delight of my students! I would love to attend another similar day. It was wonderful!

Any further ideas for PD or curricular concerns may be sent to: **Curriculum Committee/Professional Development**, Chair - Jonathan Hunter, Malcolm Bowes, Jane Porter, Nancy Vessie.



High School Council News



1. Check out our High School Council website (<http://highschool.nbta.ca>). It is here that you will find information and application forms for the other things on this list (as well as updated information regarding Council Day registration and our complete Council Day program).
2. Nominate one or more of your deserving colleagues for our High School Council Teacher Recognition Awards (please take note that the deadline for these awards is **March 31st, 2007**).
3. The Social for this year's Council Day will be taking place at the Opera House in Miramichi. Because this establishment will be closed to everybody except teachers, it is essential to remember to bring your NBTA membership card or school ID card to get into the dance!
4. Book your hotel room in Miramichi now! Space is limited!
5. Consider joining our High School Council Executive. Elections will be held during our Annual General Meeting at lunchtime on Council Day (free pizza will be available for those who attend this business meeting at the James M. Hill Theatre, as well as a number of incredible prize draws!). We are currently looking for teachers from Moncton, Saint John, and Bathurst/Campbellton/ Dalhousie to fulfill our mandate of representing all areas of New Brunswick on the Executive. Please contact Jonathan Hunter, our Nominating Chair, at jonathan.hunter@nbed.nb.ca if you are interested in joining this hardworking team!



High School Council Teacher Recognition Awards

Deadline: March 31, 2007

The application form for these awards can be found on the High School Council Website (<http://highschool.nbta.ca>). The recipients of this award receive a plaque from High School Council and a \$200 cash award.

Please nominate a deserving colleague today!

REMEMBER THESE DATES



Deadline Dates

Conference Grants — Five weeks prior to opening day

Certification Changes — March 31, 2007

Branch Nominations for NBTA Vice-President — February 1, 2007

Deferred Salary Leave Plan Application — January 31, 2007

Election Dates

- (a) Ballots mailed to Branch Presidents - On or before April 15, 2007
- (b) Voting to take place - April 23-27, 2007 inclusive
- (c) Ballots returned to Central Office by 5:00 pm - May 4, 2007
- (d) Counting of Ballots - May 9, 2007
- (e) Candidates notified - May 9, 2007

NBTA/Beaverbrook/Hagerman Interest-free Loans — March 31, 2007

Centennial Award Nominations — April 1, 2007

Aliant Award Nominations — April 1, 2007

Outstanding Educational Leadership — April 1, 2007

Branch Resolutions for A.G.M. — April 1, 2007

A.G.M. Registration of Delegates — April 1, 2007

Employment Insurance Rebate Report — June 1, 2007

Registration of Branches — June 1, 2007

Report of Branch Meetings — June 1, 2007

Names of Branch Committee Chairpersons — June 1, 2007

NBTA Council Annual Reports — June 15, 2007

NOTE: Check with NBTA Personal Calendar for key activities within NBTA, NBTF and CTF.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES ←

NBTA AGM — May 25-26, 2007

Retiring Teachers' Luncheon — May 26, 2007

Huntsman Marine Science Centre — Teacher Institutes for 2007 —

Discovering the Mysteries of Marine Biology - A Family Adventure August 7-10, 2007

This course is designed to make marine biology a family affair. Pick a family member you want to learn with and bring them along! Any combination of parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, aunt/uncle - niece/nephew, etc., may come and learn together.

Fee per pair \$590; class size limited to 10 pairs

Beachcombing for Marine Biodiversity August 13-17, 2007 — Fee: \$380

This Institute will introduce participants to the diversity of life found on the local seashores. Bring your boots as we will be spending most of our time outside exploring the area exposed by the falling tide.

Your course fee covers shared accommodation, all meals during the course, all boat excursion fees, lab equipment and supplies, admission to museums, and taxes. We will car-pool to destinations off campus and can offer a "car allowance" to those who help us with local transportation.

Further information and application forms are available by contacting: Tracey Dean, Director of Education, The Huntsman Marine Science Centre, (506) 529-1220, tdean@huntsmanmarine.ca or from the website:

http://www.huntsmanmarine.ca/teacher_courses.shtml

4th Annual River Valley International Student Film and Photography Festival

River Valley Middle School proudly presents the 4th Annual River Valley International Student Film and Photography Festival.

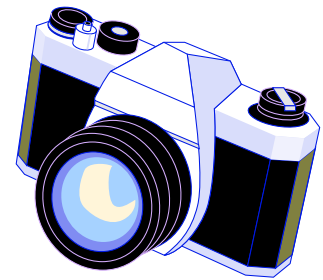
This year the festival is open to all schools (public and private) in all countries. **The submission deadline will be the end of September 2007.** Judging will take place in 3 locations throughout Canada and China during October with the awards show and webcast in December, 2007.

We have two divisions of the festival — Video and Photography. The Video division will be made up of Documentaries, Commercials, Dramas, Comedies, and Animations. The Photography division will be made up of Landscape, People and Experimental categories. Schools can

submit 9 photographs per category, for a total of 27 photographs and one film per category for a total of 5 films from each school.

The films must be no longer than 4 minutes in total length and must have been produced during the 2006 and 2007 school years. Films must be in AVI, .MOV or DVD format. Films will not be accepted that are in VHS or Mpeg format. Photographs must be digital, in jpeg, tiff or Raw format, with a resolution size capable for a 5 x 7 image and must have been produced during the 2006 and 2007 school year. Movies and photographs will not be returned.

To view additional festival requirements and samples of winning photographs and videos from previous years, please check out the festival site



<http://rvms.nbed.nb.ca/rvsvf/index.htm>.

This is a free contest which promotes student accomplishments and creativity. For further information, contact: LeRoy S. Vincent, River Valley Middle School, 33 Epworth Park Road, Grand Bay/Westfield, New Brunswick, E5K-1W1, 506-738-6501, <http://rvms.nbed.nb.ca>.

Attention New Brunswick Teachers

Are you interested in increasing your license , but lack the available time to travel to University classes? Well spread the good news, now you don't need to leave your computer!

Cape Breton University offers teachers the chance to participate in courses from the comfort of their own home. Educators can increase their qualifications in the fields of Education Curriculum and Technology Integration in a learner-friendly, online environment.

The following online programs are available:

- Graduate Diploma in Education (Curriculum)
- Graduate Diploma in Educational Technology
- Master of Education in Information Technology

For more information and registration, visit our website or contact:

Terry MacDonald
Coordinator, Teacher Education Programs
(902)-563-1647
Terry_MacDonald@cbu.ca

All courses in these programs are available online for your convenience. The following courses will be offered during the spring term:

Curriculum

EDUC 511: Teaching Canadian Culture (spring/summer)

Educational Technology

EDUC 533 - Integration of Instructional Design and Information Technology (spring)

EDUC 535 - Application of Learning Theory in Education Multimedia Design (spring)

EDUC 539 - Technology Planning for Educational Environments (spring)

The Department of Education, Province of New Brunswick has certified these Programs for Teacher License Reclassification.

www.cbu.ca/TeacherEd

CAPE BRETON
UNIVERSITY



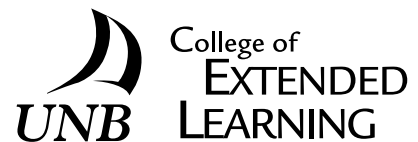
STUDY YOUR MASTER OF EDUCATION ONLINE!



The **online Master of Education** program in Curriculum Studies will enhance and refine the instructional skills and leadership abilities of teachers and administrators.

The courses are offered in a rotation, one per term, and will begin in September 2007. The MEd consists of 30 credit hours of courses, all offered online. Participants will be able to complete the program within three years and work with others in an online community cohort.

For more information please contact Terri MacLean at (506) 458-7541 or tmaclean@unb.ca.



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK | MAKING A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE

Fun with French!

SEVEC Subsidized Group Exchange Programs

"Because of this trip, I thoroughly believe that the best way to learn a different language is to be immersed into their culture and be 'forced to fend for yourself'. Although your brain hurts at the end of the day, the experience is very well worth it. Thank you so much for granting us this opportunity; it was an experience I will never forget."

— Jenny, an exchange participant with the Society for Educational Visits and Exchanges in Canada (SEVEC)



Are you looking for a way to inspire your students to learn French? As Jenny, a SEVEC exchange alumni, mentions above, exchanges are a great way to do just that. In fact, 92% of all bilingual exchange participants said that they became more confident using their second language and almost 90% expressed their intention to spend more time learning their second language in the future.

As a national charity, SEVEC's Youth Exchange Canada program is open to groups of young people living in Canada who belong to a recognized community organization or school. To participate in the program, your students must:

- be part of a group of 10 to 30 youth
- be between the ages of 12 and 17
- be prepared to live with another family for at least five days (not including travel time) and host a "twin" student
- agree to pay \$40 registration fee for each participant and leader or qualify for financial assistance.

In turn, SEVEC ensures that the travel from one community to another during the exchanges is FULLY SUBSIDIZED by the Department of Canadian Heritage! All programs can be tailored to fit school curricula. SEVEC also offers funding for youth in need or for other special needs. We welcome participants from traditionally under-represented groups (youth

from low-income households, Aboriginal youth, youth with disabilities, youth from rural or isolated areas, and visible minority youth).

We are always looking for more participants, from New Brunswick in particular. Applications are now being accepted for school year 2007-08 and priority is given to those who apply early! Online applications are available at: http://www.sevec.ca/educators/login_e.asp

What we've mentioned above is just the official description of what the program is all about – but it really is about so much more: the people your students will meet and friendships they'll make, the incredible parts of Canada they'll get to see, the strides they'll make in learning French and learning about themselves outside of their natural comfort zone while living and breathing another culture. And did we mention that it's fun?

Read more about the experience of one group from Saint John High School who participated in a language exchange to Québec last year in the next NBTA newsletter. And don't hesitate to contact us at 1-800-38-SEVEC or info@sevec.ca for more information or if you'd like us to put

you in contact with teachers who've already gone on a SEVEC bilingual exchange. Whatever your group's needs may be, your SEVEC representative will help you and your students make the most out of your exchange. **Exchange, explore, and experience why more than 300,000 youth have enthusiastically participated in SEVEC learning programs over the past 70 years!**

Education for Social Justice:

From the Margin to the Mainstream

MAY 4 - 6, 2007 –
OTTAWA MARRIOTT HOTEL

A CANADIAN TEACHERS' FEDERATION CONFERENCE



Registration Fee: \$428

Conference registration includes taxes, breakfasts, lunches and materials. Our GST registration number is R106867278.

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS

The Ottawa Marriott Hotel is the official hotel for CTF's Education for Social Justice Conference. We have negotiated a reduced rate of \$127 for participants and the hotel is holding a block of rooms. Please reserve early for accommodations which are available on a first-come, first-served basis until April 2, 2007, at 613-238-1122.

SPEAKERS:

Lt. Gen. Roméo Dallaire
Roy Adams
Jim Cummins
Graham Fraser
Henry Giroux
Mary Gordon
Dennis Howlett
Tom Jackson
Deirdre Kelly
Guy Matte
Marilou McPhedran
Douglas Roche
Rosemary Sadlier
Paul Shaker
Hetty van Gurp
Kris Wells & André Grace

FOR MORE INFORMATION

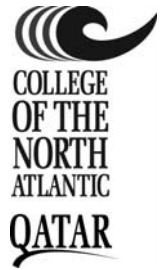
Please contact Jo-Ann Gallant at the Canadian Teachers' Federation, 613-232-1505, ext. 115, (toll free) 1-866-283-1505, or (e-mail) jjgall@ctf-fce.ca or check out the CTF website at: www.ctf-fce.ca for details about speakers and session descriptions.

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CNA-Qatar offers a comprehensive suite of preparatory technician, technologist and post-diploma programs within the *Business Studies, Health Sciences, Engineering Technology, Industrial Trades, and Information Communications Technology* programs. We also enjoy many corporate training and contract initiatives.

DUTIES: Instructors will plan, develop and deliver college courses to students enrolled in a variety of programs. All instructors will work in a learning environment where the English language is taught through and across disciplines. Instructors will keep course portfolio documents required for accreditation processes and engage in instructional development/improvement plans. All employees are expected to contribute to professional and community life within the College and beyond.

QUALIFICATIONS: Appropriate degrees (with relevant major) and designations as prescribed by industry, professional, and academic associations pertinent to post-secondary education are required. Relevant industry experience is essential for all technical instructors. Instructors must demonstrate successful teaching experiences and provide evidence of professional growth and development. Successful candidates must possess exemplary communication skills and expert fluency in English is essential. The ability to establish effective working relationships and a strong commitment to working in a team and student-centered learning environment are required. Information regarding the specific requirements for each position can be found on our website.

Academic Instructors

- English as a Foreign Language (CNA-Q.PPD.EFL.07.22)
- Mathematics (CNA-Q.PPD.MATH.07.02)
- Biology (CNA-Q.PPD.BIO.07.23)
- Chemistry (CNA-Q.PPD.CHEM.07.24)
- Physics (CNA-Q.PPD.PHY.07.25)
- Communications (CNA-Q.PPD.COMM.07.26)
- Physics/Math (CNA-Q.PPD.PHYMATH.07.31)

Academic Instructors – One Year Contracts

- Biology (1 year) (CNA-Q.PPD.BIO1.07.27)
- Chemistry (1 year) (CNA-Q.PPD.CHEM1.07.28)
- Chemistry/Biology (1 year) (CNA-Q.PPD.CHEMBIO1.07.29)
- Math (1 year) (CNA-Q.PPD.MATH1.07.30)

Instructional Assistants (Academics)

- Biology IA (CNA-Q.PPD.BIOIA.07.43)
- Chemistry/Biology IA (CNA-Q.PPD.CHEMBIOIA.07.44)

SALARY: The compensation and benefits package associated with these employment opportunities is both attractive and competitive with provision of educational services in the Middle East.

Canadian citizens and permanent residents meeting the above qualifications are encouraged to consider these exciting opportunities. Successful candidates will be required to provide a recent Certificate of Conduct. Quoting the specific competition number, please forward **via email** your resume and contact information for three current references to the e-mail address below using **Microsoft Word**. If called for an interview, you must provide original transcripts.

Interviews will begin in February and will be ongoing. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

Please view our website to view an interactive video and future opportunities as we continue to grow.

Human Resources Manager

**College of the North Atlantic - Qatar Project, P. O. Box 1693, St. John's, NL A1C 5P7
Tel: 709-758-7347 Email: qatarjobs@cna.nl.ca www.cna.nl.ca/qatar**

We sincerely thank all candidates for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



Are you looking for lesson plans, games, and classroom activities for your French or English as a second language students? There are many resources on the Web which can offer you ideas and inspire you. But where to begin?

The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) invites you to discover the LangCanada.ca portal, a one-stop window on the Internet to information on official second language teaching and learning.

On LangCanada.ca, you will find

an abundance of educational resources, educational materials, training organizations and information that enhances second official language teaching and learning in Canada. Simply by visiting the site, you have easy access to a database of over 3,000 educational resources and over 500 educational institutions!

To quickly find classroom resources, you can search the database by type of language program you are teaching, by skill level of your students, by theme or subject, by keyword, and even by the

specific type of teaching and learning material you need (games, texts and documentation, references, clip art, exercises, tests, music, etc.)

LangCanada.ca is thus a practical tool which can help you discover the full potential and the richness of the resources available on the Web to help you make language learning more fun and enriching for your students!

Established in 1970, the Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) increases awareness, appreciation and understanding of the importance of second language learning and teaching throughout Canada and promotes the advancement of professional excellence among language educators. See www.caslt.org for more information. Become a member today to discover more language teaching resources and to be kept informed on the latest developments in the language teaching profession.



EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

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of Canadian Heritage.

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LangCanada.ca

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What to Make of the Energy Boom

The topic of energy is constantly in the news. Canada is amongst the largest consumers and exporters of energy. With the rising prices of oil, new frontiers in the tar sands and the Arctic have been opened but at what cost? The renewable energy sector in particular is booming with the global wind sector growing 32% in 2006. But that is only one source of renewable energy. How much do we really know about our options and how can we keep a leadership role in the energy sector while doing it responsibly?

These are a few of the questions that motivated Falls Brook Centre's Appropriate Technology team to help teachers promote the science and engineering of sustainable energy systems with their middle and high school students.

The new program, called the **Energy Experience**, will have three separate elements. The first component is the Energy Education Kits which targets middle and high school students. Ready for the 2007-08 academic year, they will include material for teaching the theoretical background as well as hands-on activities. The second component is

the Energy Experience Visits. We have a list of activities planned for school groups who want to come over to the Falls Brook

Centre to get a better understanding of energy issues and how their decisions can have an impact. The final component is targeted to high school students who want to put their ingenuity and skills to the test in the Energy Experience Design Competition.

The first competition will happen in the 2007-08 academic year and will hopefully not be the last. For the contest, the students will need to team up with teachers and coaches from their community in order to fundraise, design and build a system. The specifics of the challenge will be unveiled later in the year, giving all teams the same time to design their solution but the preparations need to start earlier.

If you're interested in learning more about the Energy Experience you can visit **www.fallsbrookcentre.ca/experience**. It will help you enable youth to better understand the role they can play in their future.



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This Spring, Explore the Future of Poetry in Your Classroom

Activities for Young Poets' Week 2007

This April, the League of Canadian Poets would like to help teachers increase creativity in their classrooms and explore the theme for National Poetry Month, **Poetry: Future (In) tense**. Celebrate Young Poets' Week (April 8-14) with new poetry exercises that ask the following questions: What will poetry sound like in the future? What is a techno-poem? How will poetry fuse with other art forms like theatre or music? Instead of science-fiction, what would science-poetry sound like? The League encourages teachers to explore these ideas by infusing their classroom activities with 'futuristic themes' for April 2007.

To view poetry exercises created by the League (one for every day of the week), visit our Teacher's Lounge during the month of April, located at www.youngpoets.ca/forum. You can also feel free to post your own examples or share thoughts about teaching poetry. Come and explore!

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Learning Disabilities Association of New Brunswick presents:

Annual Spring Conference Day "Focus on Solutions for Living with LD"

Friday April 13th, 2007

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Maritime Forestry Centre Complex
1350 Regent Street, Fredericton NB

Sessions Include:

- Evidence-Based Strategies for Reading Disabilities
- Putting A Canadian Face On Learning Disabilities
- LD and Mental Health
- Early Identification of Learning Difficulties
- Assistive Technology Solutions for LD

Cost is \$75.00 (lunch provided on site).

Registration form is available by calling 459-7852 or 1-877-544-7852, or by e-mail at ldanb@nald.ca.

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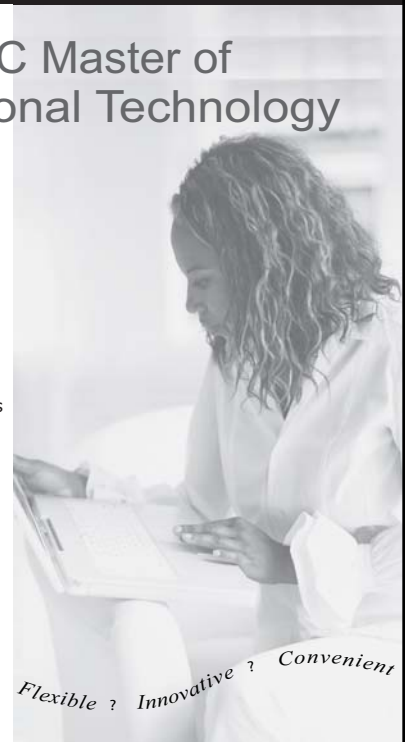
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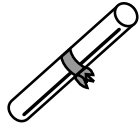
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Margaret Sophia (Fraser) Cox Scholarship Frank Hazen Rouse Scholarship Belle McLeod Rouse Scholarship



These scholarships are awarded by the "Teacher Education Trust" set up by the late Dr. Irvine B. Rouse. The awards amount to: Margaret Sophia (Fraser) Cox Scholarship - \$200; Frank Hazen Rouse Scholarship - \$200; Belle McLeod Rouse Scholarship - \$200.

Scholarships are offered to enable the recipients to enrich their background through travel and/or study. The award must be used either during the summer of 2007 or within the academic year following. Applicants, including teachers, principals and vice-principals, must be currently serving as co-operating teachers for the Faculty of Education.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants on a continuing teacher's contract in the Province of New Brunswick. A condition of the award is that the recipients continue to accept student teachers upon request, and teach in New Brunswick during the year in which they receive the scholarship (education leaves excepted).

While applications are considered from those intending to obtain further academic qualifications, there is no requirement to follow specific courses. The Committee will judge applicants on the value of the projected travel and/or study to their work.

Send applications to "The Margaret Sophia (Fraser) Cox, Frank Hazen Rouse, and Belle McLeod Rouse Scholarships," c/o Dean, Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3, **before May 11, 2007.**

Letters should include a brief statement of the applicant's experience, qualifications and involvement as a co-operating teacher, an outline of the purpose for which the Scholarship would be used, with details of location, duration and estimated costs, where possible. Please include your address and telephone number.

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Health Benefits of Water

1. Improve weight control. Many people eat, rather than drink, when they feel thirsty. Drinking water helps curb your appetite and your thirst.
2. Lose fat! Studies suggest that increased water consumption puts fewer demands on the kidney and liver. With increased water, the kidney can perform at full capacity and the liver can metabolize stored fat with much greater efficiency.
3. Better bladder and bowel functioning. Fluids speed the elimination of feces from the colon and urine from the bladder, helping to prevent and treat constipation and urinary tract infections.
4. Less chance of kidney stones. Drinking plenty of water helps prevent kidney stones from developing or recurring.
5. A healthier mouth. Drinking water increases saliva, which neutralizes cavity-causing acids in the mouth, washes away food particles and inhibits gum disease and other oral problems.
6. Maintain clear, soft skin.

Note: Do not rely on “being thirsty” as a good indication of needing water. By the time you are thirsty, your body is already dehydrated.

How Much Do I Need To Drink?

To avoid even mild dehydration, take this simple test to calculate the minimum daily amount of water you should be getting from all sources.

1. Find out your weight (lbs)
2. Divide your weight by 2 = ____ number of ounces you should drink.
3. Divide line two by 8 = ____ cups of fluid (one cup = 8 oz needed daily)

– Healthy Living Plan, www.presidentschoice.ca

Suggested Activity from the Binder

Heart Healthy Recipe Swap



Suggested Website from the Binder

Heart and Stroke Foundation – www.healthcheck.org



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- On a taxidermist’s window: “We really know our stuff”.
- In a podiatrist’s office: “Time wounds all heels”
- On a fence: “Salespeople welcome. Dog food is expensive!”
- At a car dealership: “The best way to get back on your feet – miss a car payment”.

Note: Additional information is found in your School-Based Wellness Program Monthly Themes Binder.

Announcements

CASHRA National Conference

The Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies is holding its national conference, *"Gathering Wisdom — Exploring common challenges and crafting meaningful solutions"*, June 18 and 19 in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

There will be a variety of workshops and plenary sessions to choose from:

- Accommodating parental and family obligations
- International developments in the areas of Aboriginal and environmental human rights
- Practical approaches to the duty to accommodate in employment
- Advocacy skills for non-profit organizations

Further information is available from the website: <http://www.nwthumanrights.ca/cashra2007/>

UNB Saint John 2007 SPRING SESSION - New Course Offering in Education

ED 4565 – ESL for the Classroom Teacher

May 1 – June 12, TuTh 4:30-6:50pm

Topics to be examined include: Second Language Learning, Sheltered Instruction, Teaching Strategies, the S.I.O.P. Model and Assessment.

Contact Dr. Paul-Émile Chiasson for further information, Tel: (506) 648-5782/5593

E-Mail: pchiasso@unbsj.ca

<http://www.unbsj.ca/arts/education>

Canada-wide Writing Contest

What If? magazine is pleased to announce the Create your own Classic Contest in celebration of its fourth anniversary and in celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Penguin Canada's Classics series.

This Canada-wide writing contest is open to all schools and libraries from coast to coast. Rather than concentrate on one style of writing, entries will include prose, poetry, and non-fiction. The winning school or library will receive \$500 in books and \$100 each in books for the three winning writers.

What If? magazine publishes the

written work of young Canadians, as well as photography and artwork. The magazine was founded four years ago by Mike and Jean Leslie of Guelph, Ontario and has grown steadily into a national publication.

For more information on the Create your own Classic Contest and on how to submit your work to *What If?* visit their website at: www.whatifmagazine.com

Grants Available for Environmental Projects

PLT is proud to announce it is expanding its *GreenWorks!* service-learning program. This year, \$100,000 will be awarded to schools and youth organizations for environmental neighborhood improvement projects that involve youth with their community.

Since 1993, Project Learning Tree has distributed approximately \$375,000 to fund over 700 grant projects in communities across the country. In 2007, PLT is making \$100,000 available for "learning-by-doing" environmental projects that:

- partner PLT educators and their students with local businesses or community organizations
- combine academics with community service
- engage elementary through college-age students in active learning about the environment
- provide opportunities for student leadership.

Grants up to \$5,000 are available; the first round of proposals are due **April 30, 2007**.

There will be a second funding cycle in the Fall.

For more information, visit <http://www.plt.org/cms>

Project Learning Tree is an award-winning environmental education program designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12.

National Art and Writing Contest

On Thursday, March 1, the Robert Bateman Get to Know Contest was launched at partnering zoos and aquaria across the country.

The art contest encourages youth

to get outside and connect with other species which live in their neighbourhood.

The writing contest encourages youth to think about what sustainability means to them and how this understanding can be incorporated into their daily lives.

Winners of the contest will see their work published in the 2008 Robert Bateman Contest Calendar and in the Canadian Wildlife Federation's WILD Magazine, among other things.

All entries must be postmarked no later than Earth Day, **April 22, 2007**. Contest entry forms and details are available online at www.gettoknow.ca.

International Reading Association's 52nd Annual Convention

"Literacy Without Boundaries" will be held in Toronto, May 13-17, 2007. Approximately 15,000-17,000 educators from all over the world will convene to select from hundreds of sessions and presentations, meet their favourite authors, learn about the newest instructional programs from exhibitors and network with colleagues.

Canadians may take advantage of the Special Prepaid Registration rate: www.reading.org/downloads/meetings/52nd_special_registrations.pdf

Further information is available at: www.reading.org/association/meetings/annual.html

Registration deadline: April 9/07.

RBC Royal Bank Financial Lifeskills Scholarships

Ten scholarships will be presented to students entering their first year of full-time study in college or university. Each scholarship has a value of \$2,007 and will be distributed with appropriate regard to region, population, gender, and language.

Deadline for applications: May 11, 2007.

For further information: www.rbcroyalbank.com/lifeskills, e-mail: 4edu@sympatico.ca Tel. 1-866-363-1722

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