

# NBTA News

September 3, 2009  
Vol. LII, No. 1

New Brunswick Teachers' Association

## Noreen Bonnell Begins Term as NBTA President



Noreen Bonnell began her term as NBTA President on August 1. She has served two years as Vice-President of the Association, representing members as part of the Negotiating Team, on the Executive Committee, and at both the regional and national levels. Bonnell brings a wealth of leadership and teaching experience to her new role. She has taught in three Atlantic Provinces, at all grade levels, and a wide variety of courses. Most recently, she was a teaching principal at Gesner Street School in Oromocto.

Her priorities as President will be monitoring teacher workload issues, ensuring that the professional knowledge and judgment of teachers are valued and respected, and continuing to educate the public on key teacher issues.

Bonnell will be joined on the Executive Committee by NBTA Vice-President, Heather Smith of Bathurst, Brent Shaw as Past President, and NBTA Executive Director Larry Jamieson. They and the five Executive Committee members elected from the NBTA Board of Directors are pictured on Page 8.

*NBTA President Noreen Bonnell addresses Leadership Workshop delegates in August.*

## Leadership Workshop Examines NBTA Priorities

NBTA Presidents, Directors and other leaders from across the province met for several days in early August to help set future directions for the Association. Approximately 120 delegates gathered in Fredericton to discuss various issues, and to determine which of these are most important to NB teachers. This biannual event coincides with the beginning of Noreen Bonnell's term as NBTA President. She shared many of her own personal beliefs and priorities with the group. "Teachers must be recognized and valued for all we do, and all that we give to the future. We have an overloaded plate for each teacher and a simple rule has been forgotten for many years: If you put something else on the plate, you must take something off."

Priorities for the NBTA discussed by



*Bathurst delegates Cynthia Martinello (left) and Donna Losier (right) discuss Association priorities with NBTA Vice-President Heather Smith (center).*

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**The deadline for the next NBTA News is**

**October 15**



### IT'S STILL YOUR CHOICE!

Each fall, you can choose whether you wish to receive the *NBTA News* in hard copy regardless of what you chose last year. Just talk to your School Rep.



Moncton delegates: Bernice Callahan, Jill Quiring, Heidi Horsman and Pam Sheridan

Leadership delegates included; **Teacher Workload, Assessment, High School Reform, Support for Beginning Teachers, and School Safety.**

The event also provided an opportunity for Branch leaders to hone their skills. There were sessions that allowed those with more experience to share procedures and initiatives they have found to be successful in their own areas. Planning time was available to ensure that Branches get off to a smooth start in September. A mock Branch meeting highlighted what can go right, and wrong in local meetings.

The last evening of the workshop included a farewell "Kitchen Party" for outgoing NBTA Executive Director Bob Fitzpatrick.

## Movie of NBTA Presidents Premieres at Leadership

### Forty Years of NBTA Presidents



*"More Than Faces on the Wall"*



The future met the past at the NBTA 2009 Leadership Workshop in Fredericton, and a film helped provide the bridge. Thirteen former NBTA Presidents joined more than 120 delegates of the conference for the opening screening of "More than Faces on a Wall: Forty Years of NBTA Presidents." The full-length film (95 min.) features clips from interviews with 15 former leaders of the Association, starting with Tom Trafford whose term began in 1969 and ending with Brent Shaw who just completed his term as President last month. It was in 1970, that the



Photo by Rob Blanchard

Bob Fitzpatrick, family, and guests enjoy former NBTA President Mary Wilson's comments at his retirement "Kitchen Party" at Leadership 2009.

NBTA was incorporated in its current structure as the Anglophone professional association for NB teachers, with the AEFNB representing francophone teachers, and the NB Teachers' Federation (union) as the umbrella organization. The film includes individual segments of the Presidents in the chronological order of their terms of office, but also has some blended chapters based upon themes such as experiences with the media, encounters with well-known politicians, and advice to beginning teachers. All of the interviews took place during the last half of 2008.

The film was created for archival purposes, basically playing the role of a video history of the NBTA. Not all of the footage could be included in the movie, so the 15 individual interviews with the Presidents, ranging in length from 15-25 minutes each, have also been saved in DVD format. The result is a four-disc set.

After the film, the Presidents in attendance were introduced and presented with a DVD set, and there was an opportunity for them to meet informally with the workshop participants.

Earlier this year, the NBTA Board of Directors voted to provide a set of the Presidents' DVD's for each Branch for use as a resource.

## NBTA Presidents 1969-2009



NBTA Presidents (l to r): Joe Monahan (93-95), Dawson Murray (79-81), Margaret Brogan (73-75), Bob Fitzpatrick (89-91), Tom Trafford (69-71), Diane Gillett (97-99), Noreen Bonnell (Current), Jim Dysart (85-87), Mary Wilson (01-03), Brent Shaw (07-09), Paschal Chisholm (77-79), Pam Campbell (81-83) & Brian Bawn (03-05). Missing from photo: Ross MacCallum (75-77), Joe Breen (91-93), June MacNairn (1999-2001) & Indu Varma (05-07). Presidents R.B. McCormack (71-73), Bert Harratty (83-85), Malcolm McLeod (87-89) & Dave Taylor (95-97) have passed away.

## Brent Shaw Elected CTF Vice President



Outgoing NBTA President Brent Shaw has been elected to serve as a Vice President of the Canadian Teachers' Federation for the upcoming year. Shaw, who ended his NBTA term August 1 will serve on the CTF Executive Committee, along with the organization's President, Mary-Lou Donnelly of Nova Scotia, and three other Vice Presidents from Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan. Shaw was elected on the first ballot of voting at the CTF Annual General Meeting in Ottawa July 18. Shaw is looking forward to his new role, "CTF's focus this year is on pushing the federal government to follow through on the commitment to eliminate child poverty. It is a promise that was made many years ago, but sadly there has been almost no progress made."

CTF speaks for nearly 200,000 teachers in Canada as their national voice on education and related social issues.

## DSS 2009: Learning Focused Conversation



Mount Allison University was THE place to be at for Atlantic region administrators this past summer. The 2009 Developing Successful Schools (DSS) Conference was held July 20-23. *Learning Focused Conversations: Effective Strategies for Building a Professional Community* was this year's topic, and the institute resource person was Bruce Wellman.

DSS is an annual event made possible through a partnership between the four Atlantic Teacher organizations (NBTA, PEITF, NLTA and NSTU) and the New Brunswick Department of Education.

*"My first time at DSS. This has been a marvellous session. Very informative and applicable. I am already planning how to use this information in the fall. Well-organized! Well done! Thank you."*

*"This was a wonderful PD experience. The topic was/is*

*extremely pertinent to my position and the depth and breadth of information held and communicated to us by and through Bruce was both impressive and very welcome. It was wonderful to see such excellent modelling."*

*"The opportunity to meet and learn from educators from within and beyond our province has been great. Those conversations are invaluable to reflecting on the what, why, and how of what we are doing as a system. Bruce has both the style and substance to make this investment of time worthwhile for participants. He is a strong coach and model."*

# “Share Your Classroom!”



**Noreen Bonnell**

Every school year brings anticipation and anxiety. No matter if you are a beginning teacher or a mid-career teacher, the feelings tend to be the same. As your new NBTA President, I share with you some of the same feelings, as I approach my first year as spokesperson of our Association. Just as with the classroom teacher, there will be issues that I cannot yet anticipate, but

with your help and input, I can better represent the environment in New Brunswick classrooms. In order to do that, I need you to share your classroom with me.

I am honoured to have the responsibility of voicing the concerns of teachers and addressing the challenges that will emerge.

My new beginnings as NBTA President coincide with new beginnings at the Department of Education, with the appointment of a new Minister of Education, Mr. Roland Hache. I am hopeful that there will be open communication between the Department and NBTA.

What will we, as an Association, have on our agenda this year? Much.

Our successfully negotiated contract last year included the establishment of a Joint Committee on Teacher Allocation and Workload – the first meeting is scheduled for October.

External Standardized Assessments continue to demand our attention. During a recent three-day Forum sponsored by the Canadian Teachers Federation, I and many of my colleagues nationally and internationally, heard the extent to which external assessments, such as PISA, impact policy making and practices not only locally, but around the entire world! We must be watchful. As Albert Einstein said: "Not everything that counts, can be counted, and not everything that can be counted, counts."

Program changes, and in particular, the proposed restructuring of High School Education, Grades 9-12 in our Province, have become a major area of concern. Our

Association is responding to that challenge.

In addition, our profession is experiencing a demographic shift with the age, experience, and gender of our teaching population. This has major implications on our profession.

These are only a few of the factors impacting on teachers, who live the realities of the classroom everyday.

In our profession, and in our personal lives, we need to take time to celebrate, which leads me to mention a couple of milestones: the decision by Bob Fitzpatrick to retire after 16 years of tremendous leadership as Executive Director; a warm welcome to our incoming Executive Director, Larry Jamieson; and the recently launched DVD of interviews with NBTA Past Presidents, an amazing videographic history of the growth of our Association!

There are many great people in our profession who work with us and for us every day. One wonderful teacher, colleague and friend received a card last June from a parent. The front of the card said: "Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher!" As we all aspire to that greatness during this school year, may we be always mindful of the balance that needs to exist between our professional and personal lives in order to keep healthy and happy.

A special hello, and thank you to so many colleagues and friends for your support along the way, and in particular during these recent few months. Hats off to Branch 1725! And to the wonderful staff of Gesner Street School: wishing you even more of the great times of working and enjoying each day so well together.

To all our teachers - enjoy your school year and stay in touch!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Noreen". Below the signature is a horizontal line that ends in a small arrowhead pointing to the right.

# Changes to NBTA Calendars

**Staff Room Calendar September 2009**

**NBTA Needs Your Latest Information**

All teachers under contract must complete a green NBTA Active Membership Form each September.

Inform the NBTA, not just your employer, about any changes to your important information that occur throughout the school year, such as contract, home address, e-mail address, etc.

NBTA contacts teachers through NBTE e-mail, but does not administer that system. We do not automatically receive your new contact information if there has been a change.

The NBTA issues a Member Number to any teacher who obtains a contract and pays dues to the NBTA. This Member Number will remain yours always and is used frequently for electronic registration and accessing the Members' Only website. Your Member Number is found on your NBTA Card. Please keep it in a safe place because it is not replaced every year.

**For all member information changes, contact Carlene Merrick in NBTA Communications: carlene.merrick@nbta.ca ph. 506-452-1833 fax. 506-452-9798**

**Did You Know?** Licensed supply teachers, including retired NBTA members, wishing to have the benefit of legal advice and aid from the NBTA must apply for NBTA Associate Membership (Special Status).

**Staff Room Calendars (New):** We have made large format desk calendars for school administrators (PrinciCals) for many years, but there has not been a similar product for the general membership. The calendars are bulky so printing and distribution to all 5600 teachers is impractical. Instead, each school will be receiving at least one of the new Staff Room calendars to display in staff areas. Each month features a different theme of useful information about the Association. The back (blue) sheet has contact numbers plus the Code of Professional Conduct (Ethics) in its entirety.

**Pocket Calendars:** This product is unchanged, but with the increasing reliance of our members on electronic calendars, we have reduced the amount printed and sent to schools by 50%. We don't want anyone who wants one to do without though, so if your school requires more you can either contact neighboring schools to see if they have extra or [blake.robichaud@nbta](mailto:blake.robichaud@nbta) to have more sent to you. This change is on a trial basis.

**2009 - 2010 CALENDAR**

**NBTA**

*Proud to be a part of  
The New Brunswick Teachers' Association*

Featuring:

- Personalized pages
- New NBTA Staff and Executive
- NBTA Branch Presidents and Directors
- Code of Professional Conduct
- School District Map of New Brunswick
- School Year Calendar September 2009 to September 2010 with important dates for teachers.

**Your Local Teacher Leaders**

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Rep: \_\_\_\_\_

School PD Committee: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

NBTA Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Provincial NBTA President is Norman Bonnell, [norman.bonnell@nbta.ca](mailto:norman.bonnell@nbta.ca)

**Your Local Teacher Leaders sheet:** To be hung next to the Staff Room Calendar, it has places for the names of School Reps, School PD Committee members, Branch Presidents and Directors. Teachers can see at a glance who represents them locally.

**PrinciCals:** The only change with this product is that we have made use of a significant amount of empty space in the margins. We have included the same NBTA information that is found on the Staff Room calendars.

**PrinciCal September 2009**

**NBTA Needs Your Latest Information**

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NBTA contacts teachers through NBTE e-mail, but does not administer that system. We do not automatically receive your new contact information if there has been a change.

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**Did You Know?** Licensed supply teachers, including retired NBTA members, wishing to have the benefit of legal advice and aid from the NBTA must apply for NBTA Associate Membership (Special Status).

**Planning Calendars:** Teachers were adamant that the sizes of the blocks in these very popular calendars remain unchanged, so we simply added a few extra messages in the margins. The back sheet has the key NBTA/NBTF contact numbers. Sorry! There is a typo in the month of May. Simply cross out the first six blocks to fix it.

**September 2009**

**The NBTA needs your latest information.** All teachers under contract must complete a green NBTA Active Membership Form and return it to their School Rep each September.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

**Did You Know?** Licensed supply teachers, including retired NBTA members, wishing to have the benefit of legal advice and aid from the NBTA must apply for NBTA Associate Membership (Special Status).

# Welcome to New Teachers Workshop

## September 19th, 2009

The NBTA is looking forward to welcoming its newest members to the profession at the New Brunswick Teachers' Federation building, 650 Montgomery Street, Fredericton on Saturday, September 19th (10:00 am - 2:30 pm). If you are an early career teacher (any contract type or long-term supply) and have not previously attended this workshop, we invite you to join us for our annual "Welcome to New Teachers" workshop. Sessions include: NBTA/NBTF services, teacher benefits, contract information, certification, legal matters & more. Workshop participants will receive a complimentary on-site lunch as well as handy giveaways.

Beginning teachers represent the future of the New Brunswick Teachers' Association and will provide its next generation of leaders. The workshop is designed to offer an essential introduction to our structure and services and your NBTA staff will be on hand to respond to your questions. The day will be the first step for many to becoming informed, enfranchised members willing to participate in, contribute to, and eventually guide our Association.

*For further information concerning this workshop please refer to the information below.*



# Welcome New Teachers!

**Join your early career colleagues to find out more about the services & benefits offered by your professional association. Talk to the experts about your contract, certification, legal matters and more!**

## Saturday, September 19, 2009

**NBTF Building  
650 Montgomery Street  
Fredericton, NB**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Lunch and some compensation toward travel costs will be provided.**

**Prizes and giveaways!**

**For more information, contact Judy Deveau, 452-1750  
or email [judy.deveau@nbta.ca](mailto:judy.deveau@nbta.ca)**

**To Register: [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)**

## Are you an early career teacher looking for a salary increase?

### Apply for Your Work Experience

New teachers should note that you may apply to have your previous work experience evaluated for an increase on the salary grid. Recognition may be given for work that is related to teaching upon application to the Office of Teacher Certification at the Department of Education.

The form you need is available from the NBTA website [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca). Click the Certification button and download the form called **Application for Work-Related Experience for Salary Purposes**.

You should also contact your district office to ensure that all supply teaching experience has been credited.

Remember: **The deadline is October 31 to have the increase back-dated to July 1!**

### School-Based Learning Team Grants

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

*NBTA is pleased to be offering School-Based Learning Team Grants for 2010. Please refer to the **November** NBTA News for complete details and the application form.*



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## Student Exchanges

- Travel expenses covered
- Short-term exchanges within Canada
- Groups of 10 to 30 youth aged 12 to 17
- School year or summer exchanges available
- Accessible to all — financial assistance available



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in education and  
youth leadership*

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# NBTA Board of Directors 2009-2010



Noreen Bonnell  
President



Larry Jamieson  
Executive Director



Brent Shaw  
Past President



Heather Smith  
Vice-President



Doug Stewart  
0214



Janet Wright  
0215



Pam Sheridan  
0215 (Alt.)



Gary Anderson  
0216



Peter Fullerton  
0217



Mélanie Bérubé  
0333



Brad Coughlan  
0618



Laura Coté  
0619



Derrick Sleep  
0820



Adam McKim  
0820



Aldena Higgins-Harris  
1021



Sarah Kilburn  
1022



Marla Anderson  
1023



Karen Miller  
1428



Heather Hogan  
1429



Chris Brown  
1430



Helen Crawford  
1431



Stuart Dunbar  
1450



Julie Holt  
1454



Dawn Beckingham-Noel  
1536



Gail Blanchette  
1538



George Daley  
1542



Grant Hendry  
1608



Heidi Ryder  
1610



Barry Robertson  
1640



Ronna Gauthier  
1724



Sheridan Mawhinney  
1725



Yvonne Caverhill  
1809



Carolyn Barnhart-Elson  
1826



Wayne Coburn  
1827



## 2009 - 2010 Executive



*Noreen Bonnell*  
President



*Heather Smith*  
Vice-President



*Brent Shaw*  
Past President



*Larry Jamieson*  
Executive Director



*Grant Hendry*



*Ronna Gauthier*



*Wayne Coburn*



*Sheridan Mawhinney*



*Adam McKim*

## **Cooperative Discipline**

**A Classroom Management Institute for Early Career Teachers**

**Wednesday, October 14, 2009 — 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**NBTF Building, Room 204 C, Fredericton**

### **Facilitator**

Kimberley McKay, NBTA Staff Officer

behavior in a manner consistent with optimum student growth - academic, social and psychological.

### **Session Description:**

Cooperative Discipline is a comprehensive, easy-to-implement discipline approach that helps teachers find solutions to classroom disruptions in order to create safe and orderly classrooms. The approach manages and motivates student

Cooperative Discipline challenges teachers to accept the enormous power they have in influencing students' behavior and shows how to channel this power into practical, effective skills that promote positive interactions with students.

**NOTE:** There is no registration fee for this institute and lunch will be provided. Teachers must negotiate release time through their principals or districts. This institute is being funded by the NBTA provincial office therefore participants are not eligible for NBTA/DOE Educational Improvement Grants. You may, however, apply to your local Branch for PD funds (if they are available) to assist with travel and/or accommodation expenses.

**Maximum participants:** 40 (Preference will be given to NBTA members with 2-5 years of experience)

**Register online at [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)**

**(registration opens Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and closes Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>)**

**You will receive confirmation of institute participation by e-mail after October 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**For further registration information, contact Denise McCoy, 452-1828 or e-mail [denise.mccoy@nbta.ca](mailto:denise.mccoy@nbta.ca)**



# Educational Leaves: 2010-2011

**Deadline for Applications:  
November 6, 2009**

**Application Forms:  
Use Only Forms Marked  
"For 2010-2011"**

## General

In order to advise teacher applicants by the end of January 2010, the deadline date for applications has been established as November 6, 2009.

## Special Information

- teachers are eligible for educational leave of less than one full year (although full-year leaves are still available). Please note that both short-term and full-year leaves are for the 2010-2011 school year only; leaves for January-June, 2010 cannot be considered.
- in keeping with the collective agreement, a teacher on educational leave shall receive seventy per cent of the salary he/she would have received had he/she been employed during the period of the educational leave in the position which he/she held at the time his/her application was submitted.
- a teacher who is granted an educational leave of six (6) months or more shall agree in writing to return to the field of public education in New Brunswick for a period of at least *one* year.
- no teacher shall be eligible for a subsequent educational leave until he/she has been employed as a teacher in New Brunswick for a further one (1) year for each two (2) months of educational leave previously taken.
- the purpose of the leave is stated as follows:  
"Educational Leave may be granted to a teacher wishing to devote up to a year's study or study/travel for purposes of retraining, specialization or professional growth."

## Administrative Information

- Application forms and detailed regulations may be obtained from your school district office.
- Teachers who have questions regarding educational leave should direct them to:

Larry Jamieson,  
Executive Director,  
NBTA, P.O. Box 752,  
Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5R6

- Interested teachers should apply to the Secretary, Educational Leave Committee, and forward one copy to the School Board Office and one copy to the School Principal. **No applications for educational leave will be accepted by the Committee if post-marked after November 6, 2009.**

— Applicants shall be advised of the decisions of the Committee by the end of January, 2010.

## Factors Affecting Selection

Although an educational leave must fall into one of three purposes - retraining, specialization or professional growth - the Committee considers comments and recommendations from Principals, Directors of Education and/or Superintendents. These comments usually are directed to the benefits of the leave to the school and district and are an important source of information to the Committee.

Other factors that are considered are:

- distribution by district;
- position distribution (teachers, SPR's, vice-principals and principals, etc.);
- grade levels;
- past professional involvement;
- years of experience;
- number of times teacher has applied;
- benefit to the school/district of the proposed educational leave;
- certificate level of the teacher;
- previous educational leave (See note below).

**Note:** Some priority will be given to members who have not previously been granted educational leave without automatically excluding members who have. Other factors such as the number of years since the previous leave, the total number of applications, the experience of the other applicants and the other criteria listed above shall be considered.

The composition of the Educational Leave Committee is as follows:

*Department of Education:* two representatives;  
*New Brunswick Teachers' Association:* Noreen Bonnell;  
*Association des enseignantes et des enseignants francophones du Nouveau Brunswick:* Monique Caissie;  
*New Brunswick School Districts:* two representatives;  
*New Brunswick Teachers' Federation:*  
André Deschênes – Secretary; Larry Jamieson

***This notice is designed to give information to teachers as early as possible. It is merely a synopsis of the more detailed regulations. Interested teachers should read carefully both Article 37 of the Collective Agreement and the regulations established by the Educational Leave Committee prior to applying.***

# PROJECT OVERSEAS

*"Teachers Teaching Teachers"*

## VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WITH CTF!

Would you like to assist teachers in a developing country?  
Are you interested in learning more about global education issues?  
Can you see yourself volunteering in Africa, Asia, or the Caribbean?



PROJECT OVERSEAS SAINT VINCENT—2008

**If yes, Project Overseas (PO)  
might be for you!**

CTF needs English and French-speaking Canadian teachers who are interested in volunteering during July and August to offer in-services in a wide-range of subjects and levels, in various developing countries.

### Application criteria include:

- Membership in a provincial or territorial teacher organization that supports PO
- Valid teachers' certificate
- A least five years teaching in Canada by program start
- Canadian citizenship
- Excellent health and ability to work in developing country conditions
- Flexibility, mature judgment, and a strong willingness to put a team and project's needs above personal needs
- Canadian passport valid for 6 months after the placement or proof of a passport application



PROJECT OVERSEAS TOGO—2008



**PO is a volunteer experience. Administrative, travel, and living expenses are borne by CTF, NBTA and CIDA. No salaries or honoraria are paid.**

**To apply:** Application forms and further information area available from:  
Melinda Cook, NBTA Staff Officer  
melinda.cook@nbta.ca or (506) 452-1839

## School Year 2009-2010: A Year of Possibilities!

*“Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming after all, is a form of planning.”*

*Gloria Steinem*

As we begin another New Brunswick school year, teachers from around the province have spent a significant amount of time (and money) eagerly planning for the students who will walk through their classroom door this September. Over the course of this summer alone, I spent five of the eight precious NB summer weeks with various groups of teachers exploring topics such as assessment, leadership, professional learning communities, the environment, NB Labour Market Trends, and a multitude of other topics that we hope will better prepare us to assist our NB students to achieve their maximum potential.

Wherever and whenever I had the pleasure of learning in community with teachers - be it DSS, CONTACT, our NBTA Leadership Workshop or the recent Assessment Institute sponsored by Solution Tree and our Department of Education in Saint John - I was consistently struck by the energy and excitement that abounds when teachers come together to learn and plan for all of the possibilities that the coming school year may hold.

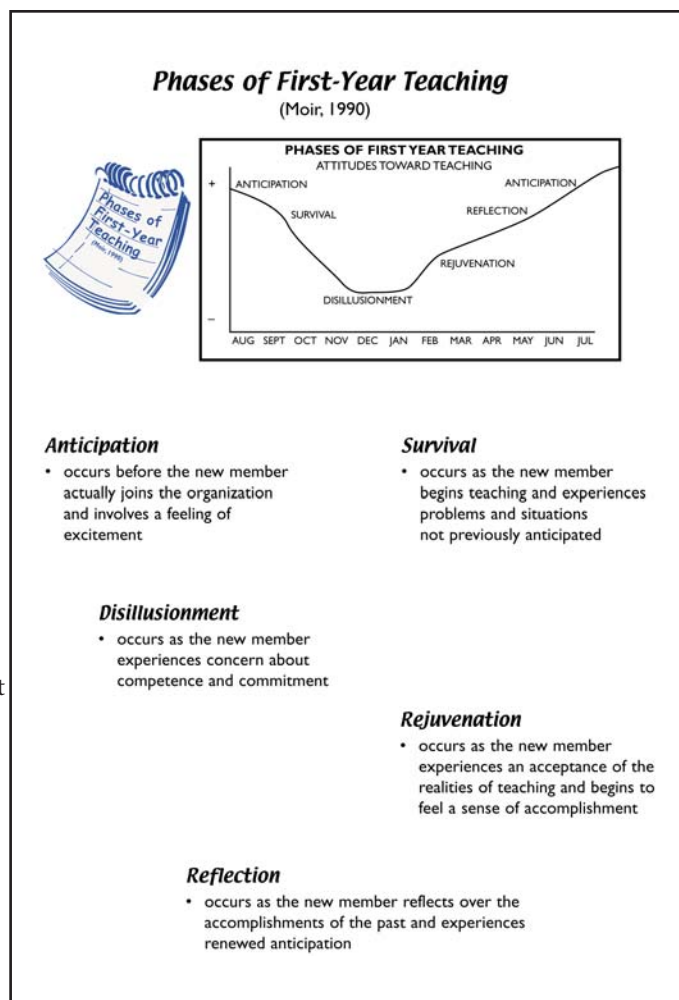
As September unfolds and the whirlwind of the school year descends upon us, I invite you to take a bit of time to plan for your own learning.

Why do I believe it is so important for teachers to plan for their learning now? One phenomenon that those of us who have been teaching for a while are very familiar with is Moir's *“Phases of First Year Teaching”*. We know that in August and early September teachers are in the “anticipation” stage and anything feels possible. *(Please bear with me as I pause and allow the following song to play through my head: “It’s the most wonderful time of the year!”)* Don’t you

*just love the remake of the old STAPLES commercial?* We also know that the months between October and March may take us through the stages of “survival” and “disillusionment”. I usually suggest to new teachers that Moir’s stages aren’t just first year teacher stages. I believe that those teachers who manage to succeed and flourish in our profession are those who know and understand the stages and plan accordingly. (Hmm...I wonder if there could be a comparison between Moir’s teaching phases and those experienced by our students throughout the school year? Note to self: Must look into this!)

As evidenced several times for me this past summer, there is nothing that boosts one’s energy, excitement and zest for our profession than MAKING time to learn and reflect upon our learning. Why not have a look at the following suggestions for professional learning opportunities and plan at least a few throughout the phases of your year? Let’s insure that energy, excitement and the love of learning sustains all of us throughout this year!

1. Subscribe to a professional journal or podcast that relates to your subject area. If an article really speaks to you, copy it and place it in the mailbox of a colleague. Have a discussion about it at your next team meeting.
2. Enroll in a course to increase your certification. (It is VERY important to remind yourself of what it is like to be a learner.) As you critique your own instructor’s approach - (let’s face it, we all do it) - reflect on your own teaching



and what your students might be saying about your approach.

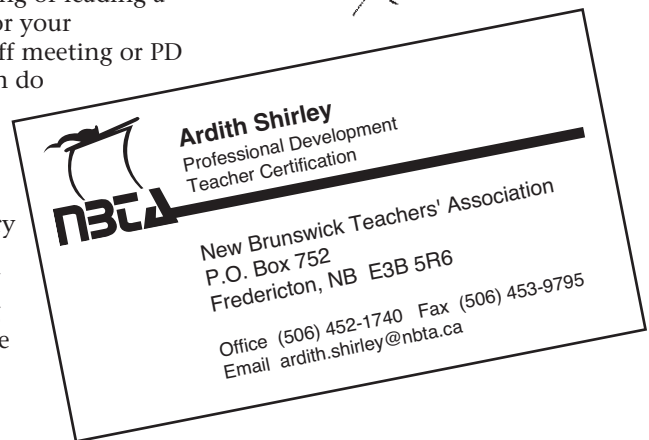
3. Attend a conference. (You may wish to apply for an Educational Improvement Grant through your branch, council or provincially.)
4. Take on a new teacher leader role. Perhaps become an NBTA School Rep. or School PD Rep.? Join a new committee? The possibilities are virtually endless.
5. Become a mentor for a beginning teacher or a new teacher in your school.
6. Invite a colleague into your classroom to observe your teaching. Return the favour and then enjoy the professional conversation that transpires over your next cup of coffee!
7. Consider a teacher exchange. (See our ad on Page 22 for more details on our planned information session on October 17th!)

8. Video yourself teaching and then ask a trusted colleague to help you analyze your lesson.
9. Ask colleagues who may have a common interest to join you in a professional learning community to explore a new technique or teaching idea. (There is no limit to the wealth of study guides, resources and discussion points readily available online on virtually any topic on teaching.)
10. Consider presenting or leading a PD opportunity for your colleagues at a staff meeting or PD Day. Yes, YOU can do this! The best way to learn something new is to teach it and Roland Barth's very definition of collegiality is staff members learning with and from one another.

Once you have decided on which components to include in your own professional learning plan for this school year, share your plans! Your colleagues may be inspired and your students will benefit by recognizing you as a learner, too! It really is a win-win!

Best wishes for a wonderful 2009-2010 school year that is full of possibilities!

*Ardith*



## Teachers Make 'Connections' at CONTACT 2009



Teachers from across Atlantic Canada gathered at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, PEI for their annual CONTACT (Conference on New Teaching Strategies and Classroom Techniques) from August 4th – 7th, 2009.

Teacher presenters from all four Atlantic Provinces explored this year's theme "Contemporary Classrooms." NBTA was pleased to have Derek O'Brien (District 10) as their presenter this year. Derek's session, "Engaging Learners" was very well received and inspired much conversation among teacher participants about how our classrooms should function.

Mike Ketchum, NBTA Counsellor Coordinator, gave an inspiring closing keynote to the Conference on the theme of "Teacher Wellness and Successful Classrooms."

CONTACT is a bilingual professional development opportunity organized by the four Teacher Organizations (NBTA, PEITF, NSTU and NLTA). This conference provides teachers with the opportunity to remain current in their profession and make contact with colleagues from the Atlantic region.



## Welcome Back!

It's that time again...time to celebrate the start of the 2009-2010 school year! On behalf of the Elementary, Middle Level, and High School Council Executive we would like to welcome you all back and extend our best wishes for a great year ahead. Your hard work and dedication to the youth of this province is amazing and so very appreciated.

You may have questions as to what the councils do and what we offer the teachers of this province???? Firstly, we put a huge amount of time and effort into the planning and organizing of the May Council Day. Do keep a lookout for more information regarding our 2010 Council Day which is being held on May 7th. Though the details have not all been worked out we can tell you that Elementary is hosting their council day in Fredericton, Middle Level will be in the Miramichi, and High School will be taking place in Moncton. All registration will be done online once again and we encourage everyone to give our websites a browse over the coming year as they will offer pertinent information for all teachers along with the *NBTA News*. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Executive should you wish to share some of the outstanding things going on in your schools and your classrooms...teachers helping teachers is the ultimate!

In addition to council day preparation and planning, councils also make an effort to offer institutes over the school year, and we have a couple fabulous ones planned for the fall that will interest many of you. On **October 27th** the **Elementary Council** is offering an **institute** in collaboration with the **Beaverbrook Art Gallery** – look for the advertisement in this issue of the News. On Friday, **November 6th**, **Pride in Education (P.I.E)** is planning an institute on **“How to Set Up Gay/Straight Alliances in Schools”** which is being supported by **all three councils**. A few weeks later, on Monday, **November 23rd**,

**Middle Level Council** will be hosting an institute on **Autism** which will also take place in Fredericton. There will be more information regarding these institutes coming soon.

Councils also provide Education Grants to members for professional development. These funds go quickly so apply early to ensure you receive a grant. To apply, please check with the NBTA Rep in your school and they should be able to provide you with the purple form. Fill it out and send it in. There are also funds available for schools or teams of teachers should they wish to put on an institute or workshop in their area which is pertinent to the teachers of this province.

Curriculum is another area that Councils strive to provide service to its members. (Each council now sends a representative to meetings of the NBTA Curriculum Committee providing additional input concerning educational outcomes and goals of our students).

These are the key areas in which Councils work to support, and inform teachers of this province. Please keep in mind we are also here to answer any questions teachers may have. In the next issue of the *NBTA News* we will publish a full list of our Executives and our tentative meeting dates.

Once again, we hope everyone had a restful and relaxing summer and we look forward to another year working with

such a marvelous group of professionals.



Elementary Council President  
Peter Gorham



Middle Level Council President  
Stacy Garland



High School Council President  
Jocelyne Schwenger

### TEACH IN SINGAPORE!



#### CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHER RECRUITMENT 2010 - 2012

Visit us on the World Wide Web: [www.cis.edu.sg](http://www.cis.edu.sg)

#### INTERVIEW LOCATION

- Fredericton, Charlottetown and Halifax Nov. 12 - 15

\*Candidates will be notified of specific date and location

#### MINIMUM: CERTIFIED TEACHERS ONLY 2 YRS. QUALIFIED EXPERIENCE

#### SINGLES AND TEACHING COUPLES MAY APPLY

\*High School Teachers must be/willing to become members of the Ontario College of Teachers.

\*\*Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

APPLY BY email

Send resume and references by :  
OCTOBER 31, 2009

Attention to: F. Hanson  
E-mail: [cisrt@sympatico.ca](mailto:cisrt@sympatico.ca)

Paid Advertisement

## Elementary Council News



### A Capital Idea! Elementary Council to Meet in Fredericton



Fredericton will be our site and now we are looking at the format!

Elementary teachers are the largest group of teachers in the province and providing professional development to such a large membership is one of the responsibilities of the Executive of the Elementary Council. For several years we have been receiving feedback that teachers would prefer smaller sessions rather than larger keynote sessions. It has been difficult to imagine going back to our old model of many small sessions, but the executive has always done its best to try to listen to the needs of our members.

Last year, we talked to other Council executives about their programs and have decided to change our format! This year we are planning a very different type of program in the hopes that it will better serve our teachers. We will shift from the 'huge' keynote speaker events. While we will have several 'big sessions' accommodating approximately 400-500 people, we will also offer many, many smaller sessions (30-50 people) from which teachers will be able to choose.

We want to offer sessions on a variety of subjects and topics of high interest. It is now your chance to contact our executive and help us with suggestions of themes, particular speakers or topics that you are interested in. Contact Donna Losier at [donna.losier@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:donna.losier@nbed.nb.ca) with your suggestions.

You have asked for smaller sessions and the Elementary Council Executive is listening. Can't wait 'till May 2010!

Donna Losier  
Vice-President Elementary Council

### An Art Institute in Impressionism Sponsored by the NBTA Elementary Council

**When:** Tuesday, October 27, 2009  
9:00- 3:30 pm

**Where:** Beaverbrook Art Gallery  
703 Queen Street  
Fredericton, New Brunswick  
[www.beaverbrookartgallery.org](http://www.beaverbrookartgallery.org)

Classroom Teachers will have hands-on opportunities to create art activities that they can take back and integrate in their classroom. Various artists will present and teachers will have a guided tour of the new exhibit "Impressionist: Masterworks from the National Gallery of Canada"

This Institute is designed for Elementary Teachers.  
Enrollment is limited to the first 25 applicants so register early!

**Please email registration to:**  
[karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:karla.roy@nbed.nb.ca)

**Please include:** Your name  
School name, mailing address & phone number  
Grade level(s) taught

**Cost:** There is no charge to teachers for this Institute. A \$25.00 refundable deposit is required to hold your registration. Your cheque will be returned to you upon arrival at the Institute.

Please make your cheque out to **NBTA Elementary Council** and mail to:

Karla Roy, Park Street Elementary School  
111 Park Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3A 2J6



Funds for the  
**NBTA/DOE Provincial, Elementary and  
High School Council** Educational  
Improvement Grants have been **depleted** until  
January 2010.  
**Middle Level Council** Education  
Improvement Grants are still available.



## Middle Level Council News

### WANTED

The **Middle Level Council** would like to offer the chance to all New Brunswick teachers to present at the **May 7, 2010 Council Day in Miramichi**.

If you have some great experience to share, have done something unique and rewarding in your classroom or extracurricular or simply have some great tried-and-true classroom tricks, it would be a rewarding experience to present at our council day.

This is a great opportunity to come as a presenter, to bring light to any area of education that you see as beneficial to our profession or that may have been overlooked in the past.

Please email Krista Hamilton at [krista.nowlan-hamilton@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:krista.nowlan-hamilton@nbed.nb.ca) for more information on presenting.

### Middle Level Institute

**"You're Going to Love This Kid"**  
Educating Students with Autism  
in Inclusive Schools

**Dr. Paula Kluth**

**November 23rd, 2009**  
**Fredericton**

Save the date and stay tuned for  
registration and further  
institute details.

## Wellness Highlights

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELLING SERVICE  
FOR TEACHERS**



### TEACHER COUNSELLING SERVICES

Michael Ketchum, Districts 14, 17, 18  
1-800-561-1727

Carmen Meehan, Districts 6, 8, 10  
1-800-563-3938

Niel Cameron, Districts 2, 15, 16  
1-888-763-5050



**Michael Ketchum**

Districts 14, 17, 18  
1-800-561-1727  
462-0208

[michael.ketchum@nb.aibn.com](mailto:michael.ketchum@nb.aibn.com)



**Carmen Meehan**

Districts 6, 8, 10  
1-800-563-3938  
634-2901

[carmen.meehan@nb.aibn.com](mailto:carmen.meehan@nb.aibn.com)



**Niel Cameron**

Districts 2, 15, 16  
1-888-763-5050  
855-5243

[niel.cameron@nb.aibn.com](mailto:niel.cameron@nb.aibn.com)

### Counsellor Michael's Blog

Check out Michael's monthly blog and learn about being your best self and a great teacher. On the NBTA website ([www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca)) under *Services*, go to the *Counsellor's page* and read this inspirational blog.

### Purpose

- To provide a *confidential* counselling/consulting service which is available without fee to NBTA members
- To provide health promotion programs which will assist teachers in increasing their level of wellness

### Services

- Provide counselling
- Organize group sessions upon request
- Promote wellness through workshops
- Conduct Critical Incident Stress Debriefings
- Refer teachers to other agencies: addictions, financial, couples and family counselling, and alternative health practitioners
- Co-ordinate School-Based Wellness Programs



# Parents, English Language Learners and Academic Success

In recent years there has been an increase in the number of English Language Learners in New Brunswick schools. Although resources and material are available to teachers in the regular classrooms, it is important not to ignore another key element in the academic success of ELLs (English Language Learners), parents.

As we continue to welcome more immigrants to New Brunswick, the degree to which they participate or get involved in the education of their child varies. In some cultures or countries, parents have total confidence in the school system and play a very minimum role, or believe that teachers know best and therefore involvement on their part is not necessary. This can cause difficulties as parents are unaware of the school system in New Brunswick and the importance of parental partnerships in the school community. They often lack the knowledge of how they can assist their children and their role in such events as parent/teacher conferences, students participation in various activities and how they can lend their support to ensure the acquisition of English and academic knowledge.

Parents of immigrant children have to be informed and educated as to how they can assist in the academic success of their children. Peregoy & Boyle (2005) offer the following suggestions for engaging immigrant parents.

1. Parental involvement should be a school-wide initiative. Seek translators to assist in communicating with parents. Some communities have a "Welcome Center" or "Settlement Services" often with a school liaison officer who can assist parents, students and the schools.
2. Notices should be sent home in the language of the family explaining the purpose of a

meeting, parent/teacher conference, school concert, etc ... Schools can consult the "Transact Translation Library" (<http://www.transact.com/>) for a variety of school forms and communiqués in various languages.

3. Provide an event with food and/or the opportunity to see children perform or participating in an activity. This helps to welcome parents and provide a more social atmosphere to meet the teachers. Typical barriers are lessened in a more relaxed and friendly environment.
4. Promote language and literacy development by carefully structured take-home activities. One suggestion is a "Literacy Backpack." In this pack there is material, audio tape books, markers, etc ... Students have a chance to take home the pack and share with their parents, read to them, report back to the class on what they did. Encourage parents to read to their children in their native language as well.

Some other initiatives involve greater participation by the parents. Lopez (2006) recommends the following;

5. Plan to meet with parents at the beginning of the year to explain how they can become involved. Do workshops for them on how to monitor homework, help with literacy by reading to their children in their native language and having children paraphrase.
- Khoo (2006) gets even more specific and recommends that teachers...
6. Visit parents at home. Establish communication with them as soon as possible.
  7. Encourage parents to stay and visit if and when they drop off their children. Your school may

want to have a "Second Cup of Coffee" each Friday morning for example and invite parents to stay.

8. Hold family learning events at the school. It could be a bilingual story hour or family math nights as we now do in some schools. These events will have to be clearly explained and the reasons as to why it is important for parents to participate.
9. Offer parenting classes, create a district wide parent center or a greater "Welcome Center." Help them adjust to life as parents in a new country and culture.
10. Encourage parents to volunteer themselves and mentor other newcomers who are just as confused as they once were. They could provide valuable information and assist with the transition to life in New Brunswick. They could also volunteer at the school for various duties, or share their own expertise. Some schools actually ask for a time commitment, for example, four hours a month. Some may even lend a hand in the preparation of school material.
11. Use the internet to help parents communicate. Assist in the setting up of blogs; chat rooms in their native language where they can assist one another.

The key is to engage parents as much as possible, at the beginning and throughout the school year. Provide them with the necessary tools to understand our school system and to realize the strong emphasis we place on parental participation. Equip them with the strategies and knowledge to recognize issues in learning and in acquiring an additional language. Finally, help them to realize that the success of their children is a partnership between them, the district and the teachers.

Berger, J. (2006). "For Hispanic Parents, Lessons on Helping with their Homework." *The New York Times*, [http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/01/education/01education.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin&ref...](http://www.nytimes.com/2006/11/01/education/01education.html?_r=1&oref=slogin&ref...)

Khoo, A. (2006). "Schools that Welcome Parents: How School can Reach out to Parents and Create Ways for them to Participate." <http://www.4children.org/news/101sche.htm> Lopez, A.M. (2006). "Reaching Parents of English Language Learners," *Language Magazine*, <http://www.language magazine.com>, January, 2006.

Peregoy, S.F., Boyle, O.F. (2005). *Reading, Writing, and Learning In ESL: A Resource Book for K-12 Teachers, 4th, Edition*, Pearson.

## NEW BRUNSWICK STUDENT WELLNESS SURVEY

**Dr. William Morrison; Dr. Patricia Kirby; Monique Allain, PhD Candidate; and Lynn Ann Duffley, BSc.**  
*Health and Education Research Group, University of New Brunswick.*

### Introduction

As part of the Provincial Wellness Strategy, the New Brunswick Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport collaborated with the Health and Education Research Group (University of New Brunswick & Université de Moncton) in undertaking a major wellness surveillance initiative. The purpose of this wellness surveillance effort is to monitor and promote healthy life-style behaviours among students in New Brunswick. The three goals of the New Brunswick Student Wellness Survey are:

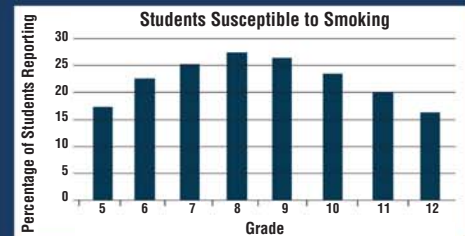
1. To monitor the health attitudes and behaviours of New Brunswick students with respect to healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco-free living and mental fitness.
2. To encourage opportunities to engage educators, students, their families and the wider community in using local, district and provincial level surveillance data to formulate and undertake key strategic actions to promote healthy lifestyle behaviours.
3. To provide data that may be used to inform the Provincial Wellness Strategy and other associated local, regional and provincial wellness initiatives through continued surveillance and evaluation of changes in student wellness attitudes and behaviours.

### Methods

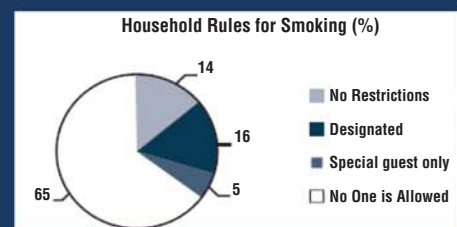
In 2006-2007, the NB Student Wellness Survey was coordinated to encompass the 2006-07 Youth Smoking Survey. Nearly 40,000 Anglophone and Francophone students provided data on health attitudes and behaviours regarding healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco-free living, and mental fitness. By July 2007, participating schools were provided with their results in the form of school wellness feedback reports. These reports highlighted areas where schools could take action in partnership with students, parents and communities. By the fall of 2007, each school district received wellness feedback reports with consolidated district results.

In 2007-2008, the Health and Education Research Group (HERG) coordinated the NB Elementary Student Wellness Survey. Twenty-three elementary schools (a representative NB sample) participated in this wellness surveillance initiative, which included:

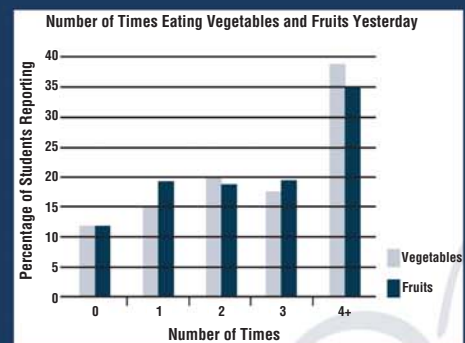
- Student Wellness Surveys (Grades 4 and 5)
- Direct Physical Measures (Grades 1,3, and 5)
- Physical Activity Monitoring (Grade 5)
- Home Wellness Surveys (Parents of Kindergarten to Grade 5 Students)



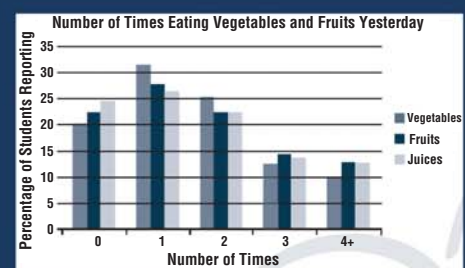
**Figure 1 - Students' susceptibility to smoking by grade. Graph B illustrates students in Grades 6-12 who have never smoked a cigarette before reporting low-confidence in their ability to remain smoke-free in the future**



**Figure 2 - Various household rules for smoking.**



**Figure 3 - Percentage of daily vegetable and fruit consumption for Grades 4 and 5.**



**Figure 4 - Percentage of daily vegetable and fruit consumption for Grades 6 - 12.**

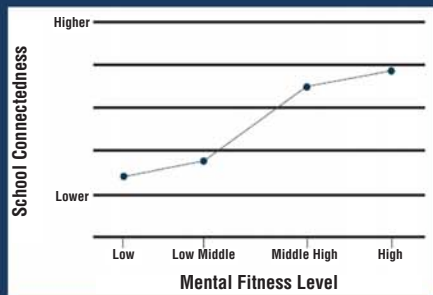


Figure 5 - Feelings of school connectedness in Grades 4 and 5.

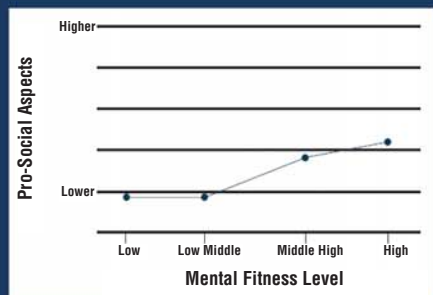


Figure 6 - Relationship between mental fitness levels and Pro-social behaviour in Grades 4 and 5.

How many of your 5 closest friends are physically active?	Percentage Reporting		
	Inactive Students	Moderately Active Students	Active Students
None	13	4	2
1 or 2	33	22	12
3 or more	55	74	86

Figure 7 - (A) Social influences and physical activity with respect to friends' physical activity. Numbers represent percent (%) of students (grades 6-12).

Student reports about parents' physical activity levels	Percentage Reporting		
	Inactive Students	Moderately Active Students	Active Students
Parents are <i>Active</i>	38	52	62
Parents are <i>Inactive</i>	62	48	38

Figure 7 - (B) Social influences and physical activity with respect to parents' physical activity. Numbers represent percent (%) of students (grades 6-12).

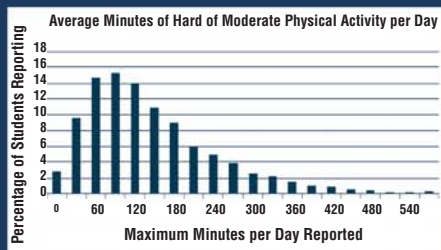


Figure 8 - The average minutes of hard or moderate physical activity per day as self-reported by Grades 6-12 students.

## Results & Discussion

With content from both New Brunswick Student Wellness Surveys, HERG developed knowledge products to encourage knowledge uptake and utilization of survey results. The findings from Grades 6-12 provided content for five Provincial Wellness Fact Sheets: mental fitness; social relationships and influences; environments; healthy weights and lifestyles; and tobacco and other problem substance use. For the elementary level, three Provincial Wellness Fact Sheets emerged, including mental fitness, healthy weights and lifestyles, and social influences and environments. The following are some selected highlights from each of the surveys:

### Mental Fitness:

- Mental fitness was measured in relation to other lifestyle behaviours. For students in Grades 6-12, it was found that increases in psychological wellness (mental fitness needs of competency, autonomy and relatedness) were associated with reduced smoking, reduced BMI and a higher probability of participation in both competitive and non-competitive activities.

### Social Relationships and Influences:

- 46% of parents of students in Kindergarten to Grade 5 characterized their own level of physical activity as “inactive”
- Generally, physically active students are more likely to report that they have active parents. A greater percentage of physically active students in Grades 4 and 5 reported having “active” parents.

### Environments:

- The majority of students (Grades 6-12) reported feeling part of their school (82%), happy to be there (79%), treated fairly by teachers (82%) and feeling safe at school (83%).

### Healthy Weights and Lifestyle:

- 27% of students (Grades 6-12) and 24% of students (Grades 4-5) were identified as overweight or obese.
- 47% of students (Grades 6-12) and 98% of students (Grades 4-5) reported participating in school-organized non-competitive activities (e.g. intramurals).

### Tobacco and Other Problem Substance Use:

- 77% of students (Grades 6-12) who have never smoked a cigarette reported confidence to remain smoke-free in the future; the highest susceptibility to smoking occurred in Grade 8 (28%), followed by Grade 9 students (27%).

The Health and Education Research Group continues to work with our funding partner, the Department of Wellness, Culture and Sport, in cooperation with the Department of Education, in planning the second cycle of the NB Student Wellness Survey (2009-10) for students in Grades 6-12. To learn more about the NB Student Wellness Survey and to discover how your school can be involved, please call 1-888-390-2822. To view the knowledge products (fact sheets, curriculum connectors) developed by HERG, or to obtain more information on various HERG projects, please visit: [www.unbf.ca/education/herg](http://www.unbf.ca/education/herg).

## Local Principal wins National Award

by Eileen McNeil, NBTA Communications

In April 2009, several parents at Ian Baillie Primary School in Miramichi wrote letters to *Canadian Family Magazine*. They nominated the principal of their children's school, Beth McCarthy, for that

publication's Great Educator Award. Out of the hundreds of nominations, McCarthy was short-listed and later chosen by a selection committee made up of educators from across the country.

It was not until June that McCarthy learned she was one of three teachers who were chosen to receive the award.

"The biggest shocker was to get an award for something that I love to do every day."

McCarthy has worked and taught at Ian Baillie Primary School for ten years, five as principal. Her work to get the track around the school paved was just one of the many reasons she was nominated.

"We do believe in healthy, active kids."

McCarthy knows each of the 150 students, and parents recognize her ability to make the school an open and inviting place for their children.

As an award winner, McCarthy will receive \$1500 for the school and plans to use it for either a rock climbing wall or a storage barn for the playground. Her story is also featured in the September issue of *Canadian Family Magazine*.



Photo courtesy of Miramichi Leader

See <http://miramichileader.canadaeast.com/search/article/746143> for more details.

## Layden-Oreto wins National Award

by Yves Pelletier



Margie Layden-Oreto was one of the back-up keynote speakers for Combined Council Day, May 1, 2009.

On May 21, 2009 I had the privilege of attending the Canadian Counselling Association's Annual Banquet in Saskatoon. It was at this event where Margie Layden-Oreto was officially presented with the 2009 Stu Conger National Award for Leadership in Career Development, following the announcement of her candidacy in February. The banquet

was the culmination of the association's three-day annual conference, with some 250 counsellors and educators in attendance at the closing banquet.

The tribute paid to Margie on behalf of the Canadian Career Development Foundation and the Canadian Counselling Association was delivered by Sareena Hopkins, co-executive director of the Canadian Career Development Foundation. And what a fitting tribute it was, focusing on Margie's untiring dedication to improving career education in New Brunswick and beyond. It was in the company of some of her family members – her husband Tony, her son Jason, her mother Evelyn and her sister Carolyn – that she accepted this award, with all family members and friends beaming with pride.

Margie is always focused on her work to improve access to post-secondary education. After accepting this award and thanking family and friends, Margie took advantage of her time at the microphone to focus on the unequal access to post-secondary education for Canadians. She challenged all educators and guidance counsellors to learn about who gets the opportunity to learn in Canada, and to find ways of helping all learners complete as much education as they would like. Even when the spotlight is on her, she finds a way of making sure that the attention she is getting gets redirected to those who could benefit the most from education by calling to action those in the audience. What leadership! Congratulations Margie!

# National Technology Innovation Awards

Andrew Jones and a team of teachers from Grand Manan Community School have been selected as a winner of the 2009 National Technology Innovation Awards (NTIA). Their project, *Educational Technology: A New Age Message in a Bottle*, won in the Eastern Canada category.

The project comprised of a four pronged approach that was aimed at improving literacy rates. The team developed collaborative projects in which Grand Manan students interacted electronically with students from other areas of Canada and from around the world; they implemented the use of Fast ForeWord and Destination Reading to improve reading scores; and they developed a communications network with homework blogs and a Homework Lunch wiki site so parents knew the work that was not completed.

A program of The Learning Partnership, the Awards celebrate educators at publicly funded schools, colleges and universities across Canada whose innovative approaches, through the use of technology, have contributed to making the learning experience

more engaging for students. These awards celebrate the achievements of educators whose innovative use of technology has been instrumental in building modern, interactive learning environments for students in publicly funded schools (K-12), colleges and universities across Canada.

"More than ever, it's important that we continue to recognize the efforts of our educational leaders," says Veronica Lacey, President and CEO of The Learning Partnership. "The National Technology Innovation Awards allow us to celebrate the accomplishments made by these remarkable teachers who are making our students' education more exciting."

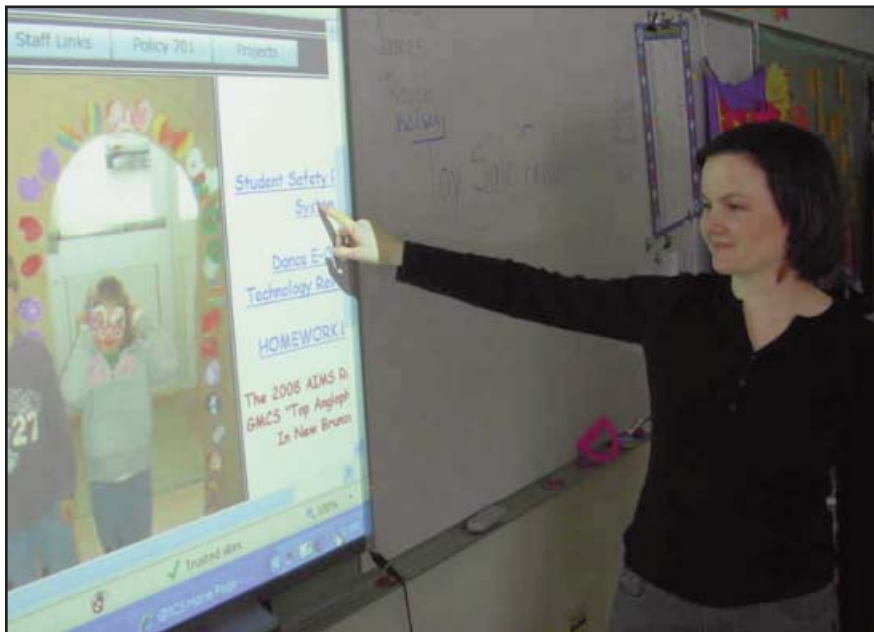
On Thursday, June 4, Andrew & Susan Jones presented the projects to a learning conference at the Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University in Toronto. In the evening, they received their prize and a crystal statuette to recognize this achievement. The Learning Partnership extends it's congratulations! We are delighted to see Grand Manan Community School staff recognized at this national event.



Andrew & Susan Jones receive the National Technology Innovation Award for Eastern Canada at Ryerson University in Toronto

The team members included team leader, Andrew Jones, High School English teacher Robert Griffin, Middle School teachers Patrick Cook and Leanda McQuaid, and Elementary teachers Karen Doiron and Susan Jones.

Site link:  
[http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/NTIA/NTIA\\_winners09.htm](http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/NTIA/NTIA_winners09.htm)



Grand Manan teacher Karen Doiron uses a Smartboard in her grade 5 class as part of the project.



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# Heavens Above!

by James Whitehead, Programme Director of the AllSky Initiative

At the time of writing this article (mid August), the night skies are hosting an annual spectacle: the Perseid meteor shower. Sand sized grains of space rock burn up as shooting stars, while larger fragments of rock flash brighter as fireballs. In New Brunswick, you no longer need to be looking up to witness these events. Thanks to a new series of cameras, these events are recorded for people to see after-the-fact. It is hoped that these "All-Sky" cameras (their lenses view "all" of the sky), will also foster a greater interest in space science among our students.

Space science appears in Grades 6 and 9 in the Atlantic Science Curriculum. To encourage the use of the cameras, several initiatives are being taken that will be of direct benefit to teachers and students. Currently, cameras are located at STU in Fredericton, UNB Saint John and the French Fort Cove Eco centre, Miramichi. We have two more cameras that we would like to see hosted at interested schools, particularly those located in the north or north-western parts of the province. Hosting schools would be encouraged to monitor results and to upload interesting records to a central new website (AllSky.ca) for

all NB students to see. Participating school bios can appear on the site. If interest is great enough, the monitoring role can be rotated between schools. This will give students a direct hand in the acquisition of real data, define event frequencies, plotting of bell curves, etc.

A series of outcome-oriented worksheets have already been developed by STU BED students to aid teachers in delivering space science content. These focus on meteors and fireballs, but not exclusively, and are already downloadable at AllSky.ca.

One major side benefit of the All-Sky cameras is the quest to find meteorites. If several of the cameras witness the same fireball, their records can be used to determine the trajectory and fall site, since fireballs often make it to the ground. Thus, we hope that school hunts for meteorites will increase the number of Atlantic Canadian



Dr. Whitehead holds an All-Sky camera destined for a NB school while the STU camera is in the background.

meteorites, from the single meteorite so far found!

If you are interested in hosting a camera, or finding out more about the AllSky initiative, please check out the AllSky.ca website or email Programme Director, Dr. James Whitehead at: jamesw@stu.ca

## Interested in a Teacher Exchange?

- **Do you have an interest in teaching overseas or elsewhere in Canada?**
- **Do you have a sense of adventure?**
- **Are you a flexible person who can adapt to change?**
- **Does the prospect of living and teaching in another community excite you?**



Plan to attend an **INFORMATION MEETING** sponsored by the NBTA to learn about the exciting possibilities and how to arrange a teacher exchange.

Join **Carol Wilkins, Co-ordinator of the Canadian Education Exchange Foundation**, and members of the Exchange Teacher Organization of NB.

**Date: Saturday, October 17, 2009**

**Time: 11:00 am (Lunch will be provided)**

**Place: TBA (Based on location of majority of registrants)**

To register or for more information contact **Ardith Shirley**, Professional Development, NBTA at **506-452-1740** or **ardith.shirley@nbta.ca**.

# Pension Change for Military Service in Afghanistan

The Teachers' Pension Act (TPA) has been amended to allow teachers, **under certain conditions**, to purchase, as elective pensionable service, time spent on military duty in Afghanistan with the Canadian Forces Reserves.

For more information on eligibility contact Compensation and Employee Benefits Division, Office of Human Resources (Pensions Branch) on the toll free line 1-800-561-4012 or 453-2296 (Fredericton Area) or contact Larry Jamieson at NBTA, (506) 452-1722 or larry.jamieson@nbta.ca



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TEACHERS TAKING COURSES OUTSIDE NEW BRUNSWICK - Teachers who wish to have courses taken at institutions outside of New Brunswick credited towards certificates must be very careful to have these courses approved by the Department of Education BEFORE registering for them.

N. B. T. A. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES - Listed below are the names of the County representatives and their alternates who will comprise the N. B. T. A. Executive for 1959 - 60. Names of city representatives will appear in next issue.

ALBERT COUNTY	-	Mrs. Margery Blakney, R. R. #3, Hillsborough
	alt.	Mr. Winston Burgess, Hillsborough
CARLETON COUNTY	-	Mrs. Pauline Forrest, Woodstock
	alt.	Mr. Stanley Brown, Hartland
CHARLOTTE COUNTY	-	Mr. Walter MacDonald, St. George
	alt.	Mr. Richard Harvey, Lawrence Station
GLOUCESTER COUNTY	-	Mr. Jaddus Chiasson, Shippegan
	alt.	Brother Medric, Tracadie
KENT COUNTY	-	Mr. Patrick Plourde, St. Marie-de-Kent
	alt.	
KINGS COUNTY	-	Mr. S. D. Patterson, Rothesay
	alt.	
MADAWASKA COUNTY	-	Mr. Armand St. Onge, Green River
	alt.	Mr. Arthur Cyr, Sainte Anne
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY	-	Brother Arthur, Rogersville
	alt.	Mr. Thomas Conway, Newcastle
QUEENS COUNTY	-	
	alt.	
RESTIGOUCHE COUNTY	-	<i>Mr A F Bond</i>
	alt.	<i>Mr W Boisvert</i>
SUNBURY COUNTY	-	Miss Jennie Wilson, Oromocto High School
	alt.	
ST. JOHN COUNTY	-	Mr. George Beyea, Fair Vale Station
	alt.	<del>Mr. J. G. Mawhinney, Fundy Drive, Lancaster</del>
VICTORIA COUNTY	-	Mr. Donald Bertelsen, Grand Falls
	alt.	
WESTMORLAND COUNTY	-	Mr. J. M. A. Armstrong, Salisbury
	alt.	Brother Francis, Shediac
YORK COUNTY	-	Mrs. Margaret Ann Riddell, 231 Medley Street, F'ton
	alt.	

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NBTA News Letter, Fredericton—Authorized as Second Class Mail by the Post Office, Ottawa

→ *Merald S Merrithew,  
14 Wellesley Ave  
Saint John*



## Launch of Capital Encounters a Success!

The New Brunswick Provincial Capital Commission thanks the more than 1,000 students and teachers who participated in the first Capital Encounters Travel Subsidy program for school groups. A total of 29 schools benefited from the new initiative, launched on April 15, 2009. The program aims to encourage students to learn about their capital region as part of their education.

"The Capital Commission really wants to engage the province's young people so that they understand where they come from and why," said Executive Director, Lee Ellen Pottie. "This knowledge will help them develop greater pride in their province and we're proud to be able to assist in bringing students to discover where the democratic process happens in New Brunswick."

Capital Encounters is designed to assist the NBPCC in fulfilling its mandate to connect New Brunswickers to their capital and to connect the capital to New Brunswickers.

The subsidy is available for student groups from all NB public schools, First Nations schools, and independent schools visiting the capital region, and is designed to offset the costs of bus travel and accommodations. There are only two requirements to qualify: 1) students visit the Legislative Assembly and 2) submission of a final report.

To help teachers and students prepare for their trip, the Commission developed a Trip Planning Guide, which provides information on what to see and do, where to eat, and where to stay. Also included in the guide is a *Routes of Discovery* section that highlights activities related to democracy, arts, culture and heritage, and the natural world.

For more information, please visit [www.capnb.ca](http://www.capnb.ca) (click *Discover*) or contact Laura Davey, program coordinator, at [laura@capnb.ca](mailto:laura@capnb.ca) (506-444-2528).



Students from École des Bâisseurs (above), Bathurst High School (left), Grand Manan Community School and École L'Étincelle (below)



**"It was one of the better curriculum field trips I've been on. Speaking to Mr. Graham, Mr. Jack Carr and Mr. Jody Carr was quite an experience." (Grade 5/6 student, Minto Elementary and Middle School)**

**"I have watched debates from the House of Commons in Ottawa on TV... to see it in person was a really great opportunity." (Grade 12 student, McAdam High School)**

**"It is our feeling that when students of our great province (especially ... rural NB) get the opportunity to embark on practical educational experiences there are associated benefits for all in the long-term" (Community School Coordinator).**

**"...my favourite part was when we went upstairs to the main room and saw the Sergeant at Arms." (Grade 3 student, St. Patrick's School)**

**Fall application deadline Oct 15, 2009. Funds are limited - don't delay!**

**New Brunswick Provincial Capital Commission: 103 Church Street, Fredericton (NB) E3B 4C8  
506-444-2035 (tel.) 506-453-3363 (fax) [www.capnb.ca](http://www.capnb.ca)**





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# 46<sup>th</sup> NBTA Annual Bowling Tournament

**Where:**

Bathurst Bowlarama, Bathurst

**When:**

October 16-18, 2009

**Cost:**

\$45.00 per player

**Registration:**

Make cheque for \$45.00 payable to "NBTA Bowling Tournament" and forward, with a list of your team members to:

**Ola Cormier**

**77 Route 933, Grand Barachois, NB, E4P 8K6  
(532-0031)**

**Questions:**

Marcellin Lurette (753-4114)



## NBTA Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 26, 2009  
"Shotgun" Start - 1:00 pm  
Sussex Golf and Curling Club, Sussex



Open to all NBTA members as well as all retired NBTA members.

Fee: \$55.00 per golfer (includes green fees, meal, gratuities, HST, prizes).

Make cheques payable to:  
NBTA Golf Tournament and mail to:

**Tom Gillett  
526 Main Street  
Chipman, NB  
E4A 2P3**

**Telephone: (506) 339-6128  
Email: tomg@nbnet.nb.ca**

*NBTA Golf is a proud supporter of the  
Children's Wish Foundation*

**Entry Form**

**4 Person Scramble**

40 golf carts reserved through  
**Brent McKay (506) 433-4951**  
(\$35.00 tax included)

**Four Names:**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:**

Telephone (Home): \_\_\_\_\_  
(Work): \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have not received confirmation,  
please call by September 19, 2009*

# Announcements

## Motivating, Engaging, Enriching: The Provincial Oratory

Picture this: it is May and your energy and enthusiasm are running low. You wonder what on earth you have managed to teach your students over the past year. They too seem to be in the academic doldrums. You decide to take your students to the Provincial Oratory Competition. Perhaps a day away from the classroom is just the inspiration you all need. The first speaker steps to the podium. He speaks daringly of the dangers of blind patriotism. You are impressed. They can't all be this good, you muse. But, indeed, they are. Speaker after speaker, you are filled with the growing certainty that we in New Brunswick are gifted with the most powerful student speakers and thinkers in the country, a credit, of course, to teachers around the province.

Each year, 33 competitors (18 high/15 middle school) take to the stage in Fredericton to showcase their skills. At the end of the day, three speakers from each category are chosen by a panel of top quality judges. These speakers leave the stage laden with great prizes, including a laptop and an entrance scholarship courtesy of the 3 New Brunswick universities (St. Thomas, UNB, and Mount A) for the 1st place winner in the high school category. As well, thanks to the generosity of school districts around the province, all speakers receive prizes to mark their participation in this enriching event. As educators, however, we know that the best rewards are the intrinsic ones. Students who participate in this event leave the stage feeling confident and proud. They leave, as well, with the deep satisfaction that comes from sharing ideas and knowledge with others.

Now picture this. It is May and your student is heading to the stage. You reflect upon what a wonderful experience oratory has been for all of your students during the past year. They learned to care about language and literacy in ways that have brought new inspiration to your own teaching.

For more information on oratory, visit the portal and search 'provincial oratory.' You can also contact any member of the Provincial Oratory Committee: Derek Taggart, Jane Tunney, Christina Kelly, Lorie Holland, Bruce Vanstone or Gail Blanchette. As well, plans are underway for an information session at Middle and High School Council this spring. Stay tuned.

The committee extends special thanks to St. Thomas University for hosting this annual event.

We would like to remind all Members to **KEEP their membership cards** in a safe place. They have their **member number** on them and are **used for discounts** (see [www.nbta.ca](http://www.nbta.ca) for discounts)

## School Bus Safety Week



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# Teacher Resources

by Chris Allum, Investor Education Fund

I'd like to introduce you to the Investor Education Fund's free teacher program. We have teacher resources to help grades 7-12 students develop financial skills.

1. **Curriculum-based resources and online tools and resources** - These materials are available for preview (and download) on our website. You can also order copies of the resources online. Visit [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca), Teachers' Corner
2. **Financial Securities Portfolio competition for grades 11 and 12 students** - This competition allows students to apply the knowledge and skills they learn in the classroom and also win a cash prize. Visit [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca), Teachers' Corner.
3. **Outstanding Educator in Financial Literacy Award** - Teachers win a cash prize and a plaque. Information and nomination forms can be found on [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca), Teachers' Corner.
4. **Funny Money for High Schools program** - a fun and interactive presentation, hosted by celebrated Canadian comedian, James Cunningham, will motivate and entertain students while they learn about saving, budgeting and investing. This FREE presentation is available to all grades 11 and 12 high school students across Canada. Book your presentation today. Contact Lisa Durocher at 519-622-2670 or email [lisadurocher@cambridgechamber.com](mailto:lisadurocher@cambridgechamber.com)  
Visit [www.investorED.ca](http://www.investorED.ca), Teachers' Corner for more information about Funny Money.



New Brunswick Public Library Service is pleased to distribute an informational brochure highlighting the breast cancer resources available to all New Brunswickers through public libraries.

Our breast cancer collection includes books and audio-visual materials on many aspects of breast health, the prevention of breast cancer, healing from breast cancer and much more. The brochure also provides information on how you can access our electronic resources and our online services remotely with your public library card.

These resources can help family members, especially children, cope with what the patient is going through and how that impacts their whole family.



## Freedom Travel American Express The Student Tour Travel Experts



### Freedom Travel can make your next student tour easier!

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Whether it is New Brunswick, Halifax, Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Boston, New York, Washington, Europe or even further a field, we have the expertise to provide you with the most enriching travel experience! Freedom Travel can help Atlantic Canada's students travel to any part of the world.

**We create content-rich itineraries that are comfortably paced to ensure the most productive learning experience.** We arrange for students to be involved in "behind the scenes" activities to make the tour a valuable learning experience. We create educational tours, sporting and activity-related events - travel adventures that are truly memorable.

**We handle all the details for you - everything from tour development to arrival home.** We meet with you to present ideas and discuss requirements for your tour. We print flyers, handle payments, field parent's inquiries, and do presentations! We are there for you before, during and after the tour. It takes the pressure off you!

**Comfort, safety and attention to detail are our paramount criteria.** Our guides have successfully completed the National Examination for their respective occupations from CTHRC and TIANB and have completed a Standard First Aid/CPR certification course through the St. John Ambulance. We are members of ACTA - the Association of Canadian Travel Agents and are members of SYTA, the Student and Youth Travel Association.

*"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page." - St. Augustine*

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New Brunswick Teachers' Association  
650 Montgomery Street,  
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- Buy school supplies
- Buy new shoes
- Open a TFSA
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