

PEITF

NEWSLETTER



Minister Natalie Jameson and Deputy Minister Bethany MacLeod meet with PEITF President Aldene Smallman and the PEITF Teachers' Advisory Council.

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Aldene Smallman
President, PEITF



The school year of 2020-21 will be remembered for years to come. Operating in the shadow of a global pandemic has demanded a new mindset to manage and function within a pandemic's parameters. Teachers and administrators worldwide have weighed in on a mental health approach focused on trying to stay grounded during these difficult and challenging times. Many articles related to teaching during this pandemic have referenced how creative teachers have been despite the many and varied obstacles faced to reach out and connect with their students. The transitional shift to online learning has been overwhelming on all accounts, and we are very fortunate on P.E.I. to be in our classrooms. Our recent experience with the Red-Alert Zone showed how quickly things change. The break also helped many in the profession realize how they prefer teaching in-front of students rather than in front of a screen, providing it is safe to do so. Our baseline levels of stress have been much higher, and it's a year that would wear you down faster than any other. School staffs have recognized a need to put emotional and social well-being first and foremost. Teachers and administrators have told me that they are trying to work smarter to carve out the necessary time in their busy schedules to practice self-care and maintenance. They have stressed numerous times how students are coping with the day-to-day routines during a pandemic.

From the outset, students adapted to this new norm with flexibility and resilience. For many students, we know that their teacher is the one main constant in their lives. Having this connection has served invaluable to the well-being of students and their families. The many daily interactions in schools have provided stability and support during these times. COVID has reminded us that our schools are caring, nurturing environments where people endeavor to support one another, especially in the new realities within our buildings. Schools are indeed genuine communities.

As we look ahead to the Spring, we have been busy preparing for bargaining in April.

The Economic Welfare Committee has engaged in bargaining preparations since the Fall. We look forward to bargaining in good faith and presenting a package that reflects the ever-changing issues and challenges within our profession. Your feedback to the Ec-Welfare survey provided valuable information to consider through this negotiation process. Thank you for taking the time to provide this. The committee is committed to working hard on your behalf to bring about positive and impactful changes in response to your feedback.

The upcoming months will also bring focus on staffing for the next school year.

“As teachers, we strive to release students’ potential and give them the confidence and knowledge to empower their lives by making differences in others’ lives.”

We are dedicated to advocating for appropriate resources and support within our schools to address the concerns around the increasing demands placed on the workload of teachers and administrators. The staffing model needs to be reviewed as we have expressed to appropriate stakeholders that we are facing failing grades with respect to this model's efficacy. As well, the inclusion model requires a similar review. We have stated to Government that both these models are outdated and require immediate attention.

(continued on page 3)



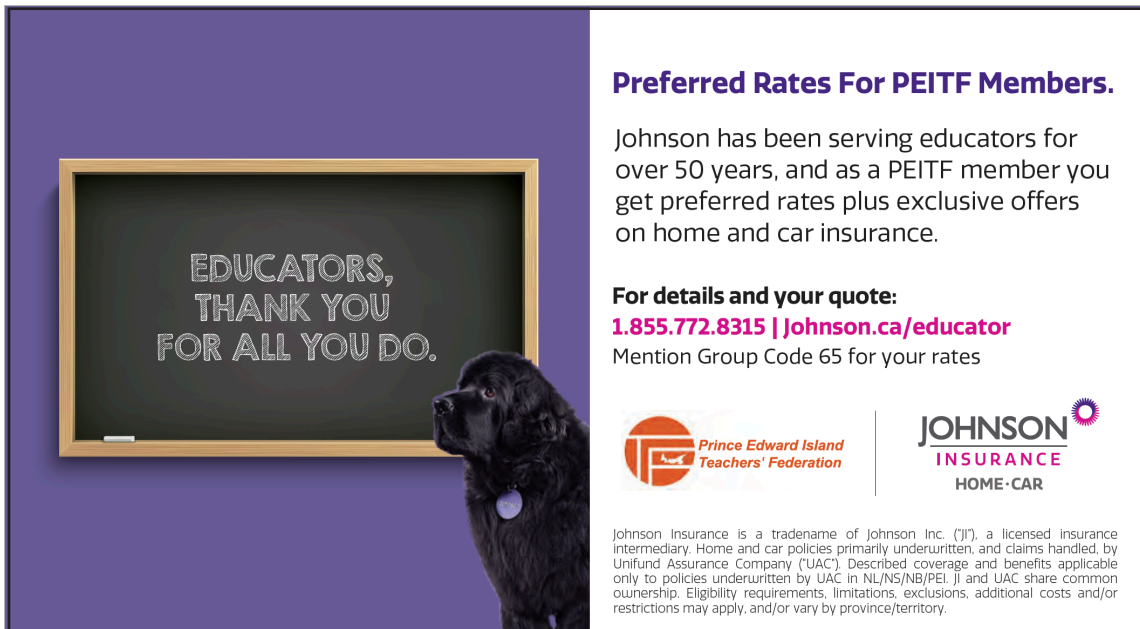
The recent U.S. inauguration featured a young American who inspired the world with her beautiful poem. I have read her words numerous times. Amanda Gorman is an example of how young people can be sources of tremendous inspiration, providing such hope for this upcoming generation to shine a light where there has been mostly darkness. She would not have known the impact she would have on the world before her presentation. That's inherent on how many of us live our lives.

As teachers, we strive to release students' potential and give them the confidence and knowledge to empower their lives by making differences in others' lives. As I listened to Amanda, I thought about her past and present teachers. We, as teachers, are so fortunate to have the opportunity to shape and influence the future. We have all had students like Amanda, who have positively impacted our lives by becoming all we hoped they would become.

In Amanda's words, "if we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright." Her message rings strong and clear. As 2021 progresses, may we take these messages and put them into actions.

March break is in the rearview mirror. My hope is that you managed to get some rest and relaxation to fuel up for the remainder of the school year. Thank you for all you do. You have gone above and beyond, especially this year, to ensure students' safe and caring learning environments. Your dedication and commitment have been pivotable and have had lasting impacts on our school communities.


Aldene Smalman
President, PEITF


An advertisement for Johnson Insurance. On the left, a blackboard with a wooden frame is mounted on a purple wall. The blackboard has the text "EDUCATORS, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO." written on it in white chalk. A black dog is sitting in front of the blackboard, looking up at it. On the right, there is a white box containing text and logos. The text reads: "Preferred Rates For PEITF Members. Johnson has been serving educators for over 50 years, and as a PEITF member you get preferred rates plus exclusive offers on home and car insurance. For details and your quote: 1.855.772.8315 | Johnson.ca/educator Mention Group Code 65 for your rates". Below the text are two logos: the Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation logo and the Johnson Insurance logo. The Johnson Insurance logo includes the word "JOHNSON" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, "INSURANCE" in a smaller font below it, and "HOME · CAR" in a small font at the bottom. The Johnson Insurance logo also features a stylized sun or gear icon to the right of the word "INSURANCE".

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For details and your quote:
1.855.772.8315 | Johnson.ca/educator
Mention Group Code 65 for your rates

 Prince Edward Island Teachers' Federation

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INSURANCE
HOME · CAR

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Chad Gallant
Staff Development Services



It's hard to believe that convention was over 4 months ago. By the time you would have received this newsletter, the Annual Convention Planning Committee will be knee deep into the planning for the 2021 event. The group gathered recently to review the feedback provided through the post-convention survey and to review what changes should be investigated for our learning events in the future.

At the time when our lives were upended last year in March due to the pandemic, we had themes chosen and speakers contracted. Some committee members of the committee remarked how much further ahead we were at that point than past years as we departed the planning meeting just prior to the March break. Then, the world stopped.

As you recall, early on in the pandemic, there was not a great sense of the gravity of the situation and how long the reality of remote learning and gathering limits would be with us. The committee was left in limbo of what to do in terms of planning. As weeks and months passed, it became clear that an in-person convention would not be possible. The convention committee's thought then turned to figuring out how to move forward into the un-chartered waters of an on-line convention.

Each year, the committee strives to have sessions offered by current Island teachers presenting on their expertise in a curricular area. These sessions are always well received and it is always a positive to shine a light on these leading best-practices that are happening in classrooms across PEI. This past year, the committee made the decision to not have local teachers present in order to let all members focus on their well-being and have sessions that would best support this. The absence of local voices was noted in the evaluations along with sessions which focus more prominently on curricu-

“Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.”

- Michael Jordan

lar practices. The committee will look to have these types of presentations return in 2021.

The timing of our annual learning event in the fall of this year has divided thoughts on if the event will be able to proceed in-person or online. While Prince Edward Island has been fortunate with the relatively low case count we have had, we need only look to recent developments here in PEI or in our Atlantic counterparts to see how quickly things can change. Many enjoyed the ability to participate in as many sessions as they liked without having to drive to the Delta and find seats, while others missed the camaraderie and networking ability which the in-person event presents. The tea leaves have changed over the past few months so many times it is hard to count, but it is hard to foresee a situation where gatherings of our size would be allowed. It is for that reason that we fully expect to proceed with the 2nd Annual PEITF Virtual Convention in 2021.

I thank the Annual Convention Committee for their continued commitment to our annual learning event and to all of you for your flexibility in making the event a success.

Stay safe,
Chad



Boosting your Pay with Prior Work Experience

Did you know that you can receive credit for work experience with school aged children even if you were not working as a Teacher? The Registrar recognizes paid work with school-aged children for the purposes of salary increases at a rate of 50% (i.e. 100 months of work with school aged-children would be recognized as 50 teaching days). This means, if you are at Steps 1 to 9 in the salary grid and have experience as a camp counsellor, swimming instructor, tutoring, Educational Assistant, etc. connect with the Registrar to see about having your work experience recognized for salary increases.

Blaine Bernard – Registrar
Education and Lifelong Learning
(902) 438-4827
bxbernard@edu.pe.ca



Changes to Exchanges

Teacher exchanges are a great option for Teachers looking for a change, a challenge or to try something new! Through a teacher exchange, you can try teaching at a different level, in a new community or possibly in a new subject area. It's a great opportunity for professional growth, to diversify your resumé or just to work closer to home!

A teacher exchange allows two teachers to switch schools for a year. At the end of the year, the teachers can go back to their original schools, they can extend the exchange or they can make it permanent. Typically, the PEITF calls for teachers to express their interest in this program and then the Federation makes their information available to all members. This year, we are providing teachers the additional option of expressing their interest in a confidential manner. This means that if you are interested in an exchange but do not want your name and school sent to the PEITF membership, you can indicate this on your teacher exchange form. I will be the only person with access to the confidential teacher exchange forms; your information



Selina Pellerin
Economic Welfare and
Member Services

will not be shared with anyone else at the Federation, the PSB of the CSLF. I will try my best to make matches between the teachers and ask permission before providing information to potential matches. The more teachers submit expressions of interest, the more options there will be for teachers looking to participate. If you have even a small interest in teaching in a different school, I encourage you to submit a form on the PEITF members site.

If you have any questions or want further information, do not hesitate to contact me: (902) 569-4157, selina.pellerin@peitf.com.



Aldene Smallman
President



Andy Doran
Vice-President



Aletha Coady
Vice-President



David Chisolm
Member-at-Large
WATA



Gisele Smallman
Member-at-Large
WATA



Ghislain Bernard
Member-at-Large
AEELF



Sherri Campbell
Member-at-Large
EATA



Sheryll O'Hanley
Member-at-Large
EATA





This issue features the teachers who continue to work hard to support and represent your viewpoints and concerns. The members of the Board of Governors give generously of their time to do this work.

Area Coordinators and Assistants



Helen Smith-MacPhail
Gulf Shore Cons.
Coordinator
EATA



Sharon Anderson
Somerset Cons.
Coordinator
WATA



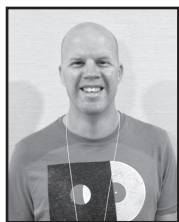
Anne-Marie Rioux
École Pierre-Chiasson
Coordinator
AEELF



Éric Arseneault
École François-Buote
Assistant Coordinator
AEELF

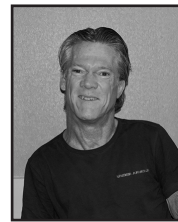


Kendra Silliker
O'Leary Elem.
Assistant Coordinator
WATA



Scott MacCormack
Colonel Gray Sr. High
Assistant Coordinator
EATA

L'association des enseignantes et des enseignants de langue française



Carl Peterson
Saint - Augustin
AEELF



Jean Paul Gallant
École François-Buote
AEELF



Ghislain Sonier
École Évangéline
AEELF



Janelle Chiasson
École Pierre-Chiasson
AEELF

Missing from Photos:

James Hunt
École La-Belle-Cloche

Christopher Daigle
L'école-sur-Mer

Board Of Governors

Eastern Area Teachers' Association

NEWSLETTER



Alanna Gauthier
Central Queens Elem.



Morgan Hennessey
Colonel Gray



Ryan Casey
Queen Charlotte Int.



Andrea Robbins
Parkdale



Beverly Coffin
St. Jean Elementary



Bethany Ellis
Sherwood Elem.



Brenda Larsen
Eliot River



Calvin MacPhail
Southern Kings Cons.



Karen Duffy
East Wiltshire Int.



Carolyn McQuaid
Bluefield



Chris Harkness
Stonepark Int.



Vanda Deighan
West Royalty Elem.



Clodagh Peverley
Westwood Primary



Elizabeth Johnston
Spring Park Elem.



Sophie Marchand
Stratford Elementary



Jacqueline Robbins
Mt. Stewart Cons.



Janice Broderick
Charlottetown Rural



Jeff Trainor
Queen Charlotte



Jennie Mutch
Queen Charlotte Int.



Jill Coffin
Bluefield Sr. High



Trisha Burrows
Colonel Gray Sr. High



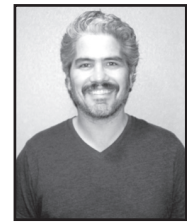
JoAnne Jay
Spring Park Elem.



Joanne MacNevin
Public Schools Branch



Jody MacKinnon
Belfast Consolidated



John Michael Murphy
Birchwood Int.

Board Of Governors

Eastern Area Teachers' Association

NEWSLETTER



Kurt Duncan
Sherwood Elem.



Linda Gallant
Stonepark Int.



Lauren Van Ekris
Montague Int.



Lynn Hogan
Glen Stewart



Lori Gordon
Morell Regional



Lori Targett
Vernon River Cons.



Lynn Sherren
Souris Regional



Marion McGaughey
Donagh Regional



Jillian Veld
Englewood Cons.



Mark McGillivray
Gulf Shore Cons.



Michaela Oliver
Morell Consolidated



Mireille Poirier
West Kent Elem.



Quinn Mills
Georgetown Elem.



Roy Power
Cardigan Cons.



Sally Dunn
Prince Street



Sharleen Dunphy
West Royalty School



Stephanie Ellsworth-Reid
Westwood Primary



Stephanie Ford
LM Montgomery



Stephen Daley
Montague Cons.



Treena Hann
Stratford Elem.

Missing from Photos:

Kathy Constable
PSB Office Charlottetown

Nicole Butler
Souris Regional School

Rebecca Fradsham
Charlottetown Rural Sr. High

Lisa MacLeod
Glen Stewart School

Kathryn Rajamaine
Montague Regional High School

Board Of Governors

Western Area Teachers' Association

NEWSLETTER



Chris Richard
O'Leary Elementary



Eamon Graham
Kensington Int.



Heather Harris
Alberton Elementary



Victoria Coulson
Elm Street



Melanie Gallant
Miscouche Cons.



Jackie Perry
Westisle Comp.



Jennifer Rozell
Ellerslie Elementary



Karen Brennan
Queen Elizabeth Elem.



Karen Smith
Greenfield Elem.



Pam Walsh
Three Oaks Sr. High



Krista Hickey
Three Oaks Sr. High



Lana Mill
Department of Education



Lesley Cousins
Kinkora Reg. High



Andrea Pickett
WATA Sub.



Margaret McIver
Somerset Cons.



Mark MacNeill
Summerside Int.



Mary Hart
M.E. Callaghan



Melanie Corcoran
Hernewood Int.



Michelle Silliker
Substitute Teacher Rep.



Sheila Gaudette
Tignish Elem.



Paul Quinlan
Amherst Cove



Paul Shepard
Parkside Elementary



Rachel Noye
Bloomfield Elem.



Robin Gale Doucette
Athena Consolidated

Missing from Photos:

Cynthia Mendoza
PSB Office Summerside

Kelly Cierra
St. Louis Elementary



President Aldene Smallman



General Secretary Shaun MacCormac addresses the board at their September workshop.



PEITF Board of Governors gather for their September workshop. The board was in cohorts with social distancing of seats.



Shaun MacCormac
PEITF General Secretary

Well, 2020 has come and gone and it will certainly be a year to remember. I'm pretty sure that 2021 will also be in our memory for a while too. It has been a challenging time in many ways, and there won't be too many people who will be sad when things are back to whatever "normal" means.

Prince Edward Island has been among the best places to ride out this pandemic, but that being said, it hasn't exactly been a picnic. Our lives are not the same, and despite very few cases of COVID-19, the stress and strain is still there for many of us.

On top of that stress and strain of your personal lives, school has gone ahead in this province pretty much as normal, except the extra work and expectations related to the pandemic. Although there have been no outbreaks in schools in this province, the fear and possibility remains until most, if not all, teachers and students are vaccinated. Given there are no approved vaccines for most students, we have no idea when that fear will lessen.

On the positive side, you folks have done what you always do; you have stepped up and done your best in a very challenging situation. Students that have fallen behind are catching up, some faster than others of course, and you have lessened the negative impacts and stresses on your students. Try to remember that as you make your way to the end of a very long year. As always, you make a difference in your students' lives and that is as important as ever right now.

In other news... we have a fairly new Minister. The Honourable Natalie Jameson is getting up-to-speed on her new portfolio and we are pleased to have her. She has young children and her father is a retired teacher. Those things, among others, will give her some first-hand insight in her new role. Minister Jameson has been invited to address the Board of Governors at the PEITF AGM in late May.

This is also a bargaining year. I know everyone must be even busier than normal when I am asked that question by some of the teachers I meet out and about. We are looking forward to negotiating with a new Government, and we are very hopeful that the bargaining process will go back to a ten-day process and that becomes as amicable as it used to be prior to the past two rounds.

Also of significance, teaching positions have been added in the most recent provincial budget. Although a positive thing, we have not been given the overall picture yet, as to what the total difference is compared to this school year. There were positions added this year through Federal Government money, and that money and those positions have not been extended.

Lastly, staffing for next year is progressing at a positive pace, at least in the PSB, thanks to a new and more detailed process instituted by Kelly Drummond and her HR team. We are very appreciative of the work done in this regard as it has created timelines that are appreciated by many of our members. The new process has also greatly helped in our goal of trying to identify staffing needs early and, as much as possible, prior to the Government's budget process. It will also help in our goal of trying to get positive changes to the staffing model used by the Department and Government.

I hope you have a fast and positive end to your school year. Stay safe, be good to yourselves, and be good to each other.

Shaun MacCormac
PEITF General Secretary