

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY PLAN
April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014

Chairperson's Message

March 31, 2011

Honourable Joan Burke
Minister of Education
West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
A1B 4J6

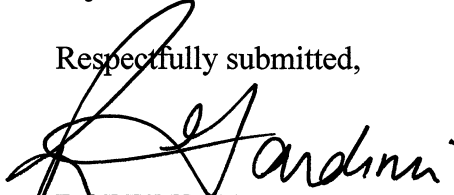
Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit a three-year Activity Plan for the Teachers' Certification Committee. This plan covers the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014 and is prepared in accordance with the responsibilities for a category three entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*. The committee recognizes the vision and mission of the Department of Education and is committed to its supporting role in the education system. This includes providing advice to the Registrar of Teachers and government.

The committee has reviewed the strategic directions from the Minister of Education and notes that they are all being addressed by other entities.

My signature below is on behalf of the Teachers' Certification Committee and indicative of our accountability for the development of this plan and achievement of the contained objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT GARDINER
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 8 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee. As of April 1, 2011 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Deana Hatcher;
- an officer of the Department of Education who shall be chairperson, Mr. Robert Gardiner;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Andrea Rose and Dr. Karen Goodnough;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Beverly Park and Ms. Jean Murphy; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association, Mr. Brian Shortall and Mr. Goronwy Price.

All members of the committee are located in St. John's with the exception of Mr. Goronwy Price, who is located in Labrador, and Ms. Jean Murphy, who is located in Cow Head. The committee meets in St. John's.

Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their professional positions and no remuneration is provided. The Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association covers the cost of travel and incidental expenses for the member from Labrador. The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association covers the cost of travel and incidental expenses for the member from Cow Head.

This committee operates at no cost to government and is not required to prepare financial statements.

Mandate

The Teachers' Certification Committee is mandated to advise the Registrar of Teachers on the granting and issuing of teachers' certificates and licences in accordance with section 12 of the *Teacher Training Act*.

Furthermore, the Teachers' Certification Committee may make regulations, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, as per section 11 of the *Teacher Training Act* in the following areas:

- prescribing the number and names of grades of teachers' certificates and licences, and the conditions under which the certificates and licences may be granted;
- prescribing the conditions under and the period during which the certificates and licences shall be valid;
- providing for the granting of interim, as well as permanent, teachers' certificates;
- providing for academic and professional standards in the training, examining, grading, certification and licensing of teachers, including training, examining, grading, certification and licensing in relation to the divisions in which they shall be qualified to teach;
- providing for the training and examining of administrators and supervisory and specialist personnel; and
- generally respecting the academic and professional standards in training and classification of teachers.

Values of the Department of Education

The Teachers' Certification Committee performs its duties within the core values established by the Department of Education:

- Awareness:** Each person identifies their role in accordance with government's strategic vision for the province.
- Excellence:** Each person endeavors to apply the highest professional standards when carrying out assigned duties.
- Cooperation:** Each person respects the knowledge of others and actively seeks support from colleagues to achieve the department's mandate.
- Responsiveness:** Each person actively engages opportunities to assist stakeholders.
- Accountability:** Each person is conscious of their responsibilities and performs every task with openness and integrity.

Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Teachers' Certification Committee are the teachers of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Vision and Mission

Teachers are a key component of a high quality education system, and the Teachers' Certification Committee is committed to supporting the vision and mission of the Department of Education by ensuring that all the individuals entrusted to educate our province's children from Kindergarten to Level III meet the highest standards in their profession.

Vision of the Department of Education

The vision of the Department of Education is citizens with the values, knowledge and skills necessary to be productive and contributing members of society.

Mission of the Department of Education *

By March 31, 2017, the Department of Education will have increased the accessibility and responsiveness of the provincial education system to improve opportunities for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

* Please refer to the Department of Education Strategic Plan 2011-2014 for the complete mission statement.

Objectives

The mandate of the Teachers' Certification Committee, as a category three government entity, is very specific. The function the committee performs is advisory in nature and complements the ongoing work of the Registrar of Teachers. Over the course of the next three years, the committee will perform its function to the best of its ability effectively and efficiently. In light of the above, the committee has set the following objectives:

Issue One: Advisory Services

Advisory services, as required, are provided to the Registrar of Teachers on matters pertaining to approval of teacher training programs for both initial certification, and for programs requested by teachers for the purpose of attaining higher levels of teacher certification.

With respect to the provision of advisory services the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2012, 2013, and 2014. This objective will be reported upon in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

The Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

Measure: Advisory Services provided to Registrar of Teachers

Indicators: Provided advice with respect to teacher training programs

Issue Two: Review of Regulations

The Teachers' Certification Committee reviews teacher certification regulations on an on-going basis to assess these regulations and ensure that they are effective and efficient.

With respect to the review of regulations the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2012, 2013, and 2014. This objective will be reported in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

The Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when necessary and submitted appropriate comments for the Minister of Education's consideration.

Measure: Reviewed teacher certification regulations

Indicators: Submitted appropriate comments

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee is committed to supporting the mandate of the Minister of Education and will continue to do its part to further the vision and mission of the department by ensuring that high standards are set to which teachers in the province are held. The committee ensures that only the most highly qualified individuals are entrusted with our children's education in classrooms throughout the province by setting standards for training, qualifying and certifying teachers.