

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2017-18**

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Chairperson's Message

Honourable Al Hawkins
Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development
West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit the 2017-18 Annual Activity Report of the Teachers' Certification Committee. This report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of a category three entity under the Transparency and Accountability Act and covers the period of April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018.

My signature below is on behalf of the committee and is indicative of the committee's accountability for the actual results reported herein.

Respectfully submitted,



RON SMITH
Chairperson

Overview

Section 8 of the Teacher Training Act provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee, and as of March 31, 2018 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Deana Hatcher;
- an officer of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, who shall be chairperson, Mr. Ron Smith;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Rhonda Joy and Dr. Gerald Galway;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Mr. Steve Brooks and Mr. Derek Drover; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Mr. Brian Shortall and Mr. Lester Simmons.

Members of the committee are located in St. John's with the exception of Mr. Lester Simmons, who is located in Labrador, and Mr. Derek Drover, who is located in Gaultois. The committee meets in St. John's.

Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their organizational affiliations 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 Gaultois.

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.

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.

Activities

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. As such, the committee identified two issues in its 2017-20 activity plan:

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.

Objective:

By March 31, 2018, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

The following details the committee's successful achievement of the indicator for 2017-18.

Indicator: Provided advice, as required, with respect to teacher training programs

The Teachers' Certification Committee met on two occasions during 2017-18 and provided advice to the Registrar of Teachers on a number of issues relating to teacher training programs, including program reviews, updates on changes to programs at Memorial University and recommendations from the Premier's Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes report, *Now is the Time: The Next Chapter in Education in Newfoundland and Labrador*.

Objective for 2018-19:

With respect to the provision of advisory services, the following objective is the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. This objective will be reported upon in the Teachers' Certification Committee 2018-19 Annual Activity Report.

Objective: By March 31, 2019, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

Indicator: Provided advice, as required, with respect to teacher training programs

ISSUE TWO: REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

The Teachers' Certification Committee reviews teacher certification regulations on an ongoing basis to ensure they are effective and efficient.

Objective:

By March 31, 2018, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when issues have been identified.

The following details the committee's work towards the achievement of the indicator for 2017-18.

Indicator: Reviewed regulations when issues have been identified

During the previous year, the Teachers' Certification Committee undertook a scan of Teacher Certification Regulations across Canada. In July 2017, the Premier's Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes released its final report. As part of that report, one recommendation was to complete a comprehensive jurisdictional review of certification standards across Canada. The committee reviewed the work that was completed to date and provided feedback to guide further research by departmental staff. That review is expected to be completed in spring 2018. As such, no recommended amendments were submitted to the department.

Indicator: Provided recommendations to the Minister, as required

No recommended amendments were submitted to the Minister as the jurisdictional scan is ongoing. Implementation of the recommendations from the Premier's Task Force on Improving Educational Outcomes report will likely necessitate amendments to the legislation.

Objective for 2018-19:

With respect to review of regulations, the following objective is the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019. This objective will be reported upon in the Teachers' Certification Committee 2018-19 Annual Activity Report.

Objective: By March 31, 2019, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when issues have been identified.

Indicators: Provided advice, as required, with respect to teacher training programs
Provided recommendations to the Minister, as required

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee is committed to supporting the mandate of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and will continue to ensure 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.