TEACHER CERTIFICATION REVIEW PANEL

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2024-2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chairperson's Message ii

Overview 1

Mandate 2

Activities 2

Conclusion 4

Honourable Paul Dinn
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 2024-25 Annual Activity Report of the Teacher Certification Review Panel. 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, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Pinsent
Chairperson

Overview

Section 3 of the **Teacher Training Act** sets out the membership of Teachers Certification Review Panel (TCRP):

- a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association;
- a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association; and
- a representative of the general public.

As per the Act, the review panel is appointed by the Minister of Education.

As of March 31, 2025, the membership of the Teacher Certification Review Panel was as follows:

Name	Position	Type of Appointment
Sarah Pinsent, representative of the general public	Chairperson	Ministerial appointment
Thomas Kendall, member of NLSBA	Member	Ministerial appointment
Peter Sutherland, member of NLTA	Member	Ministerial appointment

Two members of the review panel are nominated by their organizations for appointment. The representative of the general public is chosen through a merit-based process, and appointed as the Chairperson. Ms. Sarah Pinsent was appointed as Chair and representative of the general public on November 15, 2024.

Members of the review panel receive remuneration in accordance with Level III of the Treasury Board Guidelines for Rates of Remuneration for Agencies, Boards and Commissions. The remuneration issued is minimal and is covered in its entirety by the Department of Education. Minimal expenses for travel and incidentals are also covered by the Department of Education. The review panel is not required to prepare financial statements.

The Registrar of Teachers acts in the capacity of executive secretary to the review panel, which meets, as required, in St. John's.

Mandate

Under sections 5, 10 and 13 of the **Teacher Training Act**, the Teacher Certification Review Panel is mandated to:

- suspend or cancel the certificate or licence of a teacher as defined in the **Schools Act, 1997** (and includes a director, an assistant director or a senior management official), who is guilty of gross misconduct, incompetence or for other just cause;
- suspend for up to one year the certificate or licence of a teacher who,
  - while required by contract to teach with the department, accepts a position with conseil scolaire without obtaining a written release from the department,
  - while required by contract to teach with the conseil scolaire, accepts a position with department without obtaining a written release from the department,
  - having contracted to teach with the department or the conseil scolaire, terminates that contract before beginning service as a teacher with the department or the conseil scolaire unless, where special circumstances arise which the department or the conseil scolaire and the teacher agree make it inappropriate for the teacher to fulfil his or her contract, the department or the conseil scolaire has given the teacher a written release, or
  - having contracted to teach with the department or the conseil scolaire terminates that contract without giving to the department or the conseil scolaire the notice required by the collective agreement; and
- at the request of a teacher or the committee, review the cancellation or suspension of, or a refusal to cancel or suspend, a teaching certificate or licence made by the review panel, and make its decision in accordance with the Act and regulations.

Activities

The Teacher Certification Review Panel identified one objective in its 2023-26 Activity Plan to guide its work throughout the year.

Issue One: Review Certification Decisions

The Teacher Certification Review Panel was established to ensure due process with respect to the cancellation or suspension of teaching certificates. The panel only meets when required; however, and it is committed to providing timely decisions effectively and efficiently.

With respect to the review panel, the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2024, 2025, and 2026. This objective will be reported upon in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

The Teacher Certification Review Panel will have reviewed and rendered decisions, as required, with respect to teacher certification issues.

Indicators:

Number of issues reviewed

In 2024-25 fiscal year, the Teacher Certification Review Panel did not meet as the chairperson was not appointed until November 2024 and meeting with the Registrar of Teachers did not happen until April 2025. Therefore, no cases were reviewed.*

*As of January 1, 2024, the former NLESD has been integrated into the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. As a result of these governance changes, representatives of the Federation of School Boards of Newfoundland are not applicable to the Teachers' Certification Review Panel in the 2024-25 reporting period. The **Teacher Training Act** is currently under review and it is anticipated amendments will reflect changes for the Review Panel's structure and functioning.

Number of decisions rendered

Throughout the 2024-25 fiscal year, the Teacher Certification Review Panel did not meet, therefore no decisions were rendered.

Conclusion

The Teacher Certification Review Panel is committed to supporting the mandate of the Minister of Education and will continue to ensure that teachers in the province are held to the highest standards of their profession.