

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2016-17**

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Chairperson's Message

September 19, 2017

Honourable Dale Kirby
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 2016-17 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, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

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, 2017 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Lori Chafe;
- an officer of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, who shall be chairperson, Ms. Georgina Lake;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Rhonda Joy and Dr. Heather McLeod;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Beverly Park and Mr. Derek Drover; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association, Mr. Brian Shortall and Mr. Goronwy Price.

Members of the committee are located in St. John's with the exception of Mr. Goronwy Price, 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 2014-17 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, 2017, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

The following details the committee's successful achievement of the indicator as presented in the activity plan for 2014-17.

Indicator: Provided advice with respect to teacher training programs

The Teachers' Certification Committee met on three occasions during 2016-17 and provided advice to the Registrar of Teachers on a number of issues relating to teacher training programs, including program reviews, updating the policy for an Approved Master's Degree, and updating the policy for an Approved Education Degree.

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, 2017, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when necessary and submitted appropriate comments for the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development's consideration.

The following details the committee's work towards the achievement of the indicator as presented in the activity plan for 2014-17.

Indicator: Submitted appropriate comments

During 2016-17, the Teachers' Certification Committee initiated a review of the *Teacher Certification Regulations*. The review is ongoing, and is expected to be completed in spring 2018. As such, no recommended amendments were submitted to the department.

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee is committed to supporting the mandate of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development 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. An Activity Plan for 2017-20 has been developed which will help guide the work of the Teachers' Certification Committee over the coming years.