

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2022-23**

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Chairperson's Message

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

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit the 2022- 23 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, 2022 to March 31, 2023.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanne Hogan".

JOANNE HOGAN
Chairperson

Overview

Section 8 of the **Teacher Training Act** provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee, and as of March 31, 2023 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Karen Mulrooney;
- an officer of the Department of Education, who shall be Chairperson, Ms. Joanne Hogan;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Leslie Redmond and Dr. Gerald Galway;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Deanna Hatcher and Mr. Darryl George; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Mr. Goronwy Price and Mr. Steve Tessier (up to June 2022). Representatives were not applicable from June 2022 to March 2023*.

Ms. Karen Mulrooney was appointed as the new Registrar of Teachers in July 2022 to replace Mr. Sheldon Antle on the committee. In addition, Dr. Leslie Redmond joined the committee to replace Dr. Edith Furey as a representative of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University in March 2023.

The committee meets in St. John's.

Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their organizational affiliations and no remuneration is provided.

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

* In early June 2022, an Integration Board, comprised of officials from government, was appointed to the Board of the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) to oversee operations and facilitate the integration of NLESD into government. As a result of these governance changes, representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association are not applicable to the Teachers' Certification Committee in the 2022-23 reporting period. The **Teacher Training Act** is currently under review and it is anticipated amendments will reflect changes for the committee's structure and functioning.

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.

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. As such, the committee identified two issues in its 2020-23 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, 2023, 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 2020-23.

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

While the Teachers' Certification Committee makes every effort to meet twice a year the first meeting scheduled for June 2022 was cancelled due to change in staff and the appointment of a new Registrar during this period. As a result of the cancellation the committee met only once during the 2022-23 reporting period to provide advisory services to the Office of Teacher Certification.

The meeting took place in March 2023 with six of eight committee members in attendance. Representatives from the Integration Board were not present. A majority of the members were present, meeting the requirement for quorum. During the meeting the committee provided significant advice to the Registrar with respect to approval criteria for Teaching and Learning Assistant certification and approval for Master's program for upgrading purposes.

ISSUE TWO: REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

The Teachers' Certification Committee reviews teacher certification regulations on an ongoing basis to ensure they are effective and efficient. No new regulations were brought forward.

Objective:

By March 31, 2023, 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 as presented in the activity plan for 2020-23.

Indicator: Reviewed regulations when issues have been identified

In 2022-23, the Teachers' Certification Committee continued to provide guidance to the Registrar as required under the mandate of the committee. No issues were identified and, therefore, regulations were not required to be reviewed.

Indicator: Provided recommendations to the Minister, as required

Public consultations on the Teacher Training Act were held during January to March 2022. The Teachers' Certification Committee, as a stakeholder, was invited by the Minister to provide a written submission. The Teachers' Certification Committee collected feedback from members and provided a final submission to the Department of Education

During the 2020-23 activity planning period, the Teachers' Certification Committee convened on five occasions and offered significant advice to the Registrar of Teachers on a number of issues related to teacher training programs. This encompassed conducting program reviews and granting certification and program approvals. Besides the recommendations to the Minister with respect to suggested amendments to the **Teacher Training Act**, there were no regulatory recommendations put forth to Minister during the 2020-23 planning period.

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee remains dedicated to upholding the mandate of the Department of Education and maintaining rigorous standards set for teachers in the province. The primary objective of the committee is to guarantee that only exceptionally qualified individuals are entrusted with the education of our children in classrooms across the region. The committee accomplishes this by establishing standards for teacher training, qualifications, and certifications, thereby ensuring that high standards are consistently met.