

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION
REVIEW PANEL**

**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 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, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

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,



JOHN GEORGE
Panel Member

Overview

Section 3 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teacher Certification Review Panel, and as of March 31, 2017 the membership was as follows:

- a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association (NLTA), Mr. Peter Sutherland;
- a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association, Mr. John George; and
- a representative of the general public, Ms. Genevieve Dawson (Chairperson).

Mr. Sutherland is from Stephenville, Mr. George is from Harbour Breton and Ms. Dawson is from St. John's.

The first two members of the review panel are appointed by virtue of their organizational affiliations. The Chairperson is appointed from the general public and receives 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 and Early Childhood Development. Minimal expenses for travel and incidentals are also covered by the department. 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 (including a director, an associate director or an assistant director as defined in the *Schools Act, 1997*) 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 one school board, accepts a position with a second school board without obtaining a written release from the first school board,
 - having contracted to teach with a school board, terminates that contract before beginning service as a teacher with the school board unless, where special circumstances arise which the school board and the teacher agree make it inappropriate for the teacher to fulfil his or her contract, the school board has given the teacher a written release, or
 - having contracted to teach with a school board terminates that contract without giving to the board 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 2014-17 Activity Plan to guide its work throughout the year.

Issue One: Review Certification Decisions

The Teacher Certification Review Panel is a quasi-judicial body established to ensure due process with respect to the cancellation or suspension of teaching certificates. The panel only meets when required and it is committed to providing timely decisions effectively and efficiently.

With respect to the review panel, the following objective, measures and indicators were the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017:

Objective:

By March 31, 2017, the Teacher Certification Review Panel will have reviewed and rendered decisions as required with respect to teacher certification issues.

Indicators:

Number of issues reviewed

No issues were brought forward during 2016-17 for the review panel's consideration.

Number of decisions rendered

As there were no issues brought forward for the review panel's consideration during 2016-17, no decisions were rendered. During 2016-17, the review panel did meet on one occasion. The meeting was a procedural meeting to update the review panel's procedure guidelines.

Conclusion

The Teacher Certification Review Panel is committed to supporting the mandate of the Minister 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 teachers in the province are held to the highest standards of their profession. An Activity Plan for 2017-20 has been developed which will help guide the work of the Teacher Certification Review Panel over the coming years.