

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION
REVIEW PANEL**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2020-21**

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Chairperson's Message

Honourable Tom Osborne
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 2020-21 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, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

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,



GREGORY FRENCH
Chair

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 (NLTA); a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association (NLSBA); and a representative of the general public.

As of March 31, 2021, the membership of the Teacher Certification Review Panel was as follows:

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

Mr. Sutherland is from Stephenville, Mr. Kendell is from Grand Falls-Windsor and Mr. French is from Paradise.

The NLTA and NLSBA members of are nominated by their organization for appointment and the representative of the general public is chosen through a merit-based process. Remuneration is 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. 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 2020-23 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 and indicators were the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021:

2020-21 Objective:

By March 31, 2021, the Teacher Certification Review Panel will have reviewed and rendered decisions, as required, with respect to teacher certification issues.

Indicators:

Number of issues reviewed

The Teacher Certification Review Panel held zero meetings in 2020-21, and zero cases were reviewed. While there are certification files currently listed as under investigation, the Office depends on the school districts to provide information on files related to teacher discipline. The Office was advised by NLESD in February of 2021 that due to privacy concerns and the lack of ability for the Office of Certification and Records to compel evidence under the **Teacher Training Act**, they could no longer provide information to the regulatory body with respect to disciplinary investigations. The Department of Education has requested the Department of Justice and Public Safety to review the opinion of NLESD and determine if current legislation needs to be changed to address this issue.

Number of decisions rendered

As there were no meetings held in 2020-21, there were no decisions rendered.

Objective for 2021-22:

The Teacher Certification Review Panel will report on the same objective and indicators for all three years covered by its 2020-23 Activity Plan.

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.