

**THE TEACHER CERTIFICATION
REVIEW PANEL**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2008-09**

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Chairperson's Message

May 20, 2009

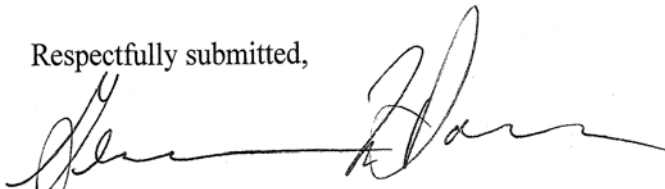
Honourable Darin King
Minister of Education
West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit the 2008-09 Annual Activity Report of the Teacher Certification Review Panel. This report covers the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

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

Respectfully submitted,



GENEVIEVE DAWSON
Chairperson

Overview

Section 3 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teacher Certification Review Panel 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 who is 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 positions. 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 Boards, Commissions, and Agencies. 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 and a clerical staff member from the Department of Education acts as recording secretary during hearings. The panel meets as required in St. John's.

A person who is a member of the review panel is not eligible for appointment to a board of appeals.

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 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.

Vision and Mission

Teachers are a key component of a high quality education system. The Teacher Certification Review Panel is committed to supporting the vision and mission of the Department of Education by ensuring that all the individuals entrusted to educate our province's children from Kindergarten to Level III meet the highest standards in their profession.

Vision of the Department of Education

The vision of the Department of Education is citizens with the values, knowledge and skills necessary to be productive and contributing members of society.

Mission of the Department of Education*

By 2011, the Department of Education will have maintained an educational system for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador which is of high quality, safe and affordable.

*Please refer to the Department of Education Strategic Plan 2008-11 for the complete mission statement.

Activities

The Teacher Certification Review Panel identified one objective in their 2008-11 Activity Plan to guide their work throughout the fiscal 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. However, it is committed to providing timely decisions effectively and efficiently.

With respect to the review panel the following objective was the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

Objective:

By March 31, 2009, the Teacher Certification Review Panel will have reviewed and rendered decisions as requested with respect to teacher certification issues.

Measure: Reviewed teacher certification issues
Rendered decisions

The following details the panel's successful achievement of the indicators presented in the activity plan.

Number of issues reviewed

The review panel held one hearing during 2008-09 in which one case was reviewed.

Number of decisions rendered

The panel cancelled one teaching certificate at the hearing during 2008-09. The decision of the panel was communicated to the teacher and to other certification authorities across Canada.

Year Two Objective:

With respect to the review of certification decisions, the previous objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2010, and 2011. This objective will be reported upon in each of the respective annual reports.

Financial Statements

Two members of the review panel are appointed by virtue of their positions and no further remuneration is provided. The chairperson was appointed from the general public and receives remuneration in accordance with Level III of the Treasury Board Guidelines for Rates of Remuneration for Boards, Commissions, and Agencies. The remuneration issued was minimal and covered in its entirety by the Department of Education. Minimal expenses for travel and incidentals were also covered by the department. The review panel is not required to prepare financial statements.