

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION
REVIEW PANEL**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2013-14**

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Chairperson's Message

May 28, 2014

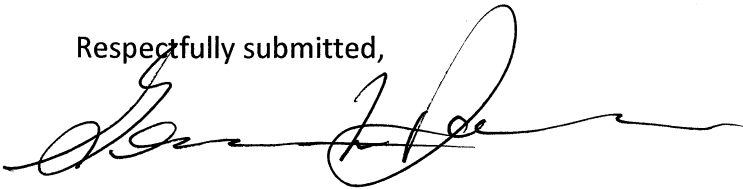
Honourable Darin King
Minister of Education
West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit the 2013-14 Annual Activity Report of the Teacher Certification Review Panel. This report covers the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

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, and as of March 31, 2014 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 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 professional 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.

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.

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 meet the highest standards in their profession.

Vision of the Department of Education

An educational community that fosters safe, caring and inclusive learning environments enabling individuals to reach their full potential.

Mission of the Department of Education*

By March 31, 2017, the Department of Education will have improved provincial early childhood learning and the K-12 education system to further opportunities for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Please refer to the Department of Education Strategic Plan 2014-17 for the complete mission statement.

Activities

The Teacher Certification Review Panel identified one objective in its 2011-14 Activity Plan to guide its 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, measures and indicators were the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014:

Objective:

By March 31, 2014, the Teacher Certification Review Panel will have reviewed and rendered decisions as required with respect to teacher certification issues.

Measures: Reviewed teacher certification issues
Rendered decisions

Indicators:**Number of issues reviewed**

During 2013-14, one issue was brought forward for the review panel's consideration.

Number of decisions rendered

One decision was rendered by the review panel. At its meeting of April 10, 2013, the review panel cancelled the certificate of one individual.

Conclusion

The Teacher Certification Review Panel is committed to supporting the mandate of the Minister of Education 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 2014-17 has been developed which will help guide the work of the Teacher Certification Review Panel over the coming years.