

**TEACHER CERTIFICATION
REVIEW PANEL**

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2019-20**

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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 2019-20 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, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. French".

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, 2020, 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.

Mr. Roger Gillingham was nominated as an alternate NLTA representative on the Teacher Certification Review Panel in 2019-20 to hear one file due to a potential conflict of interest.

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 2017-20 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, 2020:

Objective:

By March 31, 2020, 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 one meeting in 2019-20. One case was reviewed at this meeting, which was held on August 27, 2019. A second meeting was planned for spring 2020 but did not occur due to pandemic restrictions. There are four outstanding cases to be reviewed.

Number of decisions rendered

One decision was rendered upon review at the August 27, 2019 meeting. The case resulted in non-renewal of a teaching certificate as the case dealt with an Emergency License that had expired and the file was classified as cancelled.

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.