

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**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 Teachers' Certification Committee. 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.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr. Ron Smith for his contribution and commitment to the committee during the reporting period of April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,



JOANNE HOGAN
Chairperson

Overview

Section 8 of the **Teacher Training Act** provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee, and as of March 31, 2020 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Mr. Sheldon Antle;
- an officer of the Department of Education (the former Department of Education and Early Childhood Development), who shall be Chairperson, Mr. Ron Smith;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Edith Furey and Dr. Karen Goodnough;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Mr. Steve Brooks and Mr. Gabriel Ryan; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Mr. Brian Shortall and Mr. Lester Simmons.

Ms. Joanne Hogan was appointed to the Teachers' Certification Committee as the new Chairperson in July 2020 after Mr. Ron Smith retired from the Department of Education.

Members of the committee are located in St. John's with the exception of Mr. Gabriel Ryan, who is located in Holyrood, and Mr. Lester Simmons, who is located in Labrador. The committee meets in St. John's.

Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their organizational affiliations and no remuneration is provided. The Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association covers the cost of travel and incidental expenses for the member from Labrador. The Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association covers the cost of travel and incidental expenses for the member from Gaultois.

This committee operates at no cost to Government and is not required to prepare financial statements.

Mandate

The Teachers' Certification Committee is mandated to advise the Registrar of Teachers on the granting and issuing of teachers' certificates and licences in accordance with section 12 of the **Teacher Training Act**.

The Teachers' Certification Committee may make regulations, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, as per section 11 of the **Teacher Training Act** in the following areas:

- prescribing the number and names of grades of teachers' certificates and licences, and the conditions under which the certificates and licences may be granted;

- prescribing the conditions under and the period during which the certificates and licences shall be valid;
- providing for the granting of interim, as well as permanent, teachers' certificates;
- providing for academic and professional standards in the training, examining, grading, certification and licensing of teachers, including training, examining, grading, certification and licensing in relation to the divisions in which they shall be qualified to teach;
- providing for the training and examining of administrators and supervisory and specialist personnel; and
- generally respecting the academic and professional standards in training and classification of teachers.

Objectives

The mandate of the Teachers' Certification Committee as a category three government entity is very specific. The function the committee performs is advisory in nature and complements the ongoing work of the Registrar of Teachers. As such, the committee identified two issues in its 2017-20 activity plan:

ISSUE ONE: ADVISORY SERVICES

Advisory services, as required, are provided to the Registrar of Teachers on matters pertaining to approval of teacher training programs for both initial certification, and for programs requested by teachers for the purpose of attaining higher levels of teacher certification.

Objective:

By March 31, 2020, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

The following details the committee's successful achievement of the indicator as presented in the activity plan for 2017-20.

Indicator: Provided advice, as required, with respect to teacher training programs

The Teachers' Certification Committee met twice during the reporting period to provide advisory services to the Office of Teacher Certification. The committee provided significant advice to the Registrar with respect to certification of the newly-created Teaching and Learning Assistant certification process. An additional meeting was planned; however, due to the retirement of the Chair, a decision was made to hold the meeting in spring 2020. However, the meeting was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic, and the meeting is anticipated to be held on October 27, 2020.

ISSUE TWO: REVIEW OF REGULATIONS

The Teachers' Certification Committee reviews teacher certification regulations on an ongoing basis to ensure they are effective and efficient.

Objective:

By March 31, 2020, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when issues have been identified.

The following details the committee's work towards the achievement of the indicator as presented in the activity plan for 2017-20.

Indicator: Reviewed regulations when issues have been identified

The Teachers' Certification Committee reviewed and provided feedback to the regulatory requirements, including establishment of ongoing educational criteria for the Teaching and Learning Assistant certification process; review and approval of Graduate programs at Yorkville University; and review of the work of the Foreign Qualifications Recognition research project.

Indicator: Provided recommendations to the Minister, as required

The Teachers' Certification Committee was not required to provide recommendations to the Minister. The committee was advised of the potential review of the **Teacher Training Act** and has indicated that the committee should be identified as a stakeholder on any regulatory change as a result of legislative review.

During the 2017-20 strategic planning period, the Teachers' Certification Committee met on six occasions and provided significant advice to the Registrar of Teachers on a number of issues related to teacher training programs. This included program reviews, updates on changes to programs at Memorial University and the certification process for the newly-created Teaching and Learning Assistant position. Besides the recommendations to the Minister with respect to qualifications necessary to achieve the Teaching and Learning Assistant certification, which were provided in 2018-19, there were no regulatory recommendations provided to Minister during the planning period.

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee is committed to supporting the mandate of the Department of Education and will continue to ensure that high standards are set to which teachers in the province are held. The committee ensures that only the most highly qualified individuals are entrusted with our children's education in classrooms throughout the province by setting standards for training, qualifying and certifying teachers.