

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY PLAN

April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017

Chairperson's Message

April 1, 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 a three-year Activity Plan for the Teachers' Certification Committee. This plan covers the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017 and is prepared in accordance with the responsibilities for a category three entity under the *Transparency and Accountability Act*. The committee recognizes the vision and mission of the Department of Education and is committed to its supporting role in the education system, providing advice to the Registrar of Teachers and government.

The strategic directions, as communicated by the Minister of Education, were reviewed and it was determined that none of the directions are applicable to the committee.

My signature below is on behalf of the Teachers' Certification Committee and indicative of our accountability for the development of this plan and achievement of the contained objectives.

Respectfully submitted,



BRIAN EVANS
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 8 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee, and as of April 1, 2014 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Lori Williams;
- an officer of the Department of Education who shall be chairperson, Mr. Brian Evans;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Andrea Rose and Dr. Gerald Galway;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Beverly Park and Mr. Derek Drover; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards' Association, Mr. Brian Shortall and Mr. Goronwy Price.

All members of the committee are located in St. John's with the exception of Mr. Goronwy Price, who is located in Labrador, and Mr. Derek Drover, who is located in Gaultois. The committee meets in St. John's.

Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their professional positions 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*.

Furthermore, 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.

Values of the Department of Education

The Teachers' Certification Committee performs its duties within the core values established by the Department of Education:

- Respect** Each person is considerate of the diversity that exists amongst colleagues and clients.
- Communication:** Each person strives to be clear, concise, timely and easily accessible to clients and colleagues.
- Excellence:** Each person endeavors to apply the highest professional standards when carrying out duties and takes pride in their work.
- Collaboration:** Each person values the contribution and opinions of their colleagues and clients and actively seeks support to achieve the department's mission.
- Accountability:** Each person is aware of their roles and responsibilities and performs their tasks with integrity.
- Innovation:** Each person strives to identify new ideas and methods to serve clients in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Teachers' Certification Committee are the teachers of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Vision and Mission

Teachers are a key component of a high quality education system, and the Teachers' Certification Committee 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

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's 2014-17 Strategic Plan for the complete mission statement.

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. Over the course of the next three years, the committee will perform its function effectively and efficiently. In light of the above, the committee has set the following objectives:

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.

With respect to the provision of advisory services the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2015, 2016, and 2017. This objective will be reported upon in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

The Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

Measure: Advisory Services provided to Registrar of Teachers

Indicators: Provided advice with respect to teacher training programs

Issue Two: Review of Regulations

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

With respect to the review of regulations the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2015, 2016, and 2017. This objective will be reported in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

The Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when necessary and submitted appropriate comments for the Minister of Education's consideration.

Measure: Reviewed teacher certification regulations

Indicators: Submitted appropriate comments

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee 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 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.