

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY PLAN
April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011

Chairperson's Message

March 31, 2008

Honourable Joan Burke
Minister of Education
West Block, Confederation Building
P.O. Box 8700
St. John's, NL
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Dear Minister:

I am pleased to submit a three-year Activity Plan for the Teachers' Certification Committee. This plan covers the period April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2011. The committee recognizes the vision and mission of the Department of Education and is committed to its supporting role in the education system. This includes providing advice to the Registrar of Teachers and recommending regulations for government's consideration.

The committee has reviewed the strategic directions from the Minister of Education and notes that they are all being addressed by other entities reporting to the minister.

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,



ROBERT PARSONS
Registrar of Teachers

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Overview

Section 8 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee. As of April 1, 2008 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Mr. Robert Parsons;
- an officer of the Department of Education who shall be chairperson, which was vacant;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Andrea Rose and Dr. David Dibbon;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Beverly Park and a vacancy; and
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Mr. Brian Shortall and Mr. Guy Elliott.

All members of the committee are located in St. John's with the exception of Mr. Guy Elliott, who is located in Labrador West. 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 West.

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:

- Quality:** Each person strives for excellence in the performance of their assigned duties.
- Responsiveness:** Each person optimizes their time for the benefit of stakeholders.
- Professionalism:** Each person works to support government's vision for the province.
- Collaboration:** Each person identifies and avails of opportunities to assist others to achieve the department's mandate.
- Accountability:** Each person fulfills the roles and responsibilities of their assigned positions.

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

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.

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 to the best of its ability 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, 2009, 2010, and 2011. 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 on-going basis to assess their continued ability to meet need in this area.

With respect to the review of regulations the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011. This objective will be reported in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

The Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations.

Measure: Reviewed teacher certification regulations

Indicators: Recommended applicable changes to the Minister of Education for the Lieutenant-Governor in Council's consideration

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.