

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2012-13**

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Chairperson's Message

July 25, 2013

Honourable Clyde Jackman
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 2012-13 Annual Activity Report of the Teachers' Certification Committee. This report covers the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013.

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

Respectfully submitted,



BRIAN EVANS
Chairperson

Overview

Section 8 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee. As of March 31, 2013 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Deana Hatcher;
- an officer of the Department of Education who shall be chairperson, Mr. Robert Gardiner;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Andrea Rose and Dr. Karen Goodnough and Dr. Gerald Galway (alternate);
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Beverly Park and Mr. Gabriel Ryan; 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. Gabriel Ryan, who is located in Holyrood.

The committee meets in St. John's. Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their 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 Holyrood.

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.

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 meet the highest standards in their profession.

Vision of the Department of Education

An educational foundation that fosters continuous learning and enables each child to become a productive member of society.

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 2011-14 for the complete mission statement.

Activities

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 2011-14 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, 2013, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

Measure: Advisory Services provided to Registrar of Teachers

The following details the committee's successful achievement of the indicator as presented in the activity plan for 2011-14.

Indicator: Provided advice with respect to teacher training programs

The Teachers' Certification Committee met on three occasions throughout the year and provided advice to the Registrar of Teachers on a number of issues, including approval criteria for Masters' programs, labour mobility, the integration of internationally-educated teachers and recognition of foreign credentials, and areas of regulation changes throughout Canada.

Objective for 2013-14

With respect to advisory services, the following objective, measure and indicator is the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. This objective will be reported on in the Teachers' Certification Committee 2013-14 Annual Activity Report.

By March 31, 2014, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

Measure: Advisory Services provided to Registrar of Teachers

Indicator: 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 ensure they are effective and efficient.

Objective:

By March 31, 2013, 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

The following details the committee's work towards the achievement of the indicator as presented in the activity plan for 2011-14.

Indicator: Submitted appropriate comments

During 2012-13, a number of cross-jurisdictional scans were undertaken to look at certification legislation across Canada. The Agreement on Internal Trade requires that regulatory bodies for all professions ensure full labour mobility within Canada. The implications associated with this agreement necessitated that the teacher certification regulations be revisited to ensure that certified teachers can move between jurisdictions and have access to employment opportunities. A full review of these regulations was not completed in 2012-13, and therefore no comments were submitted to the Minister of Education. This work has been ongoing in keeping with the

committee's objective. It is anticipated that recommendations will be put forward for the Minister's consideration during 2013-14.

Objective for 2013-14

With respect to the review of regulations, the following objective, measure and indicator is the focus for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2014. This objective will be reported on in the Teachers' Certification Committee 2013-14 Annual Activity Report.

By March 31, 2014, 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

Indicator: 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.