

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

ACTIVITY PLAN
April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Teachers' Certification Committee

Chairperson's Message

June 28, 2007

Honourable Joan Burke
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 transitional Performance-Based Activity Plan for the Teachers' Certification Committee. This plan covers the period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. The committee recognizes the vision and mission of the Department of Education and is committed to its supporting role in the education system of providing advice to the Registrar of Teachers and recommending regulations to you for the consideration of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The committee has reviewed all strategic directions from the Minister of Education and has prepared this plan in accordance with the applicable subsection. Specifically, the committee plays a role in certifying qualified teaching professionals under the strategic direction Innovative and High-Performing Educational Delivery Systems.

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

Respectfully submitted,

GARY HATCHER
Chairperson

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Overview

Section 8 of the *Teacher Training Act* provides for the membership of the Teachers' Certification Committee as follows:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Mr. Robert Parsons;
- an officer of the Department of Education who shall be chairperson, Mr. Gary Hatcher;
- 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 Mr. William Chaisson; 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. William Chaisson, who is located in Corner Brook, and Mr. Guy Elliott, who is located in Labrador West. The committee meets at either the Confederation Building or the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association Building 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 Teachers' Association covers the cost of travel and incidental expenses for the member located in Corner Brook to attend meetings, and 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 Client

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. Teachers in Newfoundland and Labrador must be highly trained and held to established standards.

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.

Goals and Objectives

Issue One: Review of Regulations

Goal One: By March 31, 2008, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have completed a review of current teacher certification regulations.

Measure: Completed review of teacher certification regulations

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

Objective 1.1:

1. By March 31, 2008, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have completed a review of current teacher certification regulations.

Measure: Completed review of teacher certification regulations

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

Issue Two: Advisory Services

Goal Two: By March 31, 2008, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services, as required, 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.

Measure: Advice given to Registrar of Teachers

Indicators: Provided advice as required

Objective 2.1:

1. By March 31, 2008, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services, as required, 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.

Measure: Advice given to Registrar of Teachers

Indicators: Provided advice as required

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.

Appendix A

Strategic Directions

Strategic directions are the articulation of desired physical, social or economic outcomes and normally require action by more than one government entity. These directions are generally communicated by government through platform documents, Throne and Budget Speeches, policy documents and other communiqués. The *Transparency and Accountability Act* requires departments and public bodies to take into account these strategic directions in the preparation of their performance-based plans. This action will facilitate the integration of planning practices across government and will ensure that all entities are moving forward on key commitments.

Title: Innovative and high-performing educational delivery systems

Strategic Direction: The K-12 system has acceptable levels of educational performance, student achievement and attainment, student safety and well being.

This requires that, over the one year covered by this plan, the department and its boards and agencies will:

Focus Areas of the Strategic Direction	This Direction is/was				
	Not being implemented at this time (rationale included in the plan)	Addressed only in specific sub-areas (rationale included in the plan)	Addressed in the:		
			activity plan	operational plan	branch/divisional work-plans
Support the recruitment and retention of qualified teaching professionals		X			