

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT
2023-2024**

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Chairperson's Message

Honourable Krista Lynn Howell
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 2023-24 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, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

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, 2024 the membership was:

- the Registrar of Teachers, Ms. Karen Mulrooney;
- an officer of the Department of Education, who shall be Chairperson, Ms. Joanne Hogan;
- two representatives of the Faculty of Education of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Dr. Leslie Redmond and Dr. Gerald Galway;
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, Ms. Deanna Hatcher and Mr. Darryl George; and,
- two representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association, Mr. Goronwy Price and Mr. Steve Tessier (up to June 2022). Representatives were not applicable from April 2023 to March 2024*.

The members of the committee meet in St. John's, as required.

Members of the committee are appointed by virtue of their professional positions and no remuneration is provided to the members.

The travel expenses incurred by members of the committee are provided for by the agencies represented. This committee is not required to prepare financial statements.

* In early June 2022, an Integration Board, comprised of officials from government, was appointed to the former Newfoundland and Labrador English School District (NLESD) to oversee operations and facilitate the integration of NLESD into government. In addition, as of January 1, 2024, the former NLESD has been integrated into the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. As a result of these governance changes, representatives of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association are not applicable to the Teachers' Certification Committee in the 2023-24 reporting period. The **Teacher Training Act** is currently under review and it is anticipated amendments will reflect changes for the committee's structure and functioning.

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 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 2023-26 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.

With respect to the provision of advisory services, the following objective is the focus for each of the fiscal years ending March 31, 2024, 2025, and 2026. This objective will be reported upon in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

By March 31, 2024, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have provided advisory services as required.

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

Due to scheduling conflicts The Teachers' Certification Committee met only once during the 2023-2024 reporting period. The meeting on January 18, 2024 provided advice to the Registrar with respect to teacher training programs for initial certification and upgrading certificate levels in 2023-24.

Issue Two: Review of Regulations

The Teachers' Certification Committee reviews teacher certification regulations on an ongoing basis to ensure 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, 2024, 2025, and 2026. This objective will be reported in each of the respective annual reports.

Objective:

By March 31, 2024, the Teachers' Certification Committee will have reviewed teacher certification regulations when issues have been identified.

Indicator: Reviewed regulations when issues have been identified

In 2023-24, the Teachers' Certification Committee continued to provide guidance to the Registrar as required under the mandate of the committee. An increase in applications from internationally trained teachers required a review of current regulations to determine if changes were necessary to mitigate barriers to certification. A need to modernize the teacher certification regulations was also discussed.

Indicator: Provided recommendations to the Minister, as required

In 2023-24, the Teachers' Certification Committee worked with Department of Education staff to review and modernize the Teacher Certification Regulations. It is expected that recommendations will be presented to Minister in next fiscal year.

Conclusion

The Teachers' Certification Committee remains dedicated to upholding the mandate of the Department of Education and maintaining rigorous standards set for teachers in the province. The primary objective of the committee is to guarantee that only exceptionally qualified individuals are entrusted with the education of our children in classrooms across the region. The committee accomplishes this by establishing standards for teacher training, qualifications, and certifications, thereby ensuring that high standards are consistently met.