

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

**First Regular Executive Meeting
August 24, 2023**

**Avalon & Battery
The Sheraton Hotel**

PRESENT: Trent Langdon (Chair), Dale Lambe, Russell Stockley, Hollis Cull, Angela Dawe, Tracey Payne, Della Way, Colin Short, Sean Weir, and Darryl George. Participating from Staff were: Stefanie Tuff, Ian Crewe, Jennifer Tulk, Wade Rogers, Bob Johnston, Miriam Sheppard, Darlene Johnson, Deana Hatcher, John Veitch, Gabriel Ryan, and Samantha Lee.

REGRETS: Kelly Loch, Sheldon Slaney, and Emily Caines

The President welcomed as an observer, Lynette Snook, the first alternate from the election for the 2023-25 Provincial Executive, who will be replacing Kelly Loch during a period of leave commencing September 1, 2023. President Langdon welcomed all attendees and read the NLTA Mission Statement and Land Acknowledgement.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The following item was added under VII. New Business Agenda Items:

- COVID-19 Update

Way/George: That the Agenda be adopted with the addition of item #9 under New Business.

CARRIED

II. MINUTES OF JUNE 9 & 21 AND JULY 17, 2023

Short/Way: That the June 9 & 21 and July 17, 2023, minutes be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

III. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Association's financial statement of June 30, 2023, was reviewed by Mr. Colin Short for the information of members. *(A copy is attached to the Official Minutes.)*

IV. BUSINESS ARISING

1. BGM 2023 Resolution Updates

The Executive Director provided an update on the current status of actioning of BGM 2023 resolutions. Standing committee chairpersons were reminded to take note of resolutions assigned to their committees for action or recommendations, with appropriate staff to update the tracking document accordingly.

Mr. Lambe took the Chair.

V. TABLE OFFICERS

Langdon/Dawe: That the NLTA Policy on “Voting Procedures on Provincial Package” be amended as presented to reflect the use of an electronic voting system.

CARRIED

Langdon/Short: That the donation request from MediaSmarts – Media Literacy Week be approved for a contribution amount of \$5,000.

CARRIED

Langdon/Short: That the donation request from the United Way NWT Emergency Response for NWT fires be approved for a contribution amount of \$2,500.

CARRIED

VI. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

In a written report, the President outlined for Executive members activities undertaken since the last Executive meeting including meetings, events, and media interviews.
(A copy is on file with the Official Minutes.)

President Langdon took the Chair.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a) Notice of Motions

There were no notices of motions.

b) Agenda Items

1. Three-Week Pay Gap (Sean Weir)

Mr. Weir spoke about membership concerns regarding the three-week pay gap occurring this year. The Executive Director referred to the summary document on this topic included in the meeting materials, which was prepared to provide Executive members with a summary of relevant background and technical information on the issue. Teacher groups in other provinces face similar issues, and the Association has inquired with CTF to gather more information on how this is handled in other provinces. The document will be updated as new information is received.

2. Lockdown Procedures (Angela Dawe)

Ms. Dawe expressed concern regarding current school lockdown policies and suggested they should be reviewed and updated, including consideration of a tiered approach as is seen in some other jurisdictions. Ms. Tuff advised that district policies are currently under review. Government is seeking input from NLTA on proposed changes, most of which are technical in nature at this point, for consistency with the ongoing integration process. Department officials have indicated that a few policies will be undergoing a more thorough review, including consultation with NLTA. If not already a part of this group, we will suggest that the policy dealing with school lockdowns be included.

3. Drugs in Schools (Angela Dawe)

Ms. Dawe expressed concern regarding increased drug use and the need for a District plan/strategy to address this, while recognizing that this is a broader societal and very challenging issue. Ms. Tuff informed Executive members that the District is exploring the possibility of providing naloxone kits in schools, along with necessary training, as an emergency response measure. The Association has been engaged in these preliminary discussions and will keep Executive informed.

4. Sponsorship Request Procedures

The Executive Director reviewed the policies and procedures regarding requests for NLTA sponsorship/donations for the information of new Executive members.

5. Standing Committees

Ms. Tuff briefly reviewed the NLTA policy for standing committees and reminded Executive members who will be chairing a committee to connect with their staff consultant as soon as possible to plan for their committee meetings.

6. NLESD Integration – Update

The Executive Director referred to the document included in the meeting materials which included all written updates that have been issued by the Department to date. An FAQ section is being maintained on the Department webpage, and government/NLESD officials have indicated that there will be another update in September. Executive members will be kept informed of any further updates regarding the NLESD integration into government as any new information is made available.

7. Recruitment/Retention

The Assistant Executive Director provided an update on recent employer information/statistics related to recruitment and retention including: job postings, applications received, offers sent and accepted, teaching positions that are

currently unfilled, number of new university graduates hired for the 2023-24 school year, and how many incentivized hard-to-fill positions have been filled. A meeting with the new Minister of Education has been requested. Further discussion ensued.

8. Negotiations Update

Weir/Short: That the meeting be moved to an in-camera session.

CARRIED

Executive held an in-camera session to discuss the current status of provincial negotiations.

Short/Lambe: That the meeting be moved out of an in-camera session.

CARRIED

9. COVID-19 Update

The Executive Director provided an update on exemptions from normal medical note requirements for absences related to COVID-19 and/or related symptoms, official confirmation from government is expected soon. Public Health continues to encourage masking and recommends staying home when sick, but there are no directives or orders in effect in this regard. A voluntary COVID-19 vaccine booster program is expected for Fall 2023.

VIII. GOOD NEWS ITEMS

Ms. Way thanked her Executive colleagues for supporting her attendance at the 2023 Innovative Schools Summit in July. She spoke about the wonderful learning experience and the inspiring teachers she met at the conference.

Ms. Snook thanked everyone for welcoming her to her first Executive meeting as an observer and said that it was a very positive and encouraging experience for her.

X. IN-CAMERA SESSION

Mr. George was excused from the meeting; his absence was recorded at 4:00 p.m.

Executive held an in-camera session to discuss a hiring recommendation from Table Officers. The following motion was brought forward from the in-camera session:

Short/Lambe: That the permanent position for an Administrative Officer, Programs and Services, be offered to Jody Saunders, subject to a satisfactory reference check.

CARRIED

XI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 20-21, 2023.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

CONFIRMED:

PRESIDENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE

DATE

SL