



# **Becoming a School Board Member in Nova Scotia**

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# School Board Elections

- The election of school board members in Nova Scotia is governed by the Education Act and the Municipal Elections Act.

# School Board Member Categories

- Member of a Regional School Board
- African Nova Scotian Member of Regional School Boards
- Member of the Conseil Scolaire acadien provincial
- The Education Minister appoints a Mi'kmaq representative

# Qualifications

- Is a Canadian citizen of the full age of eighteen years at the time of nomination
- Has been ordinarily resident in the school district or school region for a period of six months preceding nomination day and continues so to reside (March 11, 2012)

# Persons not Qualified to Run

- An employee of the school board
- Sitting MLA, MP, Senator, municipal councillor or judge
- Is a member of another school board
- Has been convicted of any corrupt practice or bribery contrary to the Municipal Elections Act within the ten years preceding nomination day

# Filing Nominations

- Candidate nomination papers require no less than five signatures from the final voters' list
- \$200 deposit
- Nominations close September 11, 2012

# Stipends

- The current stipend for board members is \$9,300 per annum and \$15,300 for the Chair and \$11,300 for the vice chair
- Board chairs and vice-chairs are elected by sitting members at their first meeting after the election

# School Boards' Data

School Board	Number of Schools	Enrollment	Board Members	Budget
Annapolis Valley Regional School Board	45	13,939	15	\$130M
Cape Breton -Victoria Regional School Board	51	14,408	15	\$140M
Chignecto-Central Regional School Board	76	21,069	17	\$193M
Conseil scolaire acadien provincial	21	4,376	17	\$52M
Halifax Regional School Board	137	49,355	10	\$399M
South Shore Regional School Board	30	6,978	12	\$74M
Strait Regional School Board	24	6,848	12	\$78M
Tri-Country Regional School Board	30	6,512	11	\$68M

# Roles of School Board Members

- “A school board is accountable to the Minister of Education and responsible for the control and management of the public schools within its jurisdiction in accordance with this [Education] Act and the regulations.” Section 64.1

# Roles of Board Members

- Developing policies
- Overseeing and approving the annual budget
- Developing a strategic plan for the board
- Monitoring student achievement
- Approving an annual business plan for the board
- Monitoring school improvement plans and annual reports submitted by the school advisory councils

# Examples of Board Decisions

- Hiring/evaluation of superintendent
- Approving tenders for major construction/repairs
- Hearing teacher/student appeals
- Staffing requirements
- School Review process

# Individual Board Members

- Do not have authority to make decisions or take action on behalf of the board
- Have a duty to uphold the implementation of a board decision after it has been passed

# Parent Concerns

- Board Members do not have a direct role in resolving or dealing with individual parent concerns or issues.
- A Board Member can and should make the parent aware of existing protocol.

# Accountabilities

Minister of Education

Elected Board

Superintendent

Principal

School Advisory Council

# Superintendent

- Implements policies and regulations established by the Board
- Oversees the entire school system
- Provides advice to board during deliberations

# Code of Ethics

- Respect
- Confidentiality
- Impartiality/objectivity

# Breach of Code of Ethics

- Censure
- Public reprimand
- Suspension
- Loss of seat

# Powers of the Minister

- Conduct an independent financial audit
- Conduct an investigation of all aspects of the board's operation
- Disband and appoint a new board

# Board Meetings

- Public
- Boards normally meet once a month
- Regular Committee meetings
- Attendance mandatory

# Questions

- Comments and discussion