

NSTU Article 60 PD Fund Committee - FAQ

Contact information

Who do I contact if I have a question?

The members of the PD Fund Committee (including the co-chairs) only see application forms and expense claim forms on the day of the meeting. General inquiries may be submitted by e-mail at nstupdcomm@ssrce.ca. Inquiries of a time-sensitive nature should be directed to the co-chairs: Denise Dodge-Baker at ddodgebaker@ssrce.ca; and Mai-Ling Storm at mlstorm@nstu.ca.

SSRCE Professional Development Priorities

What are the Regional Centre's professional development priorities for this school year?

The Regional Centre's priorities are: **Literacy**: Workshop Model – Teach, practice, share/reflect, learning targets, identify read (need) levels with intentional interventions; **Numeracy**: 3 part lesson, yearly plan, multiple ways of representing learning and **Well-being**: CRP, SEL, MTSS, safe & inclusive system.

PD Course Grants

What information is required from the university for PD (University or College) course grant claims?

You must submit official documentation from the University/College that includes the start and end dates of the course (for deadline purposes), proof of successful completion of the course and an official receipt for the cost of tuition. This may be in the form of a letter from the institution, transcripts and/or receipt from student account. Documentation must include the course name/number in order to be accepted.

Can I claim courses on my income tax?

The NSTU/SSRCE PD Fund Committee is unable to provide information or advice regarding income tax law, policy or procedure. Please contact an income tax professional or Canada Revenue Agency with any questions you may have about your personal tax return.

What is the process for getting confirmation of reimbursement for income tax?

Teachers can track reimbursement on their bank statement as a result of direct deposits in March and November of each year. Teachers are asked to request an official statement from the SSRCE Finance Department for tax purposes.

Why are there two deadlines for PD Course Grants

Claims received by the September deadline qualify for a 25% reimbursement of total claim expenses. An additional pro-rated reimbursement (if applicable) is calculated when all other claims have been received by the January deadline of the same school year.

What is included in the pro-rated amount?

Pro-rating is the calculation of the amount a teacher will be reimbursed for a portion of the total expenses from their claim based on the committee's annual budget commitments.

Can I get reimbursed for recertification? For example: Canoe Instructor, Outdoor First Aid or Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVC)

It is not the NSTU Article 60 Committee's mandate to provide reimbursement for recertification. Applications will be considered based on current Conference Grants Within/Outside the Maritime Provinces guidelines.

Applications

How do I submit an application?

Completed applications MUST be received by the posted application deadline. They can be submitted at Regional Office (in-person); emailed to nstupdcomm@ssrce.ca; faxed to 902-541-3049; or sent through inter-office mail (not recommended as delivery times vary greatly).

May I attend a conference PRIOR to receiving my approval letter?

Unfortunately not. It is the Committee's recommendation to always apply well in advance of the event's date.

I have been approved to attend a conference but for various reasons, I am no longer able to attend. I will let the Committee know that I will not be attending. Will I need to re-apply to attend the conference?

Members who do not attend a previously approved leave or conference will need to inform the Committee that they will not be attending. If they are requesting to reschedule within the current school year, then the member will need to reach out to Committee Co-chairs to confirm that the newly proposed dates are feasible. If they are requesting to attend in a future school year, then members will need to re-apply for approval to attend on the later date.

Claims and Receipts

How do I submit a receipt when I paid online with a credit card?

Receipts, stating the expensed item, the amount, and **your name** are required. If the online receipt does not state this information, then you may need to contact the organization to receive a personal official receipt.

How do we claim lodging if I share a room?

Either the costs can be split (receipt must show the names of each claimant) or the individual paying for the room may claim the cost of the room (up to the maximum claimable amount)

What if someone else pays for my registration or flight?

Name of claimant must be on all receipts submitted for reimbursement.

What is the deadline for submitting my expense claim?

For the NSTU Provincial Association Conference Day and PD Course Grants you must consult the deadline dates for claims in the guidelines posted on the SSRCE website.

For conferences within and outside the Maritime provinces; conference grants for online learning; and teacher initiated PD, you must complete a current Expense Claim Form and submit it, with all original itemized receipts, to the PD Fund Committee **within 60 days of the end of the conference**. Expense claims are reviewed at the PD Fund Committee's regular meetings and then submitted to the finance department.

Eligibility

For Active Teachers with the Board

Applicants are to refer to the guidelines for each type of conference or grant in order to determine their eligibility. Long-Term Substitutes (as per Article 32.03 of the TPA) may apply for October Conference Grants only, provided they have Long-Term Substitute status on October Provincial Conference Day.

For Active Teachers on Leave with the Board

| Type of Leave | Conference Grant | PD (Courses) Grant | Educational Leave |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Pregnancy | Eligible | Eligible | Not Eligible |
| Parental/Adoption | Eligible when receiving parental allowance Not Eligible when not receiving parental allowance | Eligible when receiving parental allowance Not Eligible when not receiving parental allowance | Not Eligible |
| Deferred Salary | Eligible | Eligible | Not Eligible |
| Compassionate Care Leave | Not Eligible | Not Eligible | Not Eligible |
| Injury on Duty | Eligible if pre-approved by Director of Human Resources or designate. | Eligible if pre-approved by Director of Human Resources or designate. | Not Eligible |
| Unpaid Leave of Absence | Not Eligible | Not Eligible | Not Eligible |
| Educational Leave | Eligible | Not Eligible | N/A |

I'm on secondment. Do I get reimbursement through Article 60?

In regards to Seconded Employees: Professional Development is usually negotiated within the terms of the Secondment Contract. As part of the process of accepting a secondment, members are encouraged to explicitly discuss those Professional Development terms and conditions for while on leave from SSRCE.

Do I qualify for a conference outside the Maritime provinces this year?

Under this grant, a teacher is entitled to attend one conference outside the Maritime Provinces over the course of two school years. A school year covers the period from August 1– July 31, inclusive up to a maximum total claim of \$2000.00 in that two year period. **With the exception of travel to Newfoundland and Labrador, the committee suggests the prospective applicant contact SSRCE Human Resources to fully understand the context of any travel outside the Maritime provinces, as per Public Health requirements to quarantine/self-isolate.**