

MAY · ETQULJUIKU'S · MAI · 2022



# REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the South Shore Regional Centre for Education

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[www.ssrce.ca](http://www.ssrce.ca)



@SSRCENS



@SSRCE\_NS

### *SSRCE Marks Red Dress Day*



May 5 marks the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People. Also known as Red Dress Day, it's a time to raise awareness while honouring all those who have been lost but who will not be forgotten.

Schools throughout SSRCE marked the day by wearing red, completing lessons focusing on Red Dress Day, and holding special events to honour and pay respect.

Pictured above is a photo from South Queens Middle School. Students and staff participated in a ceremony to pay their respects. A special thank you to all those who attended the ceremony, including the student drummers. #MMIWG2S





## A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Here we are, with less than two months left of the 2021-22 school year. We have much to celebrate this month and you'll see a number of those milestones marked throughout this report.

I'd like to draw your attention to the 2022 Education Week recipients who are highlighted on page three. Each year, we recognize members of our staff for their outstanding contributions to our schools and communities. This year the theme was Cultural Responsiveness – Meeting students where they are. We are so proud of our award recipients who have demonstrated their commitment to recognizing that culture is much more than skin colour or race. These SSRCE staff members build cultural responsiveness into their everyday work and make it a priority to build relationships with students, parents, guardians, and the community.

Please join me in congratulating our seven SSRCE Education Week recipients!

The theme of cultural responsiveness extends well beyond Education Week. It is a priority for all of us here at SSRCE, as demonstrated recently during a professional development day. As you'll see in the photos above, staff at North Queens Community School were fortunate to receive teachings from Jane Meader and her daughter Paulina, exploring Mi'kmaq spirituality. Together the staff explored the art of quilling, baked luskinikn, journeyed on a medicine walk, learned about the medicine wheel and the use of ceremonies, made personal medicine pouches, and connected with the land.

While this time of year is always busy and exciting, it is also a time to remain focused and committed. Our schools are now diving deep into concepts in all subjects. Ensuring students attend class on a regular basis is tremendously important. We know some school absences are unavoidable. We also understand there have been a number of circumstances recently that may have prevented your student from coming to school. The important thing is that your child attend class as often as possible. Missing valuable in-person instructional time has a direct impact on the overall achievement and well-being of our students.

If your child is worried about their grades, please know they are not alone. Reach out to your school and someone will be happy to help get your child back on track and help improve their attendance.

All the best,  
Paul Ash  
Regional Executive Director



Staff at North Queens Community School received a variety of Mi'kmaq teachings during a recent Professional Development Day.



**Cultural  
Responsiveness**  
Meeting Students Where They Are

**Education Week**  
April 24 – 30, 2022  
**Semaine de l'éducation**  
24-30 avril, 2022

**La sensibilité  
culturelle**  
S'adapter à la situation des élèves

Education Week is a special opportunity for the education community to acknowledge educators, school support staff, and partners for their outstanding work relative to the Education Week theme.

This year's theme: Cultural Responsiveness – Meeting students where they are.

We celebrate educators, school support staff, and education partners for recognizing that culture is much bigger than skin colour and race. It is the unique 'ways of living' that every child carries with them when they arrive at school each day. Cultural Responsiveness stresses the positive pedagogy of building relationships with students, parents, guardians and community to get to know home cultures. This ensures safe and caring schools where every student sees themselves reflected throughout their learning journey.

We are thrilled to share our 2022 Education Week Award Recipients:



**Lindsay Willow**  
PSAANS Member Award  
Bridgewater Elementary School



**Phil Prendergast**  
Teacher/Specialist (NSTU Queens Local) Award  
North Queens Community School



**Melissa Nichols-McConnell**  
Teacher/Specialist (NSTU Lunenburg Local) Award  
West Northfield Elementary School



**Mallary Corkum-Myra**  
Early Childhood Educator Award  
Chester District School



**Carol Hughes**  
Non-teaching Student Support Staff Award  
Consultant for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion



**Joanna Alphonso**  
African Nova Scotian  
Educator/Student Support Award  
Park View Education Centre



**Lindsay Lowe**  
Mi'kmaq/Aboriginal  
Educator/Student Support Award  
Student Support Worker



# Earth Day Celebrations



Thank you to the students who volunteered at recess to collect litter from the playground at West Northfield Elementary School (pictured above).

Students at Aspotogan Consolidated Elementary School participate in a cleanup day to mark Earth Day. (Pictured left).



Greenfield Elementary School students got outside on a beautiful Earth Day to participate in a roadside cleanup (pictured above).

Petite Rivière Elementary School also celebrated Earth Day with various activities including a litter cleanup and planting seeds (pictured left).



# Spotlight on Schools



Forest Heights Community School's O2 class and their teacher, Devan Naugler, recently toured Province House. Tours like this provide students with an opportunity to be inspired to think about careers in government (pictured above).

Who doesn't love a muddy buddy? Ms. Willow, Principal at Bridgewater Elementary School, enjoys some time outside in the rain with the primaries (pictured left).



Bridgewater Junior High School students, Makenna & Grace, recently recorded a PSA at CKBW. The ad reminds drivers to slow down and drive safely through school zones (pictured above).

Grade three students at Newcombville Elementary School went for a walk outside, found a place to sit and then recorded observations of their surroundings. This was done to provide inspiration for poems they would later complete about what they saw, felt, heard, and could smell in nature (pictured left).



# SchoolsPlus Welcomes Generous Donations

## \$10,000 for SchoolsPlus Emergency Fund

We'd like to thank the Masonic Foundation of Canada for their recent donation of \$10,000.00 toward the SchoolsPlus Emergency Fund.

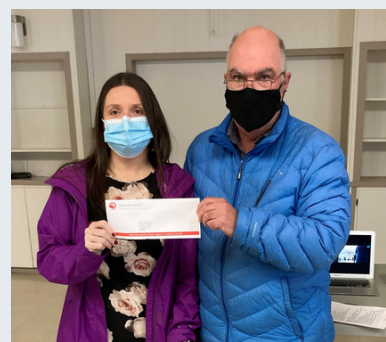
This fund is used to support emergency needs of students and families that cannot be covered by other organizations.



## United Way Supports Various SSRCE Programming

The United Way of Lunenburg County continues to show their commitment to our community. We'd like to thank them for a number of recent donations to a variety of our programs:

- The Crock Pot Program, helping us get food to families struggling with food insecurity while teaching them how to cook low cost meals.
- Food 4 Thought, a program to address food insecurity. Students are given a backpack full of food to take home for the weekend.
- School Fuel, a program to help struggling rural students and families to cover transportation to appointments, etc.



*Michael Graves of the United Way of Lunenburg County presents SchoolsPlus staff with donations for the Crock Pot Program, Food 4 Thought, and School Fuel.*

# Minister Druhan Visits PVEC to Mark IB Milestone

Park View Education Centre has recently celebrated a special milestone. The school's International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is 40!

To mark this impressive anniversary, Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development, Becky Druhan, recently spent the morning with students and staff to hear first-hand about their experiences in this intensive, but rewarding, education program.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is recognized around the world as a challenging and well-rounded curriculum for the last two years of high school. Students explore various perspectives and global issues ranging from climate change to environmental challenges to human rights.

Park View was the first Canadian public school east of Montreal to offer the program back in 1981. Now, more than forty years later, there are approximately 5,500 IB schools throughout the world in 156 countries.

To learn more about the IB Diploma Program, check out this video: <https://ssrce.ca/enriched-programming-ap-a-ib/>



## SSRCE & NSTU Sign Regional Agreement

On March 24, SSRCE Regional Executive Director, Paul Ash, and NSTU president, Paul Wozney, signed a new regional collective agreement.

The four-year agreement runs from the official signing date of March 24 until July 31, 2024.

"I want to commend both sides for collaboratively reaching agreements in a timely way," says NSTU president Paul Wozney. "It speaks to a positive working relationship in seeking what works to the benefits of teachers and ultimately students."

Both the NSTU and SSRCE thank all parties, especially the negotiating teams, for their work in achieving this new regional agreement.

*Shown in the photo seated are: SSRCE Regional Executive Director Paul Ash and NSTU president Paul Wozney. Standing: members of the SSRCE negotiating team SSRCE's Director of Human Resources Charmaine Romkey, and SSRCE's Coordinator of Human Resources Lynn Wagner; and NSTU negotiating team members executive staff officer Tim MacLeod, Lunenburg County Local president Mai-Ling Storm, and Queens Local president and South Shore RRC chair Sarah Tutty. Missing from the photo: NSTU team members First Vice-president, Lunenburg County Local Denise Burgess; and First Vice-president, Queens Local Laura Fryday.*





# Local Fire Departments Provide Smoke Detectors

Over the last few weeks, several local fire departments have visited schools throughout SSRCE to share safety tips and provide students with a smoke detector.

We thank all firefighters for their commitment to the community and for taking the time to visit our schools.

Here's a sample of just some of the schools who have received smoke detectors.



*The Tri District Fire Rescue and Midville Fire Department visited Newcombville Elementary.*



*The Hebbville, Italy Cross, and Hebb's Cross Fire Departments provided smoke detectors to each student at Hebbville Academy (grades P-4).*



*The LaHave & District Volunteer Fire Department, Cherry Hill Fun Run (United Communities Volunteer Fire Department) joined the Petite Riviere Volunteer Fire Department and provided smoke detectors to the students of Petite Riviere Elementary School.*



*The Lunenburg, Riverport and Dayspring Fire Departments visited Bluenose Academy with a delivery of smoke detectors.*

We are pleased to share some very impressive results from the 2021 Terry Fox School Run. This past September, twenty schools in SSRCE participated in the fundraiser and together collected an outstanding \$17,336.6 for cancer research.

Congratulations to our top fundraising school, Park View Education Centre. PVEC raised \$7,190!

Each September, schools are invited to participate in the Terry Fox School Run, to commemorate the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope. The funds raised support the Terry Fox Foundation. Through support like the money raised by SSRCE schools, great strides are being made in cancer research.





# Bring the World Home

The Nova Scotia International Student Program is looking for families in the SSRCE area to host international students.

Families receive \$725 monthly (per student) for expenses and will gain memories to last a lifetime.

Students range in ages and stay anywhere from a month to a year. We work with families to find suitable student matches.

NSISP students enjoy all of the perks of becoming a member of one of our fantastic homestay families. Our homestay families open their hearts and their homes to the international students, and the experience for everyone is extremely rewarding. The homestay program is the heartbeat of the NSISP experience. For students, it is a way to learn about the Canadian way of life. For the host families, it's an opportunity to bring the world to their home and gain a new family member. These rewarding relationships do last a lifetime.

**Are you ready to open your heart and home to this fulfilling life-changing experience?**

Visit [www.ssrce.ca/host](http://www.ssrce.ca/host) for more info.

Follow us on [FACEBOOK](#) and [INSTAGRAM](#).



## BRING THE WORLD HOME

When you host an international student  
you may be surprised at how your family will grow



Nova Scotia  
International  
Student  
Program