

ANNUAL COUNCIL 2025

Annual Council

Annual Council is the highest legislative body of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union, and this is where decisions are made about policy, procedures and the future of the NSTU. As the name suggests, Annual Council is a yearly meeting of the NSTU. It is held during a weekend in late April or May, and it brings together the provincial executive, Local delegates, RRC chairs, staff officers of the NSTU, committee representatives and representatives from special associations. At any given time, there may be over 300 people present in the Council chamber. The purpose of the Council is to consider resolutions that have been submitted by; the NSTU Locals, Committees, Regional Representative Councils, Professional Associations, and the Provincial Executive and to pass the budget for the upcoming year. There are other areas of business, but those are the main purposes. Debate is lively and delegates are encouraged to participate. Annual Council sessions include Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

Local Representation

Every Local is entitled to send several voting delegates, alternate(s), and observer(s) to Council. The number of delegates is determined by the number of NSTU members employed within each Local. The NSTU reviews school registries on an annual basis and then determines the number of voting delegates and alternates that each Local can send to Council.

Membership Registry Numbers and Delegation for Annual Council 2025:

- I. Inverness Local Membership Registry Numbers: **171**
- II. Voting Delegates: **3**
- III. Alternate Delegate(s): **1**
- IV. Observer(s): **1**

Local Resolutions

Every Local can submit resolutions for debate at Annual Council. These need to first be reviewed by the Local Resolution Committee. Before Local resolutions can be forwarded for consideration at Annual Council, they must be debated and passed by motion at a general meeting. Local resolutions are then forwarded to the Provincial Resolutions Committee. The Provincial Resolutions Committee will determine if the Local's resolutions are in order and thus eligible for debate at Annual Council. The Local Resolution Committee will determine which Inverness Local delegates will speak to any Inverness Local resolution at Council.

Delegate Responsibilities

1. Attend the pre-Council meeting in April. We will also review other procedures that relate to delegates' responsibilities. Any questions about resolutions will be answered at this meeting.
2. Read the resolutions before going to Annual Council and seek clarification or information, if needed.
3. Attend and be attentive at all Council sessions.
4. Conduct yourself professionally during all Annual Council activities.
5. Notify the Local nominating chair (coordinator of delegates) prior to the start of an Annual Council session, in the event of unplanned absences.

Council Workbook

Each delegate will be sent either a paper copy or a PDF version of the Council Workbook. This document contains all the resolutions that will be considered at Council as well as budgetary documents and annual committee reports.

Voting

Each delegate is to vote according to his or her own opinions. However, in the interest of Local solidarity, we would ask that you refrain from actively debating against resolutions being brought to Council by our Local. The time for that debate would have been at the meeting when the resolution was ratified at the November general meeting.

Representing the Inverness Local of the NSTU

It is important that delegates remember they are representing the Inverness Local during these sessions. The expectation is that we have a full delegation. Our delegation sits together as a group, and we expect our delegates to be attentive and ready to debate on our Local members' behalf. Remember your primary responsibility is to be representing our Local members at Council. Expenses Each delegate is provided hotel accommodation, meal allowance, travel allowance, childcare and certain incidental expenses, at the expense of the provincial NSTU.

Constitutional References to Annual Council 2025 Eligibility

NSTU By-Law - Article II, The Council 12. (a) – Council Delegates & Observers

(a) Voting Delegates of Council shall be:

- (i) the Provincial Executive;
- (ii) Local Presidents as one (1) of the Locals' allotment of Voting Delegates;
- (iii) Local Voting Delegates as determined by individual Local constitutions;
- (iv) Chairs of Regional Representative Councils;
- (v) Chairs of Regional Economic Welfare Committees; and,
- (vi) Professional Association Voting Delegates from individual Professional Associations.

(b) Pursuant to 2. (a) (ii) and (iii), each Local is entitled to one (1) Voting Delegate for every fifty (50) Members or major fraction thereof.

(c) Notwithstanding 2. (b), each Local is entitled to a minimum of three (3) Voting Delegates.

(d) Pursuant to 2. (a) (vi), each Professional Association is entitled to one (1) Voting Delegate.

(e) Non-Voting Delegates of Council shall be:

- (i) Local Alternate Delegates as determined by individual Local constitutions;

(f) Pursuant to 2. (e) (i), each Local is entitled to determine Alternate Delegates on the basis of a sliding scale where Locals entitled to:

- (i) 3 to 10 Voting Delegates are entitled to 1 Alternate Delegate;
- (ii) 11 to 21 Voting Delegates are entitled to 2 Alternate Delegates;
- (iii) 22 to 31 Voting Delegates are entitled to 3 Alternate Delegates;
- (iv) 32 to 41 Voting Delegates are entitled to 4 Alternate Delegates; and,
- (v) 42 + Voting Delegates are entitled to 5 Alternate Delegates.

(i) In the unavoidable absence of a Local Voting Delegate, Council may permit a Local Alternate Delegate to act as a replacement. The Local Alternate Delegate, when replacing the Local Voting Delegate, has all the rights and responsibilities of a Local Voting Delegate.

(j) Observers of Council may be:

- (i) Local Observers as selected by individual Locals;

(k) Pursuant to 2. (j) (i), each Local is entitled to select one (1) Local Observer.

(l) Local Alternate Delegates and Local Observers attend Council at the Local's expense or at the individual's expense.