



# COSS

Council of Special Services

A Special Interest Council of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association



## COSS Provincial Newsletter November 2023

### Message from COSS President

Dear COSS Membership,

Since September 2022 we have faced and worked around the many challenges presented to our members. As we are into our new school year, we have a chance to look back, reflect, and contemplate ahead in anticipation of future progress. To date, we have represented COSS through participation in several discussion panels with the Department of Education. In December 2022 COSS brought forth our membership concerns regarding the Hearing and Vision Screening to the NLTA representative for the Professional Issues Committee with the Department of Education. COSS identified several Professional Learning Opportunities via membership emails, and NLTA COSS Facebook page, offering financial support for PL for members, and/or identifying free PL. This included both the Leading Disability Today free pl on Using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for People with Learning Disabilities, and The Learning Disabilities Association of Canada which offered a Virtual Conference 2022, on October 21, 2022.



COSS would like to remind everyone of our website, which will contain updates, forms, and resources: <https://cosssic.nlta.ca/>, and a Twitter account NLTA Council of Special Services @NLTA\_COSS that you can follow by clicking this link [https://twitter.com/NLTA\\_COSS](https://twitter.com/NLTA_COSS).

Lastly, we have decided to send out two NEWSLETTERS to our members, in September.

For those interested in being a member of COSS and receiving up-to-date information, please fill out the attached 2023-2024 membership form. <https://forms.gle/tP4ffFLsYL2WoGnK7>. We request that current members update their membership to the NLTA COSS by also completing the membership form at the link above.

This past year, our Special Interest Council continued to go through many changes. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to Ms. Lindsay Riggs, and Niketa Rose for being members of the COSS Executive and serving as the COSS secretary and communications officer. At this time, we would like to acknowledge the changes within our executive and would like to thank all who were a part of this team. They were a pleasure to work with and their contribution to our Association will be missed! As always, with people stepping down from leadership roles, there is an opportunity for new members to become involved.

We would like to identify and welcome the COSS 2022-2023 executive. The current COSS Executive is composed of Stephanie Drover-Edmunds, President. Stephanie is currently a Guidance Counsellor and Instructional Resource Teacher at Amalgamated Academy in Bay Roberts. Before this role, she worked as a School Counsellor with Amalgamated Academy, and Holy Redeemer, and Instructional Resource and

Technology Teacher at Holy Redeemer Elementary in Spaniards Bay. Danielle Doyle is the past president. She is the Student Services Department Head and an Instructional Resource Teacher at Carbonear Collegiate in Carbonear. Maggie Warren is the Vice-President. Maggie works in the position of School Counsellor at Carbonear Academy in Carbonear. Wendy Barrett is the Treasurer. Wendy has the dual role of Instructional Resource Teacher/Home Economics teacher with Persalvic School Complex in Victoria, and Cabot Academy in Western Bay. Terri-Lee Bishop is the Communications Officer-Secretary. She is an Instructional Resource Teacher at Bay Roberts Primary in Bay Roberts. We are looking forward to working together as your COSS executive!

**T**he NLTA Council of Special Services is seeking a Secretary with the Executive team. Duties will include, but are not limited to:

1. Keep accurate minutes of each executive meeting and AGM.
2. Send a copy of the minutes to each member of the executive.
3. Bring before the executive all official correspondence.
4. Send a copy of all correspondence to the president.
5. Work closely with the President in the planning of various meetings.
6. Carry out other duties as may be designated by the executive.
7. Maintain a record of all executive meetings and Annual General Meetings (AGM) to be forwarded to the incoming executive.

The NLTA Council of Special Services is seeking a Membership at large for the following areas.

- Avalon East,
  - Avalon West,
  - Central,
  - Western South,
  - Western North, and
  - Labrador.
- Bruin Membership at Large is Amanda Dibbon. Amanda is an Instructional Resource Teacher at St. Mary's.

Any COSS NLTA member interested in the Membership at Large, please contact NLTA Council of Special Services at [COSS@mynlta.ca](mailto:COSS@mynlta.ca).

**T**he COSS executive is looking into securing meaningful professional learning for our members. We are reviewing our options and ability to offer virtual workshops at no cost to membership, which is always nice!

Those who have concerns, questions, or suggestions that you want to share privately, please go to <https://forms.gle/wo11ko3uUm3AyuJG9> and fill out the Concerns form, or email us directly at [COSS@mynlta.ca](mailto:COSS@mynlta.ca). Our member's concerns are an important piece of COSS and your input is needed.

**R**emember your provincial executive is here for you and that an executive is only as good as its membership.

Thank you,

*Stephanie Drouver-Edmunds*

COSS President  
A SIC of the NLTA