



# Head, Heart & Hands

Nova Scotia Child Care Association's Membership Newsletter Sept 2005 vol. 3.1

## NSCCA's Part in Growing a National Child Care System

*"Divide and rule us. Divide and rule us. Divide and rule us ... is a political tool."* Faith Nolan

**The Nova Scotia Child Care Association** recognizes that child care practitioners are the most important ingredient in high quality child care. Telling our stories, finding our voices and creating an organization that supports and advocates for our members is of crucial importance as Nova Scotia embarks on the creation of it's piece of a national child care system.

None of us know what it will look like. We are quite literally surfing the tides of change. Uncomfortable, moving fast, buffeted by waves, exhilarated, threatened by hidden undercurrents – we are going places. Whether we like it or not, we are going places. Right now, each and every one of us is faced with a choice- do we cling to Minister Dryden's vision, close our eyes and hope he has the ability to carry us through - or do we find our footing, choose our waves and actively work to use the QUAD principles to steer the course toward the inclusive, accessible, developmental high quality early learning and care system we all deserve?

Nova Scotia is a group of many individuals, each with their own set of values, beliefs and understanding

of what quality early childhood programs look like. So, how can NSCCA balance the needs and beliefs of a diverse membership? We can do it because as an organization our mission and goals are clear. NSCCA members share a key piece of knowledge about quality in child care – we are the quality in child care! The NSCCA board supports the ethical, professional practice of our members, advocates on behalf of the membership, and works to increase public recognition of the critical role of child care practitioners in providing quality child care.

The board is made up of individuals who work in variety of settings, at a variety of levels in both the private and non-profit part of the child care sector. As a Board member we are often asked how as individuals coming from these diverse settings could work together on the same board. The answer is easy.

We support and advocate for our membership wherever they work. Individual board members may wear other hats and be involved in the auspice debate through our work, or

through other organizations we belong to but at the NSCCA table the agenda is clear and unclouded. How can we support and advocate for Nova Scotia's child care practitioners? How will we bring the needs of child care practitioners to the forefront for the Nova Scotia government? How will we ensure that the government recognizes the significance of our role in the development of a quality early learning and care system? How will we create a new perception in our province of child care practitioners as professionals? How will we make the public aware of the concerns and issues that face child care practitioners in Nova Scotia?

Divide and rule us. Dilute our focus and our voice. The debate about quality, the debate about auspice, the debate about what this new system will look like is all tremendously important. Different organizations are responsible for different pieces of this vision. At the NSCCA table our piece is to advocate for a strong professional infrastructure for child care practitioners wherever they work. At this table we know that without a unified voice, without a strong, professional and supported workforce there is no quality care for children.

*~Carrie Melsom, NSCCA Board Member*

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## Share Your Stories

The NSCCA Advocacy and Communications Committee is preparing for the rumoured provincial election this fall. As part of their planning they want to collect stories of child care practitioners to give your voice to the messages that NSCCA will be delivering to candidates in the election.

The Committee asks you to consider writing your child care practitioner story. Indicate if you give permission for the story to be published with your name, or if you wish to remain anonymous. In addition to informing the committee about key messages, some of the possible ways that the committee will use the stories is in a story book to present to the political parties; publishing them in the Head, Heart and Hands newsletter; and using your stories for media contacts.

Why did you choose child care as a career? Why do you stay in child care? What would you like to happen in child care? What do you need to be the best you can be in your child care work? Who has influenced you? These are just some of the reflections you might include.

Your story is important and it is a story that others want to hear.

Send them to **NSCCA- Stories**, 100-1200 Tower Road, Halifax, NS B3H 4K6 or email them to [nscca@istar.ca](mailto:nscca@istar.ca)



## Incoming Board Members

Six members answered the call for nominations to the Board of Directors. They are Leanne Fletcher, Theresa Kelbratowski, Hope Molaison, Michele Morash, Shari Ridgewell, and Natalie Shupe. They will join current Board members, Cathy Cross, Heather Hansen-Dunbar, Carrie Melsom and Bronwien Richardson. Elizabeth Hessian will retire from the Board. Board Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting on September 28.

- Leanne Fletcher, BCYS (MSVU) has been a child care practitioner for 8 years. She “strongly believes that by being actively involved I(he) can make a difference in the lives of children and their families... Sitting on the NSCCA board gives me the opportunity to have a stronger voice to promote and advocate for what I have faith in, quality child care for Nova Scotia.”
- Theresa Kelbratowski, BCYS (MSVU) and graduate of the Management Development for Women program (MSVU & SMU), has worked at Point Pleasant CC for 8 years as teacher and supervisor. She is also on the PPCC Board of Directors.



- Hope Molaison, dip. ECE (IHSE, 97) is a certified ECE (CCECENS) She has worked at Kids R Kids Day Care since 2000 and was recently promoted to head teacher. She is also winner of the Caring At Work Award.
- Michele Morash, dip. ECE (St Lawrence College) is assistant Director of Kids R Kids Day Care. She has worked in Ontario and Iqualit, NU. Michele is winner of the Caring at Work Award.
- Shari Ridgewell, ECE MED, has had a career that spans more than 20 years as a teacher, administrator, consultant, trainer and ECDO. Her specialty is infant and toddler care.
- Natalie Shupe, BCYS (MSVU) has worked at the Dutch Village Road Children’s Centre for four years and prior to that in a variety of settings including running her own child care service and recreation.

## Receive your newsletter & NSCCA mailings via email!

We are offering the option to our members to receive their NSCCA correspondence electronically. Let us know if you are interested and we will set it up by emailing [nscca@istar.ca](mailto:nscca@istar.ca)

*NSCCA Annual General Meeting, September 28, 2005  
Alderney Gate Library,  
Dartmouth, 7 pm*

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