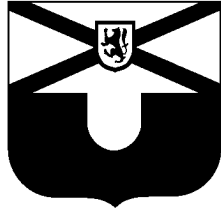


**Nova Scotia Teachers Union**



**Speech-Language Pathologists  
and Audiologists Association**



***Constitution***

September 2009

# Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association Constitution

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## **Article I**

### ***Name***

The Professional Association shall be called the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* of the *Nova Scotia Teachers Union*.

## **Article II**

### ***Purpose***

The mandate of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* shall be:

- [1] To improve professional practice by increasing member knowledge and understanding.
- [2] To designate ideas, trends and new developments.
- [3] To provide information to the *NSTU Professional Associations Coordination Committee* and the *NSTU Curriculum Committee*.
- [4] To advise the *Provincial Executive* on matters affecting *NSTU Professional Associations*.

## **Article III**

### ***Membership***

#### [1] ***Regular Membership***

*Regular Membership* in the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* is restricted to active and active reserve members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

An active reserve member is not eligible to hold elected office; however, an active reserve member is eligible to vote and serve on committees.

#### [2] ***Student Intern Membership***

*Student Intern Membership* in the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* is available to full-time university students enrolled in education programs. A student intern member is not eligible to vote or

hold elected office; however, a student intern member is eligible to serve on committees.

[3] ***Subscriber Member***

*Subscriber Membership* is available to an institution or a person who is not a regular or student intern member. A subscriber member is not eligible to vote, hold elected office or serve on committees.

## **Article IV**

### ***Distribution of Powers***

- [1] The general membership shall retain all powers of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* except those delegated in the Constitution to the *Professional Association Executive*.
- [2] Any member of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* shall have the right to address all meetings of the *Professional Association*.
- [3] A regular member shall have the right to vote on all motions at general meetings of the *Professional Association*.

## **Article V**

### ***Executive***

- [1] The *Professional Association Executive* shall include but not be limited to the following members:
- *President*
  - *Immediate Past President*
  - *Vice President*
  - *Secretary*
  - *Treasurer*
- [2] The *Professional Association Executive* shall meet a minimum of three (3) times per year at a location determined by the *President*.
- [3] A quorum of the *Professional Association Executive* shall be fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of *Professional Association Executive* members.

## **Article VI**

### ***Professional Association Committees***

- [1] The *Professional Association Executive* shall establish the following committees.
- *Communications*
  - *Conference*
  - *Finance*
  - *Nominating*
- [2] The *Professional Association Executive* shall appoint members to each committee on an annual basis.
- [3] The *Professional Association Executive* may appoint ad hoc committees as circumstances dictate.
- [4] The *Professional Association Executive* shall appoint members to other committees as required.
- [5] The *Professional Association President* shall chair the *Communication Committee*.
- [6] The *Professional Association Treasurer* shall chair the *Finance Committee*.
- [7] The *Professional Association Vice-President* or designate shall chair the *Conference Committee*.
- [8] The *Professional Association Immediate Past President* or designate shall chair the *Nominating Committee*.

## **Article VII**

### ***Professional Association Meetings***

- [1] ***Professional Association Annual Meeting***
- (a) There shall be an *Annual Meeting* of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* for:
- i/ receipt of annual reports;
  - ii/ presentation of a financial statement;
  - iii/ presentation of a proposed budget for the upcoming year;
  - iv/ election of officers for the upcoming year.
  - v/ consideration of NSTU Annual Council resolutions.

- (b) The quorum for a general meeting shall be 5% of the regular membership excluding the members of the *Professional Association Executive*.

[2] ***Professional Association Executive Meetings***

- (a) *Professional Association Executive* meetings shall take place a minimum of three (3) times per year during the periods:
  - Fall
  - Winter
  - Spring
- (b) The quorum for a *Professional Association Executive Meeting* shall be fifty percent plus one of the *Professional Association Executive*.

[3] ***Professional Association Special Meetings***

- (a) In the event of an emergency or other need, a special meeting shall be called by the *Professional Association Executive*.
- (b) A special general meeting shall be called by the *Executive* upon the written request of five percent (5%) of the regular membership. Five (5) working days notice of such a meeting shall be given to the general membership.
- (c) A special meeting shall consider only the business specified in the notice calling such a meeting.

## VIII

### ***Elections/Voting Privileges***

- [1] Only *regular members* of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* have the right to vote.
- [2] Only *active NSTU members* of *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* have the right to hold office.
- [3] Only *regular members* and *student intern members* of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* have a right to serve on committees.
- [4] The *Professional Association Executive* shall be elected by secret ballot.
- [5] The term of office for *Professional Association Executive* members shall be two (2) years from Annual General Meeting to Annual General Meeting.

- [6] Any *Professional Association Executive* position shall be held by the same person for a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms.
- [7] Should any *Professional Association Executive* position except *Professional Association Immediate Past President* remain vacant following elections at the *Annual General Meeting*, the *Nominating Committee* shall conduct a by-election using a mail-in vote procedure.
- [8] In the event that the *Professional Association President* cannot complete a term of office, the *Professional Association Vice President* shall assume the duties of the *Professional Association President* in the interim. The *Nominating Committee* shall seek nominations for the position and conduct an election using the mail-in vote procedure. The term of office for this position shall be until the completion of the vacated term of office.
- [9] In the event that a *Professional Association Executive* member other than the *Professional Association President* cannot complete a term of office, the position shall be filled through a by-election administered by the *Nominating Committee*. The term of office for this position shall be until the completion of the vacated term of office.

## **Article IX**

### ***Finances***

- [1] The fiscal year shall be from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>.
- [2] Membership fees shall be determined by the *Provincial Executive* of the *Nova Scotia Teachers Union*.
- [3] The signing officers shall be the *NSTU signing officers*.
- [4] The official authorization for expenditures shall be made by any two of the following: the *Professional Association Treasurer*; *Professional Association President* or one other member of the *Professional Association Executive*.
- [5] The *Professional Association Executive* shall make expenditures up to \$2,000. without prior approval of the regular membership.
- [6] Members shall be reimbursed expenses at the provincial NSTU rate.
- [7] There will be no purchase of capital equipment over \$500.00 without prior approval of the NSTU Finance and Property Committee.

- [8] The financial records of the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* shall be subjected to an annual review in accordance with guidelines provided by the *Finance and Property Committee* of the NSTU.
- [9] All operational expenses (including substitute teacher costs) incurred by the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* are the sole responsibility of the *Speech-language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* and are not the responsibility of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union.

## **Article X**

### ***Rules of Order***

Rules of Order shall be the same as those procedures adopted by the *Nova Scotia Teachers Union*.

## **Article XI**

### ***Accountability***

- [1] Individuals in an elected or appointed leadership role, NSTU employees and others acting on the *Professional Association's* behalf have the obligation to avoid conflicts of interest; the perception of conflict of interest; and, ensure that their activities and interests do not conflict with their responsibilities to the *Nova Scotia Teachers Union*.
- [2] *Professional Association Executive* members are expected to attend as well as actively participate in all meetings of the *Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)*.
- [3] *Professional Association Executive* members are responsible to fairly represent Executive decisions when speaking on issues addressed by the *Professional Association Executive*.

## **Article XII**

### ***NSTU Annual Council***

- [1] Each Professional Association shall be entitled to one (1) delegate with voting status at the Annual Council.



## **Article XIII**

### ***Communications***

- [1] Any representation that the *Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Association (SPAA)* wishes to make to any organization, person, Government department, Department of Education, school board and any other agency external to the NSTU shall be conducted through the office of the *NSTU President* by way of the staff liaison officer responsible for *NSTU Professional Associations*.

## **Article XIV**

### ***Amendments***

- [1] This *Constitution* may be amended by a two-thirds majority of votes cast by the members present at a *General Meeting* or *Special Meeting* convened for that purpose.
- [2] Notice of proposed amendment(s) shall be given to members ten (10) working days prior to the meeting.
- [3] Amendments to this *Constitution* shall be ratified by the *NSTU Provincial Executive* at a scheduled meeting following approval by the Professional Association's general membership.