

approved Minutes
NSGREA Region 3 (HRM)
General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Held at the NSGEU offices 255 John Savage Ave. Dartmouth, NS.

In Attendance: 20 members present, 1 via Zoom, 3 guests (2 interpreters and Provincial President PG Comeau)

1. Welcome and Call to Order: 1:41 pm

2. Regrets: Fran Chisholm, Rosemary Mooney, Linda McCormick, Johena Kennedy, Susan Chester, Valerie Bobyk, Nancy Muise, Bonnie Halliday

3. Moment of Silence for deceased or ill members.

4. Land acknowledgement: given by Kathleen B.

We begin by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the Treaties of Peace and Friendship which Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Passamaquoddy People first signed with the British Crown in 1726.

We would also like to recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

We are **all** treaty peoples.

5: Self introduction of members present.

6. Approval of Agenda: M/S/Carried (Judie R/Robert T)

7: Approval of Minutes - March 20, 2025 M/S/Carried (Robert T/Matthew D) as amended

Discussion on having a grievance process for staff.

Define SCPR in pension report (Standing Committee on Pension Indexing SCPI)

8. Business Arising: None discussed.

9. Coorspondence:

1. Email from Sharon Braine regarding miss leading information in the agenda that was sent out and asking that a corrected agenda be sent out. (Rec'd May 12)

2. Judie R reported that we have recieved the \$150 annual allotment from the Provincial office.

10: Region 3 President's report: (See attached report)
Region Exec meeting May 7

11. Treasurer's Report: M/S/Carried (Judie R/Matthew D)

Received the \$150 annual allotment

Balance forwarded		\$744.88
Proceeds from 50/50	\$78.00	\$832.88
50/50 gift return	\$50.00	\$872.88
Present Balance		\$872.88

Submitted by Judie Ritchie

12. Provincial Executive Report: Given by President PG Comeau - Apology for being unable to attend regional meetings due to illness. Will attend Provincial office every Wednesday. Heavy and concerning workload. Concerned over spending. Called for special meeting to address attendance on Pension Cmt. We have American investments that will be effected by USA economic woes. Sent letter to the Bank of Canada re: interest rates. Concern over fee increase and honorarium to Regional presidents.

Kathleen added that NSGREA has a Staples discount.

Membership list: a third of our members don't have emails.

Shannon Kelly is heading the Constitutional review.

2:12 - 2:25: Break 50/50 draw for \$50 went to Keiran T

13: Pension Cmt Report: Fred M stated that the committee has met a few times and will meet on May 20th. Looking at different lines of action: outreach from members to influencers, reaching out to the auditor general, taking legal action, building coalitions, continued followup and information. Will take a period of time to accomplish results. Educating members to indexing.

Q. Is there any interest from the Union to co operate with actions. (Yes, The President has met with NSGEU and they are supportive of the organisation and our work on pensions)

Q. Looking at the history of the plan. (There is ongoing research taking place looking at the drivers of the indexing challenge with the plan)

- The discussion at the SCPI meeting dealt with:
 - Returns on the pension fund were below benchmark levels and below levels in neighbouring provinces
 - NSPSSP is the only provincial employees pension plan in Canada providing no indexing over the last 5 years.

14: Elections: (for 2 year terms)

M/S/**Defeated** (Bernie C/Sharon B) to postpone elections till next general meeting.

Robert T moved to elect 3 positions today and send election of secretary to next meeting

Don Goss presided over elections

for President - Kathleen Bugbee nominated by Pat M/Nancy H

for Secretary - Postponed

for Member-at-large Nancy Muise nominated by Kathleen B/Nancy H

for Member-at-large Cameron MacNeil nominated by Judie R/ Nancy H

All positions were Acclaimed

Draw to pay for Convention registration M/S/Carried by Kathleen B/Matthew D

Names drawn were: Margaret Reid, Jim Halliday, Don Goss and Lynn Strange

15: New Business:

A) Meeting Dates for the next year (fall 2025 to fall 2026: SEE hand out.)

Suggestion to move meetings to Tuesday since seniors ride free during non rush hour times and to have them in Halifax since more bus routes are available to Hfx location. It was decided to have next meeting on a Tuesday to see if this improves attendance. Also to change meeting time from 1 pm to 3 pm.

We are also looking at offering some form of ride sharing for those that have difficulty attending. Will provide bus routes to locations.

B) Approval of Resolutions to Convention

1. Policy Manual M/S/Carried (Kathleen B/Judy R)

There ensued a discussion on a precieved Privacy breech with a recent mail out.

6. Communications position M/S/Amended/Carried (Kathleen B/Matt D)

M/S/Amended (Kathleen B/Don G) to split resolution to separate honorarium from main resolution and whether or not to make this an Executive position.

Provincial President Comeau was granted leave to address this resolution. He believes executive members are conspiring to create this position so as to block his agenda.

Rest of resolutions have been deferred to a special meeting to be held in June.

2. Strategic Plan

3. Member Fee increase

4. Technology plan

5. Honorarium for Regional Presidents & Cmt

7. Robert's Rules of Order

8. Convention Resolution Progress report

9. Create Finance Cmt

10. List of Standing Cmt.

11. Health Care Worker Parking Problems

12. Establishing Seniors' Advocates

13. Reaching a National Pharmacare Agreement

14. Release Review Report and Giving Greater Resources and Independence to FOIPOP Commissioner

Dropped resolution: Submitting Pension Questions - We will ask that members submit questions when the Convention package is mailed out.

C) Keiren Tompkins reported that the 5 year Public Service Superannuation Pension Plan Funded Review is underway and will be completed by the end of June, 2025. Currently the funded status is between 100% to 110%. Should this be the final result, based on the Funding provisions of the NS PSSP Act, indexing at only 50% of the previous 5 year average Consumer Price Index (CPI) is allowable. This could result in a COLA of approximately 1.7% in each of the next 5 years between January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2030. The provisions also require that 50% of any surplus must be retained in a strategic funding reserve.

However, should the funded valuation fall between 110 to 120%, a higher amount of indexing above 1.74%, up to a maximum of the previous 5 year year average (3.47%) might be possible but still 50% of any fund surplus must be retained in the reserve. The final decision will be made at the next PSSP Board meeting on June 24 and subsequently released to retirees and the public.

16. Next Meeting: Special Meeting will be held in June to deal with resolutions to Convention.

(tentative) Oct 9, 2025 to be held in Halifax

Provincial Convention: Sept. 15, 2025 to be held at NSGEU 255 Savage Ave

17: Adjournment: Moved by Matthew D at 3:36 pm