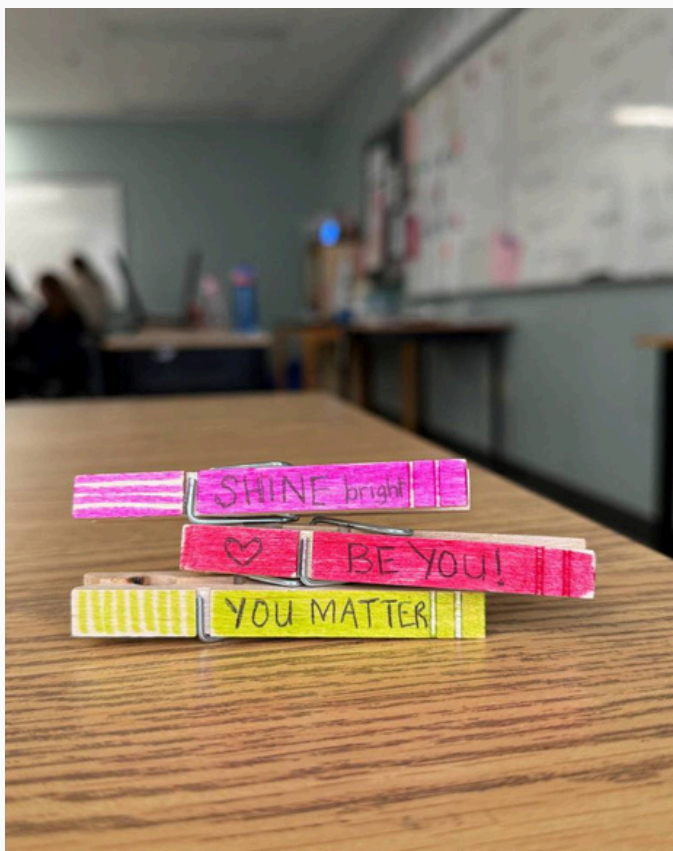




# REGIONAL UPDATE

Monthly Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



On May 23rd, kindness was in the air at Drumlin Heights Consolidated School, as students celebrated Random Act of Kindness Day in a truly meaningful way.

The halls were transformed with positivity as students wrote encouraging words, thoughtful notes, and uplifting messages — then pinned them on other students.

It was a simple act, but the impact was big. Thank you to all students and staff who made the day brighter for everyone!

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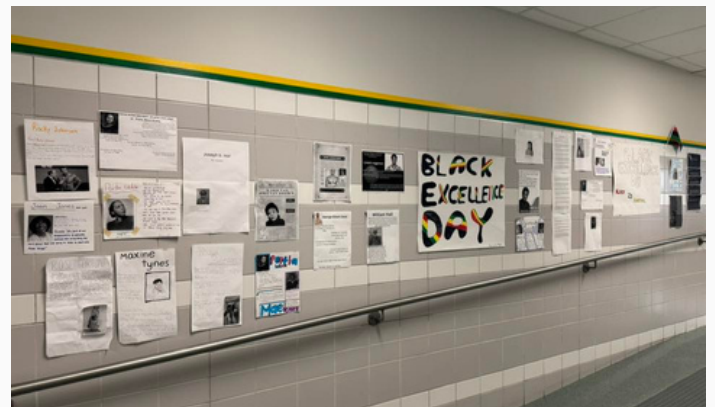
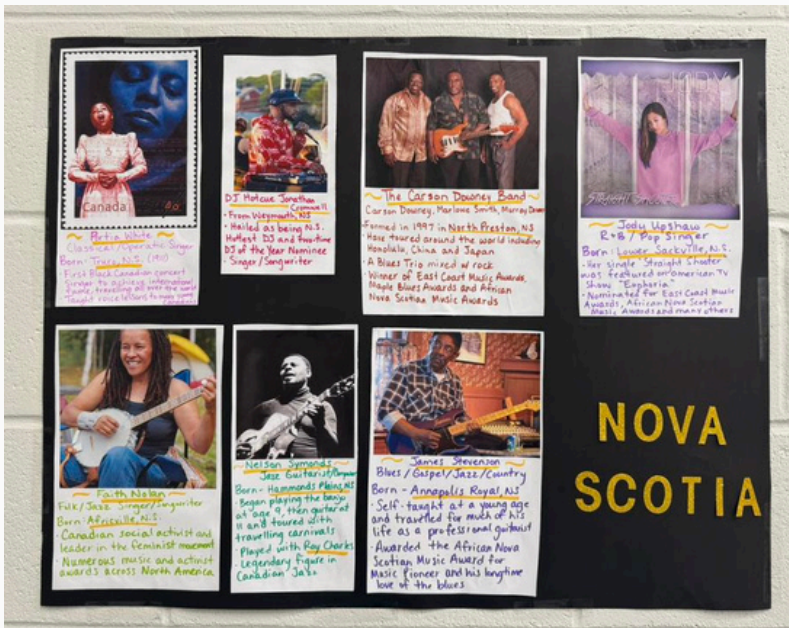
[www.tcrce.ca](http://www.tcrce.ca)

## Red Dress Day



Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, is observed on May 5th. To mark the day, Yarmouth Elementary students took part in the MMIWG+ ceremony at Frost Park. They listened with open hearts, showed deep respect, and honoured the voices and stories shared. Their presence was a meaningful reminder that learning, empathy, and reconciliation start young. Thank you to everyone who helped make this important day so impactful.

## Black Excellence Day



May 15th was Black Excellence Day – a time to recognize and honour the achievements, contributions, and brilliance of people of African descent, both past and present. Leading up to the day, staff and students throughout TCRCE explored connections to Black excellence within their courses.

Pictured above are photos from Digby Regional High School where incredible displays of student learning, showcasing local, regional, provincial, national, and international Black excellence were on display. Through inquiry and collaboration, students created powerful, student-led projects and learning artifacts that reflected their understanding and celebration of Black history, culture, and impact. These projects included digital biographies, writing artifacts, artistic displays, and interactive presentations, each one a powerful testament to student voice, creativity, and engagement.

# Staff OF THE MONTH

Each month, TCRCE staff are invited to nominate a staff member who fits the monthly theme. We are pleased to share the winners for April:



## APRIL RECIPIENTS

### Theme: Engagement and Motivation

#### Secondary Teacher

Nissel de Molitor

Shelburne Regional High School

#### From Nomination:

*Nissel is an extraordinary educator whose impact resonates far beyond the walls of her classroom. From the moment students walk through the main doors of SRHS, they are greeted by her warm presence. She begins each day standing in the foyer, welcoming students—past and present—with genuine enthusiasm and heartfelt conversation. Her connections with students are meaningful and lasting, evidenced by the many former students who return just to visit her.*

#### Elementary Teacher

Debbie Walker

Digby Elementary School

#### From Nomination:

*Debbie is an exceptional educator who inspires and motivates her students through dynamic and engaging teaching practices that bring learning to life. Her energy and passion are contagious, creating a classroom atmosphere where students are not only eager to participate but genuinely excited to learn. Debbie's ability to connect with her students fosters a positive and supportive environment in which they feel safe to take risks and push themselves.*

#### Non-Teaching Staff -

Shirley Deveau - Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School

*From Nomination: Shirley has been a TA for many years. She has built a great trust with the students. Helps them in any way possible with their work if they are upset, she can talk to them to calm them down. She always engages them to be part of group activities in the classroom. She's wonderful at her job I feel this category fits her as a person and she should be recognized for what she has done over the years with the students.*

## Info from Public Health: Be tick aware in Nova Scotia

In summer and fall, people spend time at Nova Scotia's many beautiful beaches, parks, and wooded areas. However, we need to be mindful of the presence of ticks and how we can protect ourselves. These small insects are found across Nova Scotia and can cause tick-borne diseases (TBDs), including Lyme disease and anaplasmosis.

Ticks like moist and humid environments and can be found in or near woods, shrubs, leaf litter, long grass, urban parks and gardens. They can be very small, which makes them hard to spot and their bites don't hurt, which makes it difficult to know when you've been bitten.

Visit [NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety](https://NovaScotia.ca/TickSafety) and learn:

- How to protect yourself - especially in grassy, wooded, or shrub-covered areas
- What to do if you find a tick on yourself/your child
- The signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses

# Be Tick Aware



## Spotlight on Schools



As part of their unit on the Acadians, the grade 4/5 class from Port Maitland Consolidated Elementary school recently visited Le Village historique acadien (pictured above).



Grade 3/4 students at Lockeport Elementary recently had a visit from Nova Scotia Agriculture for an interactive presentation about soil and its role in agriculture. Students enjoyed the presentation and even found some worms (pictured above).



On May 27<sup>th</sup>, Shelburne Regional High School students, Mei Jennings, Cadence Rankin and Maria MacKenzie (along with chaperone Kelli Wolfe-Enslow) left for the Skills Canada National Competition in Regina, Saskatchewan. These students are among some of the secondary and post-secondary students who are representing Team Nova Scotia at the national competition.



These Barrington Municipal High School O2 students recently completed this carpentry project for the River Hills Golf & County Club. Thank you Brayden Breen, Dallas Kenney and Brody Brannen for your lead on this project.

# Your Voice, Our Future: Strategic Planning in Action

Recently, all TCRCE employees were invited to share their perspectives through a survey and ThoughtExchange, to help shape our regional priorities. We were pleased to receive input from approximately one-third of our workforce—an impressive 505 participants—who thoughtfully contributed valuable insights, ideas, and concerns.

This strong level of engagement highlights our shared commitment to building a positive future together. The feedback gathered will serve as a cornerstone in the collaborative development of our new strategic plan.

## Strategic Planning Team

A Strategic Planning Team, made up of a group of dedicated team members, has been formed to work on a brand-new System Improvement Plan.

The TCRCE Strategic Planning Team's main job is to work together to help shape a new strategic plan, also called the System Improvement Plan. This plan will focus on strengthening practices in schools and making sure support across the region is better aligned.

We recently gathered a lot of helpful feedback through a ThoughtExchange survey. Some common themes across our system included: data collection, student success planning, teacher expectations, collaborative learning time, complex classrooms, etc. We'll use this feedback to identify opportunities and come up with practical solutions to guide our new strategy.

We'd like to thank the following staff who will be joined by approximately five TCRCE Leadership Staff and make up the TCRCE Strategic Plan Team:

Sarah Acker (NSTU), Shelburne High, NSTU President Shelburne  
Danielle Quinlan (NSTU), Digby Elementary, NSTU President Digby  
Chad Warren (NSTU), Maple Grove, NSTU President Yarmouth  
Sandra Runyon (NSTU), Plymouth School, Learning Support Teacher  
Max Taylor (NSTU), Maple Grove, Learning Support Teacher  
Rhylie Nickerson (NSTU), Forest Ridge, Grade 1-2 Classroom  
Denise Boudreau (NSTU), Weymouth Elementary, Grade 2-3 Classroom  
Justin McCall (NSTU), Saint Mary's Bay, Learning Support Teacher  
Joan O'Neil (NSTU), Digby High, Grade 7-9 Classroom Teacher  
Natasha Yorke-Philip (NSTU), Various Schools, School Psychologist  
Kim Blades (NSTU), Various Schools, Math Coach  
Stacey Purdy (NSTU), Various Schools, Inquiry-Based Learning Lead Teacher  
Jennifer Samms (PSAANS), Yarmouth Elementary, Vice Principal  
Terry Gaudet (PSAANS), Weymouth Elementary, Principal  
Jordan Pierce (PSAANS), Drumlin Heights, Principal



# Grade 11 Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal Winners

The Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal is awarded annually to grade 11 students throughout the province in recognition of academic performance and qualities of leadership and service that have been demonstrated in their school and community. Congratulations!



**Autumn Dedrick**  
**Barrington Municipal High School**



**Alexa Jacquard**  
**Barrington Municipal High School**



**Robin Holmes**  
**Digby Regional High School**



**Melony Comeau**  
**Digby Regional High School**



**Koleman Cunningham**  
**Drumlin Heights Consolidated High School**



**Maia Hatfield**  
**Drumlin Heights Consolidated High School**



**Michael Millar**  
**Islands Consolidated School**



**Allison Guier**  
**Islands Consolidated School**

# Grade 11 Lieutenant Governor's Education Medal Winners



**Kaitlyn Brown**  
**Lockeport Regional High School**



**Hannah Chetwynd**  
**Lockeport Regional High School**



**Max MacDonald-Comeau**  
**Saint Mary's Bay Academy**



**Moses Morrison**  
**Saint Mary's Bay Academy**



**Mei Jennings**  
**Shelburne Regional High School**



**Cadence Rankin**  
**Shelburne Regional High School**



**Ava Goudey**  
**Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School**



**Angus Mackenzie**  
**Yarmouth Consolidated Memorial High School**

# Education Week Recipients

Education Week takes place each May and provides a special opportunity to acknowledge educators, school support staff, and partners for their outstanding work relative to the Education Week theme. This year's theme was Empowering Futures: Innovation in Education. This theme highlights those who embrace innovation in meeting the evolving needs of students in preparing them for a rapidly changing future.

Congratulations to the following TCRCE recipients, who were honoured at a provincial ceremony on May 12th.

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Benton, having just transitioned back into a Technology Education role, was recently awarded a grant to bring 3D printers into his lab. Benton aimed to give students a head start by allowing them to access and use new forms of technology.

Sadly, Benton passed away suddenly over the March Break. Benton's commitment to education and his innovative approach to integrating technology into the classroom will continue to inspire students and educators alike. This award honours Benton's dedication, vision, and the passion for learning he instilled in countless students.



**NSTU (Yarmouth Local) Award:**

**Benton Gallagher**  
Maple Grove Education Centre

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Chris Kenney is Meadowfield's IT Tech. He excels at his job. He is always on board to help teachers with IT issues, and readily available with answers to questions. He is friendly, prompt, and fixes issues quickly. Chris will troubleshoot with staff, and truly cares about education along with the use of technology in classrooms. He takes the time to get his jobs done efficiently, and works well under pressure.



**Non-teaching School/  
Student Support Staff Award:**

**Chris Kenney**  
Meadowfields Community School

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Jeff is a compassionate and dedicated principal who consistently puts students first, ensuring their well-being and success remain the top priority. He demonstrates a strong commitment by initiating and supporting innovative programs and fostering a supportive environment. Jeff is known for his ability to leverage the best from his staff, encouraging collaboration and professional growth.



**PSAANS Award:**

**Jeff Rankin**  
Shelburne Regional High School

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Kayla's enthusiasm for her culture, and the care she has for her students is obvious when observing the relationships she's created. Kayla is a team player, and her school spirit is evident in the way she presents herself to both staff and students. She is always available for collaboration with teachers and administration and is the first one to say yes to any job or a challenge.



**African Nova Scotian/African Ancestry  
Educator/Student Support Staff Award:**

**Kayla Fells**  
Meadowfields Community School

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Kelli is an outstanding educator who exemplifies innovation by fostering inclusive, engaging, and future-focused learning experiences for students. She works tirelessly to support students in discovering and pursuing their career pathways, ensuring they have meaningful learning opportunities that connect them to real-world experiences and future career possibilities.



**NSTU (Shelburne Local) Award:**

**Kelli Wolfe-Enslow - Shelburne  
Regional High School**

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Lori Anne unwaveringly demonstrates a consistent high level of professionalism, compassion, dedication, inclusionary practices and pride in her role as a Lead Early Childhood Educator. Lori Anne's positivity, and "we can do it" attitude provides not only the children in Pre-primary with a warm, nurturing and welcoming learning environment, but the entirety of the school has been positively influenced.



**Early Childhood Educator Award:**

**Lori Anne Henneberry**  
Lockeport Elementary School

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Kaylee and Shantel are committed to supporting schools that do not have a permanent Mi'kmaw Student Support Worker (MSSW). Their dedication to fostering cultural education and empowering students has made a significant impact on several TCRCE schools, including a recent Mi'kmaw language session for principals.



**Mi'kmaq/Indigenous Educator/Student  
Support Staff Award:**

**Shantel Berry & Kaylee Blair**  
Yarmouth Elementary & Plymouth School

**Education Week**  
May 11-17 2025  
Empowering Futures:  
Innovation in Education



Leo has demonstrated outstanding innovation in education by providing students with a hands-on, creative outlet that enhances engagement. By integrating the arts into his English and Social Studies courses, he encourages students to express their ideas through music, visual storytelling, and performance, fostering creativity and deeper connections to the material.



**NSTU (Digby Local) Award:**

**Leo Boudreau**  
Islands Consolidated School

# Become a Host Family

Have you ever thought about opening your home to a student who will become a part of your family?

The Nova Scotia International Student Program is looking for additional host families to host international students in September. Currently there are close to 100 families in TCRCE that are hosting NSISP students.

Don't miss out on this unique experience. It's a wonderful way to learn about another culture, while sharing your family traditions with a student who is excited to study and live in the beautiful Tri-County region.

We have students here from many countries and need homes for students from Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Spain, and Türkiye.

Some students are only staying for 4 weeks, while others are staying for 3, 4, 5 and 10 months.

We hope you will consider opening your heart and home to an international student this fall.

To reach out to us for more information, please email: [nsisp@tcrce.ca](mailto:nsisp@tcrce.ca)

Or complete an expression of interest online [here](#).



## How to Contact TCRCE

### School-Related Inquiries/Concerns?

1. The first point of contact should always be the child's teacher or Early Childhood Educator (ECE) for pre-primary children.
2. If the inquiry/concern is unresolved, families should always contact the school administration.
3. If the inquiry/concern is still unresolved, families are asked to contact TCRCE and will then be put in touch with the appropriate person.

☎ 902-749-5818

✉ [info@tcrce.ca](mailto:info@tcrce.ca)

### General Inquiries

☎ 902-749-5696

✉ [contact@tcrce.ca](mailto:contact@tcrce.ca)

### Transportation

☎ 902-749-5663

✉ [bussing@tcrce.ca](mailto:bussing@tcrce.ca)

### Pre-Primary Program

☎ 902-749-5818

✉ [preprimary@tcrce.ca](mailto:preprimary@tcrce.ca)

### School Closure/Weather

☎ 1-888-833-5287

✉ [weather@tcrce.ca](mailto:weather@tcrce.ca)

## 2025-26 CALENDAR NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL CENTRES FOR EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER 2025	OCTOBER 2025	NOVEMBER 2025	DECEMBER 2025
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31
		30	
JANUARY 2026	FEBRUARY 2026	MARCH 2026	APRIL 2026
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25
25 26 27 28 29 30 31		29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30
MAY 2026	JUNE 2026		
S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S		
1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6		
3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13		
10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20		
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27		
24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30		
31			

### LEGEND

- ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/JUNIOR**
- Term 1: Sept 4 to Nov 21, 2025
  - Term 2: Nov 24 to Mar 13, 2026
  - Term 3: Mar 23 to Jun 30, 2026

### HIGH SCHOOL

- Semester 1: Sept 1, 2025 to Jan 30, 2026
- Semester 2: Feb 2 to Jun 30, 2026

Progress Conference meetings formerly known as Parent/Teacher Meetings will be held on the dates marked on the calendar.

- No School ALL STUDENTS
- First Day of School/Last Day of School
- No School High School Only
- No School Elem/Middle/Jr Only
- Culturally Significant Day (Schools Open)
- CLT Day - 90 min. early dismissal (TCRCE)

Sept 2	School Organization Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 3	Professional Development Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 4	First Day of School for Students
Sept 29	Professional Development Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Sept 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Oct 1	Treaty Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Oct 13	Thanksgiving Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Oct 24	NSTU Conference Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Nov 11	Remembrance Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Nov 21	Elem/Middle/Jr Evaluation Day (No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY)
	Term 1 Ends (Elem/Middle/Jr)
Nov 17-20	Report Cards High School
Nov 24-Dec 3	Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr

Dec 4	Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Dec 19	Last Day for Students Before Holiday Break
Dec 22	Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Jan 5	First Day Back After Break
Jan 28-29	High School Summative Assessments
Jan 30	High School Assessment & Evaluation Day/Semester 1 Ends (No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)
Feb 2	Semester 2 Begins (High School)
Feb 3-13	Semester 1 Report Cards (High School)
Feb 16	Nova Scotia Heritage Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Mar 13	Elem/Middle/Jr Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ELEM/MIDDLE/JR ONLY)
	Term 2 Ends (Elementary)
Mar 16-20	Spring Break (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Mar 23-Apr 2	Report Cards Elem/Middle/Jr

Apr 2	Elem/Middle/Jr Progress Conferences/ Teacher Professional Practice Day & High School Professional Development (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Apr 3	Good Friday (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Apr 6	Easter Monday (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Apr 21-Apr 28	Report Cards High School
Apr 29	Elem/Middle/Jr Professional Development & High School Progress Conferences/Teacher Professional Practice Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
May 15	Black Excellence Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
May 18	Victoria Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Jun 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day (Culturally Significant Day Schools OPEN)
Jun 23-25	High School Summative Assessments
Jun 26	High School Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes HIGH SCHOOL ONLY)
Jun 29	Elementary and High School Assessment & Evaluation Day (No Classes ALL SCHOOLS)
Jun 30	Last Day of School

 **Annapolis Valley**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **Cape Breton-Victoria**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **Chignecto Central**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **Halifax**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **South Shore**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **Strait**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **Tri-County**  
Regional Centre for Education

 **Nova Scotia**  
Regional Centre for Education