

Minister's Advisory Council on Teacher Certification—Statement of Mandate and Terms of Reference

Vision of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Every child and student is confident and proud, maximizing their potential and contributing to a thriving society.

Values

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Trust
- Honesty and Integrity
- Diversity
- Fairness and Equity
- Respect
- The Public Good

Mission of the Minister's Advisory Council on Teacher Certification

The Minister's Advisory Council on Teacher Certification (MACTC) acts in the public interest by providing advice to the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development on matters pertaining to the certification of the Nova Scotia teaching profession.

Mandate

The mandate of the Minister's Advisory Council on Teacher Certification is to work in the public interest and advise the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development on matters pertaining to Nova Scotia teacher certification. MACTC will provide certification recommendations that are grounded in the values of MACTC to raise the profile of the teaching profession, protect the integrity of the teacher's certificate, uphold the teaching standards, and to ensure the profession is well-prepared to teach our students. MACTC's mandate includes the strategic and policy implications of matters relating to both initial teacher certification, and programs that lead to advanced teacher certification.

MACTC will identify areas of concern and/or provide recommendations and advice to the Minister on regulatory and policy related matters to ensure that teacher certification is aligned to deliver the best possible outcome for students in Nova Scotia's public school system. These matters may come to the attention of MACTC through a request of the Minister, or they may be raised by members of MACTC in response to current or emerging issues respecting the certification of teachers in Nova Scotia.

It is recognized that it is not necessarily within the purview of MACTC to solve or resolve the issues or concerns identified but rather to advise the Minister on possible courses of action or a recommended solution.

Responsibilities

- Provide advice to the Minister as requested on proposed, modified, or existing programs for recognition towards both initial teacher certification and advanced teacher certification. Such requests will be forwarded to MACTC through the Minister and will not be received directly from institutions. Any advice from MACTC will be directed to the Minister for the Minister's consideration from the co-chairs. Any Nova Scotia program recommended by MACTC will be forwarded to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) for subsequent approval. This does not preclude MACTC from raising concerns about existing programs where they do not meet current needs or policy directions. MACTC is subsequently responsible for ensuring programs used towards certification continue to meet the needs of the profession, the education system, and the initial intent of the program's approval.
- Review and assess concerns regarding teacher education programs brought by members of the teaching profession and advise the Minister when action to address these concerns should be undertaken¹.
- Ensure recommendations pertaining to the professionalism and act of teaching are aligned with the Nova Scotia teaching standards.
- Conduct a review at least every three years of the regulations and policies related to teacher certification in Nova Scotia to ensure regulatory and policy framework is meeting the needs and is responsive to the teaching profession. This review does not preclude the Minister seeking advice on such matters if issues arise.
- Monitor changes in directions and trends in teacher certification and regulation at national and regional levels, and identify opportunities for improvement in Nova Scotia.
- Review and advise on any other matters referred by the Minister.

Meetings

MACTC will meet, at a minimum, quarterly at a location to be determined by MACTC. In addition to addressing those items directed by the Minister, the co-chairs will be responsible for seeking additional agenda items at least three weeks prior to each meeting from council members. A meeting agenda will be circulated by the co-chairs to council members at least one week prior to each meeting. Each member has the responsibility to review the agenda, minutes and supporting documentation to enable effective participation at each meeting. The meeting schedule will be established by the co-chairs in the fall of each academic year. Quorum is required at each meeting of MACTC with 10 of the 15 voting members in attendance. If a quorum is not present when a meeting is called to order, MACTC may opt to wait to determine whether quorum can be attained (normally within 30 minutes), or MACTC may opt to adjourn the meeting. A voting item becomes advice to the Minister with at least 2/3s of the vote.

¹ This responsibility may be fulfilled by a subcommittee of the MACTC

Composition

The Minister shall appoint 15 voting members of MACTC, of whom:

- a. one is the Assistant Registrar of teacher certification
- b. one is the Director of Teacher Education
- c. one is an Executive Director within the Department of Education
- d. three are nominated by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union
- e. one is a representative of the Committee of Deans and Heads of Teacher Training Institutions
- f. one is a senior level member of the Conseil scolaire acadien provincial
- g. one is a member of the Council for African Canadian Education
- h. one is a senior level official from the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey schools
- i. one is a representative of the Directors of Human Resource of the 8 education entities
- j. one is a representative of the Directors of Student Programming and Services of the 8 education entities
- k. one is a representative of the Student Services Coordinators of the 8 education entities
- l. one is a principal representing grades P-6
- m. one is a principal representing grades 7-12

The Minister will also appoint the Registrar of Teacher Certification as a non-voting member of MACTC.

Rotating co-chairs will be nominated by MACTC and appointed by the Minister. Co-chairs will serve no more than a single two-year term in the co-chair position. Co-chairs will be appointed by the Minister such that they represent the diversity of the council.

The Minister shall appoint members of MACTC to serve for a term of 2 years. No voting MACTC member other than the Assistant Registrar of Teacher Certification, Director of Teacher Education, and the three members nominated by the NSTU can serve more than two consecutive terms².

The Minister shall appoint an employee of the Department of Education to serve as a non-voting secretary.

Initial MACTC

There shall be an initial MACTC consisting of 15 members, where 10 members will be appointed for the initial term of:

- i. One year for three members
- ii. Two years for three members
- iii. Three years for four members; and

These ten members shall be comprised of the composition not including the Assistant Registrar of Teacher Certification, the Director of Teacher Education and the three appointed members of the NSTU. One of the initial co-chairs will be appointed for a two-year term, and the other co-chair will be appointed for a three-year term.

² For the purpose of this provision, two terms are consecutive if the second term commences 12 or fewer months after the first term ends

Formation Details

MACTC shall be appointed by the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development. If representing a larger group of educational partners, each council candidate will be nominated by the group they are intended to represent. Each candidate must participate in an orientation to MACTC and act in the public's shared interest by 1) protecting the integrity of the Nova Scotia teacher's certificate, 2) guiding the teaching profession towards high-quality teacher education programs that lead to initial or advanced teacher certification, and 3) providing advice to the Minister that both advances the certification of the profession and the act of teaching.