



FNBFA President's Report

Plenary Session and Annual General Meeting

May 11, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

Here we are again at the end of one year and the beginning of another.

The following is a report on the activities of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA) and the issues and situations that have come to our attention in 2022-2023.

- **FNBFA Mission Update**

At the September 2022 board meeting, the board updated the federation's mission to better reflect its values and aspirations. The FNBFA mission now reads as follows:

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations represents the interests of approximately 1,500 professors, contract academic staff, librarians, and researchers at six campuses of the province's four public universities. It advocates the advancement of their profession, the protection of the institutional autonomy of universities and academic freedom and aims to improve the quality of post-secondary education and research in the province.

- **Promotion of the FNBFA and its members**

For a period of eight weeks, between March 1 and April 30, 2023, the FNBFA ran a bilingual campaign on Facebook and Twitter to raise awareness among New Brunswick citizens on issues related to university education in our province and to introduce the public to faculty members by featuring some of those members.

The planning of this campaign and its execution required a lot of work in data collection and analysis, drafting of documents, communication with various partners ...

The Executive Board and Executive Director are very grateful to the associations and members who were able to assist in this campaign.

A debriefing of the campaign will take place at the September 2023 Board of Directors meeting, which is after we have received analysis from the marketing company retained for this project.

- **Lobbying**

On October 31, 2022, the Executive Committee and Executive Director of the FNBFA met with the new leader of the New Brunswick Liberal Party, Susan Holt, and the new Official Opposition critic for Post-Secondary Education, Keith Chiasson, to raise awareness of what faculty members consider to be the critical issues facing post-secondary education in the province.

On November 30, 2022, the Executive Committee and Executive Director met with members of the Green Party Caucus at their invitation following the October letter to the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) as part of the Canadian Association of University Teachers' (CAUT) Employment Equity Week.

In late February 2023, the FNBFA made its first appearance before the New Brunswick Legislature's Select Committee on Public Universities. The federation was represented by Dr. Jean Sauvageau, Past President at the FNBFA Executive Committee, and Lise Robichaud, Executive Director.

Our goal in appearing before the Select Committee on Public Universities was to contribute to the discussion on public universities held at its annual hearings that began in 2018 by adding faculty perspectives.

Following this appearance before the New Brunswick Legislature's Select Committee on Public Universities, an article in the NB Media Coop (New Brunswick's alternative weekly source for news and issues important to New Brunswickers) was published on April 12, 2023: <https://nbmediacoop.org/2023/04/12/faculty-perspectives-on-university-education-in-new-brunswick/>

After several repeated attempts to meet with the provincial Minister of Post-Secondary Education and continue to make our case, an appointment was finally obtained for May 23rd. To be continued!

- **Solidarity**

ACCFA (Atlantic Canada Council of Faculty Associations/Conseil des associations de corps professoraux du Canada Atlantique) : On June 24, 2022, I participated in the virtual meeting hosted by the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT). Each participating

association of university faculty in the Atlantic Provinces, including those in New Brunswick, had the opportunity to report and discuss their activities since the previous meeting.

The next ACCFA meeting will be held in person in Nova Scotia and will be hosted by MUNFA (Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Faculty Association - the only public university in NL). The date of the meeting and the exact location in N.S. is yet to be determined.

Relations with labour organizations and for social justice

The FNBFA Board of Directors welcomed Stephen Drost, President of the Canadian Union of Public Employees-New Brunswick, to its November 19, 2022, meeting.

The FNBFA pays attention to concerted actions for social justice in New Brunswick and often supports the demands. For example, in February, FNBFA supported a vision [For a Just and Equitable Society](#), an initiative of the Common Front for Social Justice, which was rolled out on March 20, 2022, as a contribution to the provincial budget.

Meeting with student associations

Exchanges with the New Brunswick Student Association (NBSA) allow us to learn about the main concerns of students on our campuses and to understand their perspective on our many common lobbying issues. FNBFA Executive Officers and the Executive Director met with members of the NBSA executive during their annual lobby week held this year from November 14 to 18, 2022.

Since the University of New Brunswick Student Union (UNBSU) is no longer part of the NBSA, as of spring 2022, the FNBFA met virtually, by invitation, with members of the UNBSU leadership.

Thank you to the member associations for inviting me to your general meetings. I am grateful for the opportunities to share with you the work of your federation and to learn more about what is important to my colleagues.

- [FNBFA's Goals and Achievements](#) were revised in November for 2022-2023.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the following people:

- the Executive Director, Lise Robichaud, for her unwavering support of my role as President and her contribution to the activities, smooth operation, and initiatives of the Federation;
- my colleagues on the Executive Committee for their unwavering support: Jean Sauvageau, Lacin Coulibaly, Carol Pomare, and our new member (since February 25) Julien Massicotte as Treasurer;
- the members of the Board of Directors and the various committees for their invaluable contribution to the smooth running of the Federation's activities.

The FNBFA depends on the volunteer work of its members to accomplish its many tasks and goals. Let us continue to volunteer our time and encourage our colleagues to do the same in order to ensure the mission of the Federation. These are stressful times for what we stand for: academia and quality post-secondary education. Let us not spare any effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Hector Guy Adégbidi
President
May 5, 2023