

news



3106 Joseph Howe Drive
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3L 4L7
www.nstu.ca • pr@nstu.ca
Tel 902.477.5621
Fax 902.477.3517

N O V A S C O T I A T E A C H E R S U N I O N

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Contact:

**Mark Laventure
Angela Murray**

NSTU: Education Cuts Mean Less Support for Students

(Halifax-Kjipuktuk, NS) – NSTU President Peter Day says eliminating more than 80 teaching positions across Nova Scotia will mean less support for students, larger classrooms, and increased pressure on an already strained public education system.

Day says that contrary to how the cuts were initially portrayed, many of the eliminated positions are for teachers who work directly with students, often those facing the greatest challenges.

“The elimination of interventionist and specialist teachers will create a significant gap in our schools,” says Day. “These teachers support colleagues while also working directly with small groups of students with diverse and complex needs. They help students overcome academic, behavioural, and emotional challenges that can otherwise become barriers to success.”

Day says the cuts come at a time when schools are already under significant pressure.

“Right now, our public education system needs smaller class sizes, not larger and more overcrowded learning environments. Students, especially those with diverse and complex needs, need more supports and resources so they can learn and succeed in the classroom.”

Day says that with teacher shortages being experienced across Canada, other jurisdictions will likely recruit educators away from Nova Scotia.

“Once experienced teachers leave the province, it can be incredibly difficult to bring them back. Decisions made today could have lasting consequences for our public education system for years to come.”

Day says the NSTU is also closely monitoring the situation involving school social workers transitioning to new roles after HRM reduced supplementary school funding.

“These school social workers have been invaluable in helping meet the physical, emotional, and safety needs of students both inside and outside our schools. Their expertise must continue to be utilized and protected,” says Day.

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For further information, or to set up an interview please contact: Mark Laventure, Cell: 902-818-5010, mlaventure@staff.nstu.ca or Angela Murray, Cell: 902-497-0194, amurray@staff.nstu.ca