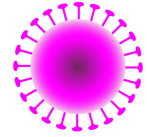




NSTU Novel Corona Virus Update



Friday May 8, 2020

Dear NSTU member,

This afternoon the province announced that all public schools will remain closed for the remainder of the instructional year. I know over the past 48 hours rumours have circulated that have created a great deal of anxiety for you, your family and all of our students, so I wanted to confirm accurate details with you as soon as possible.

The instructional period will end on June 5th, which will help relieve pressure on students and families while giving teachers more time to prepare for final report cards.

The Premier has confirmed that you will not be required to report to your physical classroom for the rest of this school year.

Additionally, the Premier has made it clear that the plan to reopen schools in the fall will be developed in the same collaborative fashion as the learning continuity plan we have provided significant input on.

These are the preliminary details I have, but I expect you'll get more information from your administrator in the near future.

The dedication and professionalism each of you has demonstrated over the past two months under unprecedented circumstances has been nothing short of inspiring. While I know the situation hasn't been easy, with compassion and dedication you've managed to support your students using a variety of high-tech and no-tech mediums. Given that you literally had only a few days to prepare for this challenge, your performance has been remarkable.

I want to thank Dr. Strang and Premier McNeil for ensuring the safety of students, teachers and their families during this pandemic.

Despite the recent history of conflict with government, the collaboration this government has displayed towards the NSTU during this crisis has been appreciated.

For now, while we don't have a clear picture of what next year will look like, it's safe to say that it will be much different than in the past. Through consultation on a plan to reopen schools, I can assure you that the NSTU will advocate strongly that every step necessary is taken to ensure the safety of students and all school staff when school finally resumes.

As we process this positive news heading into the weekend, let's be sure to honour the mothers in our lives. Wishing you all a safe and happy Mother's Day.

In solidarity,

Paul Wozney
President, Nova Scotia Teachers Union