



Nova Scotia Teachers Union

Dr. Tom Parker Building, 3106 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4L7 (902) 477-5621 Toll Free 1-800-565-6788 Fax: (902) 477-3517 nstu@nstu.ca www.nstu.ca

Dear Colleague:

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome back! I am thrilled to be your new president and I thank you for your confidence and continued support. I hope you had a restful summer, were able to enjoy our great weather, and are ready to embrace the successes and challenges you will face this school year.

Challenges we face through the Minister's Action Plan continue. Teaching Standards have been introduced, and we have developed a plan to address their implementation. We want to ensure that the introduction of these Standards positively impacts your professional lives and we need each of you to engage with us in shaping the roll out of these Standards. Your voice is essential!

Our focus on member engagement continues this year, as we present our third annual NSTU Member Engagement Day, which will take place on October 5, World Teachers' Day. The theme of Member Engagement Day is #NSTUUnited. This theme continues to focus on the dedication of our members in helping the Nova Scotia Teachers Union stay united and strong. We are a united force for public education and we support each other. I encourage NSTU Locals and Professional Associations to continue their work in organizing sessions and events, which support the engagement of NSTU members.

We are beginning the school year with a tentative agreement for public school members and ongoing negotiations for Community College members. Throughout this process we will strive for fair and equitable collective agreements and ensure that working conditions for our members are of benefit to the learning conditions of our students.

School board elections are on the horizon. School board members play a key role in public education. Please be sure to cast your vote on October 15 and encourage others to do so as well. Talk to the leaders in your community who are running for office to make sure they have a sincere interest in public education, and want to make a difference in the lives of children and young people. Nova Scotia's public school students deserve champions to advocate for their education.

We continue to provide member-driven professional development and this year have designed an online booking program to support members in coordinating professional development opportunities through the NSTU. You can access the online booking information and form at nstu.ca under NSTU Workshops & Presentations.

Our signature professional learning event is NSTU's Professional Associations' Provincial Professional Development Day—or October Conference Day—on October 28. Please visit our website at www.nstu.ca to view the complete Professional Association conference program offerings and register by October 14 to take advantage of further professional development, collaboration and networking, or call Central Office at 902-477-5621 or 1-800-565-6788 for more information on any of our professional development opportunities.

We are here for you, we speak for you, and together we can speak with a collective voice on public education. If you have any questions related to the NSTU, please contact your NSTU representative, talk to your Local President/RRC Chair, or call/email Central Office. Get involved in your Local by attending a Local general meeting, volunteer to be an NSTU rep for your school or campus, or inquire about becoming a member of a Local or provincial committee.

As the new NSTU President I am honoured to represent passionate, committed, and caring professionals. I look forward to serving you over the coming year and will strive to provide meaningful interaction and feedback.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and positive school year.

Sincerely,

LIETTE DOUCET
NSTU President

