

# news



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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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## **Nova Scotia Teachers Union defends innovative teaching**

NSTU president Shelley Morse takes issue with the sentiment of the most recent report from the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies (AIMS) on e-learning in province.

“There is an implication that Nova Scotia teachers are not doing innovative work inside and outside of the classroom,” says NSTU president Shelley Morse. “Teachers use technology as a tool to improve the quality of the student-teacher relationship – not hinder or replace it, and are continually looking for ways to innovate their methods in meeting student needs.”

Morse says there are amazing things happening in classrooms throughout the province, and that teachers regularly take advantage of funding available through the Program Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) in partnership with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, which provides support for innovative programming in the public system. “Last month 25 educators from around the province were recognized for their commitment to media literacy – many of whom use technology with their students in inventive ways.”

Morse says that distance education in Nova Scotia must be integrated into the system with consideration for equity of opportunity for students and teachers. “When applied in a pedagogically sound manner, distance education can deliver educational programs – but, people are the most important resource in the teaching and learning process, and face-to-face teaching is optimal.”

“We also take issue with AIMS’ pre-occupation with privatizing the public school system,” she continues. “The limited funding available for public education is better spent on addressing class size and class composition issues and making valuable resources available, rather than entering into scenarios in which profit is the main motivator – over quality teaching and student learning.”

The Nova Scotia Teachers Union represents 10,300 public school teachers, Community College faculty and professional support staff in Nova Scotia, and teachers who work for the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Since 1895, it has worked to improve the quality of public education for children and youth in Nova Scotia, while promoting and advancing the teaching profession.

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