

# 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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## **Note to Stephen McNeil, Teachers are Teaching**

NSTU President Liette Doucet says comments made by Stephen McNeil today on CBC's Information Morning demonstrate how little the Premier understands about the current stand teachers are taking for better education.

McNeil told host Don Connolly, "there is no question in my own being that teachers want to be teaching, this piece of legislation will give them the ability to teach."

Liette says these comments just go to show the Premier hasn't been paying attention and is negligent in stating the facts.

"Over the past two months teachers have only been focused on teaching in their classrooms, and the Premier's comments show a complete lack of respect for their professional abilities and judgement," says Doucet. "The only people who have harmed teacher's ability to teach is the Premier and his government. He literally locked out students on December 5th and the state of our schools has been in a steady decline since he was elected in 2013."

She adds, "If the Premier really wants to help teachers teach, he'll put in place hard caps from Grades P-12, he'll provide the necessary funding to support students with special needs, he'll bring in positive reforms such as implementing an attendance and discipline policy. But the Premier isn't interested in doing any of those things, all he's interested in doing is picking needless fights with unions."

Doucet says there is a disconnect between the Premier's talking points and his actions.

"If you don't respect the teachers who dedicate their lives to educating our province's children, then you are not doing anything for the kids. Teachers' morale has never been lower in this province thanks to Stephen McNeil. It's going to take a long time to repair the damage he has caused. Things won't go back to 'normal' so long as he is Premier," says Doucet.

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