

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

Date: November 8, 2016 **For Release:** Immediately **Contact:** Angela Murray

NSTU responds to suspension of provincial assessments

Nova Scotia Teachers Union president Liette Doucet says that she appreciates that the Minister of Education and Early Childhood Development has suspended provincial and board assessments. “I hope that she has finally recognized that the excessive use of provincial and board assessments are overburdening teachers, impacting students and may be unnecessary.”

However, Doucet does point out that the Minister’s gesture is symbolic in nature. “Almost all of the provincial assessments for this school year have already been administered, data has been entered, and teachers have already felt the overburdening of this process.”

The NSTU and its public school teacher members have voiced concerns for years around programs such as TIENET and PowerSchool that require multitudes of forms to fill out, excessive data entry and collection and valuable quality time diverted from the principal focus of teaching.

“The Union identified assessment and evaluation as an issue for teachers during the collective bargaining process,” adds Doucet.

Through its participation on the Partnership on Systemic Working Conditions Committee, the NSTU is in discussion with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development as to the composition of the committee and the items to be discussed. “While the Partnership Committee may address the issue in the short term, we want a permanent solution to the assessment and data collection challenge teachers face, and this can only be done through collective bargaining.”

-30-

For further information, or to set up an interview please contact: Angela Murray, NSTU Public Relations Coordinator, Direct: 902-479-4708, Cell: 902-497-0194, amurray@staff.nstu.ca, twitter: @NSTeachersUnion