

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: August 27,2020 **For Release:** Immediately **Contact:** Angela Murray/Mark Laventure

Teachers and parents outline concerns with Back-to-School-Plan

Halifax, NS - A group of concerned parents joined the NSTU today to voice their concerns with the Nova Scotia back-to-school plan. With classes set to resume in less than two weeks, the province has yet to put in place proper measures to ensure the safety of students, teachers, staff and their families.

“There is a general lack of confidence in the government’s current approach to reopening schools in this pandemic,” says Wozney. “Teachers are eager to get back in front of their classrooms with their students, but they don’t want to go back into lockdown in a few weeks because of a poorly developed plan. With the additional funding provided yesterday from the federal government it is time for the province to take the proper measures to reduce class sizes and ensure all students are provided with two-feet of physical distance and a safe learning environment.”

On the weekend, the group Parents for Public Education launched a petition calling for a “better back-to-school plan” that so far has received almost 8,000 signatures.

“We came here today to talk about our concerns, but we also came here today to ensure there is no doubt that we are very much supportive of the teachers in Nova Scotia, along with every school staff member, from the EPAs to custodians, to bus drivers to administrators,” says Stacey Rudderham, Parents for Public Education. “We are all responsible for the safety and well being of our kids and we are proud to stand here today and will continue to stand in solidarity with the teachers of this province.”

Parent Kirsty Money says teachers aren’t being given the appropriate time or resources to prepare for the coming year.

“With COVID-19, the Province is asking front line educational workers to do the impossible. To try and deliver education to tens of thousands of students in far from optimal health conditions is not only unjust for the Education Community, but to the citizenry of Nova Scotia as well. Teachers need more time and resources to prepare for this unprecedented and precarious school re-opening.”

The lack of communication from government is also a concern for many parents says Christine Emberley of Parents for Public Education.

“Our legislature remains closed, whereas MLAs in PEI spent 3 hours checking in on school readiness. We wait for sporadic information from multiple sources, but New Brunswick has committed to regular, central communication with families and Ontario has outlined procedures for dealing with outbreaks in schools.”

-30-

More info: Angela Murray, Cell: 902-497-0194, amurray@staff.nstu.ca, or Mark Laventure, Cell: 902-818-5010, mlaventure@staff.nstu.ca