

Dear NSTU siblings,

I'm sorry to be sending a message to you during your well-deserved weekend after a deeply challenging first week back to in-person learning under tremendously trying COVID-19 conditions.

That said, I want you all to know that we were notified, on an embargoed basis, of the EECD memo to Regional Executive Directors you all received around the supper hour today. At this time, what the specific operational meaning of this memo is remains to be discussed at the Learning Continuity table, which next meets this coming Monday morning.

I realize that it is not usual practice to receive system announcements from the employer on a weekend evening. It's likely the timing and nature of this memo are products of the deteriorating situation in our schools due to COVID-19 after just one week of in-person learning.

I know that you are at the breaking point when it comes to fatigue and morale after nearly two years of pandemic teaching, and that sudden news carries with it charged emotions and concerns that are stressful. Given its timing, I recognize receipt of this memo contributes to these feelings.

Nonetheless, please refrain from making assumptions about what this will mean and know the NSTU is fully prepared to uphold your rights under the Teachers Provincial Agreement. We will be following this up on Monday morning and provide you with a further message by Monday afternoon. Until then, please enjoy the rest of your weekend and time with your loved ones.

Thank you both for your incredible work and leadership this week, and for your understanding as we work to clarify details connecton your behalf.

Stay safe. All my best,

Paul