

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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NSTU: Budget falls short on key challenges in education system

(Halifax – Kijipuktuk, NS) The President of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union says while the NSTU is encouraged that rising student enrollment is acknowledged in the budget with increased staffing, government missed an opportunity to fully address the significant challenges facing our public school system.

Specifically, the NSTU was hoping to see additional funding allocated to increase staffing levels at all schools, develop a recruitment and retention strategy to address the growing teacher shortage, along with more targeted funding to improve access to mental health supports for students. Similarly, the NSTU has been advocating for increased compensation for Nova Scotia's substitute teachers, who are amongst the lowest paid in Canada. Finally, the Union was hoping that funding would be put in place to create a universal school lunch program across the province.

“I continue to hear from teachers that their classrooms are becoming increasingly more complex, and as a result they fear that our most vulnerable students are not getting the supports they need in a timely manner,” says Ryan Lutes. “The pandemic really highlighted the critical role schools play in our communities ensuring the physical, psychological and developmental needs of children and youth are being met. As such the NSTU was expecting a greater investment in the public education system. “

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