

# 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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**Date:** March 22, 2023    **For Release:** Immediately    **Contact:** Mark Laventure  
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## **NSTU calling for increased staffing and a provincial strategy to address school violence**

(Halifax-Kjipuktuk, NS) NSTU President Ryan Lutes says the troubling events that took place at Charles P. Allen High School earlier this week have sparked a broader and necessary conversation about combatting school violence. Lutes says while he's pleased the incident is being thoroughly investigated, he is asking government to take some urgent steps to help make schools safer across Nova Scotia.

The NSTU is asking government to reverse staffing cuts that were made at HRMs' most populated high schools in 2021, and that additional resources be allocated to all high schools outside of HRM to enhance student supervision and support. He's also calling on government to conduct a comprehensive review, which includes consultations with stakeholders, that can be used to guide the creation of a provincial strategy to reduce school violence.

"In the last couple of days, I have spoken to teachers at CP Allen and around the province, along with many parents, and it's clear to me from these conversations that more needs to be done to make our schools safer," says Lutes. "The tragic events that unfolded on Monday, while at the extreme, are unfortunately not isolated in our public school system. Enrollment has jumped significantly in recent years, classrooms have become increasingly complex, however resources and staffing levels have not kept pace."

In a CBC article published on March 22, the Halifax Regional police disclosed that officers have been dispatched to schools 424 times since 2018, resulting in 77 charges.

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