

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

Date: Feb 28, 2024

For Release: Immediately

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Eighty-four percent of teachers have considered quitting according to NSTU survey

(Halifax-Kjipuktuk, NS) A recent survey of NSTU members indicates that 84 per cent of Nova Scotia's teachers have considered leaving the profession in the last five years due to burnout, a lack of resources, and several other factors.

The survey was distributed to teachers and specialists across the province between the 15th and 23rd of February. It was completed by more than 3,519 members. Eighty-four per cent answered yes to the question: "In the past five years, have you considered leaving the teaching profession, or moving to another province or country to teach?" Only 14 per cent answered no to the question and an additional two per cent said they were unsure.

The top six reasons teachers indicated they had considered quitting were as follows: 76 per cent burnout, 66 per cent high workload, 66 per cent lack of resources available to support students, 54 per cent lack of support from employer, 54 per cent lack of respect or mistreatment from the employer and/or Government, and 42 per cent because of rising levels of school violence.

"Studies suggest that when teachers are burnt out and stressed, so are their students, and these results highlight the need to improve learning and working conditions in our schools," says NSTU President Ryan Lutes. "If Government doesn't take action to create healthier and safer schools, I'm extremely concerned more teachers are going to be forced out of the profession and the current shortage is only going to grow worse."

Lutes adds: "It is time for Government to realize the status quo in our schools is unsustainable and to take action. I challenge Government to conduct their own province-wide survey of teachers and educational specialists, similar to what was recently done by the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Our teachers need to feel they are supported by this government and currently that is not the case."

The NSTU has been calling for a comprehensive teacher recruitment and retention strategy that addresses the immediate shortage of teachers and the systemic problems of the education system. It has also called on Government to increase pay for Nova Scotia's substitute teachers who are currently among the lowest paid in Canada.

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