

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 outlines key priorities for creating safer schools

(Halifax-Kjipuktuk, NS) NSTU President Ryan Lutes says the Auditor General’s report into school violence can be transformative if the province takes urgent action to make schools safer.

This morning, Lutes is appearing before the Provincial Standing Committee on Public Accounts on behalf of Nova Scotia’s approximately 10,000 public school teachers and specialists. The Committee is examining the Auditor General’s most recent audit entitled: Preventing and Addressing Violence in Nova Scotia Public Schools.

In his opening remarks to the Committee, Lutes stated: “Increasing school violence has become perhaps the single most pressing issue for our teachers. Children only have one chance to be kids. If they aren’t provided with safe and healthy learning environments, it can profoundly and negatively impact their development.”

He went on to add: “The Auditor General and her team have done an excellent job analyzing the problem. I want to thank her for making it a priority to hear directly from teachers as part of that process. Her recommendations provide a solid foundation we can build on to create safer schools - but we can’t afford to waste any more time.”

According to the NSTU any plan to address the issue of school violence will need to include:

1. Adequate human resources to address increasingly diverse and complex student needs and school supervision.
2. Clear consequences that address all incidents of school violence.
3. Clear reporting requirements that include individual incidents, school lock-down incidents, safe and secure school and classroom evacuation incidents.
4. Province-wide training on Occupational Health and Safety Training with RCE and CSAP personnel dedicated to school safety.

“The NSTU is eager to collaborate on a decisive and urgent plan to address and prevent school violence and to make our schools safe for our teachers and their students,” says Lutes.

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