

From the NSTU President



June reflections: celebration dedication, pride and new beginnings

Welcome to June, a month that holds so much in our school communities. From final assessments and report cards to field trips, awards ceremonies, proms, and graduations, it's a whirlwind of activity. It's also a time when the incredible dedication and resilience of our teachers and teacher specialists is on full display. Thank you to each and every one of you for going above and beyond to ensure our students finish their year feeling successful, celebrated, and supported. Your tireless work does not go unnoticed.

June is also Pride Month, a time to reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity and celebration of all identities. NSTU members continue to play a vital role in creating schools where every student feels seen, valued, and respected for exactly who they are. At a time when the rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals continue to be challenged in some places, our message is clear: 2SLGBTQIA+ rights are human rights. We are proud to stand with our students and colleagues in advocating for safe, affirming, and equitable spaces for all.

In June, we also recognize and celebrate the rich history, heritage, resilience, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples during National Indigenous History Month. It's a time to reflect on the past and its ongoing impact on generations of Indigenous peoples, while also moving forward with meaningful reconciliation. This important month culminates in National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21st, held on the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. The solstice holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for many Indigenous peoples, symbolizing renewal, connection, and celebration.

This month also marks an important milestone in the life of our organization. Our Executive Director, Steve Brooks, is stepping down after five years of leadership with the NSTU. It has been a true pleasure to work alongside Steve over the past year. His wisdom, steady guidance, and deep understanding of our organization have made a lasting impact. On behalf of our

entire membership, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Steve and wish him all the best as he returns home to Newfoundland with his wife Stefanie and their growing family.

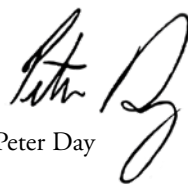
As we say farewell to one leader, we warmly welcome another. I'm pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Bethany MacLeod. Bethany brings with her a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to public education, honed through years of leadership in Prince Edward Island. I look forward to working closely with her in the months ahead to support our members and advocate for the future of public education in Nova Scotia.

This month also provides an important opportunity to amplify the voices of our members through the *Our Kids Can't Wait* campaign. I encourage you to view and share the powerful testimonials from six educators across the province. These stories speak to the very real challenges teachers, teacher specialists and students face daily and to the urgent need for positive, meaningful change in our schools. Your voices are vital in this conversation, and your experiences matter.

As we close out another school year, I hope you're able to step away from the busyness and focus on what brings you joy. Whether that's spending time with family, traveling, resting, or simply reconnecting with what fills your cup, take that time. You've more than earned it.

From all of us at the NSTU, thank you for your incredible work this year. Have a safe, restful, and memorable summer.

Best regards,



Peter Day