

# From the NSTU President



## Justice, Resilience, and Celebrating the Strength of Our Profession

On February 27, 2026, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court declared the province's Bill 148 (Public Services Sustainability Act) unconstitutional, ruling that it violated Charter rights to collective bargaining. For many members of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and other public sector workers, the decision marked an important moment, one that reflects years of persistence and a steadfast belief that the legislation was wrong.

This ruling now stands alongside the earlier decision regarding Bill 75, which imposed a contract on teachers during the McNeil government. Both pieces of legislation have now been deemed illegal and unconstitutional by the courts. For over a decade, NSTU members have known how damaging these laws were, not only to public education, but to the collective bargaining rights of public sector workers across the province.

While there is still work ahead before a final remedy is determined, this decision is something that should be acknowledged and celebrated. It affirms the importance of protecting the fundamental rights of workers and reinforces the role of unions in advocating for fairness, respect, and the ability of workers to have a meaningful voice in the conditions of their employment.

It is also important to recognize the broader context in which these laws were enacted. The professions most heavily affected by Bill 148 were overwhelmingly made up of women. In Nova Scotia's public schools, the vast majority of teachers are women. When legislation undermines the bargaining rights of workers in professions that are predominantly women, it raises serious questions about fairness and equity.

That is why the timing of this ruling, arriving just days before International Women's Day on March 8, carries particular significance. Teaching has long been a profession built on dedication, care, empathy, and resilience, qualities that are demonstrated every day by the incredible women who make up the majority of our membership.

International Women's Day is an opportunity to pause and celebrate the women in our lives and communities. In our schools, women continue to play a central role in shaping the experiences of students, building strong and supportive learning environments,

and strengthening the communities they serve. Their leadership, compassion, and commitment help make our schools places where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

The court ruling on Bill 148 reminds us that progress often takes time, persistence, and collective effort. It is a testament to the strength of workers who stand together in the pursuit of fairness. At the same time, International Women's Day reminds us of the many contributions women make every day to our classrooms, our schools, and our families.

Together, these moments serve as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when people continue to advocate for what is right.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. B.', positioned to the right of the main text.