



Recognizing educators' impact

As we move further into fall, we're reminded of the beauty of change; the turning leaves, the crisp mornings, and the shorter days that signal another busy stretch of the school year. It's also a time to pause and celebrate the incredible work being done by teachers and teacher specialists in our public schools across the province.

October 5th marks World Teachers' Day, a time to recognize the profound impact educators have on the lives of their students and within their communities. Many NSTU Locals celebrated through Member Engagement Day activities, whether through gatherings, shared meals, or local appreciation events. Others have planned events throughout the month to give members an opportunity to connect and celebrate their profession.

No matter how you choose to take part, I encourage you to take the time to celebrate yourselves and your colleagues. Every day, you make a difference in the lives of students by fostering curiosity, empathy, and resilience. You create safe spaces where children can learn and grow, and you help shape a better future for our province.

October is also Mi'kmaq History Month in Nova Scotia, a time to honour the rich culture, knowledge, and traditions of the Mi'kmaq, the original people of this land. It is both a celebration and an invitation: a celebration of vibrant Mi'kmaw heritage, and an invitation to all Nova Scotians to reflect, learn, and recommit to the ongoing work of reconciliation.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending *The Gifts We Carry* Youth Empowerment Gathering, hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. This annual event, held as a kick-off for Truth and Reconciliation Week (September 22-26), brings together students from across the country to learn about Canada's history through the voices of Survivors, Elders, and Indigenous changemakers. In honouring Residential

School Survivors, the day was filled with culture, song, dance, and storytelling; reminders of both the resilience of Indigenous communities and the responsibility we all share to continue learning the truths of our shared history.

As educators, we know that learning never stops. It is vital that we take the time to listen, to learn, and to deepen our understanding of the experiences of others. Through open dialogue, respect, and collaboration, we can continue to take meaningful steps forward, building stronger relationships today and creating a more compassionate, inclusive tomorrow for future generations.

To all NSTU members: thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, and your unwavering commitment to students and public education. This October, let's celebrate the power of teaching, the strength of our community, and the ongoing journey of learning that connects us all.



Peter



NSTU president Peter Day and executive staff officer Wendie Wilson attended the Gifts We Carry with Mi'kma'ki Strong's Amanda Lorette and Jonathan Beadle. (See story page 11)