## Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another school year!

I want to extend a warm welcome to teachers, specialists, students, and families across Nova Scotia. This is always an exciting time, filled with the promise of new opportunities and fresh beginnings as you reconnect with friends and colleagues after the summer break.

Every day, you bring extraordinary dedication and professionalism to your work. You give so much of yourselves to help students learn, grow, and succeed, and you should be proud of the impact you make. I encourage you to take pride in your efforts and accomplishments, and to find joy in the year ahead.

As your president, I will continue to advocate for the resources and supports that you and your students need. We must address the ongoing teacher shortage, with a strong focus on retaining both new and experienced teachers and specialists who are vital to the strength of our public education system.

At the same time, we all have a role to play in

ensuring our schools are safe. Addressing school violence and creating safer learning environments requires commitment and cooperation from teachers, government, families, and communities alike.

Your Union is Here for You

The NSTU is committed to offering you support, guidance, and advocacy. Our dedicated leaders and staff are ready to help. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have concerns or need assistance. Visit <a href="http://www.nstu.ca">http://www.nstu.ca</a> to explore the full range of services available to you as a member. If you haven't yet registered a preferred non-employer contact email with the NSTU, please visit <a href="http://www.nstucentral.ca">www.nstucentral.ca</a> and do so today. This ensures you receive timely updates on important NSTU news and information. Stay connected by following us on our social media channels as well.

Connect with your school rep, Local President, or Provincial Executive member. They're here to help you navigate everything the NSTU offers.

Together, we can build a stronger, safer, and

more supportive public education system, one that reflects the commitment of our teachers and specialists and gives every student the best possible chance to succeed.

On behalf of the NSTU, I wish you all a safe, successful, and rewarding school year.

