



RYAN LUTES FOR PRESIDENT



 @RyanLutesNSTU

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Coming from a small and rural Local, I appreciated that Ryan was always looking to better understand the issues and concerns of members in our area. As the NSTU President, I am confident that Ryan will be able to build bridges by listening and advocating for all members across the province.

Sarah Tutty, South Queens Middle School

I stood shoulder to shoulder with Ryan during the NSTU's most difficult times. Whether it was challenging RCE senior leaders or passionately speaking out against the government, Ryan's capacity for teacher advocacy was beyond impressive. He has negotiated contracts, organized job action, and won countless individual battles for teachers. I wholeheartedly support his candidacy for NSTU President.

Grant Frost, Millwood High School

Value your *voice*



For our NSTU to strengthen and continue moving forward, the NSTU must be responsive to its members. All members deserve to have their voices heard by their Union. Members who have a voice in their NSTU will be more engaged and united. The NSTU must do a better job gaining your perspectives and listening. I will be a President that listens and values member input.

I have a track record of listening and advocating for our members. I've advocated for our profession in Law Amendments, radio and TV interviews, on social media, and in numerous editorials. I can do so effectively because I value the perspectives of all teachers, not just the ones who walk in my shoes.

As a Local President from 2015 to 2021, I've represented over 1000 members in a very tumultuous period. When I was elected, I certainly didn't know that our Union would see two strike votes, job action and a global pandemic. Throughout those chaotic periods, I've prided myself on listening to members' perspectives and hearing your stories. A vote for Ryan Lutes on May 25th gives the NSTU a President with a track record of listening and advocacy.

The issues that affect NS teachers, whether urban or rural teachers, classroom teachers or specialists, elementary, junior high or high school, are similar but nuanced. At all levels, teachers are lacking the resources required to meet the needs of our students.

In every area of our beautiful province, our teachers see the effects of poverty in their classrooms. Our classrooms are far too complex for the resources we are given, and the expectations placed on us are too great. Our guidance counsellors, student services teachers, and specialists have caseloads exceeding national recommendations. We don't have enough time to do what the job requires or what our kids deserve.

I will be a leader who listens to all perspectives, is responsive to the membership, and advocates clearly, and authentically for what YOU need.

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RYAN LUTES
FOR PRESIDENT


I have always been a person to question decisions if I disagreed with them. As my Local President, Ryan listened and made me feel valued. He is not aggressive, but he is assertive, and stands firm in his convictions. He is a leader that will build bridges with the public and stand up for our rights with government.

Tina Broderick, Rocky Lake Junior High School

I have worked with Ryan at the Local Presidents' table and walked with him around the Legislature during the NSTU's first ever strike action. During these difficult times he has shown unwavering willingness to stand up for members and work towards a system that fully supports all students and educators.

Jaylene Chase, New Germany Elementary School

Build our **solidarity**

For our NSTU to move forward, we need to build our solidarity. Far too often over the last number of years, we have been the government's target. We've been attacked by the government imposing a collective agreement instead of bargaining fairly, by the forced removal of our administrators, and by the attempted removal of our specialists. But, we've moved the needle when we have acted collectively - during WTR, we pressured the government for better, and during Bill 72, we voted for an illegal strike, and the government backed down on some key concerns. When we fight together, we win. As your President, I will lead us to build on this momentum and strengthen our Union.

A united and more engaged NSTU will be a strong force to be reckoned with. We will be stronger in negotiations to ensure we secure the gains that the profession needs. We will be stronger to ensure that we maintain a pension plan worthy of our valued role in society. We will be stronger to advocate for the structural changes that are needed to make our society more equitable.

We can create a stronger, more effective NSTU by engaging our membership to develop our solidarity. It starts with recognizing that our greatest asset isn't NSTU staff or our President. Our greatest asset is our membership. Teachers are the NSTU. I will be a President who understands that and works to engage our members to strengthen our Union.



Bargain from **strength**

Bargaining from strength requires a plan to help use our entire membership, all 9300 members, to help put our bargaining team in the best position to collectively bargain, even before we sit down at the bargaining table.

In addition, our bargaining team must have high expectations. As a former Local President representing 1000+ members, I know all too well the demands placed that are on all of us. To have a sustainable profession in which we can all thrive, we must secure significant gains. To secure those needed gains, our entire membership, backed by a solid plan from our NSTU leadership, needs to act and deepen our solidarity.

We have a membership of 9300 strong, creative, professionals. If the NSTU puts together a compelling and effective plan, I am certain that our members will engage to help strengthen our bargaining position.

My priorities are:

- ~ Salary improvements
- ~ Increase in prep time and better working conditions
- ~ Maintain a strong pension plan
- ~ Increase substitute pay/benefits to counter the teacher shortage

Teachers deserve better. The real question isn't what we need. We all know what our profession needs to thrive. The question is, how do we SECURE the gains we need? My experience on three NSTU negotiating teams will put me in the best position to lead our NSTU in collective bargaining. I have the experience and the high expectations that will allow us to make real gains.

As your President, I will help develop a plan that allows our Union to utilize our 9300+ membership to put us in the best position before we start to bargain.

The reality is that for our profession to be sustainable, we have no option but to improve things. For our profession to thrive, we cannot continually be asked to do MORE with LESS.

On May 25th, a vote for Ryan Lutes for NSTU President is a vote for a stronger and more sustainable teaching profession.



On May 25th, let's move **forward**, together!