

## NSTU's 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council wraps up in Halifax

(Halifax-Kjipuktuk, NS) The 102nd Annual Council of the Nova Scotia Teachers Union wrapped up this morning after three days of collaboration and debate about how to strengthen quality public education across the province.

NSTU President Ryan Lutes said he was impressed with the quality of debate and discussion over the weekend. He says it's clear that members are concerned about a lack of resources, the teacher shortage and rising levels of violence in schools.

"Although the impact is different, our schools are struggling with many of the same challenges we are seeing in our hospitals, and teachers are concerned about the long-term impact this will have on students," says Lutes. "A palpable sense of frustration was evident at council this weekend and members want government to take a more urgent approach to addressing the teacher shortage, strengthening our inclusive education system and making schools safer."

On Saturday, April 29 Annapolis Valley teacher Jo-Leigh MacPhee was elected First Vice-President of the NSTU for a two-year term. MacPhee is a biology teacher at Central Kings Rural High School in Cambridge.

During the opening night's proceedings, Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Becky Druhan addressed delegates. On Saturday, NSTU Past-President Paul Wozney and a vicepresident of CTF-FCE delivered remarks on behalf of the Canadian Teachers' Federation and Siobhán Vipond provided a National perspective on Labour issues to delegates. Nova Scotia Federation of Labour president Danny Cavanaugh addressed delegates on Sunday morning.

The annual meeting wrapped up today in Halifax. From April 28th to April 30, almost 250 voting delegates debated approximately 70 resolutions.

-30-

More info: Mark Laventure, Cell: 902-818-5010, <u>mlaventure@staff.nstu.ca</u> or Angela Murray, Cell: 902-497-0194, <u>amurray@staff.nstu.ca</u>